

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

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| School name   | Edgar Wood Academy |
| Department for Education (DfE)<br>registration number | 354/4004           |
| Unique reference number (URN)                         | 148596             |
| Inspection number                                     | 10189070           |
| Inspection dates                                      | 17/06/2021         |
| Reporting inspector                                   | Ahmed Marikar      |

## 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. He spoke to the headteacher and the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Altus Education Partnership Trust. The inspector visited the temporary and permanent school sites. It was not possible to carry out a tour of the buildings because building works were not completed to a stage where it was possible to do so. The inspector reviewed the plans for the school's temporary accommodation and the permanent school site. He was able to make an assessment of all the standards.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

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| <b>Number of day pupils</b>              | 900. Initially 120 in September 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 Altus Education Partnership Trust. Edgar Wood Academy will be located in the Middleton area of North Manchester. It is due to welcome 120 pupils in September 2021. When it is at final capacity, the school will accommodate 900 pupils between the ages of 11 and 16 years.

The school will open in September 2021. It will initially be located in temporary accommodation with 120 pupils. The plan is to relocate into a new state-of-the-art building on a nearby site in 2022.

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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.

At the point of inspection, work to construct the temporary and permanent sites had commenced. The plans in place for both the temporary and the permanent site are appropriate.

Leaders continue to work to ensure that the temporary site is ready for September 2021. The land is being prepared to receive temporary classrooms, which are currently being built off site. The plans indicate that, should the sites for the temporary and permanent accommodation be completed, the standards are likely to be met.

## **Advice to the Secretary of State for Education**

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| <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 of the relevant regulations in relation to this part. Evidence in the school's policies stress core values; for example determination, equality, kindness and respect for the rule of law. Through this approach, there are ample opportunities for pupils to develop mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and cultures. A very clear policy promotes British values.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. A comprehensive range of policies are in place. These, and other evidence considered on inspection, indicate that health, safety, behaviour, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with all relevant guidance. Leaders' anti-bullying policy is detailed and includes relevant strategies for addressing any issues. Although the fire safety order has yet to be issued, it is scheduled to take place as soon as the temporary and permanent buildings are completed and handed over to leaders. This will take place before pupils join the school.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant statutory regulations. The single central record (SCR) is already in place. This details the required checks on adults who will work in the school. The SCR shows who has made these checks and when they have been completed. This includes the checks made on the CEO, members of the local governing body and trustees. Leaders have carried out additional training to ensure the safety of pupils who attend the school. Newly recruited members of staff are scheduled to carry out the required safeguarding training, including peer-on-peer abuse, before the school opens.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The school will initially consist of temporary accommodation in an attractive open location. Pupils will have access to an artificial grass pitch and a playground. The temporary buildings will meet all current requirements. This includes provision for first aid, toileting and medical facilities. The plans for the new permanent building show details of high-quality provision in all of the relevant requirements. Pupils will have access to a spacious outdoor environment. This will include grassed and hard-surfaced areas where they can play and participate in physical education.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements. All the required policies are in place, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy and remote education policy.

The website is in the process of being updated with the most recent policies and information. Copies of these policies can be made available on request.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant requirements. The complaints policy is comprehensive and sets out each step of the complaints procedure. It contains timelines for the efficient and sensitive handling of any complaints. It will be on the school's website. Copies will be made available if requested.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant requirements. The trust has expertise in running an outstanding sixth-form college. Leaders have a clear vision and ethos for the school. Leaders have a thorough understanding of the independent school standards. They have established a comprehensive suite of policies which provide for the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Leaders are also clear about how they will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant requirements. The equalities policy recognises and outlines support for a range of groups. Leaders have drawn up a comprehensive accessibility plan which will be in place before pupils arrive in September 2021. Plans for the temporary buildings show that consideration has been given to adaptations and there are also contingency plans in place if needed. Plans for the new permanent building show that adaptations are included, for example the inclusion of lifts.

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