

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

School name	Bolder Academy
DfE registration number	313/4007
Unique reference number (URN)	145866
Inspection number	10053858
Inspection dates	24 May 2018
Reporting inspector	Helen Matthews, Her Majesty's Inspector



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

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1150
Age range	11-19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	NA

Context of the school

The new provision is a secondary academy and will be eventually housed in a state-of-the-art school.

The school will initially open in September 2018 in temporary accommodation with 150 Year 7 pupils. It is anticipated that a further 180 pupils will join the school in September 2019. Pupils will relocate to the new site in the academic year 2020 to 2021. The final capacity of the school will be 1150.

The new school is located next to Sky's headquarters in West London. School leaders have established a strong partnership with Sky, who are to act as a 'good neighbour', enhancing the curriculum offer and providing a volunteer programme.

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

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.

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 of the regulations in relation to this part. The school has detailed policies and plans in place to ensure that pupils have access to a range of information, opportunities and experiences. British values and careers guidance will be explicitly taught through the personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education curriculum and supported through assemblies and enrichment activities. Links with Sky will enhance the opportunities available to pupils.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. Policies are comprehensive and indicate that health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, safeguarding and first aid will be secure and comply with guidance. All policies include roles and responsibilities and clear guidance on the procedures to follow. The school's anti-bullying policy gives comprehensive information on identification, prevention and appropriate actions. School leaders have plans in place to check that health and safety regulations will be checked robustly, following alterations to the temporary school site.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. Checks on the suitability of staff to work at the school have been undertaken, in preparation for the school's opening in September 2018. This information is kept electronically in a single central record.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. Initially, the school will be located in temporary accommodation. These premises are currently being used as a primary school. The site is very secure, bright and modern and should meet all current requirements. Toilets and the facilities for administering first aid are appropriate. School leaders have identified that the outdoor space, while adequate for recreation and some aspects of physical education, is not large enough for team sports such as hockey, rugby or football. Therefore, they are looking to acquire use of a local sports field and sports centre. School leaders have commissioned further improvements to the temporary school site before the start of the next academic year. These include providing suitable changing facilities and showers.

Land has been acquired for the new permanent building. Architects' plans are in place and show that the new site will provide high-quality provision that meets all of the required standards. Building work is due to commence in November 2018.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/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. A revised school website is due to be launched imminently and will be easily accessible to pupils, parents and carers. All the required policies are in place and available on request. Admissions information for pupils and parents is published and available.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations. The complaints policy clearly sets out the procedures to follow, the different stages and expectations around the timescales. It includes examples of complaints forms and formal letters to be sent to the complainant. The policy is available on request and is published on the new website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The governing body and the headteacher are experienced and have high aspirations for the academy. They have built strong working relationships with other Hounslow headteachers and representatives from Sky. Consequently, school leaders have successfully promoted the school in the local community, ensuring that Year 7 will be at full capacity when the school opens in September 2018. All necessary policies are of a high quality and in line with current regulations. Leaders have prioritised pupils' well-being and safety when choosing the temporary site and in their plans for the new school building. They have a thorough understanding of the requirements of the independent school standards.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The policy identifies all groups with due regard to the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010. The temporary school site and plans for the new school ensure that there are appropriate facilities and adaptations for disabled staff and pupils.

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