

Title: Avanti House School
Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 (later as amended by the Education Act 2011) places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of the establishment would be likely to be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the establishment is (or is proposed to be) situated.
2. Avanti House will be a 1680 place co-educational all through school in the London Borough of Harrow. Although designated as Hindu and having a Hindu ethos it will have no faith based admissions. The school would admit 60 pupils into reception each year and 180 into Year 7. From 2017/18 the school will admit 180 pupils into its Year 12. It aims to be at full capacity of 1680 in 2018/19.
3. The Trust wants to offer a broad, challenging curriculum focused on core skills and subjects as well as specialisms in Mathematics and Performing Arts. They will take a distinctive values-based approach to the humanities encouraging students to value self, others and the environment and empowering them to be effective learners and good citizens. The school will be located in an area where there is increasing demand for primary places and a need for additional secondary places from 2015/16.
4. I have arrived at the assessments in this paper based on the data we have available on school capacity, school performance and population trends in the local area, written feedback from the Local Authority, the results of the Free School Trust's statutory consultation and other sources of evidence.

Catchment Area and Admissions

5. The School's admissions policy is fully compliant with the admissions code. Avanti House will admit children with Statements of Special Education Need where the school is named in the SEN Statement after which the following arrangements will apply:
 - a. Applicants who are looked after or who have been previously looked after as defined by the Admissions Code.
 - b. Siblings of students who have been offered a place at Avanti house School in Years Reception to 13.

Of the remaining available places the following arrangements will apply:

- a. 50% of places to children who live nearest to the school measured by the agreed Local authority measure of distances set out in the London Borough of Harrow admissions booklet for the relevant year.
- b. The remaining places will be offered by random allocation. This process will be applied to all applicants who have not obtained a place under all the above over-

subscription criteria.

6. For the purpose of this report we have created a proxy catchment area based on the distance travelled to school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Harrow. We have therefore assessed the impact of all primary schools within a 1.5 mile radius and secondary schools within a 2 mile radius of the proposed Free School. This is above the average 0.8 miles travelled to primary schools and the average 1.4 miles travelled to secondary schools in Harrow.

Characteristics of the catchment area

7. The proposed site for the Free School is Tudor Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, HA3 5PQ.

8. There are 15 primary schools within the 1.5 mile radius of the school. All are based in Harrow. The following table sets out the expected population growth in primary schools between 2010/11 and 2015/16 in Harrow. There are currently surplus places but the birth rate in Harrow is rising with reception classes already under pressure. The primary population is expected to rise by 10.1% over the next 5 years. Therefore any potential negative impact on local schools may be mitigated in future years by the growing population.

Number of Pupils and projections for primary school pupils in Harrow 2010/11 – 2015/16

LA	No of Places 2010/11	No of Pupils on roll 2010/11	Surplus as a % of total Capacity 2010/11	% increase in pupil numbers between 2011/12 and 2015/16
Harrow	20,178	17,326	14.1%	10.1%

9. In total there are 8 schools covering the secondary phase located within the 2 mile radius of Avanti House. All have sixth form provision and all are based in Harrow. There are also 2 FE colleges within the 2 mile radius. The following table sets out the population growth in secondary schools between 2010/11 and 2017/18. This is projected to rise by 5.4%; therefore any potential negative impact on the local schools may be mitigated by the growing population.

Number of pupils and projections for secondary school pupils in Harrow 2010/11 – 2017/18

LA	No of Places 2010/11	No of Pupils on roll 2010/11	Surplus as a % of total Capacity 2010/11	% increase in pupil numbers between 2011/12 and 2017/18
Harrow	12,209	12,206	0.0%	5.4%

Impact on other Schools

10. We do not believe that the new school will have any impact on special or alternative provision schools in the local area. It is expected that the local primary and secondary mainstream schools will feel either a minimal or moderate impact of Avanti House. The primary and the secondary population are both set to increase over the next few years so any loss of pupils to the school should be mitigated by the increased demand in the area.

Local Authority View

11. Harrow Council was invited to provide their view on the Free School proposal and responded on 25th July 2012. The Council welcomed the additional primary places but were concerned that the proposed location had the potential to impact adversely on the adjacent Whitefriars Community Primary School. However, they also recognised the lack of suitable sites in the borough to establish any schools and welcomed the initial positive engagement by the principal designate of Avanti House with the Whitefriars School.

12. In relation to Year 7 places, the Council stated that their projections indicated that “no additional capacity would probably be required until 2016 at the earliest”. Avanti House would provide necessary additional secondary school places from that time to help meet the increased demand. However for this September admission to Year 7, there were a higher number of vacancies in the borough than was desired. Therefore Avanti House’s additional places this year, and in the next few years, would compound a situation that the Council considered was already likely to impact adversely on schools in the borough.

Wider Community View

13. Avanti House received 57 questionnaire-based responses when their consultation closed on 23rd July 2012. 17 respondents identified themselves as parents/prospective parents, 49 as local residents, 30 as part of a faith group, 14 as part of a community group and 27 as “other”. 86% of all respondents were content that Avanti Schools Trust enters into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

Impact on primary schools located within 1.5 miles of Avanti House

14. As the average distance travelled to primary school in the area is 0.8 miles, for the purpose of a thorough impact analysis, we have also considered the impact the Free School may have on all primary schools within a 1.5 mile radius of the proposed Free School.

15. Below is a discussion of the likely impact Avanti House will have on the closest primary schools to the proposed site. The following table shows that opening the Free School will have a minimal impact on nine schools, a moderate impact on five schools and a high impact on one.

Summary of Impact on Primary Schools within 1.5 miles.

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	School name	Distance from Free school (Miles)	Impact rating	Capacity	Surplus capacity (%)	Ofsted rating	% of Y6 pupils attaining level 4 in English and Maths
1	Whitefriars Community school	Adjacent to site	High	499	25.3	Satisfactory	61%
2	Cedars Manor school	0.52	Moderate	567	22.9	Good	74%
3	Pinner Park Junior School	0.57	Moderate	363	1.1	Satisfactory	78%
4	Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School	0.57	Minimal	381	29.4	Outstanding	N/A
5	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School and Nursery	0.58	Minimal	425	2.6	Good	96%
6	Marlborough primary School	0.68	Minimal	420	0.5	Outstanding	65%
7	Belmont School	0.79	Minimal	585	23.9	Outstanding	76%

8	Weald junior School	0.85	Moderate	391	20.5	Satisfactory	73%
9	Weald Infant and Nursery School	0.85	Moderate	333	15.3	Satisfactory	N/A
10	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	1.07	Minimal	459	8.5	Good	88%
11	Norbury School	1.1	Minimal	449	4.5	Good	74%
12	Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery	1.19	Moderate	316	17.7	Good	N/A
13	St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	1.26	Minimal	470	10.2	Outstanding	86%
14	Priestmead Primary School and Nursery	1.35	Minimal	671	5.4	Outstanding	74%
15	Vaughan Primary School	1.37	Minimal	483	13.3	Good	78%

Primary Schools with a Moderate Impact Rating

Whitefriars Community School

16. Whitefriars Community School is situated adjacent to the proposed site. It has a capacity of 499 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 25.3% but this falls to only 3.3% at Reception the point of entry to the school. The school was rated as satisfactory in its last Ofsted inspection report in June 2011. The inspector noted "that the school has made satisfactory progress in making improvements and satisfactory progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement."

17. The school has below average attainment at Key Stage 2, with 61% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and maths in 2011 which is below the national average of 73%. No particular trend is evident with performance in 2010 being 46% and 63% in 2009.

18. The School is adjacent to the proposed Free School obviously well below the 0.8 miles average distance travelled to primary schools in Harrow and is rated only satisfactory by Ofsted. Therefore parents may be attracted to an alternative school. The Council consider that Avanti House has the potential to impact negatively on Whitefriars Community School.

19. Although there is very little surplus at Reception in Year 3, the entry point to the school, its proximity to the new school and the factors listed above mean it is possible that the financial viability of Whitefriars may be affected. Therefore we have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as high.

Cedars Manor School

20. Cedars Manor School is situated 0.52 miles from the proposed site. It has a capacity of 567 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 22.9% but this falls to 1.7% at

reception. The school was rated as good in its last Ofsted inspection in November 2011. The inspector noted “The school’s success in tackling areas of weakness, as identified in the past, demonstrate a good capacity for sustained improvement”.

21. The School has average attainment at Key Stage 2, with 74% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and maths in 2011 which is just above the national average of 73%. Performance appears to have fluctuated slightly over the years with 61% achieving this in 2010 and 69% in 2009.

22. The school is located 0.52 miles from the proposed Free School, less than the average distance travelled to primary schools in Harrow. Although the current surplus of 22.9% is high this is much reduced in reception. Therefore although some parents may be attracted to the new school it is unlikely that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school. We have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as moderate.

Pinner Park Junior School

23. Pinner Park Junior School is situated 0.57 miles from the proposed site. It has a capacity of 363 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 1.1%. The school was rated as satisfactory in its last Ofsted inspection in May 2010. The inspector noted “the school has a satisfactory capacity to improve.”

24. The school has above average attainment at Key Stage 2, with 78% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and maths in 2011 which is above the national average of 73%. This is compared to previous years with 81% of pupils achieving this in 2010 and 70% in 2009.

25. The school is located 0.57 miles from the proposed Free School which is less than the average distance travelled to primary schools within the area. The current surplus of 1.1% is low and there no surplus of places at reception the point of entry, so even if the school was to lose some pupils to the new Free School it should still be able to fill most or all of its places. We do not expect the opening of the Free School to affect the long term financial viability of the school. Therefore we have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as moderate.

Weald Junior School

26. Weald Junior School is situated 0.85 miles from the proposed site. It has a capacity of 391 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 20.5% although this is only 2.2% at reception. The school was rated as satisfactory in its last inspection report in March 2012. The inspector noted “The school meets the government’s current floor standards, which set the minimum expectations for pupils’ attainment and progress”

27. The School has average attainment at Key Stage 2, with 73% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and maths in 2011- meeting the national average of 73%. The Performance at the school appears to have fluctuated with 65% of pupils achieving this in 2010 and 69% in 2009.

28. The school is located 0.85 miles from the proposed site which is only very slightly more than then the average distance travelled to primary schools within the area. The current surplus of 20.5% is high; however there is only a surplus of 2.2% places at reception. Therefore although rated satisfactory meaning some parents may be attracted to the new

school it is unlikely that this will affect the long term financial viability of the school. We have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as moderate.

Weald Infant and Nursery School

29. Weald Infant and Nursery school is situated 0.85 miles from the proposed site. It has capacity of 333 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 15.3%. The school was rated as satisfactory in its last inspection report in 2011. The inspector noted in her section 8 Inspection report "Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school is making satisfactory progress in addressing the issues for improvement and in raising the pupils' achievement".

30. The School is located very slightly more than the average distance travelled to primary schools within the area. The current surplus of 15.3% is high with 11.7% surplus places, at the point of entry. As the school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted, parents may be attracted to an alternative school. However given the increase in demand for primary places locally it is unlikely that this will affect the long term financial viability of the school. We have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as moderate.

Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery

31. Elmgrove Primary School and Nursery is 1.19 miles from the proposed site. It has capacity of 316 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 17.7%. The school was rated as good in its last inspection report in January 2011. The inspector noted "the governing body and other leaders have ensured that provision and standards have improved well since the last inspection and remain committed to building on the school's successes. Their good leadership, combined with high expectations and strong teamwork, provides the school with a good capacity for continued improvement".

32. The school is located 1.19 miles from the proposed site which is more than the average distance travelled to primary schools with the area. The current surplus of 17.7% is high but lower (5.6%) at the point of entry. This together with the Ofsted good rating means that the long term financial viability of the school is unlikely to be affected by the opening of the Free School. We have assessed the impact of opening the Free School as moderate.

Primary Schools with a Minimal Impact Rating

	School Name	Impact rating	Surplus Capacity (%)	Ofsted rating	Gender	Faith
1	Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School	Minimal	25.3	Satisfactory	Co - Educational	No
2	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School and Nursery	Minimal	2.6	Good	Co - Educational	Roman Catholic
3	Marlborough primary School	Minimal	0.5	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No
4	Belmont School	Minimal	23.9	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No
5	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Minimal	8.5	Good	Co - Educational	Roman Catholic

6	Norbury School	Minimal	4.5	Good	Co - Educational	No
7	St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	Minimal	10.2	Outstanding	Co - Educational	Roman Catholic
8	Priestmead Primary School and Nursery	Minimal	5.4	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No
9	Vaughan Primary School	Minimal	13.3	Good	Co - Educational	No

33. Of the 9 other schools considered all have been assessed as being minimally affected by the opening of the Free School. The majority of the schools have little surplus capacity apart from two, Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School (25.3% surplus capacity) and Belmont School (23.9% surplus capacity). Of the 9 schools considered three are Catholic schools and less likely to lose pupils to the free school as Avanti House will be designated as a Hindu school.

Hindu Schools in the area.

34. There is one other Hindu School in the area Krishna Avanti Primary which is a VA school which is also run by the Avanti Schools Trust. The over subscription of this school was one of the motivating factors for the Avanti Schools Trust's application. Therefore the school is likely to have a minimal impact on Krishna Avanti Primary School.

Impact on Secondary Schools and FE Provision within a 2 mile radius of Avanti House.

35. As the average distance travelled to secondary schools in the area is 1.4 miles, for the purpose of a thorough impact analysis, we have also considered the impact the Free School may have on all secondary schools within a 2 mile radius of the proposed Free School. This includes sixth form provision in all of the schools. There are also 2 FE colleges within the 2 mile radius. It is difficult for us to assess the capacity at FE Colleges as they tend to adjust their provision to meet the needs of their intake, basing their curriculum on the number of applicants they receive. Therefore at this stage officials do not consider that the school is likely to have significant impact on local FE colleges.

36. Below follows a discussion of the likely impact of the Free School on the closest schools to the proposed site. The table below shows that opening the Free School will have a minimal impact on 6 schools and a moderate impact on 2 schools.

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	School name	Distance from Free school (Miles)	Impact rating	Capacity	Surplus capacity (%)	Ofsted rating	% of pupils achieving 5+ A* - C GCSE's (or equivalent including English and Maths attaining level 4 in English and Maths)
1	Salvatorian roman Catholic College	0.29	Minimal	720	0.1	Good	73%
2	The Sacred Heart language College	0.41	Minimal	750	0.1	Outstanding	86%
3	Hatch End High School	0.67	Moderate	1747	-0.6	Good	53%
4	Nower Hill High School	1.01	Minimal	1673	-11.9	Outstanding	80%
5	Bentley Wood High School	1.4	Minimal	964	-1.9	Outstanding	69%
6	Harrow High School and Sports College	1.53	Moderate	1050	17.7	Good	43%
7	Whitmore High School	1.81	Minimal	1474	-7.1	Outstanding	70%

8	Park High School	1.88	Minimal	1468	-13.1	Outstanding	73%
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Secondary Schools with a moderate Impact rating

37. The Chair of Harrow High Schools Heads' group, which represents all 10 mainstream High Schools in Harrow, has written to the Secretary of State. In the letter he expresses the heads' concern about the provision of additional secondary places at Avanti House exacerbating the number of empty Y7 place locally. They are also concerned that the timing has added to the uncertainty, with the other schools being unable to plan effectively for September 2012 as the admission process for Avanti House will not be complete until the Funding Agreement is signed in August.

Hatch End High School

38. Hatch End High School is situated 0.67 miles from the proposed site. It has capacity of 1747 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around -0.6% with a higher 10.3% surplus at the point of entry. The school was rated as good in its last Ofsted inspection report in February 2009 for both pre 16 and sixth form provision.

39. The school has slightly below average attainment with 53% of pupils achieving 5+ A* -C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011 which is below the national average of 53.4%. The performance appears to have fluctuated slightly over the years with 55% of pupils achieving this in 2010 and 59% in 2009.

40. The Chair of Governors of Hatch End responded to Avanti House's consultation expressing her concerns about the effect the provision of additional secondary places at Avanti House will have on local secondary schools who are currently managing overprovision.

41. The School is located 0.67 miles from the proposed site; this is less than the average distance travelled to secondary schools in Harrow (1.4 miles). Although it was rated as good by Ofsted in 2009 some parents may be attracted to an alternative school. Given the level of surplus at year 7 it is possible that there may be some impact on the college in the short term. However increasing demand locally for secondary places in future years means its financial viability is unlikely to be affected. We have therefore assessed the impact of opening the Free School on Hatch End High School as moderate.

Harrow High School and Sports College

42. Harrow High School and Sports College is located 1.53 miles from the proposed site. It has a capacity of 1050 pupils and currently has surplus capacity of around 17.7% but 37.2% surplus places at the point of entry.

43. The school was rated as good in its last inspection report in June 2011. The inspector noted "The improvements since the last inspection and effective self-evaluation and planning across all levels of leadership give the school good capacity for sustained improvement".

44. The school has below average attainment with 43% of pupils achieving 5+A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2011. This is below the national average of 53.4%. In 2010 the performance at the school was 31% and 43% in 2009.

45. The school is located 1.53 miles from the proposed site; this is slightly more than the average distance travelled to secondary schools in Harrow. Although it was rated as good by Ofsted in 2011, the level of surplus at year 7 mean it is possible that there may be some impact on the college in the short term. However increasing demand locally for secondary places in future years means its financial viability is unlikely to be affected. We have therefore assessed the impact of opening the Free School on Harrow High School and Sports College as moderate.

Secondary Schools with a minimal Impact rating

	School Name	Impact rating	Surplus Capacity (%)	Ofsted rating	Gender	Faith
1	Salvatorian Roman Catholic College	Minimal	0.1	Good	Male	Roman Catholic
2	The Sacred Heart Language College	Minimal	0.1	Outstanding	Female	Catholic
3	Nower Hill High School	Minimal	-11.9	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No
4	Bentley Wood High School	Minimal	-1.9	Outstanding	Female	No
5	Whitmore High School	Minimal	-7.1	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No
6	Park High School	Minimal	-13.1	Outstanding	Co - Educational	No

46. Of the other six secondary schools considered (please refer to the table above) all have been assessed as being minimally affected by the opening of the Free School. All have little or no surplus capacity and so are already popular with parents.

47. The schools are a mixture of co – educational and single sex schools. Of the six secondary schools considered, two are Catholic and therefore unlikely to lose pupils to Avanti House which will be a Hindu faith designated school.

Conclusion

48. My assessment has concluded that the new school will have a moderate to minimal overall impact on the surrounding schools although the adjacent primary school is at a high general risk of losing significant number which may affect its long-term financial viability.

49. I recommend, that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into the Funding Agreement with the Free School Trust, in light of the possible impacts on the basis that:

- a. the additional school will be likely to improve standards in the area;
- b. there are forecast increases in the primary age and later secondary age population in Harrow and surrounding areas; and

The new school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools. It will be the first state funded Hindu secondary school in the country and will provide a distinctive values-based approach to the humanities as well as offering opportunities to study ethics, philosophy and Sanskrit alongside a more traditional academic curriculum.