

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

School name	Stone Lodge School
DfE registration number	4024
Unique reference number (URN)	147059
Inspection number	10103227
Inspection dates	16/05/2019
Reporting inspector	Catherine Old 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 2008.¹

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.²

The inspector met with the executive headteacher, the headteacher and the chair of governors, who is also a trustee. She visited the proposed school site and sports facilities, reviewed architects' plans for the new temporary school building, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies, including those relating to safeguarding.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of pupils	1450
Age range	11–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

It is proposed that Stone Lodge School will be a non-selective secondary school with sixth form, for pupils aged from 11 to 18. It will be part of the Endeavour multi-academy trust, which runs two local selective schools.

The school proposes to use purpose-built, temporary accommodation for two years. This is currently under construction. While using the temporary accommodation, the school has secured the use of sports facilities, including changing rooms and showers, in the adjacent rugby club-house which is also currently under construction. The school will have sole use of these facilities during the school day. The school plans to relocate into a new, purpose-built, permanent school building on an adjacent site in 2020.

It is anticipated that 120 pupils will be admitted to Year 7 in September 2019 and in 2020. On completion of the new premises, the temporary premises will be vacated. Pupils already on roll will transfer to the new building. The school will admit further pupils into Year 7 in each following year. The school plans to increase the number of pupils in each year group to 240, until it reaches a capacity of 1200 pupils in Years 7

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99.

² 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.

to 11. Additionally, the school plans to admit up to 250 pupils into its sixth form provision once the new school building is completed.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens.
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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. Evidence in the school's policies stress the school's core values: respect, integrity, determination, equality and self-management. The planned 'successful lives' programme of study places appropriate emphasis on preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below. The safeguarding policy is comprehensive, making due reference to the latest guidance from the Secretary of State. The anti-bullying and behaviour policy prioritise the school's values and contain appropriate sanctions for misbehaviour. Leaders have not yet written, but have plans to write, school-specific policies for health and safety and for risk assessment. They intend to write these when the new temporary building is completed and before it is opened. A trust-wide 'risk management strategy' sets out leaders' roles in identifying and managing risk. The trips and visits policy contains appropriate guidance for staff on how to conduct risk assessments for outings. A new trustee has been appointed with experience in overseeing health and safety policies and practice. Leaders demonstrate a strong understanding of health and safety requirements and of reducing risk, including of the risks associated with the temporary use of the adjacent rugby club-house for sporting activities.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy.	paragraph 11
Ensure that a written risk assessment policy is drawn up and implemented effectively so that appropriate action is taken to reduce identified risks, particularly those presented by using the premises of the adjacent rugby club.	paragraph 16, 16(a), 16(b)

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is already in place. This details the required checks made, by whom and when, and these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors and trustees. Leaders have had safer recruitment training and demonstrate an understanding of the procedures required for recruiting safely adults who intend to work with children.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below. The school will initially consist of temporary, purpose-built accommodation, with outside space for pupils to exercise and play. The buildings supplied are likely to meet current requirements including, for example, provision for separate toilets for girls and boys. Suitable changing accommodation and showers will be provided using the adjacent rugby club-house facilities. Accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils does not currently have provision for a washing facility. The plans for the permanent building are well advanced and show details of high-quality provision in all requirements.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure that suitable accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils includes a washing facility.	paragraph 24 (1), 24 (1)(b)
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Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. The school's website contains helpful information for parents, including access to a number of policies. The website is being constantly updated with the most recent policies as they are written. Copies of 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 is thorough and contains all the necessary steps and appropriate timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints made. It appears on the school's website and a copy 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. The trust already runs two successful local secondary schools. They have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. Leaders demonstrate strong moral purpose in their plans and preparations for opening a school to serve the growing local community. Plans and policies are of high quality and provide strongly for the education, welfare, health and safety of pupils. School leaders and trustees are clear about how to continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently. They have the necessary skills and knowledge to do this.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities is extremely well thought through. It provides for the identification of groups of pupils and for the regular monitoring and review of progress towards the equality objectives. The plans for the new permanent building show that features such as lifts are included.

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