

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	Co-op Academy Belle Vue
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	352/4016
Unique reference number (URN)	148544
Inspection number	10189065
Inspection dates	17/05/2021
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 2014'¹ when it opens.¹

The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation related to the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards. He spoke to the executive headteacher, head of school and the school's project manager. The inspector was not able to visit the temporary or permanent school sites 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:

Number of day pupils	1,200. Initially 120 in September 2021
Age range	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Co-op Academies Trust. Co-op Academy Belle Vue will be located in the Beswick area of East Manchester. It is due to welcome 120 pupils in September. When it is at final capacity, the school will accommodate 1,200 between the ages of 11 and 16 years. The school will be managed by a head of school under the strategic leadership of an executive headteacher.

The new school is planned to open in September 2021 in temporary accommodation. This is currently being built adjacent to Connell Co-op College in Beswick, East Manchester.

The school is due to move to permanent accommodation in September 2022. The

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.

permanent site is a very short distance away from the temporary site and is also located in East Manchester.

At the point of inspection, work to construct the temporary site had begun. Appropriate plans for both the temporary site and the permanent site are in place.

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.

Co-op Academies Trust already has responsibility for a number of other schools in the region. As part of the trust, leaders and staff at the new school will have access to a broad range of facilities, resources and staff expertise from two other local schools in the trust, namely, Co-op Academy Manchester and Co-op Academy North Manchester.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	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. The school's policies and procedures match those already established in other Co-op Academies Trust schools. These emphasise the trust's values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values provide a strong framework for building positive values, including rule of law, tolerance, and respect for self and others. A discrete policy on the promotion of British values is in place.

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 and based on models provided by Co-op Academies Trust. These and other evidence considered on inspection indicate that health, safety, behaviour, supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with guidance. Although the fire safety order has yet to be issued, it is scheduled to take place as soon as the new building is 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 regulations. There is a single central record in place which is used to record the required checks on appointed staff and trustees. A small number of checks on recently appointed staff and local governors are ongoing and the stage of the verification process is indicated on the register. Leaders are fully aware of their duties regarding checking the suitability of staff to work with children. They have carried out additional training to ensure the safety of the school's pupils. Newly recruited members of staff are scheduled to carry out the required safeguarding training before the school opens. Additional checks are made by the trust's safeguarding team to ensure high levels of accountability.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Based on close scrutiny of the detailed plans for both the temporary and permanent sites, leaders are likely to meet all of the regulations necessary for the new premises. Discussions with leaders and the project manager indicate that, on both the temporary site and the permanent site, all key requirements will be met. For example, the provision of first-aid facilities, appropriate lighting, toilets, outdoor areas and arrangements for sporting provision have all been considered appropriately.

Significant work has already been carried out on the land for the temporary site. The temporary classrooms have been commissioned and are being built off site. They will

be delivered in early summer term 2021. During 2021/22, pupils will also have sole use of a dining room and assembly hall that are currently part of Connell Co-op College. These rooms will be fully partitioned off from Connell Co-op College.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements. All the required policies are in place, unambiguous, available to parents and carers, and written in an accessible style. The safeguarding policy and remote education policy reflect current statutory requirements. The website is under construction and the designs reviewed by the inspector indicate that it will provide parents with comprehensive information. The website is due to be released before the end of this school year. All policies will 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 procedure. It contains timelines for the efficient and sensitive handling of any complaints and will appear 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. Leaders have a clear vision for the school and high aspirations for all pupils. Co-op Academies Trust already has experience of running academies in the region. Leaders have a proven track record of effective leadership and seek to adapt what has worked well to the context of the new school. Leaders have established a comprehensive suite of policies that 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 policy for equalities recognises and outlines support for a range of groups. The school has an accessibility plan. Plans for the new buildings show that features such as lifts and other necessary adaptations are included. Equality of opportunity is at the heart of the school's values.

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