

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

School name	Kingfisher CE Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	866/2017
Unique reference number (URN)	143673
Inspection number	10189049
Inspection dates	26/05/2021
Reporting inspector	Mark Burgess



Information about the inspection

This inspection was carried out 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](#).

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.¹

The inspector met with the chief executive officer and executive director for learning from the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT) and the headteacher of the new school. He also had a meeting with a director of the trust. The inspector toured the school building, scrutinised school policies and reviewed information available on the school website.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	420
Age range	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Kingfisher CE Academy is planned to open in September 2021. It shares a site with The Deanery CE Academy, a secondary school also run by DBAT. The schools are based on the Wichelstowe housing development in Swindon where over 4,000 new homes are being built. DBAT is a multi-academy trust that comprises 13 other primary schools and one secondary school.

The school building is complete, furnished and ready to open. Initially, there will be a Nursery and Reception class. Over time, the school will increase to 420 pupils.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens.
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¹ Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders have a clear vision for the new school to be an inclusive establishment. Teachers will use a published scheme of work, adapted to meet the needs of the local pupils. The school's behaviour policy is grounded in the principle of restorative justice. This will help pupils understand the consequences of their actions and take responsibility for the way they treat others. Leaders have thought carefully about the resources used in the school to ensure that they represent a range of cultures and avoid stereotypes.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All required policies are in place. Leaders are clear about how they intend to monitor the implementation of these policies. Their experience at other schools within the trust will underpin this approach. Regular staff training will be at the heart of the school's approach to creating a culture of safeguarding. Appropriate behaviour and bullying policies are in place, based on restorative justice principles. All staff will be trained to implement this approach to behaviour management.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The trust has a well-established and suitable safer recruitment process in place. The trust already operates a single central record that meets current requirements. Leaders do not intend to use supply staff.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The new building is complete, furnished to a high standard and ready to open. The building will meet all current requirements, including provision for first-aid, toileting and medical facilities. The building includes a room equipped with a hoist should any pupils have significant special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is light and airy, providing an attractive site for pupils' education. There are plentiful outside spaces, with a variety of surfaces for pupils to use.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. School policies and procedures are based on those already in place elsewhere in the trust. Leaders have tailored them to match the circumstances of the new school. A live website already provides prospective pupils and their parents with useful initial information about the school. An updated version of this website is near completion. Leaders are clear

about the information that they are required to publish, including reporting to parents.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The complaints policy is clear. It contains all the necessary steps and timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The trust has experience of running 13 other primary schools, as well as experience of opening the adjacent secondary school. Leaders have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. They have drawn on expertise and knowledge within the trust to ensure that all standards are likely to be met. Policies and procedures are of a high quality and will promote pupils' welfare, health and safety. The new headteacher is an experienced school leader. Established procedures within the trust will support her.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The school's policies emphasise being welcoming and supportive of all pupils regardless of background, gender or ability. The building is designed to be accessible for anyone with additional needs.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will initially open a Reception and Nursery class. Staff appointed are suitably qualified and experienced.

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