

# Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

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School name	Mulberry Park
DfE registration number	2006
Unique reference number (URN)	145899
Inspection number	10053921
Inspection dates	8 June 2018
Reporting inspector	Steve Smith



## 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(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>1</sup>

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>2</sup>

The inspector met with the headteacher of the proposed school, the chief executive officer for Educate Together Academy Trust UK and the trust's development officer. Accompanied by all three staff, he visited the school site to evaluate the degree to which the proposed premises comply with the regulations. The inspector evaluated documentation both before and during the inspection.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	210
<b>Age range</b>	4-11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

Mulberry Park Educate Together Primary Academy proposes to open in September 2018. The school is being built to cater for children on the new Mulberry Park housing development in the Foxhill area of Bath. In its first year, the school plans to admit pupils only in the Reception year. The school will then build up one year at a time until finally accommodating pupils in Year 6. The maximum capacity will be 210.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens
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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made](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.

## **Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014<sup>3</sup>**

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. Leaders have a clear vision and ethos for the school. It is underpinned by key values embraced by the wider multi-academy trust to which the school belongs. They believe, passionately, that the school should be child-centred and democratically run. The school's ethos also champions equality; all pupils, regardless of need or background, should benefit from the range of educational opportunities available. Leaders are placing individual pupils at the heart of their work. The school's values manifest themselves in the 'Learn Together' curriculum, which is designed to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. Topics and activities aim to teach pupils about equality and justice, understanding of different faiths and the importance of environmental stewardship. Pupils will learn about rights and responsibilities, the rule of law and the need for mutual respect.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. Leaders have appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure that pupils will be safe and well looked after. The safeguarding policy is written in conjunction with the most recent guidance and statutory requirements. It informs staff of the procedure to follow and the designated staff to speak to should they have concerns about a child. Staff with designated responsibilities are named in the policy for clear identification. The health and safety policy outlines in detail the responsibilities of different members of staff for keeping pupils safe according to their role. The behaviour policy features the school's code of conduct, which is applicable to all members of the school community, and has a positive emphasis. It states that 'each individual is of value and has a right to be treated with respect.' The graduated range of rewards and sanctions that form the behaviour system are appropriately balanced.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. The school's single central record contains all of the necessary checks to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. These include checks to establish identity, qualifications, the right to work in the United Kingdom and suitability for teaching and leadership roles in school. Currently, the record features the headteacher only. The names of two other members of staff who have been employed recently will be added once the necessary checks have been completed.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3283/contents/made](http://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 standards in this part. Building of this new school has almost been completed. It will provide pupils with plenty of space, both inside and out, even when the school is at capacity. The building has been attractively designed with pupils in mind. For example, stair cases have two sets of hand rails to suit both pupils and adults. Classrooms are spacious, well-lit and meet acoustic standards. It is also a safe environment. For example, second-floor windows are restricted in their opening to prevent accidents. Appropriate toilet facilities are in place. They afford privacy without compromising pupils' safety. They are also painted in bold colours, which contribute to the 'fun', pupil-friendly feel of the school. Pupils will have access to high-quality outside all-weather surfaces and pitches. These will enable pupils to participate in various sporting activities. Inside, the school hall will also provide plenty of space for physical education activities. Various measures are in place to ensure that the site will be secure. These include appropriate perimeter fencing, electronic door entry and use of CCTV.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. The school's website is presented in an attractive, accessible form for prospective parents. It provides dates of key events so that parents feel informed and up to date. The headteacher describes her vision for the school and its values in a welcoming letter on the homepage. The website meets requirements for the publication of statutory information, although a small number of policies have not been uploaded and are 'pending'. Contact details are signposted clearly and links to the Educate Together multi-academy trust website provide governance information.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. The complaints policy is fit for purpose. It sets out comprehensively the procedure to be followed, at both the informal and formal stages, in the event of a complaint. The policy also sets out timescales, describes the appeal process and outlines the ways in which resolution might be achieved. Confidentiality is assured throughout the process. The approach described in the policy is transparent and even-handed.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. Leaders have given thoughtful consideration to the opening of this new school. They are clear about the kind of school they want it to be; one that is inclusive, child-centred and explicitly focused on equality. Consequently, leaders have ensured that the curriculum and pastoral arrangements support this vision. Leaders have taken appropriate action to ensure that pupils will be safe, both in terms of staff suitability and practice, and also risk management and security of the school site.

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

The school has an appropriate accessibility policy, which meets the requirements of paragraph 3 of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. The school premises have been

designed to promote accessibility. For example, a lift has been installed. Appropriate toilet and shower facilities are in place.

## **Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage**

Leaders have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that children in the Reception year will be safe, well looked after and effectively educated. The headteacher has brought her proven early-years experience to bear in the recruitment of appropriate staff and the design of a stimulating, challenging curriculum.

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