

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a 16 to 19 free school

School name	Clapham Harris Sixth Form
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	877/3610
Unique reference number (URN)	148555
Inspection number	10189058
Inspection dates	16/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Mike Finn



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 chief executive officer, the chair of governors, the executive principal and other senior leaders. The inspector toured the school site.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	600. Initially 300 in September 2021
Age range	16 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Clapham Harris Sixth Form, a 16 to 19 free school, will open as part of the Harris Federation. The school will be located near to the Harris Academy Clapham and will be led by the same executive principal.

The school will open in September 2021 within a new purpose-built building. Leaders plan to recruit 300 students in the first year, with plans to increase to 600 learners in September 2022, when it will reach full capacity.

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 requirements in this part.

Leaders have a clear vision about how they will support students with their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This evidence is underpinned by detailed and carefully considered policies. The curriculum plan and policies integrate equality themes and illustrate how fundamental British values will be promoted.

Leaders intend to provide students with numerous sporting and cultural enrichment opportunities through the 'Clapham character' programme. There is evidence of a considerable focus on developing students' leadership skills.

This aspect of the provision is likely to be strong.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

Leaders have developed a comprehensive safeguarding policy. This is particularly well-focused on the specific local risks that students may encounter and how these can be minimised. The additional policies they have developed, including in relation to first aid, behaviour and the prevention of bullying, are suitable and have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

A link governor for safeguarding has been appointed. Their role will be to ensure that leaders fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. They plan to carry out audits and checks alongside the Harris Federation compliance team to make sure that safeguarding is secure.

Leaders have developed detailed health and safety and fire safety policies and have appropriate processes in place to assess and minimise risks.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

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

Leaders have ensured that the appropriate suitability checks have been completed for current staff and trustees, and they closely follow the safer recruitment processes that have been developed.

These checks have been accurately logged on the single central record, which is due to be checked by the executive principal and chair of governors on a termly basis.

The provider does not currently plan to use supply staff, although leaders are aware of the checks required and have included these in the relevant policies.

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 due for completion by September 2021. The building includes spacious classrooms, a fitness gym, science laboratories and other specialist learning spaces.

There is suitable outdoor space, as well as appropriate toilet and shower facilities for student use.

An appropriate medical room has been planned. This is located near to toilet facilities and has its own water supply.

The building has plenty of natural light. Every classroom has large windows. Acoustic panels are also being installed.

Physical education will take place at the nearby Harris Academy Clapham. There is access to an on-site fitness suite.

Part 6. Provision of information

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

All of the required statutory information has been provided, and many of the policies have already been uploaded to the website. The executive principal plans to maintain oversight of the information.

Leaders have developed a plan for the annual progress report to parents or carers. It is intended that teachers will provide a written comment about the students' progress in each of the subject areas they study.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

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

Leaders have put in place a suitable written complaints policy and shared this on the website. The policy explains the process for parents or carers clearly, including the informal approach at the start of the procedure.

There are plans in place for leaders to keep a written record of complaints. Leaders plan to use this record to identify any trends in complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The executive principal has recently been involved in the development of Harris Academy Clapham. Leaders have been organised in their preparations for Harris Clapham Sixth Form, demonstrating a sound understanding of all of the independent school standards.

Senior leaders are appropriately skilled and experienced, particularly in the leadership of 16 to 19 provision.

Governors and the Harris Federation have plans in place to offer appropriate challenge to ensure that leaders continue to consistently meet the standards.

Leaders have strong plans to promote the well-being of students, including through robust safeguarding policies and a curriculum that is focused on learners understanding how to keep themselves safe.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

It is likely that leaders will meet the requirements within Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. They have developed a suitable accessibility policy that indicates the inclusivity of their approach, and highlights how they will provide the specific support that students may require, including for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The building is designed to be fully accessible and inclusive for wheelchair users. Ramps and lifts are being installed.

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