

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

School name	Barton Farm Primary Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	850/2059
Unique reference number (URN)	147836
Inspection number	10148411
Inspection dates	06/05/2020 to 15/06/2020
Reporting inspector	Mark Quinn



Information about the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99(1) 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 inspection was carried out during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. As a result, we could not visit the school site or meet with the proposer in person. For this reason, the inspector assessed the premises and accommodation set out in part 5 of the independent school standards by means of a virtual tour. The inspector held telephone discussions with the headteacher and the vice-chair of the board of trustees. Using the available information, the inspector is able to give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards and, where necessary, what further action is required.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	420 (initially 25 in September 2020)
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a primary free school within the University of Winchester Academy Trust (UWINAT). Barton Farm Primary Academy will be located in a new, purpose-built facility.

The school will open in September 2020. It will initially admit 25 Reception-aged children. The final capacity of the school will be 420.

UWINAT is liaising with Hampshire local authority to open this free school as a presumption project. It is simultaneously working to open another free school in the area, Stoneham Park Primary Academy, as another presumption project. If approved,

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

² www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

these will be the first schools to be opened under this trust since its formation in 2015.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens, provided that it addresses the regulations noted in the tables set out in parts 3, 5 and 8.
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Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. Leaders have a range of policies and schemes of work that are suitable for supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The prospectus describes the values and culture of the proposed school as 'fostering compassion, empathy and an understanding of others' values and culture'. The school clearly sets out information about the school's intended approach to promoting fundamental British values in a document. The school's equality policy makes specific reference to respecting protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

There are detailed policies to manage safeguarding and child protection. These include appropriate procedures for reporting and recording concerns. Leaders have produced comprehensive policies to explain the processes they will adopt to manage behaviour and bullying.

Leaders have drawn up a range of suitable policies that should ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils, including risk assessment and first-aid policies. There are also appropriate policies and other documentation related to health and safety, including fire safety. However, it will only be when the current building work is complete that it will be possible to demonstrate the effective implementation of these policies and systems.

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

ensure that the current building work is completed as planned, so that the implementation of the health and safety policy can be assured	paragraph 11
ensure that the current building work to is completed as planned, so that the proposer can secure full compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.	paragraph 12

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. The school's recruitment policy contains an appropriate range of content. It describes procedures for making the full range of pre-employment checks, including medical

fitness. There is a template for the single central register, which complies with guidelines. The school has already begun to add trustees and staff to it. Leaders understand the requirements for checking the details of supply staff.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements assessed in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The proposer has provided detailed plans and documents related to the construction, furnishing and resourcing of the premises. Work is at an advanced stage. The school is scheduled to take partial control of the building on 29 June 2020 and total control by 31 July 2020.

Leaders have provided sufficient evidence that the acoustic and lighting provision are likely to be suitable. However, electric lighting, including external lighting, was not seen working at the time of the inspection. There is enough space outside for the children to play and take part in physical education. However, various ground surfaces and resources, such as a sand pit, are not yet completed.

There are toilet and washing facilities, which are suitable for the Reception-aged children who will attend if the school opens in September. Drinking water is available, but this has not yet been labelled.

The building has a room for the short-term care of sick pupils. There is hot and cold water in this room and a nearby toilet. There is currently no bed in the room, but the inspector has been shown evidence that leaders have ordered one.

The school is likely to ensure that pupils' health, safety and welfare are catered for once the planned building work is complete, suitable furniture has been provided and effective maintenance of the property can be secured.

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

ensure that the intended accommodation for pupils' medical needs is furnished as planned	paragraphs 24(1), 24(1)(a) and 24(1)(b)
ensure that all current building works are completed to enable the proposer to secure pupils' health, safety and welfare through effective maintenance of the premises	paragraph 25
ensure that the current building works are completed to enable the proposer to provide working internal and external electrical lighting	paragraphs 27, 27(a) and 27(b)
ensure that existing drinking water facilities are suitably labelled	paragraphs 28(1) and 28(1)(c)

ensure that the current work on the outdoor space is completed to enable pupils to play and to take part in physical education.	paragraphs 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)
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Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. Leaders have all the required policies in place. The school has provided a checklist that contains all the necessary information that will be included on the website, which is currently under development. The school intends putting its safeguarding and child protection policies on the website when the school opens. The headteacher has stated that they will publish future reports by Ofsted on the website.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. The complaints policy contains all the required features. For example, the policy is in writing, it allows for an informal stage and it ensures that there are appropriate timescales for responses to complaints. The policy will be published on the school's website when the school opens.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The school has provided evidence of trustees' expertise and experience, including their work to support and improve existing schools through their roles in the UWINAT. The trust has provided evidence of the board's structure and scheme of delegation, showing proposed governance arrangements. Trustees clearly know their roles and responsibilities. They understand the independent school standards and how leaders will ensure that they are consistently met. There are detailed procedures and policies in place that should ensure that pupils' welfare is secure. All the other standards inspected are likely to be met.

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

ensure that standards in the preceding parts are likely to be met consistently.	paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)
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Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet this requirement. The accessibility plan contains suitable actions to support disabled pupils in accessing the curriculum, the

school premises and information. For example, leaders intend to ensure that physical education activities can be wheelchair-friendly and Braille print is available to help those with sight problems to receive written information. The equality policy supports the contents of the accessibility plan. There is a clear system for monitoring and adapting the plan as required.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The proposed school's early years foundation stage policy explains its intended approach to meeting the welfare and education requirements, including safeguarding and first aid. There are helpful documents that explain what children are expected to learn by the end of each half term across all areas of learning. These are in line with appropriate expectations for Reception-aged children.

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