

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

School name	Laurus Cheadle Hulme
DfE registration number	4005
Unique reference number (URN)	145893
Inspection number	10053867
Inspection dates	23 May 2018
Reporting inspector	Ahmed Marikar



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 school site, reviewed the architect's plans for the accommodation, scrutinised information available on the school website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. The inspector held discussions with the head of school, chief executive officer of the Laurus Trust, building site manager and project manager from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1050. Initially 210 in September 2018
Age range	11-16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is an 11-16 secondary school within the Laurus Trust. Laurus Cheadle Hulme will be located on a new site.

Laurus Cheadle Hulme will open in September 2018. The school is due to welcome 210 Year 7 pupils in September 2018. The school will initially be located in the new purpose built accommodation of Cheadle Hulme Primary School, which is also part of the Laurus Trust and is scheduled to open in September 2018. The plan is to relocate Laurus Cheadle Hulme into a new state-of-the-art building on the same site in March 2019. The final capacity for the school will be 1050.

There are a number of schools within the Laurus Trust, including Cheadle Hulme High School which is a successful and outstanding 11-18 secondary school. As part of the trust, Laurus Cheadle Hulme will have access to a range of high-quality facilities and expertise, both in leadership and teaching.

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 independent school standards when it opens
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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 of the regulations in relation to this part. Evidence in the school's policies are explicit about how core values are incorporated. The school's 'values and beliefs' curriculum promotes the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural skills, knowledge and understanding. Through this approach, there are ample opportunities for pupils to build understanding and skills in mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and traditions. A discrete policy on the promotion of British values is in place.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. A comprehensive range of policies is in place. These and other evidence considered on inspection, indicate that health, safety, behaviour, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding, will be secure and comply with guidance. The trust has experienced staff to assist in keeping pupils safe. Although the fire-safety order cannot be issued until the site is ready, it is scheduled to take place as soon as possible after building completion and before pupils arrive.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is already in place. This details the required checks made, by whom and when, and these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors. Leaders have prepared a comprehensive set of policies relating to the safeguarding of the school's pupils, including a staff code of conduct. Several leaders and governors have undertaken additional training to ensure the safety of the school's pupils.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The buildings supplied will meet all current requirements including, for example, provision for first aid, medical facilities, toileting and outdoor recreational areas. The school building is planned to allow classrooms to be bright and airy. Leaders are committed to continuing to secure high quality provision which meets all necessary regulations.

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.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All the required policies, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy, are in place and available to parents via the website. Policies are clear, detailed and provide comprehensive information for pupils and parents. The safeguarding policy reflects latest guidance and meets requirements. All policies can be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive and sets out clear steps for each stage of the procedure. Due attention is paid to appropriate timelines for responses to complaints. The policy is available to parents via the school's website. Copies can be made available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. Leaders have a proven track record in running an outstanding secondary school and will bring with them a wealth of expertise and local knowledge. They have a crystal clear vision for Laurus Cheadle Hulme and high expectations for all pupils. Leaders have established a comprehensive suite of policies which provide 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.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities recognises and outlines support for a range of groups. Plans for the new buildings show that features such as lifts and adaptations are included. The school has an accessibility plan which will be reviewed again before pupils arrive. Equality of opportunity is at the heart of the values of the school.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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