

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

School name	Harris Westminster Sixth Form
DfE registration number	213/4001
Unique reference number (URN)	1709
Inspection number	446939
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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 Westminster Sixth Form will be located in an existing 10-storey office building in Westminster, Central London. In June 2014, the refurbishment of the first three floors began. Phase one of this programme will provide a library, office space, three science laboratories and 13 classrooms.

The school is sponsored by the Harris Federation and is due to open on 3 September 2014. The school has applied to be registered to admit 600 students from ages 16 to 18. It will admit students aged 16 to 17 in its first year. At present there are 170 students registered for enrolment. Currently there are no students who are registered for enrolment who have special educational needs or who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. The school intends to combine the 'curriculum model, pedagogy and practice' of Westminster School with the Harris 'strategies for raising aspirations and transforming ethos'. This is designed to enable students from less advantaged backgrounds to become 'well-rounded individuals', and through 'ambition, perseverance and legacy' to be able to continue their studies at the most prestigious universities, both in the UK and overseas. The school aims to 'fuse the DNAs of two very successful, but very different models for delivering a first class education, creating a unique educational model'.

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. Through the strong promotion of academic rigour, the school intends to create an ethos where students develop 'a passion for learning, a thirst for knowledge and strong habits of study'. These attributes will be developed across all subjects. In addition, it is intended that courses in 'Cultural Perspectives' will give students the necessary skills and confidence to engage with people from a wide range of backgrounds and professions. Also, 'Cultural Capital' – the 'possession of a body of cultural knowledge and appreciation', will be delivered via assemblies, tutor time and guest speakers and will include such content as the value of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the fundamental British value of tolerance of those with different views and beliefs.

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

Citizenship will be delivered as part of the programme for personal, social, health and citizenship education, as well as through assemblies, with the intention of developing students' understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England, in addition to promoting the school's values. These courses are also designed to help students appreciate and respect the diversity of traditions and cultures globally and in the local community.

The school's geographical location, being 'at the heart of London's political and cultural quarter', will be used to provide students with access to the 'world's classroom'. Additionally, the school intends to establish a weekly programme of visiting outside speakers, together with visits to museums, art galleries and places of worship, in order to provide students with opportunities to become responsible citizens.

The intended assembly and tutorial programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, has been carefully thought through to stimulate students' appreciation of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects in their lives. The staff code of conduct 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, behaviour for learning, discipline and anti-bullying have been prepared in accordance with requirements. The behaviour for learning policy is based on the 'universal truth, that learning is amazing'. In order to achieve this, students will be encouraged 'to behave in such a way as to minimise behaviours that might negatively affect their learning or that of anyone else'. The behaviour for learning and discipline policies contain an appropriate range of rewards and sanctions designed to set boundaries that will promote good behaviour and prevent such actions that might 'endanger the safety of others or that which makes it more difficult for others to learn'. The Principal has been trained in safer recruitment and child protection. Two members of staff have a first-aid qualification. For those members of staff and governors still to be appointed, dates have been identified, and a specialist qualified trainer has been firmly booked to provide the required training in child protection, 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 for all required aspects including a visit from the fire officers, planned for the end of August. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year accessibility plan details arrangements to review and improve access for disabled students.

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 school 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 first three floors of the office building is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. There is a suitable number of washrooms available with safely regulated hot water, including three 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 students to be admitted to the school, and there is a lift to all three floors. A medical room, complete with handbasin, with washrooms opposite, will also be installed.

For lessons in physical education (PE), the school will utilise the sports grounds of Harris Academy Falcon Wood, which has its own on-site showers and changing facilities. The site has sufficient outside space for recreation.

In September 2014, phase two of the refurbishment programme is due to start, and is likely to meet the regulations. Scrutiny of the architect's plans confirms that, following the refurbishment of the remaining seven floors, the site 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 students 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: 600

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 16–18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.