

Title: Niskham High School
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Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

1. Nishkam School is a secondary school with a designated Sikh ethos proposed to open in Birmingham in September 2012. It will initially take in 100 pupils into both year seven and year 12. Once it reaches full capacity the school will hold 700 pupils.

Catchment area of the Free School and its Pupil Population

2. The school does not have a defined catchment area. Instead we have created a proxy catchment area based on the distance travelled to school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Birmingham which is 2.5 miles. We have therefore included all secondary schools within a two and half mile radius of the Free School.

3. Before we assess the impact of the new Free School on individual schools, it is useful to look at the projected growth of the pupil population in the area in which the proposed site is situated. If the population is growing, this may mitigate any potential impact the Free School will have on individual schools in the local area. The Nishkam Free School is located in Birmingham. Table 1 below sets out the expected population growth in secondary schools between 2010/11 and 2015/16. There are two schools which are within the two and half mile radius of the Free School that are located in Sandwell Local Authority. We have therefore additionally provided population growth figures for this Local Authority.

Table 1: Number of pupils and projections for secondary school pupils in Birmingham and Sandwell 2010/11 – 2015/16

		Academic year 2010 /11		Academic year 2015/16		2010/11 – 2015/16
LA	Number of places in 2011	No of pupils	Surplus %	No. of pupils	Surplus %	% increase in populatio n
Secondary school pupil population						
Birmingham	71,271	61,682	13%	62,687	12%	1.6%
Sandwell	22,325	18,112	19%	17,813	20%	-1.7%

Note and source: The figures in this table are based on the 2011 SCAP data and covers 11 – 16 year olds in maintained secondary schools.

4. The secondary school population in Birmingham is projected to rise by 1.6% over the next seven years so any potential negative impact on local schools could be mitigated by the growing population. The population of under 16s classified as belonging to the Indian ethnic group is expected to grow slightly, by just over one per

cent, over the same period¹. This may increase the demand for a school with a Sikh ethos as the majority of Sikhs are likely to belong to the Indian ethnic group. However, as we do not have data on projections by faith group it is difficult to know whether this slight projected increase in the Indian ethnic group will lead to an increase in the Sikh population in Birmingham.

5. In the neighbouring Local Authority of Sandwell, a small decline in the secondary population is projected. This could mean that any potential negative impact on schools located in Sandwell will not be mitigated by increased demand for school places. However as the Free School is located close to the border between these two Local Authorities, it is likely that there will be some cross border movement, with pupils living in Birmingham close to the border attending schools in Sandwell (and vice versa). Therefore schools in Sandwell may also feel the increased demand stimulated by the growing population in Birmingham.

Local Authority View

6. The views of both Birmingham City Council and neighbouring Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council were sought as part of the consultation process. Birmingham City Council was very supportive of the proposed Free School and confirmed the need for additional secondary school places from September 2014. Sandwell MBC said they would also need additional secondary places, but not until 2017. They also expressed concern about the creation of another religious ethos multi faith school, which they believe, could factionalise the communities they are working to unite through existing community cohesion programmes.

Representations

Apart from the Local Authorities, no other direct representations have been received by the Department.

6. The Academy Trust carried out formal consultation in two phases, the first as part of the application submission, and the second, as part of a formal 6 week consultation process. The consultation process included a public consultation event, a consultation brochure, public meetings, a questionnaire, a consultation website, letters and emails to key stakeholders, promotion in the local communities and a press advert in a local newspaper. The Trust consulted on an appropriate range of questions including ethos, admissions, curriculum and site and posed the question of whether the Trust should enter into an agreement with the Secretary of State to open as a Free School in September 2012.

7. The response rate from the local community, albeit quite low, was overwhelmingly positive, with no major issues identified. A formal response was received from Birmingham City Council which was also positive. The Council said there is need for additional secondary places across the city and “they did not believe local schools would be unduly affected by the provision of an additional 100 Year 7 and Year 12 places in the area Nishkam are

¹ “Population forecasts for Birmingham, with an ethnic group dimension” Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester

looking to serve”

Impact Ratings for Secondary Schools

8. Table 2 below sets out the individual impact on each secondary school located within two and a half miles of the proposed site of Nishkam High School². It shows that the Free School may have a minimal impact on 14 schools and a moderate impact on two schools. See Annex A for more details of how the ratings have been arrived at.

9. Nishkam High School is a designated Sikh faith school. We have assumed that there will be a minimal impact on other faith schools in the local area which offer a different faith ethos i.e. Roman Catholic. Although there may be some parents who would be equally attracted by a Sikh school and a Roman Catholic one, for example, we expect this will be a minority and it is therefore unlikely that the Roman Catholic school will lose a significant number of pupils to the Free School.

10. As we do not have data on pupil faith, this makes it more difficult to determine which schools will feel a greater impact of the new Free School. Where we can, we use ethnic group as a proxy for a faith group but there is no suitable proxy for the Sikh faith. Although the majority of Sikhs are likely to belong to the Indian ethnic group, only a small proportion of the Indian ethnic group will be made up of those who follow the Sikh religion. However where a school has been highlighted as at risk of losing pupils to an attractive new provider, we have looked at the Indian population within the school. If there is a very small number, even if they did lose a substantial number of pupils from this group, the loss may be too small to negatively impact on the school.

Table 2: Summary of the potential impact on secondary schools located within 2.5 miles of Nishkam Free School

School name	Distance from Free School	Impact rating
<i>Schools with a minimal rating</i>		
King Edward VI Handsworth School	0.12 miles	Minimal
Handsworth Grammar School	0.46 miles	Minimal
Holte School	0.97 miles	Minimal
Holyhead School	0.99 miles	Minimal
Broadway School	1.48 miles	Minimal
Aston Manor Academy	1.49 miles	Minimal
St John Wall Catholic School - A Specialist Humanities College	1.55 miles	Minimal
King Edward VI Aston School	1.65 miles	Minimal
Sandwell Academy	1.78 miles	Minimal
St Paul's School for Girls	1.89 miles	Minimal
Shireland Collegiate Academy	2.07 miles	Minimal

² The two and a half mile is based on the distance that the majority (over 80%) of pupils travel to school in the local authority – See Annex A for more details

Birmingham Ormiston Academy 14-19	2.09 miles	Minimal
Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre	2.16 miles	Minimal
Heartlands Academy	2.26 miles	Minimal
<i>Schools with a moderate rating</i>		
Handsworth Wood Girls' School	0.93 miles	Moderate
<i>Schools with a moderate rating</i>		
George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	2.1 miles	Moderate

Schools with a moderate or moderate/high rating

The following section summarises what the potential impact maybe be for the schools in Table 2 which have a moderate impact rating.

Moderate rating

1. Handsworth Wood Girls' School (0.93 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Community Secondary School for girls

Capacity: The school has capacity for 817 pupils (around 130 pupils per year group). It had a surplus of over 11% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was oversubscribed for entry 2011/12 with 421 applicants for 130 places. 14% of pupils in this school are classified as belonging to the Indian ethnic origin.

Ofsted: The school was rated as good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment slightly below the national average – 55% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58% nationally.

Impact: **Moderate** – The school is located less than a mile from the preferred site, which is below the average distance travelled to secondary school in Birmingham (1.6 miles) so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. It also has below average attainment at KS4 so parents may be attracted to an alternative.

However, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, it was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so should still be able to fill most or all of its places. Additionally, any loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years. Furthermore it is a single sex school, so parents wanting to send their children to this school may not be interested in a Free School that does not offer a single sex education. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

Moderate rating

2. George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre (2.10 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Foundation Secondary School

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,165 pupils (around 180 per year group). It had a relatively large surplus of around 22% of total capacity in 2010/11. The school was undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12 with 120 applicants for 180 places. 13% of pupils in this school are classified as belonging to the Indian ethnic origin.

Ofsted: The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 49% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58% nationally.

Impact: Moderate – The school is located just over two miles from the Free School. This is above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Birmingham and only a quarter of pupils travel over two miles to school so we would not expect the school to lose a large number of pupils to the new Free School. Additionally, any loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places over the next few years.

However, the school is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted and has attainment at KS4 below the national average, so parents may be attracted to an alternative. The school has a very large proportion of surplus places and was undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even the loss of only a few potential pupils to the Free School may exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and could potentially affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Additionally 13% (around 120 pupils) of the school population is classified as belonging to the Indian ethnic group, which on average amounts to 17 pupils per year group. If half were attracted to a school with a Sikh ethos over this school, this would be a loss of around 8 or 9 pupils per year, which given the existing surplus, could have a large impact. However it is difficult to predict what proportion of parents from this ethnic group would be attracted to a school with a Sikh ethos given that we do not have data on the faith of pupils. There may also be Sikhs within other ethnic groups and non-Sikhs that would be attracted by the Free School.

Overall however, we think the impact on the school will only be moderate bearing in mind the expected growth in the secondary population and the LA's view that the Free School is unlikely to have a significant impact on any local schools.

Academy status

This school has applied to convert to academy status from September 2012. This application has not yet been approved.

Schools with a Low Impact Rating

a.King Edward VI Handsworth School

School Type: Girls 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 910 pupils and there are currently no surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well above the national average – 100% in 2010 and 99% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are consistently high.

b. Handsworth Grammar School

School Type: Boys 11-18 voluntary aided school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1015 pupils and currently has approximately 15 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2009. Although pupil performance is high at key stage 4, Ofsted recommended changes to the senior leadership team, a broader curriculum and improved systems to track pupil progress.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well above the national average – 99% in 2010 and 98% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are consistently high.

c. Holte School

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 community school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1344 pupils and currently has no surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010, despite relatively low achievement at key stage 4.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 49% in 2010 and 53% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as attainment is below national average, although it has increased steadily in recent years. However, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

d. Holyhead School

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1498 pupils and currently has approximately 4 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2012.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment above the national average – 60% in 2010 and 63% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School but attainment is above the national average and rising steadily. Also, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

e. Broadway School

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 community school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1442 pupils and currently has approximately 2 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is improving and was above the national average in 2011 – 49% in 2010 and 60% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School but attainment is now above the national average and rising steadily. Also, parents may be attracted to the non-faith aspect of the school.

f. Aston Manor Academy

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1022 pupils and currently has approximately 3 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2012.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is improving and was above the national average in 2011 – 52% in 2010 and 63% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School but attainment is now above the national average and rising steadily. Also, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

g. St John Wall Catholic School

School Type: Co-educational 11-16 Roman Catholic voluntary aided school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 615 pupils and currently has approximately 3

surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2012.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is below the national average – 44% in 2010 and 41% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as attainment is below the national average. However, parents may be attracted to the Roman Catholic aspect of the school.

h. King Edward VI Aston School

School Type: Boys 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 742 pupils and currently has approximately 2 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2008.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is significantly above the national average – 99% in 2010 and 99% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are consistently high. Also parents may be attracted to the single sex aspect of the school.

i. Sandwell Academy

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1197 pupils and currently has no surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is above the national average – 73% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are above average.

j. St Paul's School for Girls

School Type: Girls 11-18 Roman Catholic voluntary aided school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1127 pupils and currently has approximately 4 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is above the national average – 71% in 2010 and 72% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are above average. Also parents may be attracted to the single sex and faith aspects of the school.

k. Shireland Collegiate Academy

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1246 pupils and currently has approximately 4 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is well below the national average – 34% in 2010 and 35% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as attainment is below national average. However, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

l. Birmingham Ormiston Academy

School Type: Co-educational 14-19 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 890 pupils and currently has approximately 2 surplus places.

Ofsted: There is no information available on this school on the Ofsted website.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is below the national average – 47% in 2010 and 50% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as attainment is below national average. However, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

m. Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Foundation School.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1280 pupils and currently has approximately 3 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is above the national average – 65% in 2010 and 57% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School but this is considered unlikely as the school's attainment levels are above average. Also parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

n. Heartlands Academy

School Type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1064 pupils and currently has approximately 2 surplus places.

Ofsted: The school was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in its latest inspection in 2012.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment which is below the national average – 47% in 2010 and 44% in 2011.

Impact: Low – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as attainment is below national average. However, parents may be attracted to the non faith aspect of the school.

Impact on 6th Form Provision and FE Institutions

21. Nishkam High School will be admitting children of 6th form age. It will begin with an intake of up to 100 pupils in Year 12 in 2012. It is envisaged that the 6th Form will mainly serve the Free School population, but applications from outside, including the independent sector, will be considered. It is considered that the 6th Form will have a minimal impact on local post-16 providers. The majority of the post-16 providers in the local area, offer a different ethos to the Sikh ethos of the Free School's 6th Form, and children and their parents may not be attracted to a 6th form with a different ethos.

Primary schools and Alternative and Special provision

22. There is no known or likely impact on these types of school, and none raised by any parties to the consultation. However, the Free School will potentially have a positive impact in terms of providing additional choice for parents with children at local primary schools.

Conclusion

23. The overall impact on local schools and colleges in the area should be minimal. Two secondary schools (Handsworth Wood Girls' School and George Dixon International School) are likely to suffer a moderate impact as a result of the Free School opening, given their proximity, large proportion of surplus places and poor relative standards. However, any impact is likely to be mitigated by the growing need for secondary places in the area; the Local Authority view is that the Free School will

not have a significant impact on any local school.

24. The Free School will offer competition for places, which should have a positive impact on standards in the area, whilst improving parental choice by meeting demand for a local school with a Sikh ethos in Birmingham.