

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

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School name	Cockburn Laurence Calvert Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	383/4081
Unique reference number (URN)	148616
Inspection number	10189064
Inspection dates	15/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Michele Costello

## 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 and spoke to the chief executive officer of the multi-academy trust, the chief operating officer, the head of school and other members of the senior leadership team. The inspector visited the site where the temporary and permanent buildings will be constructed.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	1,050. Initially 210 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

The proposed school will be part of Cockburn Multi-Academy Trust. The trust was established in 2016. There are currently two primary and two secondary schools in the trust.

Pupils will initially be based in a new temporary building. This is in the process of being constructed. The building will be completed by the end of August 2021. From September 2023, pupils will be based in a new permanent building near the temporary building. Leeds local authority is overseeing the construction of the temporary building. The DfE is overseeing the construction of the permanent building.

In September 2021, the school will admit pupils in Year 7. By 2025, the school will have pupils on roll from Years 7 to 11.

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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.

Many of the staff who have been appointed to work in the proposed school already work in other schools within the trust, including the head of school, the assistant headteacher and the special educational needs coordinator. At the time of the pre-registration inspection, not all staff had been appointed.

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

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens, provided it addresses the regulations noted in the table set out in part 3.
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## Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

### Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The proposed school is likely to meet the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have plans in place for pupils to contribute to their local community. References to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 are threaded throughout many of the school's policies. It is intended that pupils will learn about respect and tolerance of others and the public institutions in England. There will be opportunities for pupils to learn about fundamental British values. Leaders will consult with parents and carers on the school's relationships and sex education (RSE) policy when the proposed school opens. The school's RSE policy will be made available on the school's website. Leaders updated the school's visiting speakers' policy during the inspection to include all the checks they intend to make on visiting speakers.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet the regulations in relation to this part, provided it addresses the regulations set out below. The inspector can only provide limited assurance in relation to paragraphs 11, 12 and 16 as the temporary building and the permanent building had not been constructed at the time of the inspection.

The school has a safeguarding policy. This will be made available to parents and carers on the school's website when the school opens. The school has a behaviour and anti-bullying policy in place. Leaders intend to use a management information system to record behaviour and bullying incidents, following the model already used within the trust. Some policies were updated during the inspection to ensure that they are in line with DfE guidance.

Templates were provided for attendance and admissions records. These meet requirements. Leaders understand their duty to inform the local authority if they place a new pupil on, or take a pupil off, the school's roll. Leaders also understand the local authority's procedures for children who are missing from education.

The school does not have a risk assessment policy in place. Leaders will need to ensure that this is in place before the school opens. A risk assessment has not been completed for pupils' use of a community leisure facility for physical education (PE). Leaders are aware of this and are holding discussions with the managers of the leisure facility. A fire risk assessment was not in place at the time of the inspection because neither building has been constructed. Leaders are aware of the need to complete this.

Ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 for all premises to be used.	paragraph 12
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Ensure that an appropriate risk assessment policy is established to reflect all potential risks.	paragraph 16(a)
Ensure that a risk assessment is in place for the school's use of a public leisure facility.	paragraph 16(b)

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

The proposed school is likely to meet the regulations in this part. The school already has a single central record. Leaders are in the process of carrying out all statutory checks on staff. They are still in the process of recruiting staff and governors for the new school. Leaders were clear that all checks will be completed before the school opens. Some updates were made to the school's safer recruitment policy to reflect updated statutory guidance and the checks that the leaders carry out on staff. Checks had been completed on a trustee after their start date. Leaders understand that checks need to be carried out on trustees before they begin their role.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet the regulations in this part. The inspector can only provide limited assurance in relation to this part as the temporary building and the permanent building had not been constructed at the time of the inspection. The temporary building is currently under construction and is due to be completed by the end of August 2021. The foundations were being built at the time of the inspection and the building was being constructed off site. An area near the temporary building has been identified as the site for the permanent building. Building plans are currently at planning approval stage for the permanent building.

There will be unisex toilets in both buildings. Plans show that each toilet is in a separate room that can be locked from the inside. Leaders understand that drinking water must be labelled. There will be a medical room in both the temporary building and the permanent building, situated close to a toilet. Leaders, and the project manager for the temporary building, were clear that the building will be 'signed off' in line with current building regulations, including the acoustics and lighting.

Plans for the permanent building show that the school will have changing rooms, showers, a sports hall and both hard and soft surfaces outside. The temporary building has both hard and soft surfaces outside. Pupils will use community leisure facilities for PE for the first two years until the permanent building is complete.

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

The proposed school already has a website. Some of the required policies are already on the school's website. The website is still in development. Leaders have completed a website audit. Leaders are clear about what needs to be included on the school's website before the school opens. The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements in part 6.

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

The proposed school will follow the trust's complaints policy. This policy meets the requirements of the independent school standards. The policy will be made available on the school's website. The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in part 7.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. Many of the newly appointed school leaders already work within the trust. They have experience of implementing trust policies and procedures. Some amendments were made to the school's policies and procedures during the inspection. However, it was clear from discussions with leaders that they are likely to ensure that the independent school standards are continually and consistently met. Leaders expressed their desire to ensure that pupils' mental health and well-being are a priority.

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

The proposed school already has in place an accessibility plan that meets the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. This will need to be updated when the permanent building is complete. The temporary building and the permanent building will have a lift and accessible toilets. In developing the plans for both school buildings, leaders have considered accessibility.

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