

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

School name	Callerton Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	391/4009
Unique reference number (URN)	148573
Inspection number	10189046
Inspection dates	14/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Malcolm Kirtley

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 and several senior leaders from the multi-academy trust (MAT). The inspector discussed plans for the proposed school's sites with senior leaders. The inspector discussed these plans in further detail with technical advisers appointed by the DfE to liaise with school leaders and building contractors. The inspector was not able to visit the school site because building works were not completed to a stage where it was possible to do so.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1,200 (120 pupils in September)
Age range	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The new provision is a secondary school within the Gosforth Federated Academies Limited MAT. Callerton Academy is a new-build project, which will be situated in the west of the city. The permanent site is planned to open in September 2023.

The school will be based in central Newcastle for the first two years of operation from September 2021. It will be based in a re-modelled school building, leased from the DfE.

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.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all of 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. Leaders' plans address the school's core values, including respect for the legitimate rights of others and kindness towards other people. Planned assembly and tutorial programmes aim to raise pupils' awareness of fundamental British values, including respect for other faiths and cultures. Leaders plan to use the school's initial city centre location to explore the cultural opportunities immediately at hand.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's policies for health and safety, behaviour, anti-bullying, managing medication and safeguarding are already in use across the MAT. Many of these policies refer, where necessary, to government legislations and guidance. The trust commissions external partners to review the effective implementation of many of these policies. Fire safety policies and procedures are being customised to the new building. Leaders are in the process of writing new risk assessment policies that address specific issues on the school site, including risk assessments for transport to school. They are aware that further written risk assessment policies will need to be in place.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The single central record (SCR) reflects the SCR already in place across the MAT. The MAT human resources team will manage procedures for checking the suitability of staff and record this on the SCR. Leaders have a thorough understanding of the checks that must be made on all staff.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part.

The school will open in temporary accommodation in September 2021. The building is being converted from a studio school that originally opened in 2014. The building is leased from the DfE. Building contractors are scheduled to complete adaptations by the end of July 2021. Leaders have detailed plans for the building and how they will use the space to meet pupils' needs. All parties are confident that the building will be ready in time. The premises will meet all current requirements, including outside space, toilets and changing, first-aid and medical facilities.

The permanent home for Callerton Academy is scheduled to open in September 2023. A feasibility study has been completed. Building plans have been agreed with

the school, the MAT, the DfE and contactors. At this point, planning permission has not been granted.

Contingency plans are in place for both September 2021 and September 2023 to accommodate any delays in the building or planning process.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Relevant information is ready and in place. The safeguarding policy is available on the school's website. It contains relevant updates. All relevant information will be available to parents on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The policy is already in place across the MAT. The policy outlines the different stages of the complaints process. It also gives parents insight into the timelines leaders will observe when considering complaints. The policy will be available to parents and published 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. Trust leaders and the executive team are experienced in managing new schools. The principal designate has a clear understanding of the regulatory requirements. Through their policies and in discussion, leaders showed they have the knowledge to meet the independent schools standards consistently.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The MAT has an equality and diversity policy that outlines the academy's aims. The importance of respecting equality is woven into other policies, including the behaviour policy. Leaders are aware of their responsibilities to promote awareness of the protected characteristics. The new buildings will be equipped for accessibility, including the provision of accessible toilets and lifts.

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