

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

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School name	Poplar Farm School
DfE registration number	2048
Unique reference number (URN)	145902
Inspection number	10053883
Inspection dates	24 July 2018
Reporting inspector	Peter Stonier 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

The inspector undertook a tour of the school with the headteacher. He scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of documents, policies and proposed procedures. He held discussions with the headteacher and chief executive of the Community Inclusive Trust.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as an academy for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	420. Initially 48 in September 2018.
<b>Age range</b>	4-11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	NA

## Context of the school

Poplar Farm School is a new build free school situated in Grantham. It is due to open in September 2018 on the new Buckminster housing estate to the west of the town of Grantham. Poplar Farm School is part of the Community Inclusive Trust.

Poplar Farm School will open in September 2018 with 48 children in the early years foundation stage. The school plans to admit early years children in subsequent years rising to 420 pupils by 2024 when there will be pupils in all year groups from early years to Year 6.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens
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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukqi/2014/3283/schedule/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukqi/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 2014<sup>3</sup>**

### **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. The school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum contains frequent opportunities for pupils to learn and experience faiths and cultures that are different to their own. There are also opportunities for pupils to learn about 'people who help us' and British values such as the rule of law, democracy, mutual respect and tolerance. The headteacher plans to link with other schools in the trust to enable pupils to understand equality and at the same time celebrate differences. There are opportunities for pupils to learn how to keep themselves safe, with planned visits from the local police and fire services.

### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The school's safeguarding policy includes relevant and up-to-date government guidance. It states clearly the school's procedures should an adult have a concern regarding the welfare of a pupil or family. The designated safeguarding leads have received appropriate safeguarding training in, for example, the 'Prevent' duty, spotting the signs of child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation. Other adults will be trained in these areas during staff training days before the school opens. Policies for health and safety, anti-bullying, first aid and risk assessment are appropriate and in place. The behaviour management policy contains age appropriate rewards and sanctions. A fire risk assessment has been undertaken by Lincolnshire Fire Service and there are procedures and policies in place to practise evacuation drills and to test weekly fire call points and the sprinkler system. The school therefore complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. All relevant checks have been made on staff prior to them starting employment at the school. This includes the section 128 check for persons with management responsibilities at the school and the trust. It is clear when the employment checks were made and by whom. Safer recruitment practices have been followed. The single central record meets current requirements.

### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Classrooms are appropriate in terms of size, acoustics and lighting. There are appropriate toilet and washing facilities and a medical room for the short-term treatment of ill or

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<sup>3</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3283/contents/made](http://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.

injured pupils. Outdoor provision for pupils to play and exercise is plentiful with two playgrounds and a large field.

## **Part 6. Provision of information**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. All the required policies including the safeguarding policy are available to parents and carers. These policies can be downloaded from the school and Community Inclusive Trust websites.

## **Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. The complaints policy is detailed and meets requirements. All the necessary steps to deal with complaints are set out. For example, there are time scales at the relevant stages and clear procedures are in place should a complaint reach the formal stage and therefore require a panel hearing. The school has a log book to record complaints.

## **Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. The experienced headteacher demonstrates appropriate skills and knowledge for the role. For example, she has planned an interactive outdoor area for the early years children to explore and learn in. Currently, the trust successfully runs ten schools in Lincolnshire. The headteacher is held to account by a director of education who in turn is held to account by the chief executive of the trust. The chief executive is held to account by the trust board. A local governing body undertakes various monitoring roles including making health and safety checks and checks on the standard of pupils' work and behaviour. The trust is clear about how it will monitor the school to ensure the school will consistently meet the independent school standards.

## **Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The Trust ensures that the school's equality and diversity policy includes all the protected characteristics set out in the Equality act 2010. The headteacher is well aware of her duty to promote equality. For example, there is a lift, specialist toilets and ramps around the school for any prospective wheelchair users.

## **Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. The indoor and outdoor environments are appropriate and are likely to meet the requirements of the foundation stage curriculum. Staff have received paediatric first aid training and are therefore well placed to ensure the children are safe. There are plans in place for the secure handover of children at the start and end of the day.

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