

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

School name	Burnley High School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1687
Inspection number	446913
Inspection dates	29 July 2014
Reporting inspector	Drew Crawshaw HMI

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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 Burnley High School is to be located in the premises of a former data management company situated between Burnley and Padiham. The school is sponsored by Chapel Street Schools and is due to open on 1 September 2014. The school has applied to be registered for up to 650 boys and girls in the age range 11 to 19 years. The school will admit students in Year 7 in its first year. There are approximately 25 students registered for enrolment at present. It is possible that a small number of these students will have statements of special educational needs at the planned time of opening. However, the school will be non-selective and is prepared to admit students with special educational needs. The school aims 'to provide families with a first-class option for their child's secondary school and will offer outstanding and innovative education that is child-centered, family-focused and community-orientated', based on the Christian values of 'grace, mercy, forgiveness and love'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. A well-thought-out suite of policy statements including those for behaviour; anti-bullying; curriculum and personal, social, health and citizenship education, sets out a structure whereby students will have the opportunity to develop into well-rounded, confident, economically viable and responsible members of the community. Students will be encouraged to develop their independence skills along with an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of personal decisions. Plans for a project-based curriculum, with a focus on sustainability and a low-carbon future, place an emphasis on cooperation, innovation and motivation. Planned projects, which incorporate visits and visitors, along with links with the world of work and the local and wider community, are potentially innovative and include: encouraging students to respect and tolerate diversity of beliefs and opinions; developing understanding of the working of civil law in England and English public institutions and services and developing respect for the need, interests and feelings of others. An annual graduation for each student will encourage them to become active citizens and to contribute to improvements within the community. Students will take responsibility for their own behaviour; play a role in enterprise activities; raise funds for a charity and provide a service within the local community. Religious

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

education is prominent in the planned timetable of lessons and is designed to use a multi-faith perspective in order to encourage students to develop a respect for diversity of viewpoints and cultures. Detailed guidance, included in the staff handbook, make clear both the proprietors' and leaders' expectation that the curriculum is free from partisan political or religious views. Teachers are directed to ensure they always give a balanced presentation of opposing views when political issues are brought to the attention of the students.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. All the required policy documents have been produced, including those relating to safeguarding, behaviour management, anti-bullying, equal opportunities, safe recruitment of staff, first aid, educational visits and health and safety. While the safeguarding policy gives comprehensive guidance and direction to staff in matters relating to child protection, it does not take account of the latest statutory guidance for schools and colleges (April 2014) produced by the Department for Education. As a result the safeguarding policy does not make adequate reference to wider safeguarding issues such as faith abuse, forced marriage, gangs and youth violence, female genital mutilation and the school's response to extremism. Senior leaders have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been followed when recruiting staff in preparation for opening in September 2014. A designated person for child protection has been identified and has received training at the required level. All other staff have been enrolled on suitable online child protection training and are expected by leaders to complete the course prior to the school opening so that requirements will be met. A member of staff, with suitable qualifications, has been identified to take responsibility for first aid. Leaders are aware that plans need to be put in place to ensure first aid cover is still provided if the one qualified first aider is absent for any reason. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety. However, a full fire safety risk assessment including a fire evacuation plan is yet to be produced. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. There is a robust commitment to equal opportunity for all including providing equality of access for disabled students: a three year accessibility and improvement plan has been completed by the school.

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

- ensure that the schools 'Safeguarding policy statement' is reviewed and updated in light of the latest Department of Education statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in education' (April 2014) in order that it provides guidance and direction on wider safeguarding issues (paragraph 7)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (fire Safety) order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment, including a fire evacuation plan (paragraph 13)

- produce a contingency plan to ensure first aid cover is still provided if one qualified first aider is absent for any reason (paragraph 14).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's actions to ensure all required checks on the suitability of staff employed by the school to date (including part-time staff, temporary staff, also visitors and volunteers) indicate that all requirements are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. These are recorded on a suitable single central register. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The school has not yet made use of the Employer Access Online Service in order to check that a candidate to be employed as a teacher is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State, but this is planned. The school has an appropriate procedure in place to ensure any member of staff employed through a third party, such as a supply agency, is suitable to work with children.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet almost all of the regulations. The school is to be located in the premises of a former data management company in Burnley. The premises are currently unoccupied and are undergoing substantial remodelling and refurbishment. Despite this, the inspector had full access to the site along with detailed plans and a short discussion with the project manager. Based on the evidence to hand it is likely that the proposed plan will be completed within the time-frame for the school to open on 1 September 2014. On the day of the inspection there were however, no personnel present working directly on the building. The Department will therefore wish to continue to monitor progress with the refurbishment directly with the delivery agent.

The school plans to admit only Year 7 students in the academic year beginning September 2014. The premises are suitable for the Year 7 curriculum described by leaders and outlined in the curriculum policy document. Plans are in place for the school to relocate in the summer term of 2015 to the site of a former local secondary school. The classrooms, already in place for September 2014, are adequate in size and sufficient in number for the planned intake. The building also provides additional open plan areas which are well suited to the planned project based curriculum. The school has identified suitable separate changing rooms for both girls and boys. However, the nature of the accommodation is such that it is impractical to provide showering facilities for use following physical education lessons. Leaders have not produced an alternative strategy to reduce the impact of this on the personal hygiene of students. Toilet and washroom facilities are sufficient and adequate. A suitably positioned medical room has been identified and it is appropriate to combine this with the facility for the short term care of sick and injured students. However, although near to the students' toilets, the identified room does not currently benefit from the required hand washing facilities. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. Outside space is sufficient in size and is safe for

both formal teaching and for play and recreation. Due to the nature of the building's previous use, access points onto site and into the building are fully secure.

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

- devise and implement a strategy to reduce the impact on the personal hygiene of students of not showering following participation in physical education (paragraph 23A(1)(c))
- provide suitable washing facilities in the medical and short term care room(s) (paragraph 23B(1)(b)).

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

Is registration recommended?

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**
- the welfare, health and safety of pupils: unmet regulations detailed above
- premises of and accommodation at the school: unmet regulations detailed above.

Recommended number of day pupils: 650

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-19

Recommended gender of pupils: boys and girls

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.