

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

School name	Shireland Technology Primary School
DfE registration number	2021
Unique reference number (URN)	147191
Inspection number	10103218
Inspection dates	06/06/2019 to 06/06/2019
Reporting inspector	Bianka Zemke 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 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 temporary school building and the site where the new school will be situated, scrutinised information that the trust had sent to the Department for Education and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. She held discussions with the members of the trust's executive team, including the chief executive officer and the headteacher and deputy headteacher of the proposed new school.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	445, initially 90 in September 2019
Age range	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a primary free school, a part of the Shireland Collegiate Multi-Academy Trust. Shireland Technology Primary will temporarily be located on the trust's main school site in a separate building to the main school. Construction of a new purpose-built primary school on the same site is set to start in the next few weeks. The temporary premises are currently in the final stages of completion and due to be finished in July 2019. The primary school will occupy the ground floor, and the first and second floors of the building will be used by Shireland Collegiate Academy for their Year 7 provision.

The school will open in September 2019. In the first year, there will be two Reception classes and one Year 1 class in the school. The temporary premises are appropriate to accommodate the 90 pupils for the first year. The new, permanent premises are set to be completed in June 2020. Construction plans seen show a bright, modern and inviting learning environment for children and pupils with ample

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.

outside space for play and physical education. The school when full will cater for 445 pupils.

The Shireland Collegiate Multi-Academy Trust has already successfully designed and delivered a number of secondary and primary academies. As part of the Trust, the new school will have access to a range existing of policies, procedures, facilities and support.

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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Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

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

The school's policies reflect its core values and are strongly underpinned by the principles of 'excite, explore and excel', which include learning through play, recognising right from wrong, high aspirations and respect. Through this approach, there should be ample opportunities for children to build mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and traditions. A very clear policy promotes British values. Leaders have planned well for provision in this aspect.

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below. The safeguarding policy is comprehensive, making due reference to the latest guidance from the Secretary of State. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies are sufficiently clear and detailed. They show who is responsible for dealing with issues, how staff can escalate concerns and how pupils will be supported. The behaviour policy contains a range of sanctions which refer to the use of 'detentions' to address behaviours.

There is a written risk assessment policy in place and, as a result, agreed strategy for ensuring that appropriate action is identified and taken to reduce risks. Leaders understand the risks associated with the temporary site being shared with other users.

The school's first-aid policy is in place and follows the trust's protocol. However, it does not make sufficient reference to paediatric first aid and needs adapting further to ensure that it is specific to the needs of a school with early years provision.

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

Ensure that the school's first-aid policy includes reference to paediatric first aid and school (primary school) specific issues, needs and priorities.	13
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Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The single central record is already in place. This provides details of the required checks made on staff and governors. Strong systems are in place to undertake these checks for new employees.

The school is likely to meet all of the standards in this part.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school will benefit from a purpose-built new building which is due to be completed in June 2020. The school building is to be located in an attractive open space, creating the potential for ample opportunities to use outside spaces.

Until the premises are completed, the school will be in temporary accommodation in a new building that is currently being finished. The school will occupy the ground floor of that building entirely. The temporary building meets all current requirements of the independent school standards including, for example, provision for first-aid, toileting and medical facilities.

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part.

Part 6. Provision of information

All the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website is in the course of being completed, it is intended that the most recent policies and information will be included. Copies of these policies will also be made available on request.

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The complaints policy is to be made available on the school's website. On induction, parents will be advised that paper copies are also available via the parents' handbook. Leaders have already drafted the parents' handbook, which mentions the complaints policy. They have also designed and populated their new website, making it clear that the complaints policy will be made available. The complaints policy meets all current requirements. It is clearly written and provides reasonable timeframes within which complaints will be handled.

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The Trust already has experience of opening and running a number of academies. They have a very secure understanding of the independent school standards having already fulfilled them successfully. School leaders are likely to benefit from a range of ongoing support, robust procedures and clear policies. Leaders intend to resolve immediately the issue around the first-aid policy and paediatric first aid.

Leaders have established high-quality policies that have the potential to provide strongly for the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Leaders are also clear about how they will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and they have the necessary skills and knowledge to do this. The ongoing support from the trust for the school's leaders is a clear strength.

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities identifies groups. It is clear about how to support each group of pupils protected by the act and monitor impact. Plans for the new permanent building show that features such as lifts and adaptations are included. The school's accessibility plan is detailed and highlights clearly how any barriers are to be overcome.

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 with a Reception group, and staff have been appointed who are suitably qualified and experienced. Detailed policies are in place that connect well with other whole-school policies and meet current requirements.

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