

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy/free school/studio school/university technical college (UTC)

School name	East London Arts and Music Academy
DfE registration number	141095
Unique reference number (URN)	316/4000
Inspection number	446865
Inspection dates	24 July 2014
Reporting inspector	Clementina Olufunke Aina

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Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

Context of the school

East London Arts and Music School will be a fully inclusive school for boys and girls who want to pursue a career in the music and creative sector. The school aims to be a unique creative arts school with a main focus on developing young students' creative and business talent in order to equip them with the professional skills required in the music industry. It has applied to register for 75 boys and girls from ages 16 to 19. The school will operate from a sixth form block of School 21, an established school with brand new purpose-built premises, from September 2014. It is expected that the number of students on roll will increase to full capacity in the first year of operation. Students currently registered for enrolment come from the surrounding boroughs, which include Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, and Islington. The school has no religious affiliations and welcomes all students from all backgrounds, which is reflected in the diverse ethnic mix of the students registered for enrolment. The school plans to work in partnership with the music and creative industries to deliver the creative arts curriculum.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet the requirements although implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour for learning policy sets out a clear guide on keeping students safe and indicates a commitment to provide 'a safe and supportive environment in which students will be empowered to achieve'.

Planned systems to raise awareness of the school's expectations of high standards of behaviour from all members of the school community are clearly specified in the code of conduct for students. The code of conduct is based on the school's five core values of 'Collaboration', 'Excellence', 'Innovation', 'Integrity' and 'Drive', which will be used by staff to provide regular and constructive feedback with the aim of ensuring a values driven culture. An individualised reward programme will provide positive behaviour incentives for students. The school's 'Person strand' of the curriculum focuses on equipping each student with the 'skills, knowledge and social awareness required in order to live a happy and successful life'. The school's personal, health, social and emotional development programme will provide a range

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

of activities aimed at developing students' understanding of religious, historical, cultural and social awareness. Students' participation in enterprise projects, off-site visits to historic sites and local community organisations such as council offices and places of worship will enable students to celebrate and tolerate cultural and faith differences. Opportunities for students to participate in debate on local and international issues are likely to develop students' understanding of British values and develop their awareness of local and national institutions and an awareness of civil and criminal law. The school does not promote any particular political views and scrutiny of the curriculum plans indicates that these aim to ensure that balanced views are presented when relevant issues are considered.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet requirements although implementation could not be seen. The school has clear procedures and detailed policies for all areas of health, welfare and safety. The safeguarding and child protection policy focuses on ensuring the safety and well-being of all students. The school makes a commitment to provide a safe, supportive and consistent teaching and learning environment. Almost all governors and the designated person for safeguarding have had training in child protection. All staff and governors will be trained before the school opens. The headteacher has undertaken safer recruitment training. Background checks on staff and volunteers, which include their previous employment history, professional and character references, have all been undertaken.

Policies for the prevention of bullying, safeguarding, first aid, emergency evacuation and off-site visits have been completed. The firstaid policy has all the required information and firstaid training for all staff will be part of the induction training before the school opens. Although the school has not conducted a fire risk or premises risk assessment, it has these booked for late August so that requirements are likely to be met. The school's three-year accessibility improvement plan makes a commitment to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of disabled students. The ground floor of the school is accessible for wheelchair use.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements but implementation could not be seen. The required background checks have been made on the headteacher, staff and governors. Checks for newly recruited staff are currently being processed. The outcome of applications, stages of the verification process and the dates on which the information is received are recorded on a single central register, which meets requirements. Currently, the school has not engaged any staff who will not be directly employed by the school, but leaders are aware of the necessary checks should it do so in future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the requirements although implementation could not be seen. The school will initially operate from the sixth form block of a brand new

purpose-built premises of an existing school, School 21, which is located in Pitchford Street in Stratford, east London. There are plans for the school to move into its own permanent premises in Bow, Tower Hamlets in east London which are due for completion in September 2015 and will have all the required specialist rooms and facilities. While the students are in the temporary school building, they will have use of areas specifically designated as production studios, students' common room, boardrooms, staff room, administrative room and a suitably equipped medical room. The location and layout of the medical room will meet requirements. Consideration has been given to acoustic conditions with sound absorbing panels. There are suitable toilet and washing facilities including ample disabled toilet facilities. Water supplies, including regulated hot water and labelled drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. Pupils will have access to a spacious outdoor environment for their learning and recreational activities, and to showers and changing facilities for physical education.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 75

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 16–19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.