

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

School name	Newquay Primary Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	908/2050
Unique reference number (URN)	148581
Inspection number	10189038
Inspection dates	16/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Mark Burgess

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.¹

The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation related to the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards and spoke to the executive headteacher, trust lead, deputy trust lead, project manager and estates manager. The inspector was not able to visit the school site because building works were not at a stage where it was possible to do so.

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	Not applicable

Context of the school

Newquay Primary Academy will be a newly built school in Newquay, Cornwall. The academy will be part of the Cornwall Education Learning Trust. The trust comprises nine other primary schools and four secondary schools.

The new school will share a site with Newquay Tretherras School, a secondary school within the trust. The building is not yet complete. The original plan was for the school building to be finished before September 2021. However, problems encountered by the contractors led to the proposal that the Reception classrooms would be ready for occupation in September 2021 while the contractors finished the rest of the school. However, further delays have resulted in the decision to use a temporary building on the school site for the Reception class in September, with the building being completed by January 2022. The final capacity of the school will be 420 pupils.

¹ 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

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens, provided that it addresses the regulations noted in the tables set out in parts 3 and 5.
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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. It will adopt policies and practice established in other trust schools. Leaders have placed a strong emphasis on their aims for an inclusive school. They have considered how they will teach pupils about the protected characteristics, including through resources and books chosen to champion equality.

The executive headteacher regularly assesses the effectiveness of provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development at the trust's junior school and strengthens this aspect of the curriculum where needed. The executive headteacher plans to take the same approach at the new school.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. School policies provide evidence that the school is likely to comply with the relevant guidance. The trust has a range of policies that are well prepared and robust. Leaders of the school and trust will monitor the impact of these policies.

The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy. In addition, the school's behaviour and preventing bullying policies demonstrate suitable strategies for addressing any issues.

However, given the recent decision to use temporary accommodation in September 2021, leaders have not yet had the opportunity to write a fire evacuation plan for this building or draw up plans for safe access.

Leaders understand the need for an evacuation plan and had prepared a plan for the Reception classrooms in the new building. Leaders have identified the risks associated with accessing the temporary classroom but have not yet written a plan to reduce the risks and ensure safe access for pupils and parents.

To meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that a fire evacuation plan is written for the temporary classroom	paragraph 12
ensure that suitable risk assessments are drawn up for the safe arrival and departure of pupils and parents.	paragraph 16(b)

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 maintained by the trust and is already in place. Leaders' policies and

procedures for checking the suitability of all adults at the school are fit for purpose and meet the latest guidance. Trustees ensure that all of the required background checks are carried out and recorded effectively.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. However, the level of assurance is lower than that for other paragraphs. The inspector could not visit the school site. Leaders provided detailed plans demonstrating that the completed building is likely to meet the requirements of this part. However, due to the new school's construction problems, which have significantly delayed the building work, the new school will not be ready for occupation in September 2021. Previously, leaders had been told that the Reception classroom would be available in September 2021, but it is now clear that this will not be the case.

Leaders now plan to use a temporary building when the school opens in September. They have given consideration to ensuring that this temporary building meets requirements. However, at the time of the inspection, leaders had not finalised plans to provide outdoor space for physical education and play. Instead, leaders showed the inspector plans for the original adaptation of the site. In these plans, leaders had made provision for outdoor space. This demonstrates the capacity of leaders to successfully address the outstanding issues before pupils start at the school in September 2021.

To meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that suitable outdoor space is provided in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum and for pupils to play outside.	paragraphs 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)
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Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Although the school is yet to open, the school's website is very informative. All of the required policies, including safeguarding, admissions, the curriculum, behaviour and complaints, are in place and easily accessible.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school will use the trust's complaints policy. The complaints policy provides clear guidance for parents on what they can do if they are not satisfied with an aspect of the school's work. This includes the provision for a concern to be raised informally as well as suitable formal stages. Appropriate protocols are in place for maintaining records of complaints, including the outcome and any action taken by the school in response. Leaders intend to make sure that the complaints policy is published on the school's website and paper copies will be available on request.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The trust has experience of successfully leading several primary schools in Cornwall. Senior leaders of the school and trust have a clear vision of the school they wish to establish. The executive headteacher is an experienced practitioner in primary education. Leaders of the trust have the relevant knowledge and skills to provide strong challenge and support to the school's management. Leaders have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements and their roles and responsibilities. They have ensured that school policies provide appropriate guidance for the welfare, health and safety of pupils.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. The school is being built with access arrangements in mind for pupils who are disabled, including a lift to support access to the upper floor.

The new school's equality policy will be based on the policy from the executive headteacher's other primary school. This policy makes clear leaders' commitment to treating everyone fairly, addressing inequality where it exists and educating pupils to treat everyone equally. The policy makes reference to the protected characteristics and outlines the school's approach to meeting the requirements as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. Leaders have knowledge and experience of implementing the early years requirements in other trust schools. The design of the proposed school provides children with sufficient space for indoor and outdoor learning. Leaders have appointed experienced staff to adequately provide for the safety, health and welfare of children.

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