

Title: Emmanuel Community School
Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

Issue and recommendation

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the institution would be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the institution is (or is proposed to be) situated. The assessment indicates that there will not be a significant impact on other educational and training provision in the area by the opening of Emmanuel Community School. **The impact assessment concludes that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into the FA in light of the possible impact of the school.**

Background

2. Emmanuel Community School will, subject to funding agreement, be a faith designated one form entry 4 – 11 primary school. It was approved to pre-opening in October 2011 through the Free Schools 2012 application process. This application is for a one form entry co-educational primary (4-11) school in Waltham Forest. In the first year the school will open with a single reception class of up to 30 pupils, and it will add an additional 30 pupils per year until they reach the planned pupil on roll number of 210. It will have a Christian character. The Academy Trust is sponsored and supported by an existing charity – the Emmanuel Christian Centre (EEC). The school will open in 2012.

Emmanuel Community School – expected pupil number progression							
4 to 11 years							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Year 1		30	30	30	30	30	30
Year 2			30	30	30	30	30
Year 3				30	30	30	30
Year 4					30	30	30
Year 5						30	30
Year 6							30
Total	30	60	90	120	150	180	210

3. There are strong links with the local authority both for this project and their existing nursery provision, for which they have received consistently strong Ofsted inspection reports.

4. ECC is actively involved in children, youth and community initiatives. It provides age-related Sunday school classes, mid-week children's clubs and youth activities as well as holiday activity and residential camps. It also runs a nursery school which has been in operation for 26 years with good OFSTED rating (see appendix C) and highly regarded by parents and carers. The nursery and indeed all activities are open to children of all faiths. They also run carer and toddler sessions, weekly meals and activities for senior citizens. It is involved in initiatives with primary and secondary schools and with the Metropolitan Police Force. It is also involved in homeless initiatives including a Drop-in centre and a night shelter. Some members of ECC provide academic tutoring to children within the borough of Waltham Forest.
5. The Trust wants Emmanuel Community School to be a new primary school that offers outstanding and broad based education to make a very positive impact in our local area, which is currently characterised by low attainment, social deprivation, gang culture, high teenage pregnancy and a high proportion of NEETS. They plan to have innovative teaching and learning for ages 4 – 11, along with a wrap-around enrichment programme with positive role models and family support to respond to needs of local parents. They plan that the new school will complement its existing 'early years' Nursery and provide continuity of the excellent provision within a caring, small school setting.
6. Establishing high standards of literacy and numeracy will be a key priority. The school will have a strong Christian ethos with a commitment to providing excellent opportunities for all children in the local community regardless of their faith, background, ability or additional learning needs. They indicate they will reinforce the value and worth of the individual child, which will help to develop a positive self-image and a 'can-do' attitude. They aim to enable their students to overcome disadvantages and equip them to achieve success through secondary, further or higher education and go on to reach their full potential.

Admissions Criteria

7. ECS will follow the Local Authority admission process with a possible exception of the first year. The school will prioritise applications to the school using the following criteria:
 - Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) who name the school as the one they wish to attend.
 - Looked after children within the Christian Community, followed by children in care of a different or no faith, followed by other children.
 - Children with medical or social needs if a doctor or social worker writes in support of a pupil's application.
 - Children from the Emmanuel nursery will be given priority, but parents will still have to apply for a place at the school.
8. As a non-selective Christian School, it will be open to members of other faiths or no faith. In the event of oversubscription, no more than 50% of places will be offered based on Christian faith. The school's admissions arrangements are compliant with the new Admissions Code. Pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude or social background.

9. In proposing the new Emmanuel Community School, the Trust have been actively involved in verifying not only the need for new free primary school places, but also the demand for a faith primary school within Waltham Forest in general and in the central area of Walthamstow in particular.

Local Authority Perspective

10. The local authority has made clear that there is severe pressure for school places in Leyton/Leytonstone and Walthamstow. According to the local authority many parents have to choose schools which are some distance from their homes, requiring long bus or car journeys. In addition to other contacts, we held a formal meeting with Waltham Forest following on from the sending of the official letter from DfE that is required to give them the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the proposal to the Secretary of State.
11. Since this meeting there has been a large degree of cooperation between the Trust and the local authority. This has included Waltham Forest adding the school into their information and admission guides for September 2012 (post offer day arrangements for un-placed pupils) and they will be fully integrated into the 2013 primary admission round by the local authority. The School have also taken up the offer to have Waltham Forest manage any appeals process on admissions for September 2012 and beyond if that is needed.

Overall provision of primary places in the Waltham Forest area

12. *“The challenge of matching place provision and population over 15 years will be a significant one. Primary rolls are projected to increase in the next seven years and Waltham Forest will not have sufficient capacity in the existing primary schools to place all of the resident pupils.”*

London Borough of Waltham Forest Primary Strategy for Change

Forecasts for pupils of primary School age in Waltham Forest and Neighbouring Boroughs

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Waltham Forest	21,178	21,901	22,756	23,569	24,281
Enfield	27,252	28,075	28,931	29,637	30,067
Redbridge	24,191	25,064	25,920	26,888	27,662
Newham	28,847	29,845	31,165	32,603	33,688
Haringey	19,912	20,377	20,932	21,388	21,776
Hackney	16,057	16,370	16,648	16,914	16,981

Source: Office of National Statistics (May 2010)

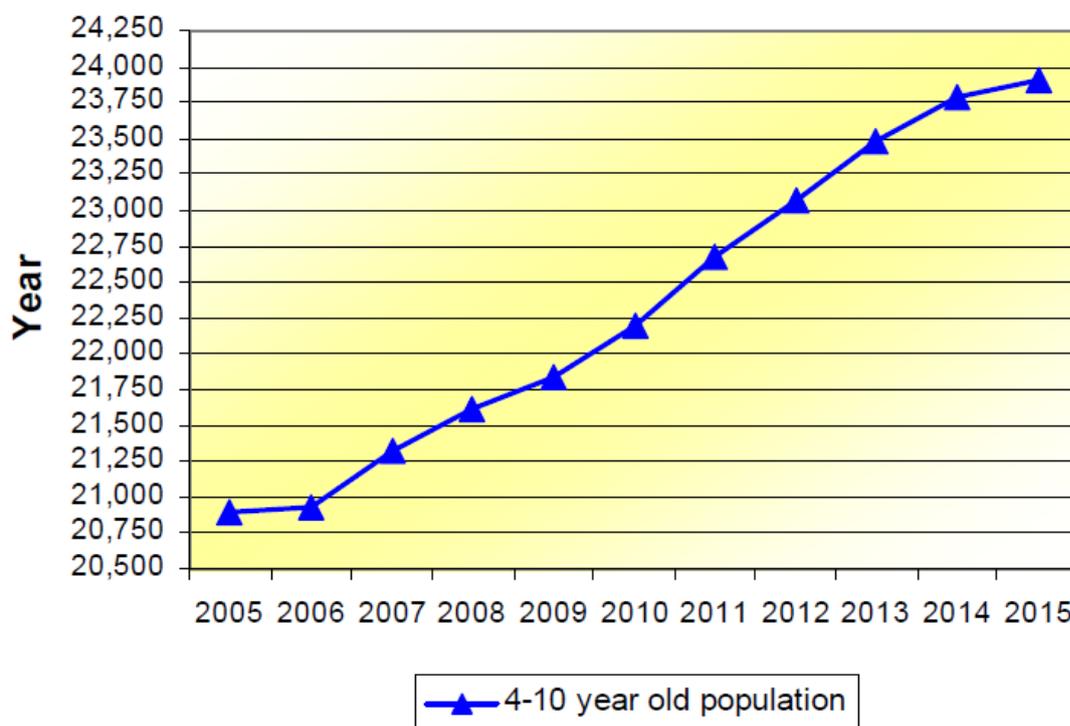
13. Waltham Forest is a diverse community divided into three area partnerships of North Area (Chingford), Central Area (Walthamstow) and South Area (Leyton/Leytonstone). In 2001, 44% of its residents were from ethnic minority background with a projected rise by 2011 to more than 60% in most of central and south areas of the borough. The borough has a high index of social deprivation, with about 30% children eligible for free school meals, 56% of students from minority ethnic backgrounds and high student mobility. Its Dedicated Schools Grant Allocation for 2006-2008 was 12th highest in the country and 6th highest in London.
14. As noted in the NHS Waltham Forest and LB Waltham Forest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2009 – 2011, there has been a recent increase in birth rate and population increase through immigration. This has placed a higher demand on school places across the borough particularly on primary school age (see the table and diagram below showing population growth for children in the borough). The demand on primary school places is such that in 2009, the Local Authority anticipated the need for an additional 14 forms of entry at primary by 2012.
15. Greater London Authority population projections show that the population is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future with the greatest growth expected to be amongst children of school age.

Population Count

Population Count				
	London Borough of Waltham Forest		Region	Country
	Total	Aged 0 - 15	London	England
Jun-09	224,300	48,900	7,753,600	51,809,700
Jun-08	221,400	47,800	7,668,300	51,464,600
Jun-07	219,800	47,200	7,602,200	51,106,200
Jun-06	219,200	46,500	7,546,600	50,763,900
Jun-05	218,700	46,200	7,484,900	50,466,200
Jun-04	219,400	46,200	7,413,100	50,109,700
Jun-03	220,400	46,000	7,379,700	49,863,300
Jun-02	221,900	46,400	7,368,900	49,649,100
Jun-01	222,000	46,800	7,322,400	49,449,700

Source: GLA RND 2007 Population Projections PLP Low – 6 February 2008

Primary Age Population Projection 4-10 Year Old Population of Waltham Forest



16. The diagrams and data provided in this impact assessment illustrate projected birth rate and Primary school age projections and data suggest that there will be increasing pressure on school places in Primary schools in Waltham Forest.

Low attainment

17. Student attainment at KS4 in Waltham Forest is below the national average in all aspects. The local authority’s average for 5+ A* - C grades (including English in Maths) for 2009 was 46%, compared with 50.7% for maintained schools and 49.8% for all schools in England respectively. There is much research which suggests that a good quality of education between the ages of 3 and 7 helps to promote higher achievement in later years, hence the applicants have chosen to start with a primary school.

18. There is a wide disparity in attainment and social deprivation between the three areas of the Local Authority. Our experience, endorsed by local and national data show that the south and central areas of the borough have the highest levels of deprivation and some of the lowest achievement results

Attainment at Key Stage 2 by Area in Waltham Forest

	No. Of schools	No. Of Pupils	EAL %	FSM %	English % achieving Level 4+			Mathematics % achieving Level 4+			
					2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	

North Area	18	6479	24	18%	78	82	80	76	76	79
Central Area	24	8790	54	27%	76	77	75	72	74	74
South Area	22	7208	62	29%	70	75	76	66	70	76

Source: Waltham Forest: Primary Strategy for Change, Jan. 2009

Notes: EAL – English as additional language, FSM – Free school meals

19. National analysis of pupil characteristics and their achievements in 4 elements (reading, writing, mathematics and science) at Key stage 1 indicated that the borough's pupils scored lower than the national average for England and for the London region (see Table 3.4). The significance of the data is illustrated from the relevance of the indices such as:

- English as an Additional Language (EAL): A lower proportion of pupils whose first language is not English achieved the expected level in all 4 elements than pupils for whom English is their first language.
- Eligibility for free school meals (FSM): Pupils not eligible for free school meals (FSMs) outperform pupils known to be eligible for FSMs across all 4 elements. The gap is largest in reading and writing.
- Special educational needs (SEN): Pupils with no identified Special Educational Needs (SEN) outperform pupils with SEN. The gap is largest in reading and writing.
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI): Pupils resident in the most deprived areas perform less than pupils resident in the least deprived areas. The gap is largest in writing.

Percentage of Key Stage 1 children achieving level 2+ in Waltham Forest

	Waltham Forest	London Region	England
Reading	81	83	85
Writing	77	79	81
Mathematics	87	88	89
Science	84	87	89
Average Point Score of children	14.5	15.1	15.3

Source: The Statistical First Release (SFR, 2010), Dept. for Education. (covering 2006 to 2009).

Comparative Key Stage 1 assessment: pupils achieving Level 2 or above, 2008 - 2009

	E17 6SA	E17 6QP	Waltham Forest	England
Reading %	76	76	81	84
Writing %	59	59	78	81
Maths %	n/a	n/a	87	89

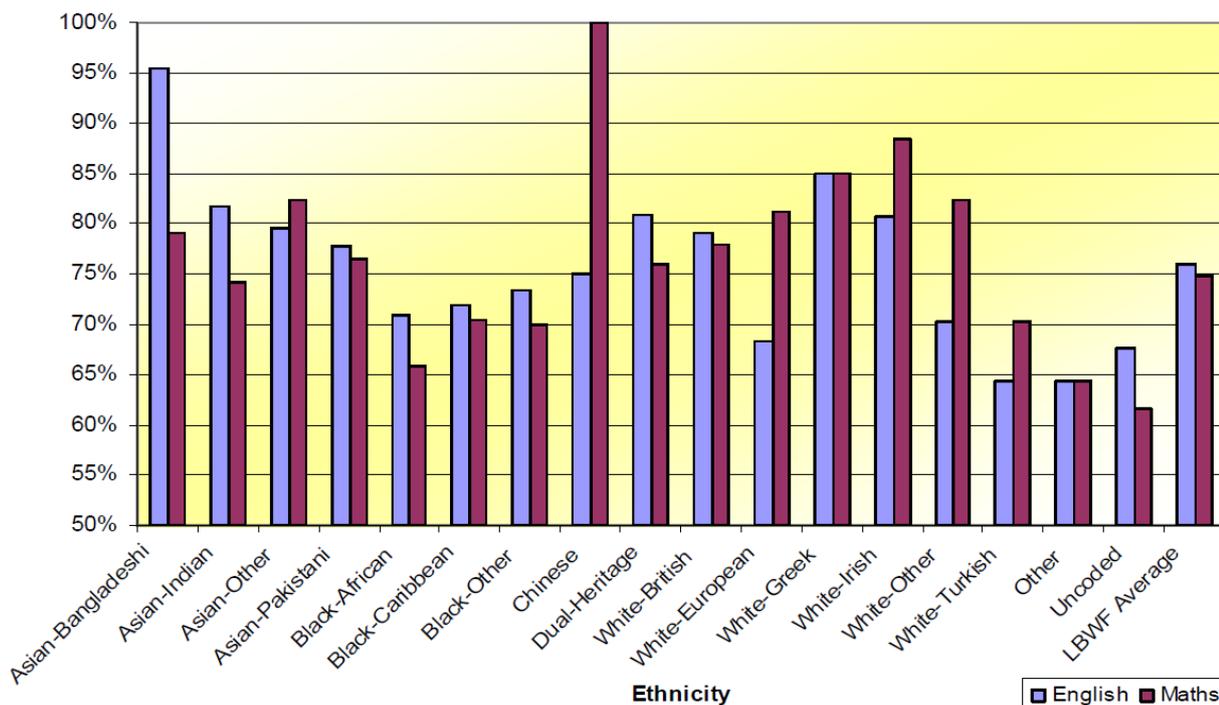
Source: Office for National Statistics (2010)

Comparative Key Stage 2 assessments: pupils achieving Level 4 or above, 2008 – 2009

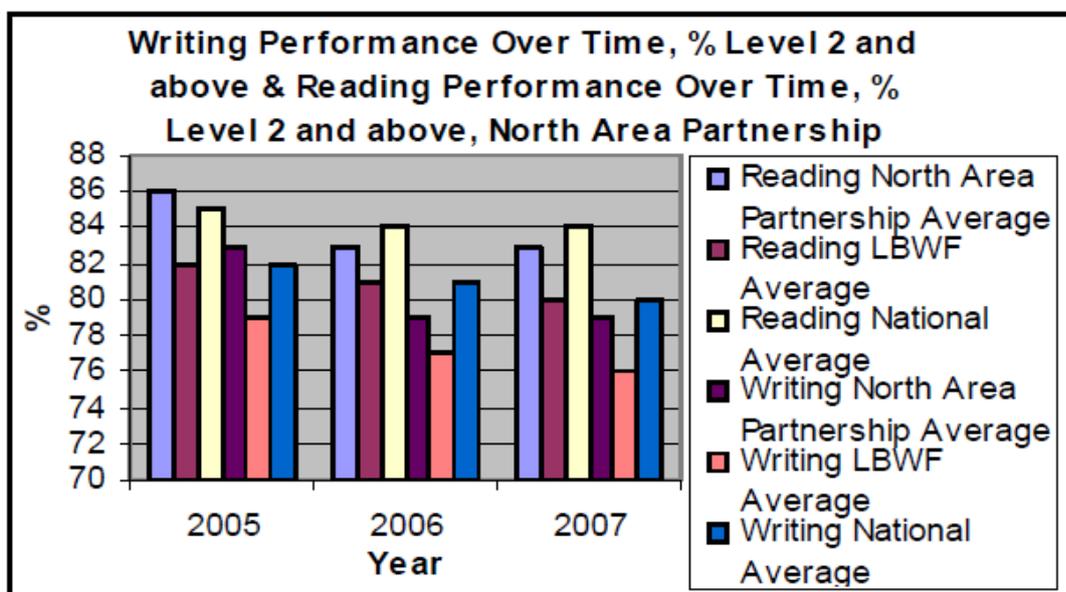
	E17 6SA	E17 6QP	Waltham Forest	England
English %	78	78	77	80
Maths %	n/a	n/a	79	79
Science %	n/a	n/a	85	88

Source: Office for National Statistics (2010)

Summary of Performance at Level 4+ by Ethnic Origin – Key stage 2



Reading and Writing Performance of Primary School Population at Key Stage 1 in North Area Partnership



Source: London Borough of Waltham Forest – primary Strategy for Change 2008

Representations, meetings with local schools, and consultation

20. Direct representations have not been received by the Department but a public consultation has been carried out by the proposer group. Free Schools are obliged, under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, to consult with those persons they think are appropriate as to whether the Academy Trust should enter into the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

21. The Academy Trust has used various methods to carry out consultation:

- Using guidance from New Schools Network, they prepared, printed and distributed leaflets (2,000) and posters (50 copies)
- Administering of questionnaires/surveys by hand and online (with link from ECC website and from ECS' own website). The questionnaires covered both parental demand and community interest. In addition, respondents were asked to indicate what contribution, if any, they could make to the school (see below).
- A website has been developed for the school www.emmanuelcommunityschool.org.uk.
- An information display stand was set up in The Mall, the large shopping mall in Selborne Walk, off the market, adjacent to Walthamstow Central tube and bus station. (This shopping centre records daily footfall of about 180,000 persons/ week or 25,700/day).
- Drama sketch & meetings with members of the public at Walthamstow Market, High Street, Walthamstow.
- Visits to local nurseries, play groups and carers & toddlers.
- Announcements and publicity material distributed at libraries, local shops, church meetings and other gatherings in different locations.

- Meetings were held with educators and interested persons from within and outside of ECC's fellowships.
- An informative promotional video was produced and been shown to:
 - Church community
 - Local Authority Councillors and Education Department officials
 - Members of the Public in The Mall, the shopping centre off the market in Central Walthamstow.
 - The public as link from the school website
 - Local educators

22. We believe the consultation undertaken by the Academy Trust is sufficient to comply with S.10 of the Academies Act 2010 and that it is reasonable for the Secretary of State to enter into the Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust. A summary of the key findings are as follows:

- The consultation for the proposed Emmanuel Community School started on Monday 12 March 2012 and was extended to allow sufficient time to consult on the permanent site. The permanent site – St Mary's Church of England Primary School, The Drive, Walthamstow E17 3BN, was confirmed on Friday 25 May 2012 and the consultation closed on Friday 22 June 2012.
- The vast majority of respondents – particularly parents and carers, are strongly supportive of The Emmanuel School Trust's proposals. 93% of the respondents indicated there were in favour of the proposed Emmanuel Community School. Many of offered positive and constructive comments, and respondents were particularly attracted by the focus of the School's curriculum. They also felt that the Christian ethos of the school provided a much needed alternative to the current provision.
- The consultation demonstrated high-levels of support (between 95% and 98%) for each section of the proposal; the idea of a new Christian Primary School, the emphasis on literacy and numeracy and agreement that the School should open in September 2012.
- Some local schools were concerned about potential competition for pupil recruitment. However, the ECS Headteacher has been invited to be a member of the local headteachers forum and has had a full discussion of the implications benefits and issues that might arise from this group.
- Some local households expressed concerns about vehicle traffic at peak times. Staggered start-times with the nursery of the same temporary site are being investigated and the better position for traffic management of the permanent site.
- Some potential parents were keen to have an earlier announcement of the permanent site to confirm where the school would be placed after the temporary location for the first 12 months. These were allayed when the

permanent site was announced as an existing school premises within 1 mile of the temporary location

Nearby schools

23. We have looked at the impact of the school in the local area. Parental demand, as indicated in the direct responses to the surveys, should be considered against the information provided by London Borough of Waltham Forest. This indicates an acute shortage of primary school places, which means that local schools are being literally pressed to take on additional numbers. For example, Woodside primary school and St. Mary's Church of England primary have both been increased to three-form entry each due to current drastic demands.
24. Approximately 14 new forms of entry have been created in the last few years and many schools have been required to double or even triple their intake. As detailed in section 3 on educational vision, Emmanuel Community School aims to provide parents and carers with more choices and alleviate the significant constraints faced by many schools in accommodating classes in inadequate facilities.
25. London Borough of Waltham Forest indicates a 24% rise in births between 2003 and 2008 as well as a significant level of migration into the Borough. It notes a current shortage of school places which is projected to worsen. The projected reception intake for 2012 is estimated at over 3400 places, with projected capacity lagging behind at about 3200 places¹.

New additional reception places for September 2012

26. An additional 20 Reception classes (600 places) will be available at the following schools for September 2012:
- Yardley Primary School (30 places) - Hawkwood Crescent, E4 7PH
 - Chingford Hall Primary School (30 places) - Burnside Avenue, E4 8YJ
 - Oakhill Primary School (30 places) - Alders Avenue, Woodford Green, IG8 9PY
 - Roger Ascham Primary School (30 places) - Wigton Road, E17 5HU
 - Thorpe Hall Primary School (30 places) – Hale End Road, E17 4DP
 - Coppermill Primary School (30 places) - Edward Road, E17 6PB
 - The Winns Primary School (30 places) – Fleeming Road, E17 5ET
 - The Woodside Primary School (60 places) – Wood Street, E17 3JX
 - Hillyfield Primary Academy (90 places) - Higham Hill Road, E17 6ED
 - Mission Grove Primary School (60 places) - Buxton Road, E17 7EJ
 - St Mary's Church of England Primary School (60 places) - The Drive, E17 3BN
 - Newport Primary School (30 places) - Newport Road, E10 6PJ
 - Davies Lane Primary School (60 places) - Davies Lane, E11 3DR
 - Stoneydown Park Primary School (30 places) – Pretoria Avenue, E17 6JY
 - **Emmanuel Community School (30 places) - Year 1 - 30 Places) - Erskine Road, E17 6SA**
27. Parents should note that these additional places are confirmed for September 2012 only.

Proposed expansion of primary schools from September 2012

28. The Council is currently consulting on proposals to expand permanently the primary schools listed below from September 2012 in order to create additional school places – 13 forms of entry (FE) – 390 places in total. The number of pupils to be admitted to Reception classes from September 2012, and subsequent years, will increase by 1FE (30 places), 2FE (60 places) or 3FE (90 places).

Expansion of Hillyfield Academy

29. Hillyfield will admit 180 children into Reception classes in September 2012. The number of pupils in other year groups will remain the same at 90 per year group. In September 2013 Hillyfield will admit a further 180 reception pupils and so on. In this way the school will be at full capacity in six years.

30. The Aveling Park site will be transferred from the Local Authority to Hillyfield and improvement work will now begin. Governors have agreed that there will be two points of admission, one at each site, and the usual admissions criteria will apply to both sites. Once a child is admitted to a site they will stay there for the rest of their time at Hillyfield.

31. As the decision from the Secretary of State came late in the term, all pupils that are enrolled for the Aveling Park site for September will be based temporarily at Hillyfield until April 2013. Hillyfield have carried out a capacity audit of the rooms available and this is feasible in the short term without causing disruption to the school and the teaching and learning. It has been made clear to parents of these children that they will move to Aveling Park for the Summer Term.

In-Year Admissions Guidance that applies for Emmanuel Community School

32. Waltham Forest School Admissions Service coordinates in-year admissions for all applicants who reside within Waltham Forest (existing and new to the borough) who require places in schools either in or outside Waltham Forest.

33. Voluntary Aided Schools are their own admission authorities and will continue to make decisions as to whether or not applicants meet their admissions criteria. The process will be coordinated by the School

34. **Fair Access Protocol**– Waltham Forest operates an ‘In Year Fair Access Protocol.’ This means that children who do not have a school place are prioritised over children waiting to transfer between schools, if and when a place becomes available

Conclusion

35. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the additional school would be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated. The assessment indicates that the impact on

other educational and training provision will not be significantly impacted by the opening of Emmanuel Community School.

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