

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

School name	CHS South
DfE registration number	4014
Unique reference number (URN)	145873
Inspection number	10053911
Inspection dates	14 June 2018
Reporting inspector	Emma Gregory



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(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.²

The inspector undertook a tour of the school's temporary accommodation, reviewed the plans for the temporary accommodation and permanent accommodation, scrutinised information available on the school website and reviewed a range of school policies and procedures.

The inspector held discussions with the executive headteacher and the headteacher of the school. The inspector also held a discussion with the project manager from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, two members of the Prospere Learning Trust and the chair of the school's local governing body.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1200. Initially 240 Y7 in September 2018.
Age range	11-16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Prospere Learning Trust. CHS South will be located on a new site. The school will open in September 2018. It will initially be located in refurbished temporary accommodation for 240 Year 7 pupils. This will rise to 480 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils in September 2019.

The plan is to move into new purpose-built accommodation in September 2020. The final capacity of the school will be 1200. There are a number of schools within the Prospere Learning Trust, including Chorlton High School and Piper Hill High School. As a result, pupils at CHS South will have access to a broad range of facilities, resources and the expertise of experienced staff, leaders, governors and trustees.

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

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

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens
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Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014³

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have ensured that pupils are able to develop their understanding of British values through 'oracy' sessions. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about democracy, the political system, sexual identity and the importance of diversity. The curriculum is underpinned by nine 'qualities of success'. This will enable pupils to develop skills such as empathy and resilience. Leaders of subject areas regularly reflect on how they are able to contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a result, these aspects of pupils' development are delivered across all subjects. The religious education curriculum will allow pupils to develop their understanding of different religions. For example, pupils learn about the differences between Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. This will help to ensure that pupils show respect and tolerance for those pupils from faiths, cultures and traditions that are different to their own.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders' policies indicate that safeguarding, health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, risk assessment, pupil supervision and first aid are secure and comply with guidance. Leaders' behaviour policy is clear. Behaviour systems will allow pupils to earn rewards for positive behaviour and understand the consequences of any negative behaviour. The school's anti-bullying policy is clear and detailed. For example, there is guidance for staff about the actions they must take if they suspect bullying is taking place.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The system to check that adults at the school are safe to work with pupils is secure. All relevant checks are carried out. There is a record detailing who has made these checks and the date on which they took place. These checks include members of the local governing body and members of the trust.

³ 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 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The temporary accommodation is not finished: however, building work is on schedule. The building will be ready on 10 September 2018. Pupils start school on 5 September 2018. Leaders have appropriate plans in place to manage this. They have arranged alternative accommodation for pupils during this period. Plans for the temporary accommodation indicate that the refurbished buildings will meet all requirements including medical facilities for pupils. Whilst in temporary accommodation, leaders have made arrangements to ensure that pupils access physical education facilities. These are off-site. The plans for the purpose-built permanent accommodation include plenty of open spaces for pupils' physical education, as well as changing rooms and showers.

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 website. These include complaints policies, safeguarding policies, a behaviour policy, an admissions policy and an anti-bullying policy. Leaders ensure that the website is up to date with current policies and information. Copies of these policies can be made available to parents.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The complaints policy is detailed, clear and references up-to-date legislation. It includes all relevant timelines and steps for the efficient handling of any complaints. The complaints policy appears on the school's website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The Prospere Learning Trust has experience of running other schools. Leaders, governors and trustees have a strong understanding of the regulatory requirements having already fulfilled them successfully in a number of other schools. There are clear and detailed policies that are of a high quality to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Leaders are clear how they will check on the provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently. They have the secure knowledge and skills to do this.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. Leaders regularly review accessibility plans to ensure that all pupils can participate fully in the curriculum.

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