

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

School name	Daventry Hill School
DfE registration number	928/7000
Unique reference number (URN)	142783
Inspection number	10020242
Inspection dates	24 June 2016
Reporting inspector	Simon Hollingsworth



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 undertook a tour of the site where the school will be located in September 2016. He reviewed the architect's plans for the school's permanent site from January 2017 and scrutinised information on the school's website. The inspector scrutinised the school's single central record, the school's policies and its proposed procedures. The inspector held discussions with the executive headteacher and the head of school.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	175
Age range	4–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	mild learning difficulty severe learning difficulty profound and multiple learning difficulty autistic spectrum disorder social, emotional and mental health physical disability

Context of the school

Daventry Hill School, sponsored by the Education Excellence for All (EE4A) multi-academy trust, is situated in Daventry.

The school will open in the first week of September 2016 on a temporary site, within Daventry University Technical College. The school will move to its permanent site in January 2017.

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

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/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 will cater for pupils aged between four and 18 who have special educational needs or disabilities. The school will open with children in Reception, pupils in Years 3, 7 and 9 and students in Year 12. Plans provide for the school's gradual expansion, until there are pupils and students in the school in every year group, from Reception to Year 13.

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.

Documentary evidence indicates that pupils will receive wide-ranging opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. The school will provide these experiences through personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) lessons, the curriculum, assemblies, educational visits, and the student council. Through these, pupils will secure their understanding of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different beliefs or traditions.

The school has a written policy to promote pupils' understanding of fundamental British values. The school also promotes these values through its behaviour, safeguarding and citizenship policies. Senior leaders rightly recognise their role in promoting these values.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part.

Documentary and other evidence indicates that the required policies are all in place. These policies are comprehensive and take into account the range of pupils' needs.

The school's intimate care policy ensures that there are suitable procedures in place to enable staff to cater effectively for those pupils who have complex needs.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part.

The school's recruitment policy is comprehensive. It ensures that proprietors undertake all appropriate checks relating to staff's suitability to work with children. The school's single central record provides a clear record of these checks.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part.

The site on which the school will operate in September 2016 meets all of the regulations.

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.

Proprietors have planned the new building to ensure that the school secures pupils' welfare, promotes their learning and caters for their individual needs. The school's teaching and learning spaces are sufficient. The school also has wide-ranging facilities to cater for pupils' medical needs and their well-being. These include appropriate toilet and shower facilities, a hydro pool, a physiotherapy room, a therapy room, a sensory room and a soft playroom.

The school's facilities and its intimate care policy indicate that staff will be able to cater well for those pupils who have complex needs.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part.

All of the required policies are available to parents, either on the school's website or at the school.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part.

The comprehensive and clear complaints policy provides all of the necessary steps for the efficient handling of complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school's leadership and management team has undertaken appropriate action and drawn up a comprehensive range of policies that ensure that the school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations.

The proprietors and senior leaders have demonstrated a secure understanding of the regulatory requirements, and of their duties to safeguard their pupils.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school has an appropriate equality policy and action plan that ensures that the school fulfils its duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

The school is likely to meet all of the statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage. All staff appointed to work with children at this stage are suitably qualified.

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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

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