

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

School name	Finham Park 2
DfE registration number	331/4006
Unique reference number (URN)	141939
Inspection number	464390
Inspection dates	18 June 2015
Reporting inspector	Cathy Morgan

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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

Context of the school

- Finham Park 2 is to be located in a former government building in the Tile Hill area of Coventry. For the first year, the school will be located on the site of the existing Finham Park school.
- This new school will be part of Finham Park Multi-Academy Trust and the headteacher of Finham Park school will also be the executive headteacher of this free school.
- The school will provide places for up to 800 students aged 11 to 19 years; 120 students will begin Year 7 in September 2015.
- The school's ethos is to 'inspire students through the delivery of a World Class education'.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day students	800
Age range	11–19
Gender of students	mixed
Type of special educational needs	not applicable

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 the regulations, although implementation could not be seen.
- The school's vision, ethos and policies set out a clear commitment to provide all students with an equal opportunity to develop socially, academically and morally.
- The school's focus on students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong. The curriculum is designed to nurture their curiosity and encourage innovation. The Children's University Programme will be used to strengthen students' leadership skills and the innovative 'Baraza' peace courts model will be used to enable them to focus on the school's core values of pride, respect and responsibility.
- The school's religious education programme will enable students to learn about, and from, other religious, cultural and philosophical positions in order to demonstrate respect for, and tolerance of, the views of others. All students will explore the culture and language of China through their study of Mandarin.
- Students will be challenged to analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to explore the impact upon their fundamental British values. Staff and visitors to the school will be reminded of the importance of avoiding extreme religious or political views in any subject they teach, or topic they discuss with students.
- The planned mentor-time programme, range of assemblies and visiting speakers will provide opportunities for students to learn about public institutions in England.
- Cross-curricular themes, such as 'How we become a responsible citizen', community activities, functions for the elderly and collaborative projects with local companies will provide students with a range of opportunities to show initiative and contribute positively to the lives of others.
- The robust behaviour for learning policy clearly identifies the school's high expectations of students. The restorative justice system encourages them to take responsibility for their actions and behave well, both in and around the school.

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/si/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.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of students

- The school is likely to meet all the regulations, although implementation could not be seen in full.
- The school's policies and procedures for the safeguarding of students are robust and extensive. There are suitable policies for the management of behaviour, e-safety, the prevention of bullying and health and safety, including comprehensive risk assessments for on- and off-site activities and for visitors to the school.
- The school's safeguarding policy reflects the latest guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (March 2015)*. Safeguarding arrangements include suitable links with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The policy is available on the school's website; it was checked and found to be compliant during the inspection.
- The headteacher is the designated lead person on child protection and is suitably trained at the higher level. Two additional staff members will be trained to the required higher level before the school opens. Child protection training is firmly included in the arrangements for the induction of all staff joining the school from September 2015 and this will be updated annually.
- All parents are provided with an informative handbook to help them to support their children's learning and behaviour. All parents and students will be required to declare their acceptance of the school's behaviour and attendance policies by signing the home/school agreement.
- The school's management information system will be used to record and analyse student attendance. This will also be used to log any incidents which will be reported to parents on a half termly basis.
- Extensive risk assessments are being carried out by senior leaders, particularly those associated with potential delays in the construction of the temporary accommodation. Risk assessments of all curriculum areas are being undertaken. Appropriate arrangements have been made to enable students to access toilet, changing and shower facilities.
- The school has an appropriate policy for the administration of medicines and staff who are responsible for the medical care of students have up-to-date first aid training.
- Fire evacuation procedures and refuge areas have already been developed. Plans are in place to conduct regular fire drills which will take place each term under the supervision of appointed fire marshals.
- The school will occupy new premises during the autumn term. The building will be subject to a full health and safety audit, including a fire risk assessment by a qualified fire safety representative, before the building is handed over by the contractor.

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

- The school is likely to meet all the regulations.
- The headteacher and executive headteacher are trained in safer recruitment and are members of all staff appointment panels. All required checks, on previous employment history, professional and character references and medical fitness, are completed for all staff. Additional arrangements are in place for when visitors or volunteers are invited to the school.
- The school's single central register is completed to the required standard. Full details of checks on existing staff are recorded, including checks against the children's barred list and the list of prohibited teachers. Trustees and governors are included in the register.
- Suitable arrangements are in place to make additional checks when appointing staff who have been working overseas. Agency supply staff are not to be employed at the school but leaders are aware of the checks required, should this position change.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

- The school is likely to meet all the regulations although implementation could not be seen.
- The school will occupy a former government building in the Tile Hill area of Coventry. For the first year, the school will be located in a new building on the site of the existing Finham Park school.
- The plans for both the temporary and permanent accommodation indicate that both buildings are likely to be fully compliant with all relevant standards and sufficient for the needs of the planned number of students.
- The building work on the temporary site of the school is yet to commence and it is not likely to be completed for the planned opening in September. Robust plans are in place to accommodate students within the existing Finham Park School and to ensure that there will be no negative impact on the quality of provision for students as a result of delays.
- The existing temporary accommodation provides plentiful outdoor space for play and recreation and all external boundaries are suitably fenced. There is a fully equipped medical room for first aid with a sink and hot and cold water, and it is near to a toilet.

Part 6. Provision of information

- The school is likely to meet all the regulations. All the required information about the school, together with details of policies and procedures, is available on the school's website.
- The safeguarding policy is published in full on the website. School leaders intend to provide parents with regular written reports on their children's attainment and progress.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

- The school's arrangements and policy are likely to meet all the regulations.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- The proprietor and headteacher have put in place systems and procedures which ensure that all the school standards are likely to be met. They have a good understanding of what is needed for successful implementation of the school's policies, although implementation at this stage cannot be seen. Students' safety is of paramount importance; this is borne out through the full compliance with all the safeguarding standards and the good attention to rigorous welfare, health and safety procedures.
- The school's website includes a copy of the compliant safeguarding policy.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- A suitable accessibility development policy is in place which covers access to the curriculum, information and premises.

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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Recommended number of day students	800
Recommended age range	11-19
Recommended gender of students	mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs	not applicable