

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

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School name	Falcons Primary School
DfE registration number	999/1702
Unique reference number (URN)	1702
Inspection number	446928
Inspection dates	9 July 2014
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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.<sup>1</sup>

## Context of the school

The proprietor, Akaal Education Trust, seeks to establish a free school for up to 420 boys and girls aged four to 11 years in the Northfields area of Leicester. The school will occupy a Grade 2 listed building, once part of a Victorian psychiatric hospital; additional accommodation will be added during the school's first year of operation to provide a hall, kitchen facilities and additional classrooms. The refurbishment programme of the existing building is underway. The contractor will hand over the new-build accommodation in phases.

The school's first pupils will arrive during the week commencing 1 September 2014; there will be two Reception classes and one Year 1 class. In September 2015, there will be two Reception classes and the school will grow year-on-year to reach its capacity by 2019–20. The school will allocate 50% of places to pupils of the Sikh faith and 50% to pupils of other or no faiths.

The school aims to 'develop children's passion for learning and the following virtues:

- compassion for all and the environment
- faith in your chosen way of life
- determination to succeed in all your endeavours
- resolve to see it through
- mastery to be the best'

## 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 reflects the virtues outlined in the school's aims and is appropriate for the age range of the pupils. The provision will be delivered within the Early Years Foundation stage and, thereafter, through a mixture of cross-curricular themes and discrete lessons.

The school's proposed programme focuses on raising pupils' awareness of their identity, fostering their personal qualities, attitudes, skills, and achievements. It aims to help them develop the confidence and resilience to succeed in full-time education and to be prepared for their future lives as members of the community. Pupils will be

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

supported to develop their respect for self and others and gain an understanding and tolerance of others and their differences, beliefs and cultures. The school's programme makes particular reference to promoting pupils' understanding of a multicultural and multi-faith society in modern-day Britain. Pupils' cultural development will be promoted through art, drama, and music provision, and visits and visitors; it will focus on the diversity and equality of people from different backgrounds and faiths.

Pupils will learn about healthy lifestyles, including physical and mental health, the importance of eating sensibly, relaxing and taking regular exercise. They will receive appropriate information about relationships, substance and alcohol abuse, and managing money. The school's behaviour policy promotes pupils' participation in learning and develops their skills in using persuasion and negotiation to deal with difficult situations. Pupils will be encouraged to work together and take part in social and sporting activities with others. They will learn about managing risk and safety, the importance of consent, and how to have the confidence to learn from the consequences of actions. The school's plans include helping pupils to recognise fairness and justice through learning about criminal and civil law and understand their rights and responsibilities within a democratic society. The pupils will develop a broad knowledge of public institutions and services within their own community, the City of Leicester and across England.

The school has taken appropriate steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject. Where political or controversial issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, reasonable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times. Guidance on these issues is being provided for staff.

## **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 and procedures are based on the local children's safeguarding board's latest policy and reflect the latest guidance provided by the Secretary of State. The policy provides clear guidance to staff, governors and others about recognising and reporting abuse. The designated lead for safeguarding and another member of staff are trained at the higher level in child protection procedures, ready for 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 arriving, so that requirements are likely to be met. The school has suitable procedures for recruiting staff and the Principal-designate and others involved in appointing staff have completed recognised training courses in safe-recruitment procedures. 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 delays in processing the checks being made by the Department for Education on the trustees, due to documents being lost in transit, has not adversely affected the checks being made on newly appointed staff.

The school's policies for promoting pupils' good behaviour and preventing bullying meet requirements; they include references to e-bullying and outline sanctions that are appropriate to the age of pupils, in line with national guidance. Suitable and secure electronic records will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour.

The policy and procedures for ensuring pupils' health and safety, both in school and when on visits, meet requirements. The school has taken particular account of the building work that will be ongoing once the school opens. The first-aid policy provides appropriate guidance; sufficient named staff have already undertaken training in first aid procedures, including paediatric first aid. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance registers that complies with requirements.

The Principal-designate has arranged for a fire-risk assessment to be made as soon as the temporary accommodation is handed over by the contractors. There has already been contact with the local fire brigade and further risk assessments, together with visits from the fire officer as appropriate, are firmly planned for when accommodation is handed over at the end of each phase. The Principal-designate 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 at these key points. 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 on all 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 format of which meets requirements. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with the required checks on 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 appointments continue to be made. The school obtains and checks written references on all applicants, in line with safe-recruitment guidelines. The school does not at present intend to employ staff through an agency, but is aware of the procedures to be followed should this become necessary.

### **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. A pre-registration inspection meeting was held on the site and discussions held with the Principal-designate and business manager. Initially, the school will have sufficient classrooms, offices and other facilities, including adequate toilets and a suitable

medical room, for the first intake of pupils. There is provision for a small, but suitable area for outside learning for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and hard-standing for pupils' play. Grassed areas for games and indoor facilities for physical education will be available nearby.

The plans for the additional accommodation include a hall and additional classrooms. All teaching rooms will have access to computer facilities. The school has ordered furnishings and equipment, which are awaiting delivery for when the first pupils arrive in September. The contractor has confirmed that the mains utility services to the premises are operational. The cleaning and maintenance of the premises have been arranged. Appropriate standards of decoration, internal and external lighting, ventilation, heating, and flooring are specified. Fire-risk assessments have been arranged.

The refurbishment 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 sufficient for the planned numbers. There will be suitable washroom facilities for disabled people and an appropriately equipped room for pupils who are ill, or need medical attention. The school will provide pupils with a labelled supply of drinking water throughout the day. The security of the accommodation and grounds is likely to meet requirements. The site is being fenced and gated to provide a secure area while building work is undertaken.

## **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all regulations.

## **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: 420

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 4–11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.