

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

School name	Paxton Academy Sports and Science
DfE registration number	3062087
Unique reference number (URN)	140967
Inspection number	446945
Inspection dates	30 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 2008.¹

Context of the school

Paxton Academy will be a fully inclusive academy for boys and girls aged 4 to 11 who reside in the north Croydon area of Surrey. The academy aims to be a unique primary school specialising in science and sport. It intends to provide places for 630 boys and girls aged 4 to 11. The academy will open on a temporary site in September 2014. There are 59 pupils registered for enrolment to date, two of whom have statements of special educational needs. It is planned that the number of pupils on roll will increase to full capacity by the year 2020. The vast majority of pupils will be drawn from the surrounding areas including postcodes CR7, CR0 and CR4. A few pupils will come from postcodes SE19–SE25 which include areas of high social deprivation. As a result, the academy will provide an extended day in order to ensure pupils' access to regular physical outdoor learning opportunities. Paxton Academy has no religious affiliations and welcomes pupils from all backgrounds, which is reflected in the diverse ethnic mix of the children registered for enrolment. Paxton Academy has established partnerships with the Wandle Teaching Alliance in Wandsworth, and Dulwich London Preparatory School.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet the requirements although the implementation could not be seen. The academy's behaviour and prevention of bullying policies set out a clear framework that aims to 'foster pupils' positive, caring attitudes and create a highly effective learning environment'. Systems to raise awareness of the academy's behaviour expectations and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions have been planned. The important role of staff, parents, carers and pupils in ensuring a safe and secure learning environment is clearly specified. The academy aims to provide pupils with a wide range of learning experiences, including sports and science activities, to prepare them well for the next stage of their learning. Curriculum planning makes provision for developing pupils' academic achievement as well as promoting their well-being, personal development and creativity. The academy aims to make use of its partnerships with other educational organisations, and off-site educational visits to learn about the workings of the civil law and public institutions. There are plans to develop pupils' adoption of key values, such as respect, empathy and tolerance, through the use of praise and incentives in order to

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

develop their sense of right and wrong. Extended day activities such as sports and music events will enable pupils from different ethnic backgrounds to celebrate cultural differences. Special assembly sessions on 'similarities and differences' are planned to develop pupils' awareness and tolerance of the diverse cultural backgrounds represented at the academy. The academy plans to promote positive moral values and tolerance through its links with the local and wider community. Academy policies and publications indicate that any partisan political views will not be tolerated or promoted.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The academy is likely to meet the requirements although the implementation could not be seen. The academy has clear procedures and detailed policies for all areas of health, welfare and safety. The child protection policy highlights the important role of staff in keeping pupils safe and makes a commitment to ensure that all staff receive appropriate safeguarding training. Governors and the designated person for safeguarding have had recent training in child protection. Newly appointed staff are scheduled to receive safeguarding training in September, before the academy opens, so that requirements are likely to be met. Safe recruitment is achieved through implementing the required recruitment and vetting checks. The outcomes of checks are documented on the single central record. Background checks on staff and volunteers have been undertaken. This includes obtaining references and checking employment history. Policies for the prevention of bullying, safeguarding, first aid, emergency evacuation and off-site visits have been completed. The first-aid policy contains all the required information. Key workers are booked to complete paediatric first-aid training before pupils are admitted so that requirements are likely to be met. The academy's behaviour policy outlines the rewards and sanctions that will be applied to encourage pupils to behave well. It highlights parents' and carers' roles and responsibilities in supporting the academy's work. The academy has not conducted a fire risk assessment because building works have not been completed. The academy has booked a fire risk assessment for late August when the building works will be complete so that requirements are likely to be met. A three-year plan to improve access is in place. Site plans indicate key locations for 'disabled refuges' to ensure the safety of those using wheelchairs in the event of a fire.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The academy is likely to meet all the requirements but implementation could not be seen. The required background checks have been made on the headteacher, staff and governors. The outcomes of applications, the stages of the verification process and the dates on which the information is received are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements. The academy has not engaged any staff who will not be directly employed. However, leaders are aware of the checks to be made should such staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The academy is likely to meet all the requirements. It is to be accommodated in temporary modular buildings for up to two years in Thornton Heath, Croydon. The academy aims to move to newly-constructed, purpose-built accommodation in London Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon in September 2016. The indications are that the learning areas will be suitable; there will be areas specifically designated as classrooms, an administrative room and a suitably equipped medical room. The layout of the medical room will be within the specification required. Plans are in place to give consideration to acoustic conditions. This will include the use of sound absorbing panels. There are suitable toilet and washing facilities including ample disabled toilet facilities. Water supplies, including regulated hot water and labelled drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. Pupils will have access to the very spacious adjacent rugby field which will enhance their learning and sports activities.

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.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 630

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4–11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.