

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

School name	Monkerton Community Primary School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	878/2095
Unique reference number (URN)	147846
Inspection number	10148499
Inspection dates	29/05/2020
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 2008.¹

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. The inspector held face-to-face discussions over the internet with the executive headteacher, the head of school, other trust and school leaders and the chairs of the trust and local advisory bodies. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the temporary school site, reviewed the architects' plans for the permanent 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:

Number of day pupils	420
Age range	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Monkerton Community Primary School will be part of Cornerstone Academy Trust. The trust provides leadership support, staff and operating procedures. The school will follow many of the practices established in the trust's three existing schools. It will have a local advisory board to ensure that the views of the local community are represented.

Monkerton Community Primary School intends to open with two classes of Reception children, taking up to 60 pupils in the first year of opening. It plans to open a nursery with the equivalent of 60 full-time places once building works are completed on its new school building. The new building is due for completion before April 2021.

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.

Until then, the school will share premises with Westclyst Community Primary School, another school in the trust.

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.
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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. It will adopt policies and practice established in other trust schools. Leaders have plans in place for which aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development that pupils will be taught in which year groups. The taught curriculum will be supported by other opportunities, such as overseas link schools, student voice, junior librarians and debating opportunities.

Leaders are committed to regularly celebrating pupils' success, including through assemblies, circle time, medals and certificates. There will be adults in the school whose role is specifically to support pupils' self-esteem. The ethos is set to ensure that pupils' personal development is an intrinsic part of the day-to-day work of the school.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations for this part. Trust leaders have experience of successfully promoting positive behaviour through high-quality teaching. Their focus is to achieve the same in this school. The behaviour policy will be underpinned by staff training. The anti-bullying policy complies with requirements and will be supported by a 'safe to tell' culture. Other policies, such as those relating to health and safety and first aid, are in place and fit for purpose.

Experienced trust staff will oversee safeguarding practice. The school has determined the system that will be used to record and monitor concerns. The approach to training staff in safeguarding already in use in the trust will be adopted by this school.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements of this part. The trust maintains a centralised record of recruitment and vetting checks for staff across the trust, as well as trustees. Appropriate checks are completed and maintained on this record.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements of this part. The new school building was due to be open in January 2021. This has been delayed due to COVID-19. The building is currently expected to be handed over to the trust approximately eight weeks later than planned. Until the school occupies its new building, it will share the site of an existing primary school in the trust.

The temporary, shared site is already in operation. The school that uses it opened in September 2016 and is not yet at capacity. There is space for both schools to operate for the proposed temporary arrangements.

The existing school and the new building are both likely to meet the requirements of this part. Both provide adequate indoor and outdoor space. Appropriate toilet facilities are currently provided and plans show that this will be the case in the new building. Other required facilities, such as space for caring for unwell pupils and suitable drinking water, are available in the existing building and provided for in the new one.

Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. Much of the information the school is required to make available is already on its website. Formats for the provision of other information are in place. For example, annual reports to parents will mirror those used elsewhere in the trust.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. The school's complaints policy is available to parents and sets out how complaints will be considered, who will consider them and the timescales involved in resolving them.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proposed school will operate on a similar model to that used elsewhere in the trust. Its work will be led by a head of school, overseen by an executive headteacher who is experienced in providing high-quality education. A local academy board made up of heads of school from the trust, members of the school's leadership team, the executive headteacher and parents will add further capacity. This will primarily focus on the school's curriculum offer. The effective work of the trust in preparing to open the school shows that leaders and managers are likely to have the skills and knowledge to meet the independent school standards consistently.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet these all of the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. The school's accessibility plan identifies objectives and actions appropriate to meet the aims of the plan. These include improving pupils' access to the curriculum, information and physical environment of the school.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

The proposed school is likely to meet all statutory requirements for the early years. Leaders have established a staffing structure to ensure that staff-to-pupil ratios are as they should be. New staff are qualified for their roles and will receive induction

training, such as in safeguarding procedures and risk assessments. All early years staff will have paediatric first-aid training. The premises include indoor and outdoor accommodation that is suited to the education of early years children.

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