

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

School name	The Suthers School
DfE registration number	4024
Unique reference number (URN)	144768
Inspection number	10035726
Inspection date	14/06/2017
Reporting inspector	Zarina Connolly HMI

Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹ In carrying out this inspection, the inspector assesses the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014', when it opens.

The inspector reviewed the architect's plans for the temporary and permanent site, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. She held discussions with the chief operating officer and the chief executive officer of the trust.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	870, initially 90 in September 2017
Age range	7-18
Gender of pupils	mixed

Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Nova Education Trust. The Suthers School will be located on the site of an existing secondary school, Toot Hill School, within the trust and will run alongside it for the first two years. After this time, a new permanent site will be located on the Fernwood Business Park in Newark in the third year of opening. The final capacity of the school will be 870.

Nova Trust has already designed and successfully delivered the secondary academy Nottingham Free School. As part of the trust, the new secondary school will have access to a range of high-quality facilities at both the temporary and permanent sites.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens
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¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014²

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Evidence in the school's policies shows that spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is a core aspect of the school's curriculum provision and values. The policy for SMSC identifies the school's aims to promote tolerance and respect for one another. It outlines how fundamental British values will be promoted and developed through various aspects of the education provision, including assemblies, 'drop-down days' and inspirational talks.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. There are a number of policies in place to ensure pupils' health and safety, including the risk assessment policy, first aid, behaviour and safeguarding. These policies are all set out in accordance with statutory guidance. The safeguarding policy also sets out clearly the school's aim to implement the Prevent strategy to keep pupils safe. Bullying is not tolerated and a clear policy setting out the school's strategy to combat such behaviours is strong.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is in place and already contains the names of known staff due to take up positions in September. The record sets out all the statutory checks necessary to ensure the suitability of all staff, including governors.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school initially operate from temporary accommodation on the site of an existing school in the trust. Currently, the building is being refurbished in order to meet the September start deadline. The building plans show that there will be ample room to accommodate the number of pupils due to start in September and in the following year. Pupils will also have access to playing fields and tennis courts. They will use canteen facilities in the adjacent building currently used as a sixth form block of the Toot Hill secondary school. The building will meet all requirements, including for example, suitable toilets for boys and girls, drinking water and medical therapy facilities. The plans for the permanent building are well under way but there is no building as yet.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All the required policies are in place and available to parents on the school's website. The up-to-date safeguarding policy is also in place and available for parents. All copies are available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is detailed and sets out all the required procedures, including who receives the complaints and the timelines for resolution. The appeals panel is clearly identified and appropriate timelines are set out. The policy is available on the school's website. Copies are made available if necessary.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust has experience of opening and running a number of schools, including another free school. They have demonstrated a sound understanding of the regulatory requirements having already fulfilled them successfully. All the required policies to ensure the smooth and efficient running of a school are in place. The leaders have detailed and thorough policies in place to ensure pupils' health, safety and welfare. Leaders are clear about how they will ensure that all policies are implemented effectively through close monitoring. All leaders already appointed are experienced and well qualified.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet the relevant requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

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