

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

School name	Green Ridge Primary Academy
DfE registration number	2039
Unique reference number (URN)	144747
Inspection number	10035703
Inspection date	21 June 2017
Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹ 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.²

The inspector spoke to the headteacher and looked at a range of statutory and non-statutory policies. He reviewed the architects' plans for the temporary and new accommodation. The inspector also looked at the school's policies and documentation on the website. A visit to the school site was not feasible as building work is not intended to commence until July 2017.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	504
Age range	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The Green Ridge Primary Academy plans to open in September 2017 as a mixed two-form-entry primary free school. It will cater for pupils aged two to 11 years old with nursery provision provided from September 2018. The school will be located on land at the north end of the Berryfields housing estate. The estate will eventually provide 3,235 new homes on the outskirts of Aylesbury.

The school is part of the REAch2 Academy Trust which operates 55 primary schools across London and East Anglia. The trust provides administrative assistance, human resources support, teaching and learning support, as well as staff development and leadership training. The school intends to open in temporary accommodation in the first year with 60 pupils in Reception and 60 pupils in Years 1 and 2. Nursery provision for up to 84 children will be offered, starting in September 2018. The roll will increase by 60 pupils each year until the school reaches its full capacity of 504 pupils. To date, 53 pupils are enrolled in Reception and 17 pupils in Years 1 and 2.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/contents

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 2014³

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is supported through the personal, social and health education and citizenship programme. The programme is focused on relationships, health and wellbeing, and living in the wider world. The programme will be supported through the curriculum, class assemblies and enrichment events. The school is committed to promoting fundamental British values through high quality teaching, collective worship and the implementation of the behaviour policy. These values will be supported through elections to the academy parliament and the eco-council, visits from the police and the fire service, trips to different places of worship and a range of charitable and community activities.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. All statutory documents have been produced including those for child protection and safeguarding, behaviour and first aid as well as anti-bullying, fire risk, and e-safety and data security. The child protection and safeguarding policy says that every pupil 'should feel safe and protected from any form of abuse'. The anti-bullying policy stresses that 'anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff'.

The headteacher is the school's designated safeguarding lead officer and has received recent and relevant training. The head of learning in the early years will be the deputy designated safeguarding lead officer with training booked for the start of September. A fire-safety risk assessment will take place prior to the opening of the school. Paediatric first-aid training is booked for staff in July.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. The single central record is already in place and includes all the required checks on the suitability of staff. Checks will be completed for all staff as well as trust members, governors, volunteers, contractors and any staff making use of the premises. The register will be updated as new staff are appointed with risk assessments provided while additional information is sought. The headteacher has been trained in safer recruitment and the business manager is booked to attend training in July. All appointments to date have followed safer recruitment practices.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3283/contents/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The temporary and permanent accommodation have been planned to support pupils' welfare, health and safety. Consideration has been given to the safety and security of pupils during the building works. Both buildings are likely to meet all current requirements including, for example, medical facilities, suitable toilets and regulated water.

The school will open in temporary accommodation with four classrooms, a hall and an administration block. The new building, which is intended to open in September 2018, will consist of 16 classrooms, a learning resource centre, drama studio, technology room and an outdoor learning area, as well as extensive outdoor sporting facilities.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements under this part. School and trust policies are in place and available to parents. The website contains all of the required school policies as well as other useful information for pupils and parents. Copies of policies can also be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive. The policy meets all requirements and emphasises the need to resolve problems informally where possible. The policy contains all the necessary stages as well as timelines for the effective handling of complaints. The policy has been uploaded to the website but copies are available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust has experience of running other primary schools and has worked closely with the headteacher in preparing the school for opening. Documentation seen, confirms that the trust is very thorough in monitoring policies, practices and procedures especially those to do with child protection.

Leaders have a good understanding of the regulatory and legal requirements and have an appreciation of their roles and responsibilities. Leaders have developed policies which, if implemented effectively, aim to provide a suitable framework for the health, safety, welfare and well-being of all pupils and staff. Leaders and managers are clear about how they will ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant requirements. The school's equality statement meets requirements. Leaders recognise that prejudice can and does exist but insists that 'it will not be tolerated at any level within our academy'. The document reiterates the school's core values of honesty, friendship, forgiveness, responsibility, gratitude and respect.

The statement is accompanied by an appropriate accessibility policy and plan which fulfils the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The plan is written to increase the participation of, and improve the physical environment for, disabled pupils as well as provide training for staff to support these intentions. Plans for both buildings show that access to the school has been suitably considered.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school has appointed staff who are suitably qualified and who demonstrate a strong commitment and awareness of child protection issues. Paediatric first-aid training will be provided for all staff before the school opens. The school is determined to provide 'the right foundation for good progress through school and in life'.

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