

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

School name	Trinity Academy
DfE registration number	208/4003
Unique reference number (URN)	140966
Inspection number	446950
Inspection dates	10 July 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

Trinity Academy will be a fully inclusive school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18 who live in the south west London area. The vast majority of pupils are drawn from the immediate surrounding areas and some from further afield: Herne Hill, Tulse Hill, Streatham, Tooting Stockwell, Vauxhall and parts of Battersea. The school is a parent-led initiative founded by a group of local parents and carers. The academy aims to be a unique secondary school which focuses on students' academic achievement. It has applied to register for 120 boys and girls aged 11 to 18. The academy will open within Lambeth College, Brixton, in September 2014. It will open initially with two classes of Year 7 pupils. It is planned that the number of pupils on roll will increase to full capacity by the second year. Trinity Academy has a Catholic ethos and aims to 'draw on the best Catholic education ethos in academic and pastoral matters'. However, it makes a commitment to equality of opportunity through serving the whole community. Furthermore, the academy's open admission policy means that applications from pupils from other religious backgrounds and faiths are welcome.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet the requirements although implementation could not be seen. The academy's behaviour policy sets out a clear framework and indicates a commitment to provide 'a safe, secure and caring environment in which all pupils can thrive and achieve their full potential'. Planned systems to raise awareness of the school's high standards of behaviour from all members of the school community are clearly specified. The academy plans to enlist parental support for the education and pastoral support of their children. The high standards of behaviour expected are emphasised in the Code of Conduct for Pupils and the Home-School agreement which all parents and carers are required to sign up to. The academy's code of conduct is based on the school's four core values which are 'Wisdom, Fairness, Courage and Self-Discipline'. The academy's Pupil Development Policy provides an overarching framework for the aspects of the curriculum and areas of school aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural development. The aim of the policy is 'to provide opportunities that enable pupils to develop into independent, responsible and resilient individuals who are able to engage with and make positive contributions to their local communities and wider society'. Its implementation is likely to develop pupils' understanding and tolerance of the cultures, beliefs and faiths of others. The academy plans to incorporate the personal, social, health and

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

economic education programme into the curriculum and the life of the school. There are plans to deliver the programme through a range of enrichment activities such as educational visits and active involvement of parents, carers and external agencies. These aim to ensure that pupils become familiar with local and national institutions and gain an awareness of civil and criminal law. The school does not promote any particular political views and scrutiny of the school's plans indicates that these aim to ensure that balanced views are presented when relevant issues are considered.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet the requirements although implementation could not be seen. The academy has clear procedures and detailed policies for all areas of health, welfare and safety. The safeguarding and pupil welfare policy focuses on 'developing and maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for all its pupils'. The academy makes a commitment to implementing all related policies to ensure that they are fully integrated and consistently embedded in practice and supported by clear practice guidelines. The designated person for safeguarding and almost all governors have had training in child protection. The headteacher has undertaken the safer recruitment and safeguarding children training. Newly appointed staff are scheduled for safeguarding training in September as part of the school's induction process, prior to the school's official opening, so that requirements are likely to be met.

Background checks on staff and volunteers, which include their previous employment history and professional and character references, have all been undertaken. Safer recruitment is promoted through the required recruitment and vetting checks. Policies for the prevention of bullying, safeguarding, first aid, emergency evacuation and off-site visits have been completed. The firstaid policy has all the required information and staff's firstaid training will be part of the induction training before the school opens. The school's behaviour policy outlines rewards as well as sanctions and highlights parents' and carers' roles and responsibilities in supporting the school's work. The policy emphasises the important role of all the academy's staff, parents, carers and pupils in the successful implementation of the policy. Although the school has not yet conducted a fire risk assessment, it has booked a fire risk assessment for late August when the refurbishment works will be completed so that requirements are likely to be met. The Equality Act plan to improve access is in place. The ground floor of the school site is accessible for wheelchair users who require disability access. The site plan for the permanent building site makes provision for disability access.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The required background checks have been made on the headteacher, staff and governors. The outcomes of applications and stages of the verification process and the dates on which the information is received are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements.

Currently, the school has not engaged any staff who will not be directly employed by the school, but leaders are aware of the necessary checks.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The academy will temporarily operate from an existing furnished self-contained block of Lambeth College on Brixton Hill, South London, with access to adequate outdoor space. Trinity Academy aims to move to a brand new purpose-built accommodation in September 2016. The indications are that the learning areas in the existing block will be suitable and will have areas specifically designated as classrooms, an administrative room and a suitably equipped medical room. The integral layout of the medical room will be within the specification required for medical examination purposes. Plans are in place to give consideration to acoustic conditions with sound-absorbing panels. There are suitable toilet and washing facilities including two disabled toilet facilities. Water supplies including regulated hot water and labelled drinking water are likely to meet requirements. Pupils will have access to spacious outdoor areas 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. The school can be registered and allowed to open.**

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 120

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11–18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.