

Title: Enfield Heights Academy
Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

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 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.
2. This assessment fulfils that duty by considering the possible impact of the proposed Enfield Heights Academy primary school on the viability of other near-by primary schools. It also considers in broad terms the potential impact on other educational institutions in Enfield.

Background

3. Enfield Heights Academy (EHA) is proposed by the Confederation for British Teachers (CfBT) working in partnership with a local community group known as the EN3 Parents' Action Group. The school will be a co-educational primary school for 4–11 year olds. It will have a non-denominational faith status, but will be "firmly rooted" in Christian values. It plans to open in September 2012 with an intake of up to 25 pupils in Reception and up to 25 pupils in Year 1. The school aims to reach its full capacity of 175 pupils by 2017. The school will be located at Pitfield Way, Hertford Road, Enfield, EN3 5BY.

Local context

4. The Pitfield Way site is in the Turkey Street ward of Enfield. The school does not have a self-defined catchment area. However, the proposers anticipate that most children will come from the Enfield Lock and Enfield Highway wards, which are amongst the most deprived third of all wards in the Greater London Authority. The average percentage of pupils claiming free school meals at schools in the area is almost twice the London average.
5. Enfield's population in 2009 was 291,400 - an increase of 5% since 2001. There has been significant change in the population profile and a growth in multicultural and younger communities. The ethnic profile of Enfield's population is becoming more diverse - in 2001, 76% of residents were classed as White British; by 2009, fewer than 45% declared themselves in that category.
6. Enfield's inward migration includes families and, as a result, there has been an increase in the number of children in the borough: by 2009, there were 62,900 children aged under 16 years (forming 21.7% of the local population). This increase is forecast to continue principally as a result of a rising birth rate and fewer families moving away from the borough. In turn, this increases the demand for a range of services, including health, housing,

and education and childcare. The provision of sufficient school places is a particular challenge in this context.

7. In Enfield, there is currently a small surplus of primary school places. However, the primary school population is projected to grow significantly between 2010/11 and 2015/16. If no new primary school places were added, there would be just over an 8% shortfall of places by 2015/16.

2011 LA forecast – primary places

Capacity			No. of pupils					
May 2011	Surplus 2010/11	Forecast deficit 2015/16	Actual 2010/11	Forecast 2011/12	Forecast 2012/13	Forecast 2013/14	Forecast 2014/15	Forecast 2015/16
27,997	2.5%	-8.3%	27,297	28,109	28,969	29,652	30,077	30,330

Admissions to EHA

8. The school's admissions arrangements are compliant with the Admissions Code. EHA will manage the admissions for 2012; in subsequent years, parents must apply via their home local authority. Pupils will be admitted without reference to ability, aptitude or social background. Should the school be over-subscribed, after admitting all children with a statement of SEN which names EHA, priority will be given in the following order:

- a. Looked after children (as defined by section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.
- b. Children for whom the school is appropriate on exceptional medical grounds.
- c. Children who live closest to the two nodal points set out below. Within this category priority will be given in the following order:
 - i) First priority in category c will go to those children who have brothers or sisters already at the school at the time of entry. If there are more applicants than places priority will be given, within this group, to those children who live nearest to the nodal point closest to their home, using the GPS co-ordinates for their home and the nodal point.
 - ii) Second priority in category c will go to those children who live nearest to the nodal point closest to their home, using the GPS co-ordinates for their home and the nodal point.

The nodal points the school entrance and Enfield Lock station. In the case of a tie-break being necessary within criteria c, children of multiple

births (twins, triplets etc) will be given priority. If a further tie-break is necessary, random allocation will be used.

9. EHA will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where in any year the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

10. To date [11 June 2012], the school has received 46 applications for the 25 Reception places and 2 for the 25 Year 1 places. Parents will be made formal offers of places for their children very shortly after the supplementary funding agreement has been signed.

Representations

11. No direct representations about the potential impact of the school have been received by the Department, but two public consultations have been carried out by the proposer group. The first ran for six weeks and sought views on the school's vision and ethos, curriculum, location and admissions criteria. 41 responses were received, the large majority of which were positive about the proposed school.

12. The second consultation ran for two weeks and asked whether CfBT should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. The 16 responses received all supported entering into a funding agreement.

Local authority view

13. Enfield Council was invited to provide its views on the Free School proposal. The Director of Schools & Children's Services, Andrew Fraser, responded on 14 February 2012 saying that, although the Council had identified an urgent need for additional primary school places, it could not give a definitive view on whether EHA would meet local demand until the school's location had been confirmed. Mr Fraser wrote again on 13 March 2012 to confirm that the proposal to locate the school at Pitfield Way would help to meet the need for additional reception places in that part of the borough.

Impact on other primary schools

14. EHA does not have a self-defined catchment area. For the purposes of the impact assessment, we have, therefore, created a proxy catchment area. As 80% of Enfield's primary pupils have a journey of 1.5 miles or less, we have assessed the impact on the 23 primary schools¹ falling within that radius of Pitfield Way (see list at appendix 1).

15. A small number of the schools currently have surplus places and/or do not provide a good standard of education (as judged by Ofsted), so ordinarily might be vulnerable to losing pupils to a new school. However, we anticipate

¹ Oasis Academy Hadley, an "all through" school, currently falls within the proxy catchment area, but moves to Ponders End in 2013, so has been discounted for this impact assessment.

that the establishment of EHA is likely to have no more than a minimal impact on the viability of any of the schools. This is because the expected increase in demand for primary school places in the area over the next few years means that the numbers of pupils on the schools' rolls are likely to increase and, even with a new school in the area, there will be little, if any, competition for pupils.

16. As with any Free School, we expect EHA to achieve high educational standards and outcomes for its pupils and for this to inspire other local schools to improve. In EHA's case, it could be argued that this effect might be mitigated to some extent because the growing pupil population and consequent increase in demand for places is likely to curtail the need for schools to compete for pupils. However, we anticipate that local schools will not be complacent and will strive to match EHA's high standards, thus its impact will be beneficial in improving educational standards for children in this part of Enfield.

Impact on secondary schools, special schools, alternative provision and FE institutions

17. We do not anticipate that EHA will have any discernible impact on other education providers in the area beyond the point noted in paragraph 16 that EHA pupils are expected to achieve high standards. They will, therefore, start secondary school on a stronger footing than some of their peers and will be less likely to need support from an alternative provision. We do not foresee an impact on special schools or FE providers in the area.

Conclusion

18. Our assessment is that the establishment of EHA will have little or no impact on the viability of other primary schools in the area, even when it is operating at full capacity in 2017. However, we expect the school to perform well and to have some beneficial impact on educational standards in the area.

Annex B – appendix 1

Primary schools within a 1.5 mile radius of Enfield Heights Academy

Eastfield Primary School

St James CofE Primary School

Carterhatch Junior School

Carterhatch Infant School

Suffolks Primary School

Brimsdown Primary School

Chesterfield School

Forty Hill CofE Primary School

Worcesters Primary School

Freezywater St George's CofE Primary School

Southbury Primary School

Honilands Primary School

Prince of Wales Primary School

Capel Manor Primary School

St Mary's RC Primary School

Keys Meadow School

George Spicer Primary School

St Andrew's CofE Primary School

Lavender Primary School

St Matthew's CofE Primary School

Alma Primary School

Bush Hill Park Primary School

St George's RC Primary School