

## Deprivation Banding of Free Schools

### Analysis

1. Our analysis covers the 24 projects that are opening in September 2011.
2. In order to determine whether a Free School is within a deprived area we need to decide on how large an area it is appropriate to consider i.e. how large an area are schools likely to draw their pupils from. The table below sets out standard geographical disaggregations, which are most likely to be used in this kind of assessment.

<b>Geographical level</b>	<b>Average number of residents</b>	<b>Typical number of residents</b>	<b>Number in England</b>
Local Authority (LA)	340,000	Large variability	152
Local Authority District (LAD)	158,000	Large variability	326
Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA)	7,200	Minimum of 5,000	6,780
Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)	1,500	Minimum of 1,000	32,482

3. The table shows that there are, on average, a very large number of residents at LA/LAD level. There is likely to be a large amount of variation in the levels of deprivation within the LA/LAD so that within a LA/LAD which has low levels of overall deprivation there may be pockets of highly deprived areas and vice versa.

4. If a school opened up in a LA/LAD, it is likely that only those living close to the school would be able to attend (depending on the admissions policy). If the school is opened in a LA/LAD with low levels of deprivation overall, the school would be deemed to be in an affluent area even though the immediate area around the school might be highly deprived and vice versa.

5. For this reason, LSOAs was used to determine the immediate deprivation context of a Free School. The majority of Free School applications so far have been for primary schools with initial intakes of 60 or below. LSOA should capture the majority, if not all, of the intake to these Free Schools, depending on admissions agreements and whether the school is fully subscribed.

6. For secondary schools, MSOA would be the most appropriate measure to assess the level of deprivation especially for those with larger intakes. However, deprivation data is not available at MSOA level. So, for the purpose

of this analysis LSOA has also been used for secondary schools as well. Again it should capture the majority of the intake to the secondary school, subject to admission arrangements and subscription levels.

### **Findings – deprivation banding of Free Schools using LSOA**

7. The attached Table A lists the deprivation band for each Free School at LSOA level. Table B, also attached, presents data at LA district level for comparison. Below is a summary of the LSOA table:

- Three Free Schools are located in the **most deprived 10%** of LSOAs in the country;
- one is in the **least deprived 10%** of LSOAs in the country;
- around a third (38%) are located in the most deprived 20% LSOAs of the country;
- the majority (63%) are located in the most deprived 50% of LSOAs in the country;
- less than a quarter are located in the least deprived 40% LSOAs in the country.

### **Conclusion**

This analysis suggests that, when areas of a size appropriate to school intakes are considered, there is no basis for the claim that more than half of Free Schools are in the country's least deprived areas. Only 3 of 24 schools are located in the 30% least deprived Lower Super Output Areas. It is more reasonable to claim some concentration in the most deprived areas since 12 of the 24 schools are in the 30% of areas which are most deprived. Caution should be exercised, however, when arguments are based on larger areas such as Local Authority Districts, since many of these contain mixed pockets of deprivation and affluence.

**Infrastructure, Funding and Longitudinal Analysis Division  
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## Table A - Deprivation Banding of Approved Free Schools at Lower Super Output Area Level

The table below sets out the level of deprivation in the area that approved Free Schools are located. This analysis includes only Free School projects initiated before the launch of the new process in Spring 2011.

**Geographical area:** The Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) of each Free School site has been identified. The minimum population within a LSOA is 1,000 residents and the average is 1,500 residents.

**Deprivation measure:** The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) have been used. They combine a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area (LSOA) in England.

10 % most deprived	10%-20%	20%-30%	30% to 40%	40% to 50%	50% to 60%	60% to 70%	70% to 80%	80% to 90%	10 % least deprived
Nishkam Free School*	West London Free School**	Moorlands School*	All Saints Junior School**	Eden Primary School**	Discovery New School*	St Luke's Church of England Primary School*	Stour Valley Community School*	Maharishi School*	Sandbach School*
Rainbow Primary School***	The Free School, Norwich*	Canary Wharf College*		Krishna-Avanti Primary School*	Langley Hall Primary Academy*	Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School**			
ARK Atwood Primary Academy**	ARK Conway Primary Academy*	Bristol Free School***			Aldborough E-ACT Free School*	Priors Free School*			
	Batley Grammar School*								
	Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy***								
	Bradford Science Academy**								

\*deprivation banding based on permanent site

\*\*deprivation banding based on permanent site but the school will be opening in a temporary site

\*\*\*deprivation banding based on temporary site only as permanent sites are yet to be confirmed

## Table B - Deprivation Banding of Approved Free Schools at Local Authority District Level

The table below sets out the level of deprivation in the area that Free Schools are located.

**Geographical area:** The Local Authority District (LAD) of each Free School site has been identified.

**Deprivation measure:** The Indices of Multiple deprivation (IMD) have been used. They combine a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for LAD in England.

### Deprivation banding

10 % most deprived	10%-20%	20%-30%	30% to 40%	40% to 50%	50% to 60%	60% to 70%	70% to 80%	80% to 90%
West London Free School**	St Luke's Church of England Primary School*	The Free School Norwich*	All Saints Junior School**	Discovery New School*	Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School**	Stour Valley Community School*	Sandbach School*	Priors Free School*
Eden Primary School**	Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy***	Batley Grammar School*	Aldborough E-ACT Free School*	Maharishi School*				
ARK Conway Primary Academy*	Langley Hall Primary Academy*	Bristol Free School***						
Krishna-Avanti Primary School*	Moorlands School*	ARK Atwood Primary Academy**						
Nishkam Free School*								
Canary Wharf College*								
Rainbow Primary School ***								
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