

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

School name	Green Park Village Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	870/2039
Unique reference number (URN)	147868
Inspection number	10148484
Inspection dates	01/06/2020
Reporting inspector	Andrew Hemmings



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 2008.¹

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 inspection was carried out during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. As a result, we could not visit the school site or meet with the proposer in person. The inspector held face-to-face discussions over the internet with the headteacher, the chief executive officer (CEO) of the trust, the proposed chair of the transition board and other trust leaders. The inspector viewed a virtual tour and reviewed architects' plans of the permanent school site, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. Using the available information, the inspector is able to give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards.

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

Green Park Village Primary Academy aims to provide education for a new housing development in Reading. It will open in new, purpose-built accommodation in September 2020. The school intends to initially offer 60 Reception places, taking an additional 60 pupils in Reception each year as the school grows. The school plans to open a Nursery after 12 months of operation with 26 full-time equivalent places.

Green Park Village Primary Academy will be part of the REAch2 Academy Trust. The trust will oversee the work of the school through a transition board and a local

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.

'cluster' of schools. From January 2021, the trust intends to move from a transition board to a local governing body.

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 students

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards for this part. It has clearly defined plans that show how different aspects of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be promoted. Leaders have determined that many of these aspects of pupils' education will be delivered through regularly timetabled lessons. The proposed curriculum will provide structure to what is to be taught, ensuring that pupils learn what leaders intend. Lessons will be underpinned by extra-curricular activities, trips, visiting speakers, leadership opportunities and assemblies.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Appropriate safeguarding, health and safety, and risk assessment policies are in place. These are understood well by school and trust leaders. Trust-wide procedures to support leaders in securing the welfare, health and safety of pupils are established. Proposed staffing levels are suitable to meet the needs of the pupils, including the proportion of staff who will be trained to administer first aid.

The proposed school has invested in an electronic system to maintain admissions and attendance registers. This is due to be operational before the school opens. The chosen system is already in use elsewhere in the trust.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Appropriate checks have been made on the staff who have been appointed to the school. Checks have already been made on trustees. These are recorded on the existing trust-wide single central register of staffing and recruitment checks. Leaders intend to carry out and record checks that have not yet been done, such as those on supply staff, in line with the requirements of this part.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations for this part. The purpose-built accommodation has well-lit classrooms, effective acoustics and appropriate provision of toilet and welfare facilities. There is suitable outdoor space for pupils' free time and for outside teaching.

Leaders have firm plans in place to ensure that the building is fully ready for occupation, such as by labelling drinking water and carrying out an updated fire risk assessment. These plans show that the school will be operational once they take possession of the site.

Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Leaders have a suitable template in place for reports to parents. The website contains information that should be made available to parents. Links are in place to show when information that is not yet available will be published, such as information about the academic performance of pupils. Other information, such as use of funding information, will be available as appropriate.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements of this part. The school has a comprehensive complaints policy, which details the different stage and timescales involved in making a complaint. The policy clearly shows the processes that people making a complaint should expect to be followed.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements of this part. The headteacher is well supported by an established trust. The trust runs 59 primary schools nationally and is expanding, including by opening Green Park Village Academy. Leaders demonstrate a secure understanding of the requirements to open and run a school successfully. They have the knowledge and skills to ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. The accessibility policy clearly states the aims of the accessibility plan and how the plan will be monitored. The plan sets out targets for achieving these aims alongside strategies for doing so.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the statutory requirements for the early years. The school has appointed an appropriately qualified person to lead the early years. The school will open with more staff than the required minimum to ensure adequate staff-to-pupil ratios. Class sizes will initially be smaller than 30, and will not exceed 30 as the school grows. Staff will be trained and line management arrangements are in place. Suitable indoor and outdoor space is provided.

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