

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

---

School name	Young People's Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	312/7007
Unique reference number (URN)	143714
Inspection number	10210124
Inspection dates	24 January 2022
Reporting inspector	David Radomsky



## 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. The inspector spoke to the executive principal and deputy chief executive officer of the Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust and the chair of the trust board. The inspector also spoke to an independent project manager commissioned by the trust to support leaders' work to open the proposed school. The inspector toured the school site, with building works due to be completed in April 2022.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	110
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 19
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Social, emotional and mental health needs

## Context of the school

The proposed school will be part of the Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust. The trust comprises 15 special schools across London, Surrey and Sussex. The proposed school will cater for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. Some pupils may also have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

The school will open in April 2022 and be located in a new, purpose-built building. The premises are due to be completed in time for the proposed opening date. The new school will be located on the same site as an existing special school, which is also called Young People's Academy. The multi-academy trust intends to close the existing school when the new school opens. The proposed school will have a capacity for 110 pupils and will cater for pupils aged 11 to 19.

---

<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.
------------------------	---

## **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. Policies and the planned curriculum demonstrate that leaders intend to teach pupils about wider society, including fundamental British values. Suitable emphasis will be given to encouraging pupils to respect other people, including those with protected characteristics. Leaders plan to provide pupils with opportunities to make a positive contribution to the local community, such as visiting care homes. The safeguarding policy and the staff code of conduct will remind staff to maintain a non-partisan approach to their work.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's safeguarding policy meets the government's latest guidance. There are comprehensive policies in place for managing pupils' behaviour, tackling bullying and administering first aid. Leaders have also put in place wide-ranging policies for health and safety, including fire safety and risk assessments. Leaders are clear about how they will identify and minimise risks, including those related to the new school premises. Suitable arrangements are in place to make sure staff are well trained in safeguarding and health and safety procedures. This includes arrangements related to the new premises.

### **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 is in place. It records all the required checks, including who made them and when, for 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 new building has lots of indoor space for the proposed 110 pupils. There are several specialist teaching rooms, such as for music, science and construction courses. Dedicated spaces are available for providing pupils with therapeutic support. The new premises include a suitable medical room, toilets and changing rooms as well as outdoor facilities for physical education and recreation. Leaders have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that, when the premises are complete, drinking water is clearly labelled and the temperature of hot water in washing facilities does not pose a scalding risk.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's website gives parents and carers access to all school policies, including those related to

safeguarding. The website has the trust's and proposed school's full contact details. Hard copies of documentation will be available to parents on request.

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

The school is likely to comply with all the requirements in this part. The school's website gives parents access to a detailed complaints policy. It is compliant with statutory requirements. It lays out the different stages, processes and timelines for submitting and dealing with complaints.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The trust has experience in running schools, and in supporting leaders and holding them to account for meeting all regulatory standards. Policies and procedures are detailed and comprehensive, which demonstrates that leaders have given careful thought to how they will cater for pupils' specific needs.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. In planning the new building, leaders have ensured that it will be accessible to all. Lifts have been installed. Refuge areas are available on the upper floor in case of fire. Leaders also have a plan to ensure that adaptations are made so that all pupils have equal access to the curriculum and the wider educational offer.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2022