

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

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School name	Avanti Meadows Primary School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	919/2097
Unique reference number (URN)	147834
Inspection number	10189028
Inspection date	21/05/2021
Reporting inspector	Katherine Douglas

## 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 to assess the school's likely compliance against the independent school standards. The inspector spoke to the executive headteacher, the head of school and the education director from the Avanti Schools Trust. The inspector had a tour of the school site with the operations director and the estates coordinator. The inspector reviewed the information that is published 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>	630
<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

Avanti Meadows Primary School is a new free school. It is part of the Avanti Schools Trust. The school will be located in a new building in Bishop's Stortford North. Work on the new school building is complete. The building is currently being used by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust as a COVID-19 (coronavirus) vaccination centre. The building will be handed over to the Avanti Schools Trust in June 2021.

The school will open in September 2021. Places for up to 30 Reception-age children will be provided in the first year. There are plans to increase the number of Reception classes. When the school is full, there will be three Reception classes of 30 children each. Nursery provision for up to 26 children is planned from September 2022. The final capacity of the school will be 630 pupils.

There are currently 10 schools operating as part of the Avanti Schools Trust.

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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.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the 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. The trust's mission statement articulates the ambition to help each person 'become a well-rounded human being through intellectual, moral and spiritual growth, and so make the world a better place'. This is evident in the leaders' policies and plans, which clearly outline how the school will approach the teaching of fundamental British values and create a culture of inclusion for all pupils. For example, a policy is in place to ensure that pupils and staff are not exposed to partisan views from speakers who may visit the school. This is further supported through the school's approach to the teaching of philosophy and religious education and personal, social, health and economic education.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Ensuring pupils' welfare, health and safety is a high priority for the trust. This is reflected in the rigour of the school's health and safety procedures (including the arrangements for fire safety) and the detail of the school's policies for safeguarding, behaviour and anti-bullying (including cyber-bullying). The school is robust in its assessment of risks. The necessary risk assessments are already in place for providing education in the early years foundation stage in September 2021.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Rigorous procedures are in place to check the suitability of trustees, school staff and all those who carry out work in the school. The single central record of pre-employment checks is set up. This includes all the statutory requirements, demonstrating that leaders are making sure that all staff are suitable to work with pupils.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The new school building is complete and meets all current requirements, including appropriate first-aid, toilet and medical facilities. When the building is handed over to the trust in June 2021, work will be carried out to complete the outdoor learning area for the Reception classes. All the necessary arrangements and plans are in place to ensure that the outdoor space is ready for pupils to use in September 2021.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The required policies are in place and are available to parents via the school website. This includes a safeguarding policy that reflects all the latest statutory requirements. Parents of

pupils who will be joining the school in September 2021 are being provided with the relevant guidance and induction information to help ensure that pupils make a positive start to school.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. A detailed policy is in place. It sets out clearly the necessary steps and timelines to ensure that complaints are handled in an efficient and timely way.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The trust has a clear understanding of the independent school standards. The trust has procedures in place to support and challenge school leaders with respect to the welfare of pupils and the quality of education they provide. Leaders know what is expected of them and what they need to do to ensure that the independent school standards continue to be met.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. The school has a clear policy in place that identifies groups and clearly sets out how pupils will be supported. The new school building and outdoor areas are fully accessible to pupils. For example, there is lift access to the second floor.

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

The statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will open initially as a Reception class. Teaching staff have been appointed. They have the relevant qualifications and experience. All the relevant policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements.

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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)  
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