

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

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School name	Foxfields Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	855/7003
Unique reference number (URN)	148029
Inspection number	10153532
Inspection dates	29/06/2020 to 02/07/2020
Reporting inspector	Andrew Hemmings



## 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.<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 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. The inspector held telephone discussions with the headteacher (designate), designated safeguarding leader (designate), the chair of trustees, the chief executive officer (CEO) and other trust leaders. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the school site, reviewed the architects' plans for the site, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. Using the available information, the inspector is able to give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	50
<b>Age range</b>	4 to 16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Social, mental and emotional health

## Context of the school

Foxfields Academy intends to open in September 2020. It will initially offer places to six pupils in Years 1 to 8. It aims to expand this to 25 places by March 2021. Leaders intend to expand provision to a capacity of 50, catering for pupils in Years 9 to 11 from September 2021. Within the capacity of 50 places, the school will offer provision to Reception-aged children from September 2021 if this is required.

The school will be part of the Community Inclusive Trust. The trust already operates 12 other schools, several of which cater specifically for pupils with special educational needs.

<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/schedule/made](http://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.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the relevant 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 proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The school will ensure, through policies, staff training and monitoring, that staff and others who work with pupils present information in an unbiased way. They will promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a combination of assemblies, circle time, lessons and cross-curricular themes. This will be supported by trips, visits, participation in the school council and taking part fund raising events.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. The school has appropriate policies in place to, for example, prevent bullying and poor behaviour. The trust will provide some central policies, such as with regard to health and safety. These will be supported by the skills and knowledge of the trust's central team. The school will use some other systems that are in use elsewhere in the trust, such as those for maintaining admissions and attendance registers.

The school has a fire risk assessment in place and will review this when the school is ready for occupation by pupils.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The school has an appropriate template for the single central register of recruitment and vetting checks to be carried out before staff commence their roles. There is already a suitable record of these checks in place for members and trustees. Confirmation will be sought and recorded to show that agencies have carried out appropriate checks on supply staff engaged by the school.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The school will occupy existing buildings, which are scheduled for substantial refurbishment. There will be adequate toilet and changing facilities, water for pupils to drink and suitably lit teaching areas. Appropriate outdoor space will be available for physical education and play.

Not all parts of the refurbishment will be completed before opening. Leaders' plans for increasing the number of pupils on roll over time take into account the different phases of building.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. Some information is already available on the school and trust websites, such as the complaints policy, the anti-bullying policy and the admissions arrangements. Other information is available and due to be added, such as the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) policy. Leaders have determined the format to be used in the annual report to parents and how information will be shared with the local authority.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. The school will make use of the trust's complaints procedures. These set out clear timescales and the different stages of the complaints process. They allow for an appropriately constituted complaints panel to be convened when required and for information to be recorded, stored and shared effectively.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. School and trust leaders bring significant educational experience. Together, they have a background of providing high-quality education to pupils with SEND.

Leaders have ensured that there will be appropriate policies and procedures in place. They have the knowledge and skills to implement these effectively. They are likely to ensure that the school consistently meets the independent school standards.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. Leaders have an accessibility plan that sets out their aims to increase pupils' access to information, the curriculum and the physical environment of the school.

The school premises is due to be refurbished soon, which will ensure that it is accessible to pupils in wheelchairs. Leaders will carry out an audit in order to determine the specific actions required to achieve the aims of the accessibility plan and further improve pupils' access.

## **Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage**

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the statutory requirements for the early years. There are no plans to open early years provision before September 2021. Leaders have identified a classroom with outdoor space for children in Reception to use. They have determined appropriate staffing ratios. If there is a need for early

years provision, leaders intend to appoint qualified teachers to teach this group of children.

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