

# Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

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School name	The Heights Burnley
DfE registration number	1124
Unique reference number (URN)	145918
Inspection number	10085155
Inspection dates	13/06/2019 to 13/06/2019
Reporting inspector	Ahmed Marikar HMI



## Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>1</sup> In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.<sup>2</sup>

The inspector undertook a tour of the site where the school will be located in September 2019. He reviewed the architect's plans for the accommodation, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. The inspector held discussions with the headteacher, business manager, the chief executive officer of the Education Partnership Trust and the building site manager.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	76 rising to 150
<b>Age range</b>	5–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Social, emotional, mental health

## Context of the school

This new provision is an all-through school on a new site. The school will cater for pupils aged between five and 16. It will offer places to pupils at risk of exclusion.

The Heights Burnley will open in September 2019 in purpose-built, state-of-the-art facilities. In the first year of opening, the school will accommodate up to 76 pupils with 12 pupils across Years 1 to 5, 16 pupils across Years 7 and 8 and 48 pupils across Years 9 and 10. The final capacity for the school will be 150.

There are a number of schools in the Education Partnership Trust, including Pleckgate High School, which is a successful and outstanding 11 to 18 secondary school. As part of the trust, The Heights Burnley will have access to a range of high-quality facilities and expertise, both in leadership and teaching.

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99).

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made). Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the independent-school standards when it opens.
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<b>Recommended number of day pupils</b>	150
<b>Recommended age range</b>	5–16
<b>Recommended gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Recommended type of special educational needs</b>	Social, emotional, mental health

## **Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014**

### **Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part of the standards. Documentary evidence indicates that pupils will have a range of opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. The school will provide these experiences through personal, health, social and economic education lessons, assemblies, educational visits and the pupils' council. Enrichment activities will be provided, such as music, art, catering and sports. Through the curriculum, pupils will secure their understanding of British values, such as democracy, the rule of law and mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different beliefs from their own. Pupils will have opportunities to visit different places of worship.

### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. A comprehensive range of policies are in place, including for behaviour, anti-bullying, health, safety (including fire safety), risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding. The school's safeguarding policy explains comprehensively every adult's responsibility to keep pupils safe. Although the fire-safety order cannot be issued until the site is ready, it is scheduled to take place as soon as possible after building completion and before pupils arrive.

### **Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. Almost all the required checks on appointed staff and governors have already been completed and recorded on a single central register, which complies with requirements. A small number of checks on recently appointed staff and governors are ongoing and the stage of the verification process is indicated on the register. Leaders are fully aware of their duties regarding checking the suitability of staff to work with children. They have undertaken additional training to ensure the safety of the school's pupils. All appointments to date have followed safer-recruitment practices. Newly recruited members of staff are scheduled to undertake the required safeguarding training before the school opens.

### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. Governors have planned the new building to ensure that it supports pupils' welfare and promotes their learning. The school building has a range of facilities to cater for pupils' needs. These include provision for first aid, medical facilities, toilets and showers. Separate toilets have been provided for younger and older pupils. The school's teaching and learning spaces are sufficient. Pupils will also have access to specialist facilities including construction, catering, hair and beauty and science rooms. All pupils will have access

to a spacious outdoor environment. This will include grassed and hard-surfaced areas where they can play and undertake physical education. Leaders are committed to continuing to secure high-quality provision which meets all necessary regulations.

### **Part 6. Provision of information**

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All the required policies, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy, are in place and available to parents and carers via the website. Policies are clear, detailed and provide comprehensive information for pupils and parents. The safeguarding policy reflects latest guidance and meets requirements. All policies can be made available on request.

### **Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled**

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy explains clearly the actions that parents should take as well as timelines for the effective handling of complaints. The policy is available to parents via the school's website. Copies can be made available if requested.

### **Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. Leaders have a clear vision and ethos for the school. They demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role. Leaders have established a comprehensive suite of policies which are in line with current regulations. They have prioritised pupils' well-being and safety in their plans for the new school building. They are also clear about how they will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

### **Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010**

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities recognises and outlines support for a range of groups. The school has an accessibility plan which will be reviewed again before pupils arrive. Equality of opportunity is at the heart of the values of the school.

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