

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

School name	Bullers Wood School for Boys
DfE registration number	4005
Unique reference number (URN)	145868
Inspection number	10053895
Inspection dates	19 June 2018
Reporting inspector	David Storrie 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

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	900
Age range	11-16
Gender of pupils	Boys
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new school is a secondary school for boys within the Bullers Wood Multi-Academy Trust. It is envisaged that Bullers Wood School for Boys will open in September 2018. It is the intention that the school will initially be housed in temporary accommodation at 1 Westmoreland Road, Bromley, BR2 0TB. The plan is for school to open with 180 pupils and grow annually to a maximum capacity of 900 boys. The school is currently working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to finalise plans for accommodation from September 2019 onwards.

Bullers Wood Multi Academy Trust already run Bullers Wood School. This is a girls' school that is located near to the proposed school for boys. The intention is that the new school for boys school will benefit from shared facilities, such as the sports field. The trust has plans in place to share expertise across both schools, with the aim on ensuring a consistently high-quality education for both girls and boys.

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, provided that it addresses the regulations noted in the tables set out in part 5.
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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 the regulations in relation to this part. Evidence shows that leaders have planned carefully to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. For example, leaders have developed their curriculum to enhance pupils' tolerance, understanding of equality, democracy and the rule of law. They have considered key institutions in Britain, such as the court system. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education are placed at the core of the school's plans to develop pupils' ability to transition successfully to their next stage of education, employment or training. Leaders are developing a careers strategy which will be honed to meet the needs of pupils as the school grows.

Part 3. Welfare, Health and Safety of Pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations. Suitable and detailed policies are in place to ensure that health, safety, (including fire safety), the management of behaviour, supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with statutory guidance. Senior leaders have already organised for a fire risk assessment to be conducted prior to the initial building work being completed in August 2018. The school's anti-bullying policy is explicit in how leaders and staff will address issues if they arise.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations. The single central record is already in place. Staff appointed to date have had the required statutory checks completed prior to appointment. Suitable arrangements are in place to check the suitability of supply staff prior to them undertaking work in the school. Required checks have also been carried out on leaders, members of the local governing body and trustees of the multi academy trust.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. There is a clear schedule to ensure the temporary school accommodation. The accommodation has previously been used as temporary accommodation for a new free school. Work is being conducted to ensure it meets the needs of secondary pupils and the school's curriculum. Plans indicate that the school will have suitable acoustics, lighting and hot, and cold water. The building design does not currently include a sink in the designate first aid location. This is necessary to ensure that all aspects of the independent school

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.

standards are met. Leaders understand the need for a sink to be included in the building plan and are working to ensure this standard is met before the school opens in September 2018. The temporary accommodation has suitable outdoor space for the maximum number of pupils the school can educate. The school plans to use Bullers Wood School’s playing fields for physical education (PE). This is a short walk from the temporary accommodation and will meet the needs of the school’s PE curriculum.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure the designated first aid area has a sink	24(1), 24(1)(b)
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Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All required policies are in place and available on the school’s website. The safeguarding policy is in line with the most recent statutory guidance from the Secretary of State. Leaders are aware of the key changes to this guidance for September 2018 and know that this policy will need to be reviewed and updated prior to its implementation. The school’s website is accessible and contains most policies and all those required in the regulations. Leaders are updating the website regularly as the school’s opening date draws closer. Plans show this is likely to ensure the school continues to meet the required regulations.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The complaints policy is comprehensive and available on the school’s website and provides the necessary steps and timeframes for handling complaints. Copies can be made available on request to parents. The policy also provides a clear process for other members of the community to complain to school leaders.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. The trust, chair of governors and school leaders, have an ambitious vision to expand education choice in this part of south London. They have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements and how they will continue to meet the independent school standards over time. The evidence scrutinised by the inspector shows that high quality policies and effective procedures are likely to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Plans are in place to ensure the accommodation is ready is on time for the first cohort of pupils.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all requirements. Leaders have used their existing practice to develop the new provision’s policy for equalities. Leaders demonstrate an understanding of the need to ensure equality for different groups and overcome potential discrimination. Leaders have embedded equalities into the school’s other policies. Consequently, leaders are working to ensure equalities are considered in all

the school's work with pupils and families. The buildings are being designed to meet the needs of all pupils and staff, regardless of their individual needs.

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