

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

School name	DV8 Academy
DfE registration number	320/4003
Unique Reference Number (URN)	141030
Inspection number	446920
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Reporting inspector	Colin Mackinlay

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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

The proposed DV8 Academy will be a 16-18 Academy and is to be located in refurbished premises in Walthamstow. The Academy's intention is to 're-imagine education' for the 21st century and to be regarded by young people, parents and employers as one of the leading providers in London for creative, music and media courses. It will admit students to Year 12 in its first year and fill to its capacity with its second round of admissions in 2015. There are 250 students currently registered for enrolment.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet most of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of personal decisions. There is a detailed 'education brief' that shows how provision has been planned for six hours per week of 'well-being curriculum'. The school's policies promote the principles of distinguishing right from wrong, an appreciation of students' own and others' cultures and respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. They do not, however, yet include the promotion of respect for the civil and criminal law or a broad knowledge of public services and institutions. The school policies also do not explicitly require that partisan political views are not promoted or that balanced accounts of opposing views are presented where political issues are brought to the attention of students.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- ensure that respect for civil and criminal law is promoted in policies and provision (paragraph 5(a)(ii))
- ensure that the PSHE curriculum includes broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England (paragraph 5(a)(iv))
- ensure that policies, the staff handbook and the code of conduct are amended to make it clear that partisan political views are not promoted (paragraph 5(b))

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

- ensure that policies, the staff handbook and the code of conduct are adapted to make it clear that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, reasonably practical steps are taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views (paragraphs 5(c)(i), (ii) and (iii)).

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have not yet been formally trained in safer recruitment but the principles have been applied to the recruitment process to date. A provider and dates have been identified for the training of all staff in child protection and the training has been booked so that requirements are likely to be met. Four members of staff are being trained to the level required to be the designated person for child protection. These staff will also be trained before the school opens to take responsibility for first aid. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety but premises and fire safety risk assessments have not yet been booked with any firm date as construction has not been finished. The required report from the fire authority is expected to be produced as part of building control assessment when construction is complete. The school has begun to consider how staff will be deployed to ensure proper supervision of pupils, but planning is not completed or formally recorded in the staff handbook. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's 'Equalities Plan' is in place and includes the required three-year plan to develop access.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- ensure that key staff and a governor are trained in safer recruitment (paragraph 7)
- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment (paragraph 13)
- complete the plan of how staff will be deployed to supervise students before and after school as well as during breaks (paragraph 15).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that most but not all regulations are likely to be met. The school did not have a clear view of the checking procedures. The school has not yet applied for DBS checks for the staff who have been appointed and

have not yet completed all identity checks. Checks to confirm each member of staff's medical fitness have not yet been carried out nor have checks as to whether any members of staff are subject to a prohibition. Checks for the proprietors have been completed but have not been appropriately recorded so that they can be verified. Checks in respect of whether British citizens who have lived abroad have not been required but the single central record does not record this. The school is not yet using staff from an employment business but will utilise contract caterers, cleaners and security staff. The school has not yet had written notifications that all of these staff have had the required checks or ensured that these requirements are incorporated into all of the contracts being prepared for these services.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- check that no members of staff are barred from regulated activity or subject to a prohibition (paragraph 19(2)(a))
- complete identity checks and confirm medical fitness for each member of staff (paragraph 19(2)(b))
- complete DBS checks on the staff that have been appointed (paragraph 19(2)(c))
- obtain written notifications of the appropriate checks for all persons offered for supply by another business (paragraph 20(2)(a))
- include in contractual arrangements for services (including catering, cleaning and ICT support) the requirements in paragraphs 20(2)(a) including a requirement to supply a copy of a DBS certificate that contains any disclosures (paragraph 20(2)(d))
- properly record the suitability checks for members of the proprietorial body (paragraphs 21(6)(a))
- complete the single central register and ensure that it contains all the required records (paragraphs 22(3), (5) and (6)).

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet most of the regulations. The school is to be located in extensively refurbished premises currently still under construction. The work is scheduled to be finished in time for the school to open. Detailed plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the school. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

Classrooms are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the planned number on roll. There are sufficient washrooms, changing facilities and showers for students but no separate provision had been made for staff. All areas of the building are fully accessible and there are suitable disabled toilet facilities. There is a medical room with washing facilities located close to suitable toilet facilities. There is no outside space for recreation. Physical education will be provided at a nearby sports centre which has showers and changing facilities. The buildings and access points to the grounds are fully secure.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for the sole use of students (paragraph 23A(1)(a))
- ensure that there is suitable outdoor space for recreation (paragraph 23G(1)(b)).

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school must meet the regulations identified in the check sheet.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**
- ensure that respect for civil and criminal law is promoted in policies and provision (paragraph 5(a)(ii))
- ensure that the PSHE curriculum includes broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England (paragraph 5(a)(iv))
- ensure that policies, the staff handbook and the code of conduct are amended to make it clear that partisan political views are not promoted (paragraph 5(b))
- ensure that policies, the staff handbook and the code of conduct are adapted to make it clear that where political issues are brought to the

attention of pupils, reasonably practical steps are taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views (paragraph 5(c), (i), (ii) and (iii))

- ensure that some staff and a governor are trained in safer recruitment (paragraph 7)
- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment (paragraph 13)
- complete the plan of how staff will be deployed to supervise students before and after school as well as during breaks (paragraph 15)
- check that no members of staff are barred from regulated activity or subject to a prohibition (paragraph 19(2)(a))
- complete identity checks and confirm medical fitness for each member of staff (paragraph 19(2)(b))
- complete DBS checks on the staff that have been appointed (paragraph 19(2)(c))
- obtain written notifications of the appropriate checks for all persons offered for supply by another business (paragraph 20(2)(a))
- include in contractual arrangements for services (including catering, cleaning and ICT support) the requirements in paragraphs 20(2)(a) including a requirement to supply a copy of a DBS certificate that contains any disclosures (paragraph 20(2)(d))
- properly record the suitability checks for members of the proprietorial body (paragraphs 21(6)(a))
- complete the single central register and ensure that it contains all the required records (paragraphs 22(3), (5) and (6))
- ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for the sole use of students (paragraph 23A(1)(a))
- ensure that there is suitable outdoor space for recreation (paragraph 23G(1)(b))
- meet the regulations identified in the check sheet in relation to the manner in which complaints are to be handled (paragraphs 25(e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k)).

Recommended number of day pupils: 400

Recommended age range: 16-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.