

# Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

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School name	Castleward Spencer Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	831/2027
Unique reference number (URN)	148585
Inspection number	10189051
Inspection dates	25/05/2021
Reporting inspector	Rachel Tordoff



## 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](#).

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>1</sup>

The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation related to the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards and spoke to the headteacher designate and a variety of trust leaders, including the chief executive officer, the chair of the board of trustees and the director of primary, who is the lead proposer. The inspector toured the school site and scrutinised information available on the school's website.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	240, including 30 in the Nursery Year
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

The new provision is a primary school in the Spencer Academies Trust. Castleward Spencer Academy will be on a site close to the centre of Derby, in an area of the city that is undergoing significant redevelopment. The school's new building should be completed by July 2021.

Five children have enrolled to join the Reception Year in September 2021. Leaders plan to grow the school by adding a new year group each September. The final capacity of the school will be 210 pupils. In addition, the nursery provision will provide places for the full-time equivalent of up to 30 children.

When the school opens in September 2021, Ravensdale Infant School will use the first floor of the building and share some of the school's facilities with Castleward

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<sup>1</sup> Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges.

Spencer Academy. This is a temporary arrangement while Ravensdale Infant School is rebuilt following a fire.

## **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 school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Policies focus strongly on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They emphasise what it is like to grow up and live in modern British society. The school's curriculum aims to develop pupils to be confident and resilient learners. Curriculum plans show how pupils will learn about right and wrong, as well as the importance of respecting others and celebrating difference. These plans outline how pupils will develop links with the local multicultural community and society more widely.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. A range of detailed policies outlines procedures and checks relating to safeguarding, health and safety, fire safety, supervision, risk assessment and first aid. Appropriate strategies will address behaviour or bullying issues and ensure that detailed records of incidents are kept. Leaders understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. They understand and have addressed the risks associated with sharing the accommodation temporarily with another school when the school opens.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. An electronic single central record is already in place. This shows the checks that have been completed, for staff and governors.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school will occupy a new building, which is nearly complete. Classrooms are airy with suitable acoustics. Toilets, water supplies and drinking water are appropriate. There is suitable outside space, both surrounding the building and on upper-floor decks. During the on-site inspection, plans for the medical facilities were modified to ensure that they will meet requirements.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All the required information is available on the school's website, including the safeguarding policy. Paper copies of this information can be provided on request.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The complaints policy outlines clearly the procedures that will be followed if a concern is raised about the

school. Timescales are specified at each stage to make sure that the complaints process is efficient. The policy is available on the school's website.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The multi-academy trust has experience of opening and running successful primary schools in the region. Trust leaders have a detailed understanding of the regulatory requirements. They recognise the school's distinctive context and will provide school leaders with appropriate support that is tailored to the setting. Policies to promote pupils' welfare, health and safety are comprehensive. Monitoring and evaluation systems are well developed.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements of Schedule 10. The accessibility policy considers how there will be equality of access, for instance, to the school's premises and its curriculum. The accessibility plan will be reviewed when pupils join the school to ensure that it is suitable.

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

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will open initially to Reception children. Staff have been appointed with suitable experience and qualifications. Policies consider the requirements of the early years provision, including in relation to safeguarding.

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