

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

School name	The Beacon College
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	884/7000
Unique reference number (URN)	148636
Inspection number	10189032
Inspection date	10/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Alun Williams 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' 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 executive headteacher and the chair of the board of trustees. The inspector had a tour of the school site and discussed building plans for the proposed school.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	60
Age range	16 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Severe and complex learning difficulties

Context of the school

This new provision is a purpose-built 16 to 19 special school, for students with severe and complex learning difficulties. It will operate within the Accordia Academies Trust. It is proposed that the school will open in September 2021.

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 carefully planned their curriculum and other activities to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and to help develop students' self-confidence and independence. Their aim is to prepare students well for life after they leave school. In particular, the planned personal, social and health education curriculum includes the active promotion of fundamental British values. Leaders intend that students should develop respect for all people, including those with protected characteristics.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have developed comprehensive policies and procedures to keep students safe and to look after their welfare. For example, leaders have drawn up detailed and clear policies for health and safety, and the prevention of bullying. All policies have due regard for the appropriate statutory guidance.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's single central record is already in place. It includes all the required checks on staff and trustees. Leaders do not intend to use supply teachers, but are fully aware of the checks they must carry out should this position change in the future.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The building is currently being built and work is well advanced. It will provide a very well-equipped school with ample space for its 60 proposed students. Building plans indicate that the school building and site will meet all current requirements, including provision for first aid, toileting, medical facilities and outdoor space.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have planned a website, but it is not operational yet. They have produced all the required policies, including for safeguarding. All policies are up to date and are available to parents on request. Leaders plan to make all policies available on the school's website as soon as it is launched.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's complaints policy is clear and comprehensive. It has due regard for government guidance. It

sets out a complaints procedure that includes informal and formal steps, each with appropriate timescales.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have a good understanding of the independent school standards, and a great deal of experience and expertise in leading and managing special schools. They have developed appropriate policies and procedures to keep students safe and promote their well-being. They put a strong focus on students' personal development. Leaders are clear about the need to continue to monitor provision so that it meets the independent school standards consistently, and they possess the expertise to do so.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school has a detailed accessibility plan that meets all requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

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