

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

School name	Springhead Park Primary School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	886/2129
Unique reference number (URN)	147850
Inspection number	10148518
Inspection dates	24/04/2020 to 04/06/2020
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 chief executive officer (CEO), the chair of the board of trustees, the education director from the trust and the headteacher. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the school site, reviewed the architect's 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	456
Age range	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The establishment of the Springhead Park Primary School is in response to the local need for more primary school places. The school will be in a new building designed to cater for pupils aged three to 11. In September 2020, the school will have places for 20 children in the Nursery, 45 children in Reception and 45 pupils across key stage 1 and key stage 2.

The school will be part of the ten primary schools within The Primary First Trust. The trust will use their expertise in primary education to provide leadership and support for the school.

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.
------------------------	---

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 of the regulations in relation to this part. The school's aim of achieving 'community cohesion between all members of the school' is evident throughout leaders' policies. This provides firm foundations on which children and pupils can learn about British values. The planned provision and policies are likely to prepare pupils well for living in a diverse society.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations assessed for this part. Well-established, trust-wide policies have been adapted to suit the new school. Trust leaders will also support school leaders in establishing and maintaining these policies. Leaders' plans form a sound basis for staff to ensure pupils' safety and welfare.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

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

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. At the time of the inspection, the interior construction of the school building was incomplete. The accommodation has been thoughtfully designed with the needs of nursery and primary-aged pupils in mind. Plans show that classrooms have adequate lighting, ventilation and acoustic conditions. There is accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils and facilities for intimate care. The inspector was unable to consider the suitability of the water temperature in these facilities due to the virtual nature of the inspection. However, trust documentation reflects an awareness of the need for a water temperature that avoids the risk of scalding. Due to the incomplete nature of fixtures, the inspector also gained assurance of appropriate signage through plans.

The outdoor space, when complete, will include grassed and hard-surfaced areas for the playing of games, as well as the teaching of physical and environmental education. Nursery and Reception classrooms all have bespoke outdoor areas with easy access to indoor classrooms. Care has been taken to ensure that pupils can access the site safely. 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 requirements of this part. Leaders have adapted trust policies to the needs of the school. The school's website is nearly complete to provide parents and carers access to key information about the school, including the school's policies. Leaders have suitable plans in place 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 of the regulations for this part. The complaints policy clearly outlines what should happen when a complaint arises.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the requirements of this part. Leaders have clear plans to ensure that the school makes the best start possible and grows successfully over the coming years. The trust already has support in place for all staff at the school to carry out their responsibilities effectively. The trust also has measures in place to ensure that the independent school standards continue to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the requirements of this part. Leaders' plans clearly outline how they will achieve their aim of 'developing high self-esteem through a culture where everyone is listened to, valued, supported, respected and feels secure'. Leaders have also planned regular reviews of the school's work to make sure the school consistently meets the expectations of the Equality Act 2010.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All of the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. Leaders' policies and the trust's support are in place to ensure that the early years provision starts well and continues to meet all requirements.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021