

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

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School name	Eden Girls' School
Unique reference number (URN)	1667
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Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

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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.<sup>1</sup>

## Context of the school

Eden Girls' School plans to open in September 2014 as a girls' secondary school to meet the need for additional places in Waltham Forest and in response to parental demand for places in girls' schools. The school is sponsored by the Tauheedul Free Schools' Trust which was established to extend the education opportunities of young people across the UK in areas characterised by deprivation and underachievement. The school's admission policy prioritises students with special educational needs, with half of the cohort allocated to girls who are members of the Muslim faith. The intention is to offer 150 places in Years 7 and 8 in the first year and a further 100 places each year to a maximum capacity of 700 covering the 11 to 18 age range. To date, 152 students have enrolled in Years 7 and 8 for a September 2014 start, three of whom have a statement of special educational needs. The school is committed to a broad and balanced curriculum with an emphasis on English, mathematics and science and a close adherence to the National Curriculum. Documentation highlights the focus on 'inclusion, collaboration and social cohesion within a culture of respect in the delivery of its high standards of achievement'. The majority of students will be expected to undertake GCSEs and A levels, although a small number of vocational qualifications will be offered. Achievement and attendance, as well as students' contributions to fundraising, community service and enrichment activities, will contribute towards their achievement of the Tauheedul Baccalaureate.

## Compliance with the regulations

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The school's policy on faith, values and ethos supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students reflecting the core values of Islam with an emphasis on self-discipline, mutual respect and compassion for all. Students' personal development is well supported through the personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education (PSHCEE) programme which also contains leadership and management training. The programme for PSHCEE will include a focus on knowledge of the public institutions and services in England and abroad as

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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)

well as an understanding of different cultures and faiths. Students will be taught about parliament, democracy, the legal system and the role of the media. They will be taught to distinguish between right and wrong and to show tolerance and respect for the rights of others. Aspects of sex and relationship education will be delivered through PSHCEE and the school will actively promote British citizenship, community cohesion and 'traditional British values within a contemporary and forward-looking ethos of multiple belongings'. Enrichment activities already planned include clubs for Arabic, French, English, mathematics, science, history and geography as well as a book club, a debating club and a 'Geeks and Gamers Club'. The faith, values and ethos policy directs staff to avoid the promotion of partisan political views and a policy for external speakers highlights the need for speakers to ensure that they uphold the British values of democracy and harmony between faiths and culture.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

Documentary evidence indicates that all the regulations are likely to be met. The school has produced a range of well-considered policy documents including anti-bullying, behaviour for learning, safeguarding and child protection, recruitment and selection, rewards and sanctions, and health and safety. The Principal has successfully completed a course on safer recruitment in education and safer recruitment practices have been applied to the recruitment of staff. The deputy Principal is the school's designated child protection officer and has received suitable training for this responsibility. A detailed safeguarding policy confirms the school's commitment to providing a safe, caring and welcoming environment with much detail on staff roles and responsibilities as well as guidance from the 'Every Child Matters Group'. The school has firmly planned that all staff will be trained in child protection and safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening so that requirements are likely to be met. The school has identified a sufficient number of trained first aiders and suitable training courses are already booked to further develop their expertise. Further training is planned for all staff prior to the school opening. Policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety including detailed risk assessments covering premises, equipment and personnel. A fire safety risk assessment has been prepared and further external checks are scheduled to be carried out before the school opens so that requirements are likely to be met. Admission and attendance registers are likely to meet requirements. The equalities statement identifies how the school will promote equality and eliminate discrimination. The policy includes a three-year action plan in line with statutory requirements.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The school's checks on the suitability of staff include enhanced criminal record checks and checks against the DfE list 99. The implementation to date suggests that all regulations are likely to be met since all required checks have been completed. Details have been recorded and dated on a suitable single central register covering all staff and trust directors. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is mindful of its responsibilities should supply staff be appointed in the future.

## **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school is to be located in former council accommodation in Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow. The work schedule is phased so that, in the first year, the school will comprise seven classrooms with sufficient additional space for assemblies, dining and prayer. One of the classrooms will be designated as a science room and the school intends to make use of science laboratories in a neighbouring school where necessary. Tenders have been received to provide school meals and kitchen facilities have been considered. The school is collaborating with a neighbouring leisure centre for the provision of games and the changing and showering facilities in the centre are acceptable. The school building has suitable access for those with disabilities and a medical room with a sink has been prepared for medical examinations or for students who may fall ill. Discussion with the Principal and a review of the plans confirm that due regard has been given to health, safety and security. The premises are likely to meet the requirements for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor coverings. Water supplies, including safely regulated hot water and a labelled supply of drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. There are sufficient separate staff and student toilets. An order has been placed for suitable furniture, fixtures and fittings. During subsequent years, refurbishment of the extensive building will continue with work zoned to minimise any disruption to students.

## **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all regulations.

## **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The provision is likely to meet all regulations.

## **Recommendation to the Department for Education**

### **Registration**

Is registration recommended?

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 700

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11–18

Recommended gender of pupils: Female

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.