

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	Cornerstone School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	303/7006
Unique reference number (URN)	148582
Inspection number	10189067
Inspection dates	23/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Noeman Anwar



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 met with the executive principal, associate principal, assistant principal and the business director from the academy trust. The inspector toured the school site, discussed plans for additional building work, and scrutinised information on the school's website.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	90. Initially 18 in September 2021
Age range	11 to 18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and social, mental and emotional health (SMEH)

Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Trinitas Academy Trust. The school will open in September 2021 with 18 pupils in Year 7. It will be located initially on a temporary site. The permanent site is undergoing refurbishment work and the construction of a new building. It is expected to be completed by September 2022. The final capacity of the school when all building work is completed will be 90 pupils.

Trinitas Academy Trust has experience of running successful schools. The trust will provide support to the school.

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 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. The school's core values of ambition, curiosity and happiness will be central to promoting pupils' spiritual moral, social and cultural development. Plans indicate that pupils will have many opportunities to develop their understanding of other cultures. Leaders' ambition is to cultivate pupils' ability to explore different opinions. Pupils will be encouraged to learn how to keep themselves safe, develop their independence and learn about appropriate relationships in different contexts.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. Detailed policies are in place. These cover the full range of aspects, including safeguarding, health and safety, fire safety, anti-bullying and behaviour. Leaders have systems in place to check that policies and procedures are adhered to.

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) of pre-employment checks is already in place. The SCR shows that the required checks have been made on the suitability of staff and governors who have already been appointed.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The temporary site has ample outdoor and indoor learning spaces for pupils. The temporary accommodation is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment, which is likely to be completed by the end of July 2021. The temporary site is likely to meet all current requirements, including for first-aid provision and medical facilities. Plans seen for the new building and refurbishment of existing buildings indicate that the permanent premises and accommodation are likely to meet all requirements. The permanent school is expected to be ready for occupation by September 2022.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All the required policies are in place and available to parents and carers, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website will be updated in due course with the most recent policies and information. Copies of these policies are available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The complaints policy is comprehensive and clearly written. It contains all the necessary steps for informal and formal resolution of complaints. This information is available to parents 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. The trust has experience of running a secondary school. Leaders have a clear rationale for providing specialist provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in the local area. They are experienced in working with pupils with SMEH and ASD needs. Leaders have considered carefully their policies and procedures. These are focused on providing a nurturing environment for pupils, where pupils' welfare and health requirements are prioritised. Leaders have clear procedures and the necessary skills and knowledge to check the quality of the provision. It is likely that the independent school standards will be met consistently.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. Leaders know how to support the specific needs of pupils with SEND and how to monitor the impact of their work. Plans for the temporary and permanent school sites show that adaptations are included.

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