

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

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School name	The Heights Primary School
DfE registration number	870/2017
Unique reference number (URN)	1712
Inspection number	446940
Inspection dates	23 June 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

The Heights will be a fully inclusive two-form entry primary school for children aged 4–11 from the area of West Caversham in Berkshire. The school has applied to register for 350 boys and girls aged from four to 11. The Heights plans to open on a temporary site slightly outside the catchment area on 5 September 2014. The school will have two Reception classes of 25 pupils in each and a Year 1 class of 17 pupils initially. It is planned that the number of pupils on roll in the school will increase with two new Reception classes starting from September 2015. The school has been set up and developed by a group of parents working closely with Reading Borough Council, in response to an increasing demand for primary school places in West Caversham. The Heights operates an open admission policy and welcomes children from all backgrounds; this is reflected in the diverse ethnic mix of the children registered for enrolment in the three classes. Provision for a 'Breakfast and After School Club' has been made from September 2014 in response to the high demand for wrap-around care in West Caversham.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

The school is likely to meet the requirements, although the implementation could not be seen. The intended ethos of the school focuses on 'helping children to learn and grow in a safe and secure environment and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community'. The school aims to reward good behaviour, as it believes that this will promote the school's ethos of kindness and cooperation. The behaviour policy emphasises the importance of promoting good behaviour and highlights parents' and school staff's roles and responsibilities in enabling pupils to adhere to the school's code of conduct. The planned provision emphasises positive relationships, building confidence and pupils taking responsibility for their behaviour and actions. Subsequently, the programme will encourage pupils to acknowledge the pupils' rich cultural diversity and develop an awareness and tolerance of different cultures and religion. The curriculum provides opportunities to celebrate the diverse cultures from which the pupils come. This will ensure that the pupils grow in awareness and respect for cultures other than their own. Special visitors from the local community as well as off-site

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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)

educational visits are planned to enable pupils to develop an understanding of the civil law and public institution services in England. School leaders have already made some purposeful links with a nearby primary school with the aim of extending the pupils' learning experiences. The school does not promote any particular political views and scrutiny of the plans indicates that these will ensure that balanced views are presented when relevant issues are considered.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements, although implementation could not be seen. All essential policies have been prepared and these comply with current guidance. The safeguarding policy is detailed and it provides a good framework for adults to keep pupils safe. All the necessary background checks on staff are being made and a safer recruitment policy is in place. The headteacher, who is the designated person for child protection, has made a firm booking for the appropriate safeguarding training. Safeguarding for all adults is part of the induction process prior to the school's opening date, which means that requirements are likely to be met. There is a suitable policy for first aid. The newly recruited staff team will include a number of qualified paediatric first aiders. The required checks on staff and volunteers with regard to their previous employment history, character references, and professional references have been completed and updated on the single central register. Suitable policies have been completed regarding all the required aspects of health and safety. As building works are yet to commence, the school has been unable to complete the fire risk assessment of the new building site. However, it has made firm arrangements to conduct the fire safety and risk assessment before the school formally opens, which means that requirements are likely to be met. The attendance and admission registers are in place and are likely to meet requirements. The school's three-year access development plan makes a commitment to ensure equality of access to pupils with disabilities in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. A scrutiny of the building plan indicates that the building will be accessible by pupils who may require this facility.

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

The school's check for the suitability of all staff, which is documented in the single central register, indicates that all requirements are likely to be met. All the required background checks on appointed staff have been undertaken and the outcome of checks on the headteacher, governors and staff are recorded on a single central record. The school does not intend to appoint supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should supply staff be appointed in the future. The school plans to conduct the required checks on other groups and volunteers in time for the formal opening of the school and for the outcomes to be recorded on the single central record.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, although implementation could not be seen. The school has taken over the site of a previous educational facility. Plans have been drawn up to remove the existing buildings and replace them with purpose-built modular classrooms and office space that will facilitate a stable educational provision for the children over the two years that the school will occupy the site. While the pupils are in the temporary building, they will have five classrooms and specialist rooms with adequate toilets and medical facilities. Three of the classrooms will be occupied by the two Reception classes of children and one by the Year 1 pupils. The following September, in Year 2015, the other two classrooms will be used by the two new classes of Reception children. Supplies of hot water and drinking water are likely to meet requirements. There are appropriate facilities for the serving and preparation of food. There is a reasonable amount of outside space on the site for outdoor games sessions. Purposeful links with a nearby local primary school, St Anne's, will enable pupils' use of that school's extensive field for sports and recreation. This will be facilitated by a gate being put into The Heights' boundary fence which will lead directly to the St Anne's field.

### **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: 350

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4-11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.