

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

School name	Bluecoat Trent Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	892/4016
Unique reference number (URN)	148548
Inspection number	10189031
Inspection date	26/05/2021
Reporting inspector	Simon Hollingsworth, Her Majesty's Inspector



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.¹

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 and trust leaders, the chief executive officer of Archway Learning Trust and three trustees, including the chair. The inspector toured the building that the school will use for the first two years and discussed plans for the proposed school site to which the school will move in 2023.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1,200
Age range	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Bluecoat Trent Academy is a secondary school in Archway Learning Trust. Initially, the school will be located in a standalone building on the site of another school that is part of the same trust. The school will move to new purpose-built premises in 2023.

The school will open in September 2021. In the first year of operation, the school will admit 180 pupils into Year 7. In subsequent years, the school will admit 240 pupils into each new year group. The final capacity of the 11 to 16 school will be 1,200.

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

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 relevant requirements in this part. The school's values of 'Citizenship, Aspiration, Respect, Excellence' are central to the promotion of pupils' self-confidence and their respect for others. Pupils will receive wide-ranging opportunities to learn about those who are different from them, including those from other cultures and those who hold different values and beliefs. Senior leaders are committed to ensuring that pupils become active citizens by exploring the fundamental British values and understanding the diverse nature of the local and wider community.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. School leaders have put in place a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to promote pupils' welfare, health and safety. These include detailed policies that relate to safeguarding, behaviour, anti-bullying, and health and safety, including fire safety and first aid. Senior leaders are mindful of the need to promote vigilance among staff regarding pupils' welfare. Supported by trust leaders, the senior leaders will regularly check on the consistency with which staff implement these policies, to promote effective practice.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. Senior leaders, with the support of trust leaders, have a strong understanding of the checks that they must carry out on new staff before the staff beginning to work at the school. Senior leaders record these checks on the single central record, including details about when these checks were made and by whom. The checks cover members of the academy advisory board.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. For the first two years, pupils will be accommodated in a standalone building on the premises of another school. Pupils will also use facilities around the host school's site, including science laboratories, a sports hall and a first-aid room. Combined, these facilities will cover all the current requirements. The plans for the school's permanent buildings, into which it will move in 2023, indicate a high-quality provision.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. All the necessary policies are in place and are available to parents and carers on request. The safeguarding policy and curriculum statement are available on the school's

website. The website also contains information about the trust that the school is a part of.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The detailed complaints policy outlines how and when senior leaders will respond to any complaints about the provision. The policy is available to parents, either on request or through the school's website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. Trustees have experience of opening and running schools. They understand the importance of providing the school's senior leaders with challenge and support. They have in place a robust system of checks that they use to evaluate the quality of provision across other schools in the trust. They will use this same system to carry out checks for the new school. The trustees and the school's senior leaders are committed to creating a safe, inclusive environment that prepares pupils well for their next steps.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements of Schedule 10. The school's accessibility plan clearly shows how leaders will adapt information about the school, the curriculum and the facilities to meet the needs of any pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They will make any necessary adjustments to their use of the temporary premises, should any pupils require it. Plans for the permanent building into which the school will move in 2023 show that there will be a lift that provides access to the building's three storeys.

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