

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

School name	The Trinity School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	881/4021
Unique reference number (URN)	143701
Inspection number	10189025
Inspection dates	17/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Damian Loneragan 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 representatives from the proposing trust, the headteacher, the executive headteacher and staff who will be supporting the school. The inspector toured the current school site and discussed plans for the proposed school site.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	900. 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

The proposed school is a secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16. Both the temporary and permanent sites for the school are to be situated within north Colchester. The school will be part of The Alpha Trust, which has four existing schools in the multi-academy trust. These schools are also mainly located in and around Colchester.

The school proposes to open in September 2021. Initially, the school will be situated within the site of The Gilbert School, which is a school in same trust. The school will use temporary accommodation and share a range of facilities with The Gilbert School.

Due to the shared site, the school will admit a reduced number of 120 Year 7 pupils in its first year of opening. Pupil numbers will increase by a subsequent 120 pupils in

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.

the school's second year. When the school relocates to its new purpose-built site in spring 2023, the yearly pupil admission number will rise to 180 pupils.

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 of this part. The school has a range of appropriate policies that underpin the importance of promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Equality, diversity and British values are considered through a planned range of curricular and extra-curricular activities. Leaders have detailed plans to engage fully in the community through a range of different opportunities, such as local charity work and significant engagement with the local university.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of this part.

Leaders are using expertise from across the trust to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils on the sites. Staff who check and maintain the premises are well trained, have extensive experience and have established clear systems to carry out appropriate checks on the site, including fire safety checks.

Leaders have thought carefully about the induction of new pupils onto a school site with shared facilities. They have considered the many challenges of behaviour, bullying, supervision and safeguarding pupils, both when sharing premises with a partner school and when moving into their new premises at a later date. Effective policies and processes are in place. Appropriate management information systems to record relevant information, such as admissions, are already in place for when the school opens.

Leaders have a good understanding of how to mitigate potential risks and the importance of risk assessment. They have considered the many possible risks of the shared facilities between two different schools. They are in the process of designing a standard operating risk procedure to support staff when the school opens. They are aware that this will need to continue to be reviewed, as the school grows and moves into the new site in 2023.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders understand the legal checks that must be made on staff who are appointed to work at the school. The single central record is already in place for those who have been recruited and it details all the checks that are required to be made. The record includes all staff of The Gilbert School, as leaders have risk assessed that this is important, given that almost all Gilbert School staff could be in contact with the pupils from Trinity School. The record also includes all other relevant stakeholders, such as governors.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. In the first two years, the school will consist of temporary accommodation on the site of The Gilbert School. During this time, pupils will share many facilities with The Gilbert School, such as the sports hall, art rooms and science laboratories.

The temporary school building, shared facilities and the proposed plans for the new building meet all the current requirements, including, for example, provision for first aid, toilets, changing facilities and playground space.

The site location has been confirmed for the new school. Building plans have been created. Leaders are now waiting for final planning approvals from the local authority. The new site is expected to be ready in spring 2023.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All approved school and trust policies are available on the school website and as a paper copy on request. The website is continually being updated with relevant and statutory information, policies and news.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. There is a clear trust policy for handling complaints. The policy outlines the appropriate steps and timelines that the school needs to follow when dealing with a complaint. Leaders understand the policy well.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have considered carefully how, in the first two years of operation, they will align Trinity School with The Gilbert School's community ethos, while also establishing Trinity School's own distinct identity as a separate school. The trust has experience in running three secondary schools in the area. Leaders work collegiately to emulate and build on effective policies and procedures that already work in their established schools. Leaders have built, and continue to build, capacity to ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. Both the temporary and shared facilities are accessible for all. Proposed plans show how accessibility in the new building has been considered.

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