

Mill School Bury

Wellington House, Wellington Street, Bury, Greater Manchester BL8 2BD

Inspection dates

22 April 2020

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraph 2(1)–2(2)(i), 3–3(j), 4

- Leaders have appointed a team of teachers and support staff who are ready to open the school. They have provided a programme of specialist training on the best ways for teachers to meet pupils' educational and wider needs. This has included, for example, training about safeguarding risks that may affect pupils, how to support pupils with different types of special educational needs, and ways to design the school's curriculum. In addition, staff are working jointly with those from other schools to plan for effective teaching, learning and assessment of pupils.
- Rooms equipped to provide specialist therapy and intensive support for pupils have been installed. These spaces are for trampoline-based therapy, programmes designed to help pupils and their families build their resilience and emotional strength, 3-D video projection, and supporting pupils' sensory needs.
- Leaders have purchased sufficient resources to allow teaching to begin. These range from basic equipment to specialist items, for example as needed in science. They intend to further increase the school's stock of books and other resources once the needs of individual pupils are known.
- The proprietor had ensured that all but one of the standards in this part were likely to be met at the first pre-registration inspection (PRI). All the standards in this part are now likely to be met.

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

Paragraph 5–5(d)(iii)

- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7–7(b)

- The school's child protection policy is published on the school's webpage on the Kedleston Group's (KG) website. Leaders are aware of and respond to the

government's guidance on safeguarding pupils. For example, they have prepared and published an additional policy statement about safeguarding pupils during the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

- The training of newly appointed staff on safeguarding has been systematic. Three members of staff, including the headteacher, have completed additional training on safeguarding so that they are ready to take the lead in responding to any safeguarding concerns.

Paragraph 9–9(b), 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16–16(b)

- Staff training on how they can reduce the impact of any poor behaviour, including, if other strategies fail, by physical intervention, has been delayed due to the current restrictions on normal working. However, this training has already been rescheduled to take place before any pupils are admitted.
- Leaders have continued their active approach to understanding and managing the risks that pupils may face while at school. For example, a risk assessment is in place concerning trampoline-based therapy and a programme for checking the electrical safety of equipment has been established.
- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

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

Paragraph 17, 18(1)–18(3), 19(1)–19(3), 20(6)–20(6)(c), 21(1)–21(7)

- Leaders have made the required checks on the suitability of staff appointed to work at the school since the first PRI. The details of these checks have been added to the school's well-organised record.
- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 23(1)–23(1)(c), 24(1)–24(2), 25, 26, 27–27(b), 28(1), 28(1)(a)–28(2)(b), 29(1)–29(1)(b)

- The internal refurbishment of the main school building has been completed to a high standard. The accommodation has been carefully planned and equipped. It provides the facilities and environment that will help those pupils with the types of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) that the school will cater for to thrive. While there is, initially, ample classroom space for the intended final number of pupils, leaders have only furnished half of these.
- A small amount of building work remains to be completed. This has been delayed because of the current restrictions on normal working. This work is mainly to the outside areas of the school. Even without this being completed, the available provision is sufficient for pupils to have access to a suitable outside space for play and physical education. Leaders and the building contractors have worked together to make sure that the building work, once it resumes, will not pose a risk to pupils.
- The premises include a science laboratory and other specialist rooms, for example for teaching art and food technology. The only internal building work that remains to be

completed is on a Nissen hut that will provide a workshop and extra inside space for physical education.

- The toilets, showers, changing rooms and medical room are suitable and will properly ensure pupils' privacy. The medical room is adjacent to a toilet. Where the position of cold-water taps means that the water is suitable, or not suitable, for drinking, this is clearly indicated. In addition, leaders have also arranged for drinking-water dispensers to be available around the school. The hot-water taps that pupils will have access to have regulator valves to ensure that the water is at a safe temperature.
- The internal lighting has been carefully planned to ensure that light levels are sufficient. In addition, in many rooms, the colour of the lighting can be changed to allow staff to create a particular environment, for example to respond to pupils' needs.
- The arrangements for the safety of people who use the premises have been properly considered. External lighting has been installed and there are suitable measures to make sure that areas of the school accessible to visitors are separate from the areas to be used by pupils.
- The proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32(1)–32(3)(g)

- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Paragraph 33–33(k)

- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(c)

- The proprietor and other leaders have continued their systematic preparation for the school to be ready to open. This has included the appointment of staff and their comprehensive training so that they are ready to meet the learning and other needs of pupils.
- The proprietor and other leaders from KG's central team have experience in opening new schools and operating effective schools.
- Leaders intend to admit around two pupils each month for the first few months of the school's work. They will only admit pupils once they are sure that they have identified and are able to fully respond to any vulnerabilities that the pupils may have.
- Leaders have demonstrated that the school is likely to meet the Independent School Standards (ISS), including those relating to the welfare, health and safety of pupils.
- The proprietor has ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- As at the first PRI, the proprietor has ensured that the requirements of the Equality Act are likely to be met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

Proposed school details

Unique reference number	147349
DfE registration number	351/6017
Inspection number	10139564

This inspection was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards that are required for registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Independent day school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Kedleston Limited
Chair	Paul Brosnan
Headteacher	Shazia Sarwar Azim
Annual fees (day pupils)	Not yet determined
Telephone number	0161 359 7788
Website	https://kedlestongroup.com/Our-Schools-Homes/Day-Schools/Mill-School-Bury/Home
Email address	s.sarwar-azim@kedlestongroup.com
Date of previous standard inspection	Not previously inspected

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	Not applicable	7 to 17	7 to 17
Number of pupils on the school roll	Not applicable	70	35

Reason for inspector's recommendations

- Internal building work on the school's premises has been completed and there are sufficient classrooms for 70 pupils. However, at present, only half of these have been furnished and made ready for pupils. Leaders plan to fully equip more rooms and appoint more staff when the school roll requires this. At that time, they will seek approval from the Department for Education for the school to take more pupils.

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Not applicable	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	Not applicable	70
Number of part-time pupils	Not applicable	None
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Not applicable	70
Of which, number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	70
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	70

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	Not applicable	13
Number of part-time teaching staff	Not applicable	None
Number of staff in the welfare provision	Not applicable	15

Information about this proposed school

- The proposed school is situated in a converted mill building close to the centre of Bury. It is in an area of commercial and light industrial properties.
- The building was previously used for offices and has been converted to make it suitable for use as a school. The conversion of the interior of the main buildings has now been completed. A small amount of building work remains to be finished. The building project has been delayed because the contactors involved are currently not working as a result of the current pandemic.
- The school will be part of KG. This group is experienced in operating effective independent schools.
- The school will provide education for pupils with SEND. Leaders expect that most pupils will have autism spectrum disorder and/or social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Leaders do not intend that the school will use alternative provision. However, they may use links with a local college to provide vocational courses for individual pupils.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. The restrictions on non-essential travel and the need to protect people's health meant that it was not possible to visit the school during this inspection. In order to determine whether the school is likely to meet the ISS, the inspector examined documentary, photographic and video evidence provided by the school. He had a detailed discussion with the headteacher by telephone and reviewed further documentary evidence provided by the school in response to specific requests arising from this discussion. He also considered the evidence collected during the first PRI of the school.
- This inspection was commissioned by the DfE in order to confirm whether the school was likely to meet the ISS and other requirements needed to operate as an independent school.
- This was the second pre-registration inspection of the proposed school.
- The inspector paid particular attention to the ISS that were found unlikely to be met during the first pre-registration inspection. These standards related directly, or indirectly, to the need to complete the building works on the premises at that time.

Inspection team

David Selby, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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