

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

School name	Hope Community School Southampton
DfE registration number	2008
Unique reference number (URN)	144751
Inspection number	10035708
Inspection date	20 June 2017
Reporting inspector	Susan Child

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.

The inspector undertook a tour of the school site, reviewed architects' plans for alteration of the initial school location, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. Discussions were held with the headteacher and two founder members of the New Generation School Trust.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	420
Age range	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed

Context of the school

This new provision is a primary school within the New Generation School Trust. Hope Community School will be located initially in an existing large church building that will accommodate four classrooms. Substantial and suitable alteration works have started. A new school will be built nearby for planned use from 2019.

The school will open in September 2017. It will initially accommodate up to 60 Reception-aged children. This will rise up to a combined number of 60 Reception children and 60 Year 1 pupils in September 2018. The final capacity of the school, once in the new building, will be 420. New Generation School Trust has already designed and delivered successfully a primary school in Sidcup, Kent.

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
------------------------	--

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

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014²

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. The school is set up with a Christian ethos for pupils of all faiths or no faith. Evidence from the school's website and policies stresses the school's moral purpose in transforming opportunities for pupils. The core values of inclusion, respect for others and self-discipline permeate all policies. The school leaders promote community cohesion as a core principle, the school being set within an ethnically diverse community of Southampton. The school will serve an area of deprivation. There are many planned opportunities for pupils to develop understanding of others' views and beliefs. Fundamental British values are promoted well within policies.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. Health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid and risk assessment policies have been adapted from the trust's model policies and are acceptable. An outside agency has carried out an audit for fire safety. Arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of these policies are robust. The safeguarding policy complies with recent government guidelines.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is already in place. This details the required checks made, by whom and when, and these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors. The school does not intend to use supply staff.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will initially consist of accommodation in a large community church building. The buildings supplied will meet all current requirements, including, for example, provision for first aid, together with appropriate toileting and medical facilities. There will be outside space for physical education and games. The school will have access to a large auditorium for the teaching of drama and a range of other educational purposes. The site will be secure so that members of the public using other parts of the building cannot have access to

² 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.

the school. There are future plans to build a new permanent site nearby, for occupation in 2019, which will also comply with regulations for this standard.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy, behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy. The website is in the course 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 of the relevant regulations. Leaders have developed a clear complaints policy, explaining the informal and formal stages. The policy indicates timescales for handling complaints. It explains how a complainant can escalate a complaint should it not be resolved at the informal stage. It also explains how records should be kept. The complaints policy will be available on the school website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust already has experience of opening and running a free school in Kent. The trustees have developed a local board of governors who have a range of skills and expertise. The governors have established strong policies and procedures to secure the welfare, health and safety of pupils.

Leaders, including the newly appointed headteacher, have the expertise, skills and knowledge to ensure that the independent school standards are met consistently. Governors have ensured that appropriate arrangements are in place to hold the leaders to account for the welfare and progress of pupils at the school.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The accessibility plan shows adaptations that will be made to the accommodation. Classrooms are on the ground and first floor. A lift is provided.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will initially open as a Reception class and teaching staff, who are suitably qualified and experienced, have been appointed. Plans are in place to provide well for the development of early years pupils.

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.

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, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at 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
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2017