

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

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School name	Harris Academy Tottenham
DfE registration number	309/4000
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Inspection number	446934
Inspection dates	21 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.<sup>1</sup>

## **Context of the school**

Harris Academy Tottenham is to be a community school for boys and girls aged from 4 to 19 serving the Tottenham Hale area of north London. The 79 students currently registered for enrolment at the academy come from the immediate surrounding areas of Haringey, Waltham Forest and Newham. It has applied to register for 1,570 boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 19 years. The academy will be part of the Harris Academy group sponsored by Lord Harris of Peckham, who is the Chair of the Harris Federation Trust. It will open in September 2014 with Reception children and Year 7 pupils. The academy will operate at first from two sites. The Reception class children will be based in the Techno Park on Ashley Road in Tottenham Hale. The Year 7 students will be temporarily based in the Harris Academy, Chobham, until the new building is completed. The academy is committed to equality of opportunity and, as a result, aims to serve the whole community. The academy's open admission policy means that applications from students from all religious background and faiths are welcome.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

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

The academy is likely to meet the requirements although implementation could not be seen. The academy's behaviour for learning policy sets out a clear framework for ensuring a positive climate for learning and indicates a commitment to provide 'a safe and supportive environment in which students will be empowered to achieve and play their full part in society'. Planned systems to raise awareness of the academy'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 academy's four core values, which expect all students to be 'Resilient', 'Resourceful', 'Reflective' and to 'Reciprocate'. The academy plans to enlist parental support in the education and care of their children. An individualised reward programme will provide positive behaviour incentives for students. The academy's 'Learning Beyond the Classroom' personal, health, social and emotional development programme provides an overarching framework for aspects of the curriculum and key school activities aimed at promoting all students' spiritual, moral social and cultural development. The aim of the programme is 'to enable students to

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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)

develop an understanding of British values through visits to historic sites, guest speakers and debating both local and international issues.' There are plans to deliver the programme through a range of enrichment activities such as educational visits and the active involvement of parents and external agencies.

The academy plans to incorporate the personal, social, health and economic education programme into the curriculum and the life of the school. The academy's plans to extend the curriculum through extra-curricular activities such as art, drama, choir and debating societies is likely to develop students understanding and tolerance of the cultures, beliefs and faiths of others. Plans to provide opportunities for students to undertake enterprise projects will enable students to contribute to their community, as well as helping to develop their awareness of local and national institutions and to gain an awareness of civil and criminal law. The academy does not promote any particular political views and scrutiny of the curriculum plans indicates that these will ensure that balanced views are presented when relevant issues are considered.

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

The academy is likely to meet the requirements, although implementation could not be seen. The academy has clear procedures and detailed policies for all areas of health, welfare and safety. The safeguarding and child protection policy focuses on 'protection and support for pupils to ensure that all students are safe'. The academy makes a commitment to ensure 'that every student feels secure, well cared for and are supported to reach their full potential'. Almost all governors and the designated person for safeguarding have had training in child protection. The headteacher has undertaken the safer recruitment and higher level safeguarding children training as the designated person for child protection. Newly appointed staff and the remaining governors are scheduled for safeguarding training in September, as part of the induction process prior to the official opening, so that requirements are likely to be met. 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 first aid policy has all the required information and first aid training will be part of the two-day staff induction training before the academy opens. Although the academy has not conducted a fire risk or premises risk assessments, it has these booked for late August when the refurbishment works will be completed so that requirements are likely to be met. The academy's three-year accessibility improvement plan makes a commitment to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of student with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The ground floor of the present school site is accessible to wheelchair users. The site plan for the permanent building site makes full provision for disabled access.

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

The academy 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 academy 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 academy is likely to meet all the requirements. The academy will be operating initially on two sites.

Reception class children will be accommodated in remodelled and refurbished council offices in Ashley Road in Tottenham Hale whilst Year 7 students will temporarily operate from Harris Academy Chobham, a twenty minute journey from the primary school site, until the building works are completed. The Reception classes will be based in remodelled classrooms created from former offices and a canteen area. The first phase of the refurbishment works is due for completion by 31 August 2014. There will be a double classroom with adequate toilets, washroom facilities and wet areas. The Reception classes will have use of a fenced play area with a covered area. There will be specialist rooms, including an office and a staff room, a medical room, special educational needs and/or disabilities room and a dining room which will also be used for indoor physical activities. Acoustic and lighting conditions are likely to meet requirements. The location and the layout of the medical room meet requirements. Toilets and washing facilities will have appropriate water supplies. A labelled source of drinking water will be provided. There is a suitable outdoor space for recreation and physical education for the children in the age range to be admitted. This temporary accommodation will subsequently be converted into the permanent school site by September 2016. When completed, there will be an adequate number of classrooms, a dining area and sufficient toilets for the proposed final number of boys and girls.

The Year 7 students will be accommodated on the existing Chobham Academy school site which is newly constructed and is currently operating with pupils on roll. The learning areas meet requirements and have areas specifically designated as classrooms, an administrative room and a medical room. The location and layout of the medical room meets requirements. Students will be taught for most of the time in general classrooms which will also be their form rooms. They will also be timetabled in all the specialist rooms for art, science, design and technology and physical education. They will have access to the same dining room, student services and toilet facilities as the Chobham Academy pupils. There are suitable toilet and washing facilities including disabled toilet facilities. Water supplies including

regulated hot water and labelled drinking water are likely to meet requirements. Students will have access to a spacious outdoor environment for their learning and recreational activities. These are provided with changing and shower facilities. There is suitable outdoor space for recreation.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

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

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

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

### **Registration**

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open**

Recommended number of day pupils: 1,570

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4–19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.