

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

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School name	Buckton Fields Primary School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	941/2247
Unique reference number (URN)	148569
Inspection number	10189042
Inspection dates	17/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Helen Williams

## Information about the inspection

This inspection was carried out 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](#).

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>1</sup>

The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation related to the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards and spoke to the chief executive officer of the trust, the executive headteacher, the headteacher and the chair of the trust board. The inspector toured the school site and discussed plans for the proposed school.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	420
<b>Age range</b>	4 to 11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

This new provision is a primary school within the Preston Hedge's Academy Trust. Buckton Fields Primary School will be located on the new housing development of Buckton Fields, on the edge of Northampton.

The school will open in September 2021. The school will initially open for 60 Reception pupils. Pupil numbers will rise by 60 each year until there are pupils in all year groups, from Reception to Year 6. Once the school is open for all year groups, the final capacity of the school will be 420.

The Preston Hedge's Academy Trust is a well-established trust in Northamptonshire. It has already successfully opened another primary school, as well as successfully supported and improved schools that have joined the trust. As part of the trust, the new primary school will have access to significant expertise and experience in primary education.

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<sup>1</sup> Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the relevant 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 is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's core values of respect and tolerance, responsibility, self-belief, kindness and determination will underpin the curriculum. Leaders have set out how they will support and develop pupils' well-being to build character, resilience and perseverance. Pupils will have opportunities to contribute to the school and to the local community, including through working on the school's allotment and with the local farm shop. Pupils will learn about different cultures and beliefs through the curriculum and by celebrating important religious festivals. There is a very strong rationale for developing pupils' awareness of British values. The development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a trust-wide priority.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. Policies are already in place. These and other evidence indicate that health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with relevant guidance. The trust's procedures for checking that the school's policies are being enacted are already in place. The school's anti-bullying policy is detailed and includes relevant strategies for addressing any issues.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The single central record is already in place. This shows when the required checks were made and by whom. Trust-wide policies set out how and when the single central record will be checked to make sure it is compliant.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school building is well designed to meet the needs of 420 pupils. Situated overlooking countryside, there is ample outside space with a playground, a playing field and basketball court. The building will meet all the current requirements, including provision for two first-aid rooms, appropriate toilets, acoustics and lighting.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school's website is already live and includes relevant information, such as the school's admissions criteria, anti-bullying policy, curriculum information and safeguarding policy. All the required policies are already in place. If they are not currently on the school's website, they are available on request.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The school's complaints policy is comprehensive. It clearly sets out all the necessary information, including the different stages and timescales of the school's procedures.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The trust already has experience of opening and running local primary schools. Trust leaders know and understand the requirements and have implemented these successfully when opening a primary school previously. They have a track record of running successful schools across the trust. Leaders have set out their expectations in their policies. These include for the welfare, health and safety of pupils, and for safeguarding. Leaders have the knowledge and experience to implement and monitor these policies effectively and ensure that they are enacted appropriately. Leadership at the school and across the trust is strong.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. The school's accessibility plan and other policies set out how they will support different pupil groups. Leaders have considered how the curriculum can be adapted to support pupils' needs. The school building has a lift and adaptations to allow access.

## **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 two Reception classes. The staff appointed 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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