

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

School name	Olive School, Birmingham
DfE registration number	330/2167
Unique reference number (URN)	142888
Inspection number	10020261
Inspection dates	19 July 2016
Reporting inspector	Peter Humphries, Her Majesty's Inspector



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 carried out a tour of the temporary school site which is undergoing extensive refurbishment. He also scrutinised information uploaded to the school's website, the school's checks on staff's suitability to work with children, including the single central record and staff files, and the school's policies and proposed procedures. The implementation of these could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The inspector held discussions with the principal designate and representatives from the Tauheedul Education Trust.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	630
Age range	4–11 (Reception Year to Year 6)
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	N/A

Context of the school

The Olive School, Birmingham, seeks registration as a primary Muslim faith day school for up to 630 pupils of mixed gender aged 4 (Reception Year) to 11 (Year 6). The school is part of the Tauheedul Education Trust. The school plans to open on 5 September 2016 with 180 pupils on roll: 90 in the Reception and 90 in Year 1. The school will be situated in Sparkhill, approximately five miles from Birmingham city centre.

The school will initially be housed on the ground floor of a two-storey building built in the 1900s with extensions added in the 1970s. The building has been a municipal bank, library, nursery and local authority offices. At the time of this inspection, the building was undergoing extensive refurbishment to make it suitable for an educational setting.

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

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/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.

In September 2017, the school hopes to move into new purpose-built accommodation in Reddings Lane, Tyseley, Birmingham, B11 3EZ – which is approximately one and a half miles from the current school site.

The majority of staff, including the principal and senior leaders, have been appointed. They are ready to start at the school in September 2016.

The trust’s main aims are, ‘to create outstanding organisations that promote educational excellence, character development and service to communities’ and ‘nurturing today’s young people, inspiring tomorrow’s leaders’.

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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Recommended number of day pupils	630 (initially 180 in first year of operation)
Recommended age range	4–11 (initially age 4 [Reception Year] to 6 [Year 1] in first year of operation)
Recommended gender of pupils	Mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs	The school is not seeking registration as a special school.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014³

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

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen.

There is a clear focus in the school's policies and curriculum plans on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils' understanding of different faiths and cultures and how they can contribute positively to the local and wider communities is likely to be developed through the school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) and religious education lessons. For example, the religious education scheme of work shows that pupils will study all the major world religions and visit different places of worship. The school aims to actively promote fundamental British values through assemblies and PSHE lessons. The curriculum policy and plans make it clear that biased political views will not be tolerated. This view is reinforced in the school's safeguarding and child protection and faith, values and ethos policies.

Curriculum plans and the school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies show that pupils will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong, of civil and criminal law and that bullying of any type will not be tolerated.

The school's equality and curriculum policies show that pupils will be actively encouraged to accept and respect others' differences including those who have different gender, sexuality, age, ability, race, religion or beliefs.

The trust and principal are clear that biased political views must not be promoted or tolerated during any activities in or out of the school.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met although not all of the implementation could be seen.

The school's policies and procedures for keeping pupils safe are wide-ranging. They include: safeguarding and child protection; staff code of conduct; disciplinary policy; whistleblowing; health and safety, including fire risk and fire risk assessment; first aid; behaviour and anti-bullying. All of the policies are informed by, and reflect, current government guidance.

The principal is identified as the designated safeguarding lead. She has completed the necessary training and has suitable and current experience to carry out the role.

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.

For example, she has recently completed safer recruitment training. The proposed chair of the governing body has also completed safer recruitment training. All staff joining the school in September will have a period of induction and training. Information provided by the school shows that the training will include: safeguarding policy and procedures and 'Prevent' duty; health and safety and fire awareness briefing, including being a fire marshal; first aid and paediatric first aid; and managing pupils' behaviour.

The proposed school building is undergoing significant refurbishment. The building's change of use to education has been recorded with local services, including the local authority and the fire and rescue service. School and trust leaders demonstrate an awareness of the need to arrange a fire risk assessment inspection as soon as the refurbishment is complete.

The school has an appropriate risk assessment policy and has carried out suitable risk assessments where possible, including for the premises, lesson activities and extra-curricular activities. These policies, including the off-site visits policy, are extremely thorough and detailed.

The trust and school leaders demonstrate an understanding of how admissions and attendance registers should be maintained. The school has systems and procedures in place that are likely to promote pupils' attendance and to check on absent pupils.

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

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met.

The trust and principal fully understand their responsibility to ensure all staff are vetted and the new requirements, such as prohibition checks and disqualification by association, are adhered to.

All the required checks have been carried out on trust members and staff starting in September 2016. Systems for the appointment of staff are in place with many of the checks taking place at the point of application and interview.

The single central record has been produced and contains all the required information. All the staff starting in September 2016 are listed.

The school does not plan to employ supply staff in the foreseeable future, but is aware of the required checks should it do so.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met although not all of the implementation could be seen.

The proposed school site is housed in a two-story Victorian building built in 1900 that had extensions added in the 1970s. At the time of this inspection, the building was undergoing extensive refurbishment to make it suitable for an education setting.

The plans for toilet and medical provision are suitable and are likely to meet requirements. The water supplies will meet the requirements. The trust is aware of the need to regulate water temperatures to prevent scalding and to provide adequate supplies of drinking water that are suitably labelled.

The trust's plans for repairs and modifications are appropriate. The trust is aware of the need to make sure that a fire risk assessment inspection is carried out as soon as the refurbishment is complete.

The buildings and outdoor areas are secure. External boundaries are likely to be suitably fenced and gated.

There is ample space for the delivery of PE lessons and for the pupils to play. The school will also make use of a local park and leisure facilities. Suitable risk assessments have been completed for these proposed activities.

Although not seen, it is likely that the acoustics and lighting in each teaching room and space will be suitable. External lighting will be provided in order to make sure that people can safely enter and leave the school premises.

The accommodation is suitable for 180 pupils aged four to six. Work on the proposed building for the start of the September 2017 academic year has not yet started. As a result, it was not possible to judge this building's suitability for 630 pupils aged 4 to 11.

Part 6. Provision of information

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met, although not all of the implementation could be seen.

All the required statutory policies, for example child protection, sex and relationships education, supporting pupils with medical needs and health and safety, are available. The school has also produced policies that will make sure pupils are safe, well taught and make progress. All of the school's policies are informed by current guidance.

The school is aware that it must provide regular reports of pupils' attainment and progress to parents.

The trust is clear that where a pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, the school must provide information for the pupil's annual review. The proprietor is also clear that the school must provide information about income and expenditure to the local authority where a pupil's place is directly funded.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school's procedures for handling complaints are likely to meet all of the requirements, although implementation could not be seen.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

All the requirements for this standard are likely to be met.

The trust and school leaders have appropriate experience, knowledge and understanding of education policy and practice.

The trust has put in place systems and procedures which make sure that all the independent school standards are likely to be met when the school opens in September 2016. The principal has a good understanding of what is needed for the successful implementation of statutory and relevant policies, although implementation could not always be seen during this inspection. Pupils' safety has high priority; this is exemplified through compliance with safeguarding requirements and a strong attention to pupils' health, safety and welfare.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school has a number of policies in place that are likely to promote equality. A suitable disability accessibility policy, plan and arrangements are in place which cover access to the curriculum, information and premises. The trust and principal have a secure understanding of how to ensure all pupils do well and are safe and secure.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All of the statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen during this inspection.

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