

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

School name	The Steiner Academy - Bristol
DfE registration number	999/1666
Unique reference number (URN)	1666
Inspection number	446888
Inspection dates	19 June 2014
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2014



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 proprietor, Steiner Academy Bristol Limited, seeks to establish a free school for up to 624 male and female pupils aged four to 16 years in the Fishponds area of Bristol. The school will occupy part of the former St Mathias campus of the University of the West England. The premises being purchased by the school, which date from 1852, have Grade 2* listed building status. More recent additions to the accommodation on the rest of the campus are to be demolished and developed by a national builder to provide 231 dwellings.

Refurbishment of the on-site temporary accommodation starts on 1 July 2014 and is due to be completed by 18 August 2014. The school plans to open on 2 September 2014, with 78 pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 7. From 2016, the school will become two-form entry, reaching capacity in September 2022. The refurbishment and a new-build sports hall will commence in January 2015 and take about a year. The Principal designate is currently on family leave.

The school will be based on the core principles of Steiner education. Its vision is 'for a school in which children can fully experience childhood; think independently, clearly and considerately; observe the world perceptively; and act with creativity, courage and self-determination'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The proposed provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is appropriate for the age range of the pupils and reflects the school's aims. Enrichment to promote pupils' personal, social and health education is planned through curriculum subjects and extra-curricular activities including visits.

The school's proposed programme focuses on raising pupils' confidence and self-esteem to foster their engagement in full-time education and training, and prepare the pupils for their future lives in society and in the workplace. A core element of this is developing pupils' self-respect, understanding and tolerance of others and their differences, beliefs and cultures, and promoting healthy relationships within school.

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

The school's policies and procedures are designed to promote pupils' good behaviour and participation in learning. Pupils will be encouraged to value themselves as individuals; to develop their ability to work and participate in social and sporting activities with others; to make the right decisions when faced with difficult dilemmas; and to have the confidence to learn from their actions, including their mistakes. Pupils' cultural development will be promoted through specialist art, drama and music provision, visits and visitors. The school's plans include helping pupils to understand their rights and responsibilities within a democratic society, leading healthy and safe lives, and developing a healthy set of values and attitudes within a clear moral code. Pupils will learn to respect criminal and civil law. They will develop a broad knowledge of public institutions and services in England.

The school has taken suitable steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject and, where political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, that reasonable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times. Guidance on this issue is provided in the staff handbook and curriculum policy.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's safeguarding policy reflects the latest guidance provided by the Secretary of State; it includes specific references to the local safeguarding board. The policy provides clear guidance to staff, governors and others about recognising and reporting abuse. There are sufficient staff trained at the higher level in child protection to take on the role of designated person when the school opens. All staff will be provided with appropriate training in safeguarding matters as part of their induction programme prior to the first pupils being admitted, so that requirements are likely to be met. The Principal designate and others involved in appointing staff have completed recognised training courses in safe recruitment procedures. The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed, and the single central register is being populated as these checks are completed.

The school's policies for promoting pupils' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in school and when on visits, meet requirements. Suitable and secure electronic records will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour. The first aid policy provides appropriate guidance and it is firmly planned to train named staff in first aid procedures before the school opens. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance registers that reflects requirements.

The school's business manager has arranged for a fire risk assessment to be made as soon as the temporary accommodation is handed over by the contractors. The school has made contingency plans to deal with any required actions or recommendations before the school opens. The business manager has also made

arrangements to provide the Department for Education with copies of the contractor's handover certificate, building regulations certificate and fire risk assessment when the temporary accommodation is ready. These actions are likely to meet requirements. The school has due regard to the Equality Act 2010, with an action plan drawn up to improve access to the premises, the curriculum and to information.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including their suitability for working with children, as they are appointed. These are being suitably recorded on the school's single central register. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness and any other checks, are complete for those already in post, and are in the process of being completed for others as they are appointed. The school obtains and checks written references on all applicants in line with safe recruitment guidelines. The school does not intend to employ staff through an agency but is aware of the procedures to be followed should this be necessary.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. A site visit was undertaken as part of this inspection visit and discussions held with the Principal designate and business manager. It was not possible to see inside all of the accommodation as the university has yet to vacate the premises. Initially, the school will be temporarily accommodated in a wing of the main building. This will provide sufficient classrooms, offices and other facilities, including adequate toilets and a suitable medical room, for the initial intake of pupils. There will be an outside garden and area of hard standing for pupils' play and recreation. Showers are available on the site for older pupils. There is provision for a suitable area for outside learning for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The school's plans for the substantive accommodation include a sports hall, theatre and specialist subject facilities. The college buildings, around three sides of a grassed quadrangle, provide a range of teaching and ancillary accommodation. All teaching rooms will have access to computer facilities. There will be a dedicated reception area and offices for senior leaders, teaching staff and administrators. The school has ordered furnishings and equipment and these are awaiting delivery for when the first pupils arrive in September. Mains services are connected and operational. The maintenance of the premises, and the arrangements for keeping them clean and tidy, have been arranged and appropriate standards of decoration, internal and external lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring are specified. The local fire officer has been consulted over the school's plans and is due to visit before the first pupils arrive.

The school's plans indicate that all the requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies are likely to be met. The washroom facilities for pupils and staff are already in place and are sufficient for the number of pupils sought. There will be suitable washroom facilities for disabled people and appropriately equipped medical facilities for pupils. The facilities for physical education and games will include separate changing room facilities and showers for students in Years 7 to 11. The school will provide pupils with lunches and there will be drinking water available to pupils on demand.

The security of the buildings and grounds is likely to meet requirements. The site is being fenced and gated to provide a secure area while building work is undertaken. Plans include separate entrances for pupils and for visitors and deliveries.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all regulations. The school proposes to provide parents and carers with an annual written report of the progress and attainment of each registered child in the main subject areas taught, except where a parent or carer has agreed otherwise.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet 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: 624

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 4–16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.