

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

School name	XP School (Doncaster)
DfE registration number	371/
Unique reference number (URN)	1668
Inspection number	446890
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Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail

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Piccadilly Gate
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M1 2WD

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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 XP School Doncaster is a free school. It is sponsored by The XP School's Trust. The school is to be located for one year in Doncaster Rover Learning Centre in The Keepmoat Stadium whilst a new purpose-built school is constructed in the nearby area. The school intends to open in September 2014 and enrol 50 students in the first year which will increase to 350 in the following years. The provision will be for both boys and girls in the age range 11 to 19 years. One student of the 50 enrolled so far has a statement of special educational needs. The school will be non-selective and it intends to admit some students with statements of special educational needs. The school's learning motto 'High Tech High and Expeditionary Learning' aims to involve students in project based learning to provide them with opportunities for 'developing an ethic of excellence by creating beautiful and meaningful pieces of work.' The school will ensure 'that its students grow into beautiful people who are aware of and respect other cultures and traditions and play an active part in serving and understanding local, national and global community.' The school is not affiliated to any faith denomination and it welcomes students from all backgrounds.

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. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of their decisions. The school's plans for its personal, social and health education extensively focus on students' social, economic and moral development to equip them to take their places in society as valued, economically viable and responsible citizens. Religious education will offer students spiritual development, the growth of their sense of self, recognition of their unique potential and understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. All staff will receive training in acting as 'crew members' to support individual students to address their social, moral and cultural needs. The school places an emphasis on the development of independence, co-operation, innovation and motivation. Planned provision includes: encouraging students to respect others' opinions and cultural diversity; developing the ability to distinguish between right and wrong; developing respect for the needs,

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

interests and feelings of others and providing links with the world of work and the wider community. An extensive programme of working in the community and inviting visitors into the school aims to develop students' insights into the multicultural community and develop their respect for civil and criminal law. The school plans to work closely with different organisations in the community, for example, Doncaster Football Club and Doncaster Rovers Community Foundation, the Dome Leisure Centre and Doncaster Athletics Club, as well as local community organisations, hospitals and businesses. Planned themes within the programme for personal, social and health education will provide students with an understanding of citizenship and the roles of individuals within the wider community. The themes include material which aims to develop students' understanding of English public institutions and services. The social, moral and cultural education curriculum explores a variety of issues and questions from a multi-cultural perspective; it is designed to enable students to understand and respect the diversity of viewpoints and cultures. The proprietors have ensured that the planned curriculum, including provision for students' personal development, is free from partisan political or religious views and that a balanced view of any political issues is always presented. Guidance on these matters has been included on the school's website and in the school's policies.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all of the regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Two designated child protection officers are booked to be trained at the required level by the local safeguarding children board on 16 and 18 June 2014. Safeguarding, health and safety and fire safety training for all staff is set to take place on 14 and 18 July 2014. Two members of staff are identified and trained to take responsibility for first aid. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and fire safety. Risk assessments, including fire risk assessments, are in place which will be reviewed after the completion of refurbishment work. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 by having a suitable access improvement plan.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's completion of the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for the staff already appointed. These are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements. Checks are completed and entries on the register are updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of the requirements should such staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is situated within The North Stand of Doncaster Rovers Keepmoat Stadium. This is temporary accommodation. The refurbishment will be complete before 18 August 2014, which is the official handover date. The allocated section has five large-sized classrooms, a large hall, tutorial rooms and offices. There are sufficient washrooms and there is a suitably equipped room for medical examinations or for students who may be ill. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food in the building. New furniture and teaching equipment are on order and are suitable for the school. The accommodation has several access points for disabled persons. There are sufficient labelled drinking water facilities in the building and arrangements for safe temperature control of hot water. There are indoor and outdoor sport facilities with physical training equipment and changing and shower provision. There is sufficient safe outside space for play and recreation, including playing fields. The school's accommodation and the site are both fully secure.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations, including planning to provide information with respect to students with statements.

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: 350 (only 50 in first year)

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.