

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

---

School name	Brook Mead Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	856/4012
Unique reference number (URN)	148546
Inspection number	10189036
Inspection dates	15/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Hazel Henson HMI

## 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 lead proposer from the trust, the principal designate, other school leaders and academy councillors, including the chair. The inspector toured the temporary school site and scrutinised information 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>	1,500. Initially 240 in August 2021
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within The Mead Educational Trust. Brook Mead Academy will initially be located on the temporary site which is due to be vacated by Castle Mead Academy. It is planned that the school will use this site for two years.

The academy will open in late August 2021. It will initially only admit Year 7 pupils. Currently there are 180 pupils on roll; the planned admission number is 240. This will double the following year when the site will be open to Years 7 and 8. The plan is to relocate into a new building on a site west of the city centre by August 2023. The final capacity of the school is anticipated to be 1,500.

---

<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.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all of the relevant independent school standards when it opens.
------------------------	--

In the absence of agreed plans for the new building, it is not currently possible to evaluate the likelihood of the new building meeting the relevant standards. An assessment of the proposed new building will need to be carried out at a later date when the plans are agreed.

## **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. The school's policy about the promotion of British values is very clear. Evidence in curriculum plans and assembly topics shows that pupils will have ample opportunities to learn about different cultures and traditions. Leaders will prioritise teaching pupils how to become active citizens who can make a difference to the world around them. Some of this will take place through planned 'Brook Mead Bonus Time' at the end of each school day.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have established a training plan so that staff will know how to keep pupils safe. A schedule is in place so that all the checks on the building that need to take place will be carried out in good time. Leaders can explain how these will be audited.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. As appointments have been made, the single central record has been put in place. This details all the relevant checks that have been carried out. It shows who made the checks and when. This record also contains the appropriate checks for the board of trustees and academy councillors. Leaders can explain how they will establish that appropriate checks of supply staff have taken place.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The temporary accommodation provides well-lit and ventilated places to learn. These buildings meet all current requirements for toileting, medical provision and first aid. An appropriate plan is in place for pupils to use the facilities at a neighbouring school when they have physical education lessons.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All policies required by law are accessible on the website. Leaders understand that they may need to make these available to parents on request. The safeguarding policy is comprehensive and up to date.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The policy clearly explains how the school will handle concerns and complaints. The stages of the

process and the timelines are evident. Leaders can explain how they will monitor the outcomes of any complaints. A copy of this policy can be made available on request.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders demonstrate good knowledge of the regulatory requirements, having already opened a secondary school on the same site. They can explain how they will check that the independent school standards continue to be met. The trust and school leaders have a wealth of experience. They have used this to write appropriate policies that will support pupils' health and well-being and keep them safe.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. Leaders have identified how they will establish an inclusive culture. They can explain how they will support pupils, develop positive relationships and check that their actions are making a difference. The accessibility plan indicates how pupils might be supported to access the curriculum. Leaders understand how they might have to adapt plans further to accommodate pupils with a greater range of needs.

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 children looked after, 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2022