

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	Jupiter Community Free School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	N/A
Inspection number	446876
Inspection dates	16 June 2014
Reporting inspector	Declan McCarthy

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

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

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Context of the school

Jupiter Community Free School is located in the town of Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire with good access to public transport and local amenities. As a new free school it wishes to provide full-time education for up to 420 pupils aged 4-11 years in purpose-built premises. The school is directly funded by the Department for Education and its proprietorial body is the West Herts Community Free Schools Trust, which is a registered charity. The school is one of three free schools managed by the trust. It will be housed in temporary accommodation in Astley Coopers School, situated one mile away from the new premises which is still under construction. The temporary accommodation is undergoing refurbishment before it opens for up to 60 children aged four to five years in September 2014.. At present, 20 (four year old) children are registered for when the school opens. The keys are due to be handed over to the trustees in August 2014. Work has already begun on the new building which will open in April 2015 to accommodate the remaining number of pupils who will be phased in, one year group at a time, over successive years. Although the school is not affiliated to any particular religion or culture it has an ethos based on the belief that every child can and will succeed socially and academically. The school aims to achieve this by building resilience to foster success.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The free school is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation was not seen. The school has wide range of well-conceived policies to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils' self-esteem and confidence will be enhanced through a system of rewards. The programme for personal, social and health education, the school's code of conduct and the discipline policy supported by an appropriate range of sanctions will enable pupils to distinguish between right and wrong. Pupils will be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour, show initiative and make a contribution to the local and wider communities through, for example, singing and entertaining the elderly in local care homes. The religious education programme, the celebration of world festivals and the programme for personal social and health education will enable pupils to increase their appreciation of different cultures and develop tolerance for the views and beliefs of others. Elements of citizenship and visits to the local library will provide an awareness into the working of local and national institutions. The school provides clear guidance to staff that partisan views will not be promoted in the teaching of any subject. Pupils will be encouraged to respect British values, democracy and the rule of civil law.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation was not seen. A range of well-written policies and procedures are in place to promote the safety and well-being of pupils. All staff and regular visitors have been suitably vetted and staff will undertake training in child protection and safeguarding before the school opens in September 2014, so that requirements are likely to be met. The school is establishing

firm links with the local safeguarding authority through the staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities. These staff have also been trained at the appropriate level in safer recruitment. Well-conceived policies are in place to manage students' behaviour and these are supported by a clear system of rewards and sanctions. The anti-bullying policy provides good guidance for staff on preventing bullying and dealing with any incidents of bullying should they occur. There are clear procedures to assess potential risks and to ensure pupils' safety in school and on educational trips and visits. There are clear policies on first aid and health and safety. A fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority have already been completed for the temporary accommodation and are securely planned for a month before pupils move into the new premises, so that requirements are likely to be met. Procedures for the regular checking of fire and electrical appliances are in place. The school's disability and equality scheme provides detailed information and guidelines on promoting and improving access and includes the development of wheelchair access for wheelchair users and disabled toilet facilities.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all regulations. The school has thoroughly vetted all staff, governors and proprietors. The single central record provides details of appropriate checks made, such as identity, qualifications, right to work in the United Kingdom and medical fitness. These have been carried out thoroughly and are duly signed and dated. The school does not intend to use supply staff from an employment business but plans to use existing staff to cover for any absence. Leaders are aware of the required checks to be made should the school employ supply staff in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

All regulations are likely to be met. The temporary accommodation in a local secondary school, Astley Cooper School, consists of three well-lit and ventilated classrooms to accommodate up to 60 children of reception age, a spacious lobby, a good-sized outdoor play area. There are dining facilities, a suitable medical room and toilet facilities which are separate from the secondary school. Water supplies, including regulated hot water and labelled drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. This accommodation is currently undergoing refurbishment and will be completed in August 2014 before the first intake of children is admitted. In March 2015, the new purpose-built premises and accommodation will be completed and furnished ready for the children to transfer from the temporary accommodation in Astley Cooper School. Plans of the new building show adequate toilet facilities, washrooms and changing rooms for separate boys and girls will be available to accommodate up to 420 pupils aged 4 to 11. Drinking water will be clearly labelled and available at key points throughout the new building. On the ground floor there will be six well-furnished classrooms to accommodate children in the Reception Year and pupils in Year 1, a hygiene room which will serve as a rest room for pupils who are ill, a reception area, school offices and a meeting room for parents. On the first floor there will be eight more classrooms to accommodate older pupils, a special educational needs resource room, which will also serve as a medical examination room, and a staff room. The outdoor recreational area is spacious and well designed.

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

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: up to 60 until April 2015 and then for 420 when the new building will be completed

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4-11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

The temporary accommodation is undergoing refurbishment and will be ready to accommodate up to 60 children in the Reception Year for September 2014. The school will be able to accommodate up to 420 pupils in April 2015 when the new premises and accommodation has been completed.