

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

School name	Harris Primary Academy Shortlands
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1635
Inspection number	446870
Inspection dates	23 June 2014
Reporting inspector	David Scott

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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

Harris Primary Academy Shortlands will be located in an existing government building in Bromley, South East London. In June 2014, phase one of the building programme was commenced with the refurbishment of part of the ground floor of the four-storey building to provide accommodation including two classrooms and an office area. In addition, it is intended that the outside area will be suitably landscaped to provide learning and leisure space.

The academy is sponsored by the Harris Federation and is due to open on 8 September 2014. It is led by an Executive Principal, who is also the Executive Principal of Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich and Harris Primary Academy Beckenham. The academy has applied to be registered to admit 420 pupils from ages 4 to 11. It will admit children aged 4 to 5 in its first year. At present there are 57 children registered for enrolment. Currently there is one child who is registered for enrolment who has special educational needs and there are currently no children in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. The academy's aims 'will be founded on the Harris Federation values of tradition, good behaviour and respect for others'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The academy intends to create an ethos 'of high expectations for behaviour and learning and therefore, high expectations for children'. It aims to 'provide children with opportunities to explore and develop their values, beliefs and spiritual awareness'. This will be achieved by helping children to develop 'positive attitudes and values' with 'planned time for reflection'. At the heart of its ethos, the academy intends to develop children's 'sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others'.

It is intended that the academy will specialise in developing pupils' literacy skills, and this will form a focal point for the curriculum and its network activities. The aim of this will be to prepare pupils to become young citizens by helping them 'to be literate

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

and numerate', to develop a 'love of learning' that will 'ensure their move to secondary school will be a smooth one'. The academy intends to provide 'wrap around care' in conjunction with an external provider, in order to build strong partnerships with pupils, parents, carers and teachers. Over time, the academy intends to establish a number of community links, such as science days with a local primary school, visits from local business leaders and 'important people in our world'. Also, there are planned visits to places of worship, in order to provide pupils with opportunities to become responsible citizens. The personal, social and health education and citizenship courses include activities designed to help pupils appreciate and respect the diversity of traditions and cultures globally and in the local community, such as the planned international evening and celebrations of the different festivals from around the world.

The planned assembly programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, has been carefully thought through to stimulate pupils' appreciation of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of their lives. Citizenship will be delivered as part of the programme for personal, social and health education, geography and religious education as well as through assemblies, with intentions including developing pupils' understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England, in addition to promoting the school's values. The staff induction pack and 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural' policy gives guidance to teachers to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. Policies for child protection, safer recruitment, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils, behaviour and anti-bullying have been prepared in accordance with requirements. The academy's behaviour policy aims to set 'high standards of behaviour, courtesy and care towards' all members of the academy and Harris communities. 'Pupils will spend time being taught expectations of behaviour and good examples will be rewarded'. The behaviour policy contains very clear expectations as to what children are required to do, and there is an appropriate range of rewards and sanctions designed to set boundaries that will promote good behaviour.

The Executive Principal has been trained in safer recruitment and child protection. For those members of staff and governors still to be appointed, dates have been identified, and a specialist qualified trainer has been booked to provide the required training in child protection, paediatric first aid and safeguarding procedures for all staff before the school opens, so that requirements are likely to be met.

Suitable health and safety policies and risk assessments have been completed. A visit from the Harris Federation's health, safety and fire consultants has been planned for the end of August. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The academy's three-year

accessibility plan details arrangements to review and improve access for disabled pupils.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are captured in a single central record which meets requirements. The academy does not intend to employ supply staff but has appropriate procedures in place to conduct the required checks on agency staff should the need arise, although their implementation could not be seen.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A tour of the site was not possible. Scrutiny of the architect's plans confirms that phase one of the refurbishment of the existing government building to provide accommodation including two classrooms and office space is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. The plans confirm that there will be two ramped entrances: one for children and parents and carers; the other for visitors and staff. There is a suitable number of washrooms available with safely regulated hot water, including two designated for disabled users. Heating, lighting and fire safety systems are likely to meet requirements. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to pupils. The equality and disability policy details arrangements for disabled pupils to be admitted to the academy. A suitable location has been identified for a medical room, complete with handbasin, with washrooms opposite. It is intended that the outside area will be suitably landscaped, with a canopied outdoor area for children to enjoy their learning and recreation.

In December 2014, phase two of the building programme is due to commence and is likely to meet the regulations. Scrutiny of the architect's plans confirms that the two-storey new building will be erected on the existing site of a care home. It will have an appropriate number of classrooms, with sufficient washrooms, including those for disabled users, together with a medical room, for the projected final number of pupils on roll.

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: 420
Recommended number of boarders: 0
Recommended age range: 4–11
Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.