

Title: Harris Primary Free School Peckham
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Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

Introduction

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 likely to be on maintained schools, Academies and institutions within the further education sector in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

2. Harris Primary Free School Peckham is to establish a two form entry, 4-11, non-selective and non denominational primary school, in Peckham, London Borough of Southwark. A first year intake will see 60 children in reception year, building to a full capacity of 420 places in 2018.
3. There is an increasing need for primary places at Reception level in Southwark with the demand for primary places forecast to grow by 18.4% over the next five years. The neighbouring London Boroughs of Tower hamlets, Lewisham and Lambeth are projected to grow by 13%, 26% and 16% respectively. Any potential negative impact on local schools could be mitigated by the growing populations in Southwark and its neighbouring areas.
4. Harris Federation has a track record of success in running secondary schools that serve deprived and challenging populations and has sponsored specialisms in primary schools; this proposal would expand provision into the primary sector. 261 local parents expressed support for the Harris Federation to open a primary school based on the Federation's principles for successful schools.
5. The Free School would be offered links with the established Harris Peckham Academy and would be supported with leadership capacity and governance. This will be facilitated by the co-occupation of the existing Academy site and whilst the Free School will retain its own identity, the Free School will benefit from opportunities to share the Academy's specialist facilities and teaching.

The school's admissions policy

6. If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with statements of special educational needs, the school will prioritise children in the following order: children in care; brothers or sisters of pupils attending the Harris Primary Free School Peckham and Harris Academy Peckham who will still be in attendance on the date of admission, and straight line distance.

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Local Authority Perspective

7. The Department wrote to the local authority on 2nd February 2011 and 1st November 2011 requesting the authority's view as to the impact of the Free School on other local schools in the area.

8. Southwark LA has never been a strong supporter of the Free School proposal and initially (March 2011) stated that the opening of the Free School in 2012 could disrupt their primary strategy as the conversations with existing primary schools were at an advanced stage and that their strategy of creating bulge classes would have to be reviewed. Their view was that that their existing strategy would address the projected need for demand of additional places in Reception years and that parents would not initially see the proposed Free School as an alternative to what already exists, taking longer for the Free School to become a school of choice – this view is not reflected when considering that 261 local parents have chosen to support the Free School application. However in November 2011 in a reply to the Department, the authority stated that *“there has been increasing pressure for reception places in September 2011 and as a result Southwark's projections have been uprated by a 3% planning margin. This has increased the projected shortfall of places across the borough, including in the area that would be served by the Harris Peckham Primary Free School. While Southwark's strategy is to expand existing good and outstanding Southwark primary schools to meet this pressure the Harris Free School would provide additional places in the part of the borough where there is forecast to be increasing pressure for places.”* The Department considers that the above statement from the Educational planning department within London Borough of Southwark shows that the opening of the Free School will help provided much needed primary places in the specific locality of the Free School.

9. Since 2001, the population in Southwark has increased and is projected to continue to grow to between 338,600 (ONS 2006-based projections) and 380,000 (GLA PLP High) by 2031. In 2007 the population of Southwark was estimated to be around 274,400 (Office of National Statistics). However, in the shorter term, the number of pupils and projections in Southwark 2010/11 – 2015/16 are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Number of pupils and projections in Southwark 2010/11 – 2015/16

		Academic year 2010/11		Academic year 2015/16		2010/11 - 2015/16
LA District	Number of places in 2011	No of pupils	Surplus %	No. of pupils	Surplus %	% increase in population
Primary school pupil population						
Southwark	23,109	20,402	11.7%	24,150	-4.5%	18.4%
Tower Hamlets	21,909	20,995	4.2%	23,689	-8.1%	12.8%
Lewisham	22,014	21,143	4.0%	26,584	-20.8%	25.7%
Lambeth	20,132	19,096	5.1%	22,130	-9.9%	15.9%

Note and source: The figures in this table are based on the 2011 SCAP data and covers 4 - 11 year olds in maintained primary schools.

10. The authority plans across a wider area to ensure that the need for places is met in the future. In the case of both the south, where the school is to be located, and the adjacent centre planning area, the pressure for Reception places is considerably greater (in the south, the projected shortfall is nearly 5 FE in September 2012, while in the centre the projected shortfall is 4 FE). Southwark proposes to meet these shortfalls by a mixture of bulge classes and permanent additional places. This has resulted in the recent expansion of some of the primary schools and is sustainable until 2014 (**Table 2**). The additional provision of 2FE at the proposed Free School would therefore go some way to meeting the projected shortfall of primary places in the Nunhead and Peckham Rye area where the Free School will be located.

Table 2: Nunhead and Peckham Rye Total Projections based on January 2011

Year	Net Capacity	(Projected) No on Roll	No of surplus places	% of surplus
2011	2835	2538	297	10.5
2012	2835	2643	192	6.8
2013	2835	2759	76	2.7
2014	2835	2865	-30	-1.1
2015	2835	2964	-129	-4.6
2016	2835	3036	-201	-7.1
2017	2835	3096	-261	-9.2
2018	2835	3159	-324	-11.4
2019	2835	3208	-373	-13.2
2020	2835	3230	-395	-13.9

(Source: Southwark Council)

11. LA records in 2010 saw almost every parent who applied for a primary school place for their child in Southwark offered a place in one of their preferred schools. Some 95% were successful in securing a place for their child in their preferred school. This is an increase of 14% from 2009 and means that almost 300 more children than the previous year will go to a Southwark school of their choice.

12. The proposed Free School will be located on the site of Harris Academy (Peckham), which is in the Dulwich / Camberwell / Nunhead / Peckham Planning Area. The LA projections indicate that the largest part of that deficit is not in Dulwich itself but in Camberwell and Nunhead/Peckham Rye. The same projections show that demand peaks in 2015 before declining to about one form above the current capacity. This would suggest that additional places are required locally but mostly to accommodate a population bulge, with only a small permanent increase in numbers.

Analysis of nearby maintained schools and Academies

13. There are a total of 21 primary schools (including one Independent,

The Villa which caters for pupils in the age range of 2-7) within a radius of one mile of the proposed Free School; six of those being within half a mile of the proposed site (The Villa is excluded from the schools listed in Table 3). In addition, four other schools are included having been impact rated as 'moderate' to 'high'. It is these ten schools that are considered to be most likely to be affected by the establishment of this school and have therefore restricted the in depth analysis to these 10 schools as part of this impact assessment.

Table 3: List of nearest primary schools (within 1.0 mile)

School Name 2010	Type	Sex of school	Denomination	Capacity	Headcount of pupils 2010	Distance (miles)	Impact Rating
St James the Great Roman Catholic Primary School	Voluntary Aided School	Mixed	Roman Catholic	210	230	0.06	Minimal
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	612	575	0.19	High
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park (previously known as Peckham Park Primary School)	Community School	Mixed	None	525	372	0.42	Minimal
St Francis RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided School	Mixed	Roman Catholic	420	415	0.53	Moderate
Bellenden Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	210	213	0.49	Moderate
Gloucester School	Community School	Mixed	None	630	543	0.51	High
Camelot Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	525	474	0.65	Moderate
Cobourg Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	420	354	0.77	Moderate
Goose Green Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	420	406	0.86	Moderate
Crawford Primary School	Community School	Mixed	None	420	391	0.94	Moderate/High

14. The 10 primary schools listed in Table 3 are a mixture of small, medium and large primaries with a pupil make-up similar to that detailed above. Five schools have been rated as good by Ofsted following their last inspection, (St James the Great, Oliver Goldsmith, Bellenden, Camelot and Cobourg), with three, (Harris Peckham Park, St Francis and Goose Green) being rated as satisfactory. The two remaining primaries, Gloucester and Crawford, were rated inadequate.

Impact ratings

15. A minimal rating implies that the school will not lose pupils to the free school or may lose some but will still be able to fill most or all of its places. It will not significantly impact on the school's overall attainment and ability to improve

16. A moderate rating implies that the school may lose some pupils but should still be able to fill most of its places. However there might be some impact on the school's overall attainment and ability to improve

17.A high rating implies that the school may lose some pupils and may exacerbate surplus capacity already in the school. There may be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment and ability to improve.

Summary of the ten local primary schools considered to be potentially most affected

St James the Great Roman Catholic Primary School is a 1 form entry, 3-11 age range school, situated within 0.1 miles of the Free School. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is above the national average. Most pupils are from a wide range of minority ethnic backgrounds, with pupils from Black African heritages forming the largest group. Around 50% speak English as an additional language. A higher than average proportion of pupils has learning difficulties and or disabilities. Of these, pupils with behavioral, emotional and social difficulties form the largest group. The school was judged **good** by Ofsted in 2009 and the percentage of children achieving Level 4 in English and maths was 81% and 85% respectively. The school is also oversubscribed by 20.

Due to oversubscription and the particular religious ethos, it is considered unlikely that the opening of the Harris Peckham Primary Free School will greatly impact on this school and has been given an **impact rating of 'minimal'**.

Oliver Goldsmith Primary School is a 3 form entry, with an age range 3-11, a large multi-cultural school, which has specialist status for the arts. The school is located within 0.2 miles from the Free School. The proportion of children representing Black Minority Ethnic backgrounds, speaking English as an additional language and who are eligible for free school meals is higher than average. More pupils than average enter and leave the school at times other than at the start and end of the school year, have statements of educational need and have learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD). The school was judged **good** by Ofsted in 2008. The percentage of children achieving Level 4 or above in English and maths in 2010 was 62% and 76% respectively. The school currently has a relatively large number of surplus places (37) and was under subscribed for entry in 2011 and might experience some further loss in pupil numbers although due to basic need across Southwark, it is difficult to judge the extent of what that impact might be.

However, the school now achieves below average attainment at Key Stage 2 so parents could be attracted to a new school. The opening of the Free School could further exacerbate the existing surplus place issue and have a negative impact on the long term financial viability of the school and therefore **has an impact rating of 'high'**. We do not however believe it would threaten the future viability of the school.

Harris Academy Peckham Park, previously known as Peckham Park Primary School (converted to a Harris Academy in September

2011) is a 2 form entry, 3-11 age range and above average sized school, located within 0.4 miles of the proposed Free School and is part of the Harris Federation. EYFS is offered in the Nursery and Reception classes. The majority of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds, and more than half are learning English as an additional language. Over half the pupils are eligible for free school meals, which is high. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and with a statement is above average. The school is emerging from a period of turbulence and uncertainty and has had several head teachers, with the most recent one being in post since April 2009. The former school was judged **satisfactory** by Ofsted in 2010 and in 2010/11 had 178 surplus places which equates to 34% of total capacity.

The predecessor school had below average Key Stage 2 attainment in 2010, with 64% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and maths compared with 74% nationally. Whilst in normal circumstances the opening of a Primary Free School so close to this school could be expected to have an adverse impact. Both schools are working in partnership including the sharing of some staff and a common curriculum. There will be a joined up approach in place to raising the standards across both schools and to drive up achievement. Overall, due to the fact that this school is working in partnership with the Free School the **impact rating is considered 'minimal'**.

St Francis RC Primary School is a 2 form entry larger-than-average primary school (capacity of 420), catering for a 3-11 age range. The school is located within 0.5 miles of the proposed Free School. It serves an ethnically diverse area and almost all pupils come from Black Minority ethnic groups. Other characteristics include three-fifths of the pupils do not speak English as their first language and it has very small, but long-established, group of pupils of Irish traveler heritage; an above-average proportion of pupils are entitled to free school meals; and a high number of pupils have SEN and/or disabilities. The majority of these have speech and language issues or autism. The school provides the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted judged it **satisfactory** in 2009.

The school was marginally undersubscribed (8%) in 2010/11 – data is not available for 2011/12. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and maths in 2010 was 74% and 70% respectively. This is slightly below national average Key Stage 2 attainment. Being of a specific religious ethos and that the school is at near capacity, it is not expected that this school will be greatly impacted and has been **rated as 'moderate'**.

Bellenden Primary School is a 1 form entry, 3-11 age range school located within a distance of 0.5 miles from the proposed Free School. The school has capacity for 210 pupils (around 30 pupils per year group) and had a surplus of 17% of places in 2010/11. The majority of children come from Black Minority Ethnic backgrounds with a few from White British background and a high number of pupils are at an early stage of learning English, many of whom are new to the country and

have come from traumatic circumstances. The proportions of pupils entitled to free school meals and with learning difficulties and disabilities are above the national average. A significant number of these have a statement of SEN. The number of pupils who leave or join the school part-way through the primary years is high. Some families leave the area when their children are in Years 4 or 5 and this means numbers in Year 6 are often small for the size of the school. The school was judged **good** by Ofsted in 2007.

The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and maths in 2010 was 73% and 91% respectively. The school was however oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 and believe, should the school lose pupil places to the proposed new Free School, it should still be able to fill its places. We do not therefore anticipate any major change in parent interest or a significant decrease in the number of admission applications as a result of establishing the Free School and have given an **impact rating of 'moderate'**.

Gloucester School is a 3 form entry, with an age range 3-11 and much larger than average primary school with a capacity of 630 pupils, situated within 0.5 miles of the proposed Free School. The EYFS is made up of Nursery and Reception class provision. The proportions of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is slightly above average, plus pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is much higher than average and speaking English as an additional language is higher than average, although few pupils are at an early stage of learning English. There have been a number of changes in senior staff over recent years and the governing body was replaced by an interim executive board in 2009. The interim head teacher joined the school in September 2010. The school was judged **inadequate** by Ofsted in 2010 and was undersubscribed with 87 surplus places in 2010/11 (31%). It is likely that until the school is turned around the number of surplus places will remain at least to a similar level.

The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and maths in 2010 was 62% and 51% respectively. This is substantially below average attainment at Key Stage 2. It is possible that establishing the proposed Free School could exacerbate the surplus situation and have a negative effect on the long term financial viability of the school. In consideration of this, an **impact rating of 'high'** has been given.

Camelot Primary School is a Community school with a capacity for 525 pupils with an intake of around 75 per year group but had a surplus of over 21% in 2010/11 but filled most of its Reception places. In 2009, the school was rated as **good** in its last Ofsted report. In 2010 attainment in Key Stage 2 was 56% in English and 75% in maths at Level 4 or above.

The school has below average attainment so parents may be attracted to an alternative. The school currently has a relatively large number of surplus places, so if they do lose some potential pupils it could exacerbate the situation. However, the school is further away than the

average distance travelled to primary school in Southwark and has been rated as good by Ofsted, so we do not expect the potential loss of pupils to the new school to be large enough to affect the long term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for primary places over the next few years. Based on this information, an **impact rating of 'moderate'** has been considered.

Cobourg Primary School - The school has capacity for 420 pupils (around 60 per year group) but had surplus capacity of over 18% in 2010/11. Admissions data for 2011/12 is unavailable but the school filled most of its Reception places in 2010/11. The school was rated as **good** in its last inspection in 2008. In 2010, the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 was 56% in English and 74% in maths in respective.

The school has below average attainment so parents may be attracted to an alternative, and the school currently has a number of surplus places so any loss of potential pupils could increase this number. However, the school is located beyond the average distance travelled to primary school in Southwark so in principle we would expect it to lose fewer pupils than schools which are closer. The school was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it loses some potential pupils to the new school, Cobourg Primary should still be able to fill all or most of its places. Additionally, any loss of pupils to the new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for primary places over the next few years so we do not expect the opening of the new school to affect the long-term financial viability of the school and therefore potential impact has been **rated as 'moderate'**.

Goose Green Primary is a community school with a capacity 420 pupils (around 60 per year group) but had surplus capacity of around 17% in 2010/11. Admissions data for 2011/12 is unavailable but the school filled most of their Reception places in 2010/11. In 2010, the school was rated as **satisfactory** in its last inspection. The school has above average Key Stage 2 attainment with 82% achieving Level 4 or above in English and 85% in maths in 2010.

The school currently has a number of surplus pupil places, however, the school has attainment above the national level and was oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12 so even if it loses some potential pupils to the new school, it should still be able to fill all of its places. The opening on the Free School should not have an impact on the long term financial viability of the school. Additionally, any loss of pupils to a new Free School may be mitigated by the increased demand for primary places over the next few years so we do not expect the opening of the new school to affect the long-term financial viability of the school and has been **rated as 'moderate'**.

Crawford Primary School is a community primary school having a capacity for 420 pupils (around 60 per year group) but had surplus capacity of 19% in 2010/11. Admissions data for 2011/12 is unavailable but the school filled most of its Reception places in

2010/11. Attainment at Key Stage 2 (level 4 or above) in 2010 is well below the national level, with 52% in English and 55% in maths. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in English is lower than it was five years ago, whilst the percentage achieving the expected level in maths is the same.

The school is located beyond the average distance travelled to primary school in Southwark so in principle we would expect it to lose fewer pupils than schools which are closer to the proposed school. However, the school has been rated as **inadequate** by Ofsted and has relatively low levels of attainment, so parents may be attracted to an alternative even if it meant travelling further. Ofsted's inspection found the school failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education, with pupils making insufficient progress during their time in the school. Ofsted judged that the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school were not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement, and as a result the school became subject to special measures. The school has since had five monitoring inspections, the latest of which was in July 2011. This found the progress since the previous monitoring inspection to be satisfactory, but the progress since being subject to special measures still inadequate.

The school currently has surplus capacity so a loss of potential pupils could further exacerbate the situation, and it is possible this will have a negative impact on the long term financial viability of the school. The impact is **rated as moderate/high**.

Other schools listed in Table 3 (above)

18. The table provides details of all state maintained primary schools within a one mile radius of the proposed Harris Primary Free School Peckham.

Views of other parties

19. There has been extensive consultation on the Free School with local interested parties including local schools, nurseries, parents, Head teachers groups, admission forums, local businesses, Southwark local authority and members of wider community, the response to the Free school proposal has been very positive with no negative responses received.

Conclusion

20. Taking into account the future projected shortage of primary places in and around the Peckham area as well as across LB Southwark as a whole, the number and choice of primary schools and the relatively small size of the proposed Harris Primary Free School (2FE with a capacity of 420 places when full), would suggest that the impact on local schools is likely to be generally moderate to minimal. This is further confirmed when looking purely at the local situation to where the proposed school will be located, Nunhead and Peckham Rye, where

the LA agree that there will be a shortage of 2FE primary places from September 2012.

21. Individual planning areas don't reflect the pressure that Southwark, along with other boroughs, is under (as a result of the increased birth rate and the reduced migration of parents from London), the authority therefore plans across a wider area to ensure that the need for places is met in the future. In the case of both the south where the school would be located and the adjacent centre planning area the pressure for reception places is considerably greater - in the south of Southwark a projected shortfall of nearly 5FE in September 2012, while in the centre the projected shortfall is 4FE. Southwark is proposing to meet these shortfalls by a mixture of bulge classes and permanent additional places. The additional 2FE at the Free School would therefore go some way to meeting the projected shortfall of places in the area of the new Free School
22. Any impact on local schools also needs to be balanced with the positive impact that the Harris Peckham Primary Free School will have in improving parental choice by widening the number and type of places available in local primary state provision, and by driving up standards in surrounding schools. Both of these features are key aims of the Free Schools policy and we would expect the Harris Primary Free School, given the track record of the Harris Federation to drive up standards in schools across the board, and improving standards for all young people in the area will support both these policy aims. Officials have also considered the impact on local FE institutions however, because of the proposed Free School age range there will be no impact on them.
23. Given all this information, we consider that the impact of establishing the Harris Peckham Primary Free School on existing maintained primary schools, Academies and FE institutions in the local and surrounding area is outbalanced by the positive impact that the school will have on parental choice and in driving up standards in nearby institutions.