

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

School name	North Brent School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	304/4003
Unique reference number (URN)	143718
Inspection number	1271783
Inspection dates	28/04/2020 to 04/05/2020
Reporting inspector	Al Mistrano



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 telephone discussions with the executive headteacher, the chair of the board of trustees and the designated safeguarding lead. 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, state what further action is required.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1,200
Age range	900 in Years 7 to 11 and 300 in sixth form
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The establishment of the North Brent School is in response to the local need for more school places. Leaders of the Wembley Multi-Academy Trust aim to model this new school on their existing secondary school. Both of the trust's schools are judged outstanding by Ofsted.

Initially, the 120 pupils joining North Brent School in September 2020 will be educated on the Wembley High Technology College site. Leaders plan for pupils and staff to move to a new, purpose-built school once the new buildings for North Brent School are complete in 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.

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 the requirements for this part. Trustees and leaders are committed to promoting 'equality and community cohesion'. Leaders aim for pupils to explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues thoroughly. They have created detailed plans to ensure that fundamental British values are taught in subjects across the curriculum.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet the requirements assessed for this part.

At North Brent School, leaders intend to use the existing trust-wide policy for managing pupils' behaviour. Leaders also have cohesive plans to introduce support services to help pupils with social, emotional and mental health challenges.

Documents such as the staff code of conduct and the policy regarding visiting speakers demonstrate leaders' determination to protect pupils from extremist views and radicalisation. Leaders' documents also demonstrate equal determination to provide 'a safe space' in which pupils can develop their understanding of the 'risks associated with terrorism' in order to 'challenge extremist arguments'.

All relevant health and safety laws are taken into account through a detailed health and safety policy. Risk assessments and external audits, including those giving assurance of compliance to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, are robust. Documentary evidence provides firm assurance that this is likely to continue when North Brent School opens.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations for this part. Leaders' policies and procedures for checking the suitability of all adults at the school meet latest guidance. Trustees regularly check to ensure that all background checks are carried out and recorded effectively.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. The inspector considered the plans for the proposed new build from 2021, as well as the current facilities which will be accommodating pupils from September 2020. At the time of the inspection, the new school building was not yet under construction. However, the accommodation has been thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of all pupils and students in the sixth form. Plans show that classrooms will make good use of natural light. The school will be well ventilated with much thought given to the acoustic

conditions. The whole site is likely to meet the requirements of paragraph 3 of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. Care has been taken to ensure that pupils can access the entire site safely.

The inspector was unable to consider the suitability of the water temperature due to the virtual nature of the inspection. However, leaders show a good awareness of the need for a water temperature that avoids the risk of scalding. There is accommodation for short-term care of sick and injured pupils.

The outdoor space includes grassed and hard-surfaced areas for the playing of games, as well as physical and environmental education teaching. The school has made suitable provision for advancing mathematics and technology teaching, in line with its college status. The premises will provide high-quality facilities that are likely to meet all requirements.

Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the expectations for this part. The school's website provides parents with the information they need to support their children while at North Brent School. Leaders will be using the trust-wide procedures for reporting to parents and carers about their children.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The complaints policy clearly informs parents and carers how to make a complaint and what should happen during the process.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Leaders at North Brent School have adopted the leadership structures and practices from the trust's successful secondary school. Leaders have carefully planned staff training with the aim of making North Brent School as successful as the trust's other two schools.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

Trustees lead with very high expectations to ensure that staff cater for all pupils' needs. They require leaders to analyse pupils' needs in fine detail. Trustees ensure that school leaders use this information to put effective measures in place to support pupils across the curriculum and wider school life.

Leaders' determination to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 is evident throughout the school's policies.

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