

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	Concordia Academy
DfE registration number	311/2031
Unique reference number (URN)	142885
Inspection number	10020240
Inspection dates	04/07/2016 to 05/07/2016
Reporting inspector	Martin Roberts



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

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	630. Initially 30 Reception children in 2016
Age range	4 to 11. Initially 4 to 5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Concordia Academy will be a free primary school situated in Hornchurch, in the London Borough of Havering. The school will initially be housed in temporary accommodation provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on the site of an existing school. This new provision will open in September 2016 with capacity for 30 Reception-aged children.

The school will eventually be housed in a new building nearby. Plans for the construction of this are well advanced. With capacity for 630 pupils, this facility is due to open in September 2017.

The provider, Reach2 Academies Trust, aims to provide schools with a broad and engaging curriculum which encourages children to become life-long learners.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

² <http://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 relevant independent school standards when it opens
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Recommended age range	4 to 11
Recommended gender of pupils	Mixed

Explanation of inspector's recommendations where they vary to the school's application

The EFA has been closely involved with the development of plans for the new school premises. The DfE will therefore be aware that there is not a generous allocation of outside space at the new build site.

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 on the website and in associated policies shows that the creation of a nurturing community is likely, with an emphasis on personal development, building collaboration and cooperation. There are ample opportunities for children to develop skills in mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and traditions. Hornchurch itself is a richly multi-cultural area and there are plans to use this resource. Clear policies promote British values.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. Policies and other evidence indicates that health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with guidance. There is considerable detail included with specified practices and procedures along with auditing arrangements. For example, the school's anti-bullying policy is detailed and includes relevant strategies for addressing any related issues. The provider has been careful to ensure that their policies and practices reflect those of their host school in the first year.

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. The required checks are made and recorded on the system, including for governors and those staff who have worked abroad.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will initially consist of temporary accommodation on the site of an existing school and the school has identified many opportunities to share facilities. The buildings supplied will meet all current requirements including provision of for example, first aid, toileting and medical facilities. The plans for the new permanent building are well advanced and show details of high-quality provision in all requirements.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/si/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 of the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The school website is in the process of being updated with the most recent policies and information. Policies are 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 and procedures are robust and contain the clear steps and timelines for the handling of complaints, including details of how to complain to the Department for Education (DfE).

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The Trust has a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. For example, in the provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, and in creating a culture of strong support for equality having already fulfilled them successfully for other schools

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. Detailed policies are in place and are cross-referenced throughout the policy documentation. The provider is careful to specify the identified groups and how they will be supported. They indicate how these groups will be monitored so that their progress matches those of their peers. Plans for the new building include a lift.

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 as a Reception class. Staff have been appointed who are suitably qualified and experienced. Detailed policies are in place which connect well with other whole-school policies, for example in provision of information and safeguarding practice.

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