

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

School name	Akaal Primary School
DfE registration number	831/2014
Unique reference number (URN)	142109
Inspection number	464431
Inspection dates	10 July 2015
Reporting inspector	David Carter

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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

Context of the school

- The proposed Akaal Free School will be located in purpose-built new premises adjacent to the National Sikh Museum and the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara Temple in the Pear Tree area of Derby.
- Initially, there are two temporary buildings: one is an administration block; and the other a classroom block for four classes. The buildings are pre-made but have not yet been placed on the site. The plans clearly show that there is sufficient space for play and recreation, including an outdoor area for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The buildings are due to be in place for 28 August 2015.
- The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 420 boys and girls in the age range of four to 11 years. The free school will open in September 2015 and admit pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1. There are 56 pupils registered for enrolment at present, with scope for up to 120 pupils in the first year of opening. None of these pupils has special educational needs. The proprietor has made it clear in the admission policy that the school will admit pupils from different faiths and backgrounds.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	420
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	mixed
Type of special educational needs	n/a

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

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014²

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

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, although implementation could not be seen.
- The personal, health and social education curriculum is clearly planned to show how fundamental British values will be promoted through a range of activities. These include extra-curricular activities such as choir, art and dance as well as mini-topics which focus upon aspects such as democracy and respect for the rule of law. In addition, each half-termly topic has activities that have been identified, across a range of subjects, which show how the school intends to ensure that British values will be promoted. Pupils will learn about the workings of civil law and English public services and institutions. The school intends to follow the locally agreed syllabus for religious education; pupils will have opportunities to learn about the beliefs and practices of those from different religions. Hence, there are clear plans in place for pupils to develop tolerance and respect for others who hold different beliefs or faiths to their own. The daily act of worship will focus upon the beliefs of a wide variety of faiths.
- The behaviour policy emphasises how pupils will be taught the difference between 'right and wrong', with a clear set of rewards and sanctions cited to support pupils in choosing appropriate behaviours. The policy emphasises the need for high standards of conduct and dovetails with the detail set out in the anti-bullying policy which explains how different types of bullying will be dealt with.
- Staff will be provided with training to help them know how to prevent radicalisation and extremism. The school does not promote any particular political or religious views to pupils; a balanced presentation of viewpoints will be offered to pupils.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The free school is likely to meet all the regulations, although the implementation of policies could not be seen in full.
- The free school has a detailed policy in place to safeguard pupils when undertaking educational visits, including residential trips. The policy sets out clear information relating to supervision of pupils, risk assessments of

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.

activities and the roles and responsibilities of adults during the visits. The free school has a suitably detailed health and safety policy to ensure that pupils are likely to be safe while attending the school. The policy includes guidance to staff on how to report accidents. Staff are all due to be trained in first aid, including paediatric first aid, prior to the school opening in September 2015. A full fire risk assessment has been booked for 28 August 2015 when the buildings will be in place. Arrangements for evacuation in the event of fire are clearly set out in the health and safety policy. The school has drawn up appropriate and suitable policies to promote positive behaviour and to prevent bullying. Suitable attendance and admission registers are ready for use.

- The headteacher has undertaken training as the designated lead for safeguarding pupils' welfare and safety. Training on safeguarding and child protection is planned for other staff prior to the free school opening, as part of their induction.

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

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations.
- A suitable single central register is in place and includes all the relevant details of the five members of staff who have been appointed so far. These checks include: enhanced disclosures from the disclosure and barring service; checks against the children's barred list; checks on identify and checks on the right to work in the United Kingdom. The free school has made all the relevant checks on the suitability of the proprietor and governors. The free school is not planning on using supply staff; however, it is aware of the systems that need to be in place if it does so.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, although implementation could not be seen in full.
- The school will initially comprise of two prefabricated buildings: one is an administration block; and the other a two-storey classroom build. The contractor is experienced in managing educational projects and the buildings are on track to be fully compliant with all relevant standards. This includes: a suitable medical room; labelled sources of drinking water; and labelled and regulated sources of hot water. The site will have external lighting attached to the buildings. The buildings and the play areas are of sufficient size to meet the needs of the initial numbers of pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Year 1. The school is also planning to use a large hall in the Gurdwara for school lunches, as well as for assemblies and physical education lessons. In addition, the school is planning to hire the sports hall that is near the site for when pupils undertake physical education lessons that require more space. The school aims to commence construction of permanent accommodation during its first year of opening on a strip of land that is adjacent to the temporary accommodation. Outline plans were made available

for scrutiny; these appear likely to meet all requirements. During construction, plans are in place to secure the health and safety of parents, staff and pupils.

- The current site has appropriate security fencing and access to the building is through a secure reception area. The site has sufficient parking facilities for the use of parents and staff.

Part 6. Provision of information

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations.
- The prospectus contains details of the proprietor as well as senior leaders, including who to contact if there are issues related to safeguarding. The school website provides all the required information for prospective parents. The free school's policies, including those for safeguarding and child protection, behaviour and anti-bullying are all placed on the website. Senior leaders have already undertaken home visits and visits to nurseries, to ensure that children have a smooth transition into the school. Senior leaders have clear plans for how they will assess and record pupils' achievements, with an annual report to be sent home to parents and carers. Leaders are aware of the need to provide the local authority and others with information as required, to enable them to meet their statutory obligations.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations.
- The complaints policy is detailed and covers all of the relevant aspects as set out in the regulations.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- The school is likely to meet all of the regulations.
- The proprietor and the headteacher have established systems and procedures to ensure that all the standards are likely to be met and pupils' wellbeing assured. They have a clear vision of what they want to achieve and are driven by a clear purpose of providing an education for Sikh and non-Sikh pupils in the local community that promotes a set of core virtues. These include: courage; justice; honesty; compassion; self-discipline; gratitude; humility; contentment; service; resilience; determination; and creativity.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The proprietor and senior leaders have a clear understanding of how to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The free school's equal opportunities policy and accompanying disability discrimination policy, sets

out how the school intends to promote the individuality of children irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, gender, background or disability and provide them with an equal chance of succeeding in their education. The site enables full access to disabled pupils, parents and staff.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

- The school is likely to meet all of the requirements, although implementation could not be seen.
- The headteacher is a specialist in early years education. The planned curriculum is based around four principles: the unique child; developing positive relationships; enabling environments and ensuring that children can explore and learn securely and safely. The curriculum is planned against the prime and specific areas of learning as set out in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Clear systems are in place to assess children’s progress against the early learning goals and they set out how parents will be involved in contributing to the assessment of their child’s development through the use of learning journeys. Senior leaders plan to draw upon the expertise within the George Spencer Teaching School Alliance to check that their assessments are accurate.

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 number of day pupils	420
Recommended age range	4 to 11
Recommended gender of pupils	mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs	n/a