

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

School name	Goresbrook School
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Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

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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

Goresbrook School plans to open in September 2014 as a non-denominational school for boys and girls of all abilities and backgrounds. The school, sponsored by United Learning, was established in response to a shortage of school places in the immediate neighbourhood. In the first year, the intention is to offer 90 Reception places and, in the second year, a further 90 primary places and 90 more each year through the primary phase. From 2016, the school will additionally offer 120 secondary places each year, rising to a maximum capacity of 1,355 students aged 3 to 18, including a nursery and a sixth form. To date, 32 pupils have enrolled and the school is confident that this number will increase prior to opening. Children will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework in the Reception class, with the curriculum from Year 1 broadly reflecting the National Curriculum programmes of study. The curriculum is supported by the 'Goresbrook Guarantee' which includes pledges such as 'attend a club', 'meet an inspirational person', 'go on a trip outside London', 'contribute to a community activity', 'make a presentation to an audience' and 'play a musical instrument'. These areas are developed in subsequent years with the intention that students will 'have the integrity and strength of character to navigate their future paths to success.'

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 policy for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students is supported by the experiences offered through the 'Goresbrook Guarantee' and underpinned by the principles of tolerance and respect, valuing differences and understanding different cultures. Students' personal development is mapped across the different subjects and particularly well supported through personal, social and health education (PSHE) lessons and religious education. The programme for PSHE will include sex and relationship education from Key Stage 2 and careers education and guidance in Key Stage 4. The well-documented curriculum includes a number of attributes: articulacy; spark; professionalism; integrity; resilience; and expertise. These comprise the school's 'ASPIRE' lessons. Provision in the first year includes the development of self-confidence and awareness, managing feelings and behaviour and making relationships. Students will learn about the wider world, public

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

institutions, social justice and moral responsibility, while older students will consider parliamentary democracy, electoral practices and the legal system. The school's behaviour and learning policy highlights the promotion of good behaviour, self-esteem and positive relationships, while the house system is designed to develop students' roles, responsibilities and a healthy sense of competition. The personal development policy includes roles and responsibilities for staff, including acting as positive role models and ensuring that political discussions offer a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence suggests that all the regulations are likely to be met. The school has produced a range of suitable policy documents including behaviour for learning, child protection, safer recruitment, anti-bullying and health and safety. Policies follow a similar format with useful links to statutory frameworks and other national policies, as well as staff roles and responsibilities and details of implementation. The Principal has been trained in safer recruitment and the processes have been applied effectively to the recruitment of staff to date. The Principal has also received training for her role as the school's designated child protection officer. A detailed safeguarding policy offers guidance to staff. All staff will be trained in child protection and safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening, with training booked so that requirements are likely to be met. The school has sufficient first aiders, including some trained in paediatric care, with additional training planned for all staff prior to the school opening. Detailed policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety including premises, equipment, training and management. A fire safety risk assessment is scheduled to be carried out before the school opens, so that requirements are likely to be met in that respect. Admission and attendance registers are likely to meet requirements. The equal opportunities policy is particularly well focused and includes a three-year plan of action to develop access in line with statutory requirements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed and recorded/dated on a suitable single central register, which is updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff, but it is aware of its responsibilities should supply staff be appointed in the future. The school is aware of its duty to refer a person who is deemed to be unsuitable for working with children to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school is to be located in Ripple Road, Dagenham, on the site of the former Gorsebrook Leisure Centre. The planning application has been agreed and a contractor secured to undertake the work. In the first year, the school will be housed in temporary accommodation

comprising three adequately-sized classrooms, a multifunctional space and a small canteen which will be resourced from a neighbouring school. The building has suitable access for those with disabilities and an office will be used for medical examinations or for students who may be ill. Discussion with the Principal and a review of the plans and the schedule of work confirm that due regard has been given to health, safety and security. The premises are likely to meet the requirements for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor coverings. Plans confirm that changing and toilet facilities are suitable. Water supplies, including safely regulated hot water and a labelled supply of drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. There is ample outdoor recreation space and an order has been placed for suitable furniture, fixtures and fittings. During the first year, building will take place on the opposite side of the site to provide a new school comprising accommodation to house the whole school of 1,355 students in adjoining blocks for primary and secondary students, as well as Reception classes and sixth form areas.

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

Is registration recommended?

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 1,355

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 3-18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.