

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

School name	King's Academy Oakwood
DfE registration number	867/2002
Unique reference number (URN)	147076
Inspection number	10103248
Inspection dates	6 June 2019
Reporting inspector	Lee Selby HMI



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 new school building and carried out all the checks required by Part 5 of the independent school standards. He held discussions with the executive headteacher, head of primary, assistant headteacher and the chief executive officer of King's Group Academies, a multi-academy trust (MAT). The inspector scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a wide range of policies and procedures.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	210 (60 from September 2019)
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The new provision is a primary school within King's Group Academies. King's Academy Oakwood is located on a new housing development in Bracknell Forest, approximately one mile from the existing King's Academy Binfield.

King's Academy Oakwood will open in September 2019. It will initially have one Reception class with up to 30 children and a mixed Year 1 and Year 2 class with up to 30 pupils. It will grow each year until it is a one-form-entry primary school with a capacity of 210.

The executive headteacher is also the headteacher at King's Academy Binfield, an all-through school within the MAT. It opened in September 2018. All senior leaders and teachers are employed to work across the two schools so that expertise can be shared.

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 relevant independent school standards when it opens.
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Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

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

The school is likely to meet all standards in this part. A well-thought-out suite of documents and policies outlines how this aspect of the school's work will be implemented by leaders. The curriculum policy and curriculum map make explicit the importance of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education. While separate policies for SMSC and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) give specific details. Notably, the school outlines in its documentation a list of non-negotiable experiences that pupils will have during their time at the school. These include a number of cultural activities.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The designated safeguarding lead is already in place. She is getting to know the local community and other professionals in local services through her work at the MAT's other local school. The safeguarding policy follows the most recent statutory guidance and the procedures set out by Bracknell Forest Council. Leaders plan to adapt the policy so that it accurately aligns with the MAT's procedures.

Behaviour and anti-bullying procedures reflect the primary age group of the new school. Other policies, including those for first aid, health and safety, and risk assessment are comprehensive. A full fire risk assessment of the new school building has been undertaken with all residual actions already completed.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. There is already a single central record of recruitment checks in place. This includes staff, supply staff, all those responsible for governance and staff from the MAT who will visit the school regularly. The staff responsible for maintaining this register have reflected on recent changes to the guidance and updated the record accordingly.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part. The brand-new building has already been handed over to the school ready for its formal opening in September. Classrooms are bright, airy and well lit. There is extensive outside space for play and physical education. Toilet, drinking and first-aid facilities all meet requirements. The whole building has been designed and finished to a high quality and is likely to provide pupils with a pleasant learning environment.

Part 6. Provision of information

All of the standards in this part are likely to be met. The safeguarding policy is published on the school's website along with other key policies. All other required policies are available to parents on request. The majority of the school's policies will be shared with King's Academy Binfield, ensuring consistency between the MAT's local schools.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The standards in this part are likely to be met. The complaints policy is straightforward and accessible to parents. There are both informal and formal stages identified in the complaints policy and suitable arrangements are in place to support and guide complainants through the process.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The MAT and executive headteacher have had the experience of opening the nearby King's Academy Binfield. The leadership team will work across both the new school at Oakwood and King's Academy Binfield. The team has recently been bolstered through the appointment of a new head of primary schools. There are well-considered procedures within the school, locality and MAT to hold leaders to account. The executive headteacher and chief executive officer clearly explained the governance structure and the links between the local governing boards and the trustees.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The equalities policy outlines how the school will ensure that all members of the school's community with protected characteristics will be treated fairly. The new school building is accessible to all.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All of the statutory requirements are likely to be met. Leaders have appointed teaching staff with extensive early years experience and expertise. A full audit of how the setting will meet all statutory requirements has been carried out.

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