

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

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School name	The High School Leckhampton
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	916/4022
Unique reference number (URN)	148563
Inspection number	10189026
Inspection dates	18/05/2021
Reporting inspector	Tonwen Empson



## 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 lead proposer from the trust, the chief executive officer and the headteacher designate. The inspector toured the proposed temporary school site and discussed plans for the proposed permanent site. She was not able to visit the permanent site because building works were not completed to a stage where it was possible to do so.

From the scrutiny of plans and discussions with school leaders, the inspector was able to assess whether the school is likely to meet the relevant standards once the building is completed.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	900
<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

This new school is sponsored by Balcarras School and is part of the Balcarras Trust. It proposes to open in September 2021. In the first year of opening, the school will include up to 120 pupils in Year 7. The school will operate from the Balcarras School site during the first year, using a purpose-built new building and Balcarras School facilities. From September 2022, pupils will move to a new permanent building in Leckhampton.

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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.

Each academic year, the school will expand with the addition of a new year group. This expansion will continue until 2025, when the school will have pupils in all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11. The final capacity of the school will be 900.

## **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.
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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 requirements in this part. Policies stress that the school will use core values, such as contributing positively to the community, to help pupils become responsible citizens. Leaders plan for pupils to have a rich cultural diet that prepares them well for their future lives. The school's behaviour policy has a focus on tolerance and respect towards all, including those with protected characteristics.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. All the required documents are in place, including those related to safeguarding, staff conduct, health and safety, fire safety and first aid. The behaviour policy includes the school's anti-bullying strategy. The policy sets out expectations and includes details of rewards and sanctions. Policies and procedures are clear and explain comprehensively every adult's responsibility to keep pupils safe.

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

The school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. Leaders are aware of their responsibilities for checking the suitability of staff to work with children and are already operating this in the sponsor school. The school's single central record notes all of the checks required when recruiting staff, governors and trustees.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The permanent site has been acquired and work has started, but it will not be ready for pupils until September 2022. Therefore, the sponsor school has invested in a new purpose-built building on the Balcarras School site to house pupils in Year 7 from September 2021. The temporary site has been designed to a high specification and meets all current requirements. Pupils will also have use of the teaching facilities at Balcarras School. Plans for the new permanent building in Leckhampton demonstrate that the new school will have high-quality provision inside and out, with state-of-the-art facilities and an eco-friendly design.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school website is already operational and includes useful information for parents. Documentation indicates that parents will receive detailed reports on all aspects of their child's education throughout the school year. All required policies and procedures have been written and are being added to the website. The child protection and safeguarding policy on the website meets current requirements.

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

The school is likely to meet the relevant requirements in this part. The school's complaints policy explains the actions that parents should take if they wish to complain. There are clear timelines and explanations of how the school will respond at each stage. It explains how parents will be supported throughout the process and the procedures for communicating the outcomes of any appeals.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Trust and school leaders are experienced and have a deep knowledge and understanding of the expectations and responsibilities in leading a successful school. The principal designate draws on the experience and expertise from the trust, as well as her own, to devise high-quality policies and procedures. Leaders also have a wealth of experience in monitoring school effectiveness.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. Leaders describe inclusion as being at the heart of the school they want to create. The equality policy sets out clear roles and responsibilities to ensure that the school meets its commitment to equal opportunities. Plans for the new school show a fully accessible school site.

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