

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

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School name	Great Park Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	391/4005
Unique reference number (URN)	143923
Inspection number	10189043
Inspection dates	14/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Chris Smith HMI

## 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'<sup>1</sup> 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 lead proposer from the trust, the principal designate, the assistant principal and the site manager. The inspector toured the temporary school site which will be used until the new build is completed, and discussed plans for the new build site. The inspector considered the policies and other documents available on the school's website.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	1,200. Initially 60 in September 2021
<b>Age range</b>	9 to 16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

Great Park Academy intends to provide education for nine-to-16-year-olds. The school will be within the Gosforth Group multi-academy trust (MAT). The school intends to open temporarily within a building on the Gosforth Academy site. The temporary building is new and will be exclusively for the use of Great Park Academy pupils only. In September 2023, the school intends to move into a new-build site located to the north of Gosforth, on the northern fringe of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This site, funded by the DfE, is awaiting final planning permission.

The school proposes to open in September 2021, initially to 60 Year 5 pupils. It is planning to admit a further 60 pupils in September 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.

## 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 that it addresses the regulations noted in the table as 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 school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. The school's policies show a clear intent to teach pupils about fundamental British values and to developing a mutually respectful and tolerant community. Policies covering relationships education have been developed and used to inform the curriculum content in personal, social, health and economic education. Leaders intend to consult parents about their sex education policy early in the autumn term after opening.

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

The school is likely to meet of the requirements in this part provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below. The school's policies for health and safety, behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid and safeguarding are already in operation across the MAT. These are detailed policies that refer where necessary to related legislation and government guidance. Fire safety policies and procedures are bespoke to the new building. The school is installing a suitable information management system to be used for the attendance and admissions registers.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

<p>ensure that a written risk assessment policy is drawn up and implemented effectively so that appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified, particularly those presented by younger pupils sharing some facilities with Gosforth Academy.</p>	<p>paragraphs 16, 16(a) and 16(b)</p>
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### 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) will mirror the SCR practice already in place across the MAT. The SCR and related processes for checking the suitability of staff will be managed by the MAT's central human resources team. Leaders have a secure understanding of the checks that must be made.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The school intends to open temporarily in a block on the Gosforth Academy site. This building will be for the sole use of Great Park Academy pupils. The building has four well-lit classrooms, a medical room, an intervention room, a foyer and a reception area. There are separate toilets for boys and girls. There are suitable outside areas for pupils to play. The school will have access to changing and sports facilities and showers within

Gosforth Academy. The proposer expects to relocate to the main site on Great Park when the building is ready in September 2023. The new building does not yet have final planning permission. The proposer hopes that construction should begin later this year, with the aim of pupils moving to the completed site in September 2023.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. The school already has a website in place, through which most information is shared. The child protection and safeguarding policy is available on the website. School leaders have prepared a parent and carer handbook which contains information about behaviour expectations. The school will provide information on each pupil's academic progress at three points across the year and will provide an annual report. All required information will be available to parents on request.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. The complaints policy is already in use across the Gosforth Group of schools. The policy will be made available to parents via the school website.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part. Trust leaders are experienced in running schools across the full age range proposed for this school. They have a wide range of tried and tested policies in place to govern the running of the school. The trust intends to appoint a local advisory group to hold leaders to account for educational standards. The trust board of the Gosforth Group will retain the statutory responsibilities for governance. Through discussions with the inspector, all leaders demonstrate a good understanding of the independent school standards.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements of Schedule 10. The school has an accessibility plan for the temporary site. The proposed temporary building is new and built to meet current disability access standards. There is a ramp to access the entrance lobby and a lift to access the upper floor. Toilets have been designed to give full access. The school has an equalities and diversity policy which sets out how pupils will learn about protected characteristics and how all pupils and adults will be protected from discrimination.

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