

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	Ark Soane Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	307/4008
Unique reference number (URN)	147863
Inspection number	10189024
Inspection dates	18/06/2021
Reporting inspector	Noeman Anwar

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 principal, principal, vice principal and representatives from the trust. The inspector toured the school site, discussed plans for the additional building work and scrutinised information on the school's website.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1,200. Initially 180 in September
Age range	11 to 18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Ark Academy Trust. The school will open in September 2021 with 180 pupils in Year 7. It will be located initially in the new phase-one block. Building work on the phase-two block is underway. It is expected to be completed by September 2022 and is located on the same site. The final capacity of the school, when all building work is completed, will be 1,200 pupils.

Ark Academy Trust has experience in running successful secondary schools. As part of the trust, the new secondary school will have access to support from the trust.

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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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.

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. Through the school's values of working hard, being kind and aiming high, leaders intend to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Leaders' ambition is to cultivate pupils who will go on to make a positive contribution to society in the future. Plans indicate that pupils will learn about British values and the rule of law, for example during assemblies and tutor times. Pupils will be encouraged to discuss and reflect on contemporary issues.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The school has detailed policies in place, including for health and safety, fire safety, behaviour, anti-bullying, risk assessments and first aid. Leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They have made arrangements to ensure that new staff will be trained at the start of term. Leaders appear to have strong links with the local authority to help them provide bespoke provision to meet the needs of the local community.

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 that all the required checks have been made on the suitability of staff and governors who are already appointed.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The school will occupy a new building. The first phase of the construction work has been completed. Facilities are designed specifically for secondary-age pupils. The school will open in September 2021 with pupils in Year 7, who will be taught in the new phase-one building. As the building is purpose-built, the toilets, medical facilities and provision for first aid are likely to meet requirements. The phase-one building does not include shower facilities. These are included in the plans for phase two and will become available on completion of the second building phase in September 2022. Building work on phase two is already underway. Plans indicate that the phase-two building will meet all relevant requirements.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All the required policies are in place and available to parents and carers, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website will be kept up to date with the most recent policies and information.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. The complaints policy is comprehensive and clearly written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints. This is available to parents on the school's website. Copies will be made 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 academy trust already has experience of opening and running many successful secondary schools. The school has appointed leaders and staff with a broad range of relevant experiences. Leaders have a strong understanding of the regulatory requirements. They have established high-quality policies. These outline the school's plans to provide for pupils' welfare, health and safety. Leaders have access to a broad range of expertise from within the academy trust to ensure that independent school standards are likely to be met consistently. Well-understood systems to check on leaders' knowledge and compliance with regulations are in place. These include regular audits of safeguarding provision within the school.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements of Schedule 10. The policy is clear about how to support each group of pupils and monitor impact. The new building and the building currently under construction include lifts and adaptations.

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