

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

School name	Chertsey High School
DfE registration number	4007
Unique reference number (URN)	144741
Inspection number	10035443
Inspection dates	25 May 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 The inspector looked at the school's website and a range of school documentation, including policies and procedures. The visit included a tour of the school site and a review of the architects' plans for the permanent site. Discussions were held with the executive headteacher, the headteacher and the finance director of the Bourne Education Trust.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	900
Age range	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Chertsey High School plans to open in September 2017 as an 11 to 16 mixed school in response to a shortage of spaces in the area. The school will be part of the Bourne Education Trust which operates a number of primary and secondary schools in the area. The school is also actively supported by a neighbouring outstanding secondary school.

The school will initially be located in temporary accommodation with 120 pupils joining Year 7 and a further 150 pupils the following year. The roll will increase with 180 pupils joining in subsequent years until it reaches its full capacity of 900 pupils. The plan is to relocate into a new state-of-the-art building on the same site in 2019. To date, 120 pupils are enrolled and there is a waiting list operating.

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

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 2014²

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. Evidence in the school's policies stress core values such as self-confidence, knowledge and social skills as well as giving pupils 'the confidence to question and discover who they are in the world'. The school's vision for promoting fundamental British values is detailed and extensive including links with a Catholic church and a local mosque.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. All the required policy documents have been produced including those for child protection and safeguarding, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. The child protection and safeguarding policy confirms the school's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment where pupils are respected and valued. The anti-bullying policy is detailed and includes relevant strategies for addressing any foreseeable issues.

The induction programme at the start of the term includes training for all staff covering safeguarding areas, as well as reference to the code of conduct. The headteacher is the school's designated safeguarding lead officer and has received recent and relevant training. A fire safety risk assessment will take place at the end of August prior to the opening of the school. First aid training booked for staff is likely to ensure adequate coverage.

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 and includes all of the required checks on the suitability of staff. Checks are completed for all staff, including governors, and entries on the register are updated as new staff are appointed to the school. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should temporary or supply staff be appointed.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will initially be housed in temporary accommodation which has been carefully planned to ensure pupils' welfare, health and safety as well as promoting their effective learning. The building is likely to meet all current requirements including, for example, medical facilities, suitable toilets,

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.

regulated water and outdoor space. The plans for the new permanent building are well advanced and include details of high quality provision in all requirements.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All policies are in place and available to parents. The website contains details of the required school policies and other useful information. Copies of these 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 available on the website and it is comprehensive and well written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints. It emphasises the need to resolve problems informally before moving to more formal proceedings. Copies can be made 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 a number of schools nearby and a very good understanding of the regulatory requirements. Leaders are clear about their roles and enthusiastic about this opportunity. They have developed high-quality policies which provide strongly for the welfare, health, safety and well-being of pupils. Leaders are also clear about how they will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently. In their preparation to date, they have demonstrated that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to do this.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The equal opportunity policy confirms the school's commitment 'to provide an environment where all people are given equal opportunity, whether they are students or staff'. The document is supported by an appropriate accessibility plan which fulfils the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010. Plans for the new permanent building show that features such as lifts and access adaptations are well considered.



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