

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

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| School name | Halcyon Way |
| Department for Education (DfE) registration number | 7002 |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 143762 |
| Inspection number | 10189061 |
| Inspection date | 30/11/2021 |
| 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' 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 of Halcyon Way and the chief operating officer for Kingfisher Learning Trust. The inspector toured the school site, reviewed the architect's plans for the accommodation, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. 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:

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| Number of day pupils | 140 (initially 41 in January 2022) |
| Age range | 2 to 11 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Type of special educational needs | Severe learning difficulties and moderate learning difficulties |

Context of the school

This new provision is a special school on a new site in Oldham, Manchester. The school will cater for two-year-old children through to pupils aged 11 with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Halcyon Way will open in January 2022 in purpose-built, state-of-the-art facilities. Initially, the school will accommodate up to 41 pupils, with 10 children in the early years, 10 pupils in lower key stage 1, 11 pupils in lower key stage 2 and 10 pupils in upper key stage 2. The final capacity for the school will be 140.

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.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

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| 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 in this part. There is a strong emphasis on promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education programme includes relationships, health and well-being. British values, such as equality, tolerance and democracy, will be taught through PSHE lessons and supported by assemblies and extra-curricular activities.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. A comprehensive range of policies are in place. These, and the other evidence considered on inspection, indicate that pupils' behaviour, health and safety (including fire safety), supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with all statutory and non-statutory guidance. The school's intimate care policy will ensure that there are suitable procedures in place to enable staff to support pupils' needs. The fire safety order is scheduled to take place in early December 2021.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. There is a single central record in place, which records the required checks on appointed staff and governors. A small number of checks on recently appointed teaching assistants are ongoing. Leaders are fully aware of their duties regarding checking the suitability of staff to work with children. Newly recruited members of staff are scheduled to carry out the required safeguarding training before the school opens.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders and governors have planned the new building to ensure that it supports pupils' welfare and promotes their learning. The school building has wide-ranging facilities to cater for pupils' individual needs. These include provision for first-aid and medical facilities, toilet and shower facilities and sensory rooms. Pupils have access to spacious outdoor recreational areas. Leaders are committed to continuing to secure high-quality provision that meets all necessary regulations.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All the required policies are in place and available to parents and carers, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website is in the process of being updated with the most

recent policies and information. Copies of these policies can be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The complaints policy is comprehensive. The policy contains all the necessary steps as well as timelines for the effective handling of complaints. The policy is available to parents through the school's website. Copies can be made available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders and governors will bring with them a wealth of expertise and knowledge. Kingfisher Learning Trust already has experience of running a nearby primary special school. Leaders have established a comprehensive suite of policies, which 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 the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. The equalities policy 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 adaptations are included. All of the school's policies express the importance of mutual respect for all people, regardless of difference. Equality of opportunity is at the heart of the school's values.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. Leaders have established a staffing structure to ensure that staff-to-children ratios are as they should be. The staff who have been recruited are suitably experienced and qualified, including in the use of paediatric first aid. The premises include indoor and outdoor accommodation that is suited to the education of children attending the Nursery and Reception classes. Whole-school policies and procedures, including those for safeguarding, consider the needs of early years children and meet requirements.

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