

Title: Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School
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Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

Introduction

1. Tauheedul is a Muslim boys' secondary school approved to open in Blackburn in September 2012. It will initially take 75 pupils in both years seven and eight, and with effect from 2014 will increase to 100 pupils per year group. 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 Blackburn. We will therefore include all secondary schools within a 2.5 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. Tauheedul Free School is located in Blackburn with Darwen District. Table 1 below sets out the population growth in secondary schools between 2010/11 and 2015/16 in Blackburn with Darwen and neighbouring districts.

Table 1: Number of pupils and projections in Blackburn, 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						
Blackburn with Darwen	10,695	8,950	16.3%	8,783	17.9%	-1.9%
Chorley	5,790	5,339	7.8%	5,502	5.0%	3.1%
South Ribble	9,463	7,499	20.8%	7,113	24.8%	-5.1%
Ribble Valley	5,338	4,723	11.5%	4,774	10.6%	1.1%
Hyndburn	5,907	5,021	15.0%	5,015	15.1%	-0.1%
Rossendale	5,935	4,386	26.1%	4,389	26.0%	0.1%
Bolton	19,935	17,059	14.4%	16,501	17.2%	-3.3%
Bury	11,847	10,971	7.4%	10,268	13.3%	-6.4%

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 is projected to fall by 1.9% over the next seven years. The neighbouring districts are mostly projected to remain fairly stable or fall, with the exception of Chorley (projected to grow by 3.1%) and Ribble Valley (projected to grow by 1.1%). It is unlikely that any potential negative impact on local secondary schools will be mitigated by growing populations in Blackburn with Darwen and its neighbouring areas – all of whom currently have existing surplus places. However, as we do not have data on projections by faith group it is difficult to know whether the small projected population fall will lead to a fall in the Muslim population in Blackburn with Darwen. There is some evidence to suggest that the Muslim pupil population may be different to the overall trend. Nationally, 2001 census data showed that the demographic profile of Muslims was younger than all the other religious groups – around 35% of the Muslim population were aged under-16 and a similar proportion 16-34 (compared with around 19% and 21% respectively for the Christian group, for example).

Local Authority View

5. Blackburn with Darwen Council is Labour controlled and is publicly opposed to Free Schools and Academies. The Council was formally invited to provide their views on the Free School proposal and responded on 13 January 2012.

6. In their response, the Council queried the proposed admissions number, however, the Council included the Free School's admissions arrangements in their admissions booklet last September. They coordinated 2012 admissions on behalf of TIBHS and are currently handling the school's admissions appeals process.

7. The Council's involvement in the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) was confirmed as safe in the Government's announcement in July 2010. As part of the BSF programme, statutory proposals were consulted on and approved and the following decisions were taken:

- Closure of Beardwood High School by September 2012 as a result of over provision of community school places in North West Blackburn;
- Enlarge Pleckgate High School as a 100% new build PFI scheme to create a 1350 11-16 pupil place school (opened September 2011);
- Enlarge Blakewater College as a 100% new build PFI scheme, and co-locate with Crosshill Special School to create a 960 11-16 pupil school on a new site (opening September 2012) at a capital cost of £24 million;
- Enlarge Witton Park High School as a 100% new build PFI to create a 1230 11-16 pupil place school (opening September 2012);
- Relocate and enlarge the highly oversubscribed Tauheedul Islam Girls High School (TIGHS) to accommodate 600 11-16 pupils on the

Beardwood site following closure.

8. The plans outlined above would create 720 places, which would meet the pupil place planning requirements following the closure of Beardwood High School. The Council also included a small number of surplus places to allow for increase in demand arising from an increase in the birth rate from 2016 onwards.

9. The Council suggested that over 90% of pupils for the Free School would come from the maintained sector, which could result in the loss of 400 pupils, and a potential reduction in funding of approximately £9.5million. In reality, in September 2012, 28% of pupils have come from the independent sector across Lancashire.

Representations

10. The Academy Trust carried out formal consultation in three phases over several months, with each phase including public meetings, local leafleting, information on the website, online questionnaire, letters to parents and face to face discussion. The Trust consulted on an appropriate range of questions including the Islamic ethos, admissions, curriculum and location and posed the question of whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open as a Free School in September 2012.

11. The response from the local community was overwhelmingly positive, resulting in a 1,000 signature petition in favour of setting up the school and 300 pre-application forms received. There was significant concern about the school's proposed admissions number, with most respondents feeling that the proposed 75 places were inadequate. As a result of the consultation, the Trust decided to increase admissions to 100 from September 2013. Full consultation was carried out and a revised admissions policy agreed.

12. A small minority of consultees opposed the proposal citing concerns about the impact on funding for neighbouring schools, that a school with a faith ethos would undermine community cohesion in the borough, that the proposed site lacked facilities and would impact on local traffic and parking. Blackburn with Darwen Council also raised concerns about the impact on pupil numbers and funding for neighbouring schools in the borough, in their formal response to the consultation. In response, Tauheedul have made the Big Society a key specialism for the new school with a range of activities planned in the local community. They are also working with Blackburn Council to develop a traffic management plan to address the traffic and parking concerns.

Impact Ratings for Secondary Schools

13. Table 2 below sets out the individual impact on each secondary school located within 2.5 miles of the proposed site. It shows that the Free School may have a high impact on one school (Blakewater College), and a minimal

impact on five schools. Further details are provided below.

14. In September 2012, 28% of pupils will be joining TIBHS from the independent education sector across Lancashire.

15. As we do not have data on pupil faith, this makes it more difficult to determine which schools will feel a greater impact on the new Free School. Where we can, we use ethnic group as a proxy for a faith group. For Tauheedul boys a useful proxy *might* be Tauheedul Islam girls school, a Voluntary Aided school also situated in Blackburn (although there is some evidence that Muslim parents have a stronger preference for single sex schools for girls than for boys). Here, 76% of the pupils are of Indian ethnic origin and 18% are of Pakistani ethnic origin.

16. Where a school has been highlighted as at risk of losing pupils to an attractive new provider, we look at the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi populations within the school. If there is a very small number, even if they did lose a substantial number of pupils from any of these groups, the loss may be too small to negatively impact on the school. Based on the experience of the Tauheedul girls school we are assuming that the Free School will attract few White British boys.

Summary of the Potential Impact on Secondary Schools Located Within 2.5 miles of Tauheedul Free School

School Name	Distance to Free School	Pupils on Roll	Last full Ofsted Rating	%of pupils attaining 5+ GCSE's A*-C including English + Maths
Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School (TIGHS)	0.5 miles	420	Outstanding	98%
St Wilfrids CoE Academy	0.87 miles	1562	Good	70%
Pleckgate High School	0.98 miles	1195	Good	57%
Witton Park High School	1.23 miles	1069	Satisfactory	46%
Our Lady & St John Catholic College	1.51 miles	995	Satisfactory	38%
Blakewater College	1.83 miles	458	Satisfactory	36%
St Bede's RC High School	2.27 miles	1014	Good	66%

School with a high impact rating

The following section summarises what the potential impact maybe for Blakewater College.

1. Blakewater College (1.83 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Foundation School

Capacity: The school has capacity for 900 pupils but had a large surplus of around 24% of places in 2010/11. Admissions data for 2011/12 is unavailable but the school was unable to fill all of its Year 7 places in 2010/11, with around 76 places out of 180 on offer going unfilled. 11% of pupils in this school are classified as Indian ethnic origin and 25% are classified as Pakistani ethnic origin.

BSF: The College has been enlarged as a 100% new build PFI scheme, under BSF, and co-located with Crosshill Special School to create a 960 11-16 pupil school. The new site has received capital investment of £24 million and is due to open in September 2012

Ofsted: The school was rated as satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2009.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well below the national figure – 36% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2011 compared with 58.9% nationally.

Impact: **High** – The Free School is likely to be very attractive to Indian/Pakistani parents who would otherwise have to send their children to Blakewater, given the excellent performance of TIGHS and the fact that Blakewater's attainment is well below average and it only has a satisfactory Ofsted. Blakewater is also located less than two miles from the proposed site, meaning that it is within easy travelling distance even if it is slightly above the average distance travelled to secondary school in Blackburn (1.6 miles). The school currently has a large overall number of surplus places and was heavily undersubscribed for entry in 2011, with over 40% of places left unfilled, so the opening of the free school could further exacerbate the existing surplus places issue and potentially threaten the long term financial viability of the school.

26% (around 166 pupils) of the school population are classified as belonging to the Indian or Pakistani ethnic group, which on average amounts to 33 pupils per year group. If, say, half were attracted to the Free School over this school, this would be a loss of around 16 pupils per year, which given the number of existing surplus places could have a large impact. However, it is difficult to predict what proportion of parents from these ethnic groups would be attracted to a school with a Muslim ethos given that we do not have data on the faith of pupils. There may also be Muslims within other ethnic groups, or non-Muslims that would be attracted by the Free School.

Schools with a low impact rating

1. Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School

We have not considered the impact on the girls' school because it will not be impacted by the Free School which will be a boys' school.

Of the other five schools considered, all have been assessed as being minimally affected by the opening of the Free School.

2. St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy

School type: Co-educational 11-18 Academy

Capacity: The school has a capacity of 1557 pupils and currently there are no surplus places. In 2010/11 the school was oversubscribed, receiving 1000 applications for 246 Year 7 places.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment well above the national average – 70% in 2011 compared to a national average of 58.9%.

Impact: **Low** – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but the school's attainment levels are consistently well above the national average and the school has been rated good by Ofsted, which may attract parents. Parents may also be attracted to the school on the basis of its Church of England designation, and co-educational status, and may not wish for their children to attend a school with a different ethos. Even if it does lose some places to the Free School the school currently has no surplus places and was oversubscribed in 2010/11 and should be able to fill all of its places.

3. Pleckgate High School Mathematics and Computing College

School type: Co-educational 11-16 Community School

Capacity: The school has a capacity of 1200 pupils and there are currently 1195 pupils at the school. In 2010/11 the school was oversubscribed, receiving 673 applications for 270 Year 7 places.

BSF: The School has been enlarged as a 100% new build PFI scheme to create a 1350 11-16 pupil place school (opened September 2011)

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

Attainment: The School has Key Stage 4 attainment just below the national average – 57% in 2011 compared to a national average of 58.9%, but this represented a 10% increase on the previous year and was marginally above the local authority average of 56.9%.

Impact: **Low** – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School as the school has significantly more boys than girls, also most students are from Indian and Pakistani backgrounds. The school has had specialist status in

mathematics and computing since 2005 and leading edge status, with a focus on English as an additional language and literacy, since September 2009, which may attract parents. Some of the parents may also be attracted to the non-faith and co-educational aspects of the school. Even if it does lose some places to the Free School the school was oversubscribed in 2010/11 and should be able to fill all of its places.

4. Witton Park High School

School type: Co-educational 11-16 Community School

Capacity: The school has a capacity of 1075 pupils and there are currently 1069 pupils at the school. In 2010/11 the school was oversubscribed, receiving 720 applications for 246 Year 7 places.

BSF: The School has been enlarged as a 100% new build PFI to create a 1230 11-16 pupil place school (opening September 2012).

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

Attainment: The School has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 46% in 2011 compared to a national average of 58.9%.

Impact: **Low** – The school may lose some of its pupils to the Free School as its attainment is below the national average and is only rated as satisfactory by Ofsted. However, parents may be attracted to the non-faith and co-educational aspects of the school, as well as the fact that the school will move into a new purpose-built campus, adjacent to its present site, in September 2012. Even if it does lose some places to the Free School the school was oversubscribed in 2010/11 and should be able to fill all of its places.

5. Our Lady & St John Catholic College

School type: Co-educational 11-18 Voluntary Aided School

Capacity: The school has a capacity of 931 pupils and currently there are no surplus places. In 2010/11 the school was oversubscribed, receiving 494 applications for 190 Year 7 places.

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

Attainment: The School has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 38% in 2011 compared to a national average of 58.9%.

Impact: **Low** - The school may lose some of its pupils to the Free School as its attainment is below the national average and is only rated as satisfactory by Ofsted. However, parents may be attracted to the school on the basis of its Catholic designation, and co-educational basis, and may not wish for their

children to attend a school with a different ethos. Even if it does lose some places to the Free School the school currently has no surplus places and was oversubscribed in 2010/11 and should be able to fill all of its places.

6. St Bede's Roman Catholic High School

School type: Co-educational 11-16 Voluntary Aided School

Capacity: The school has a capacity of 975 pupils and currently there are no surplus places. In 2010/11 the school was oversubscribed, receiving 486 applications for 195 Year 7 places.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment above the national average – 66% in 2011 compared to a national average of 58.9%.

Impact: **Low** – the school may lose some pupils to the Free School, but the school's attainment levels are consistently above the national average and the school has been rated good by Ofsted, which may attract parents. Parents may also be attracted to the school on the basis of its Catholic designation, and co-educational status, and may not wish for their children to attend a school with a different ethos. Even if it does lose some places to the Free School the school currently has no surplus places and was oversubscribed in 2010/11 and should be able to fill all of its places.

Impact on 6th Form Provision and FE Institutions

17. TIBHS will be admitting children of 6th form age. It will begin with an intake of 100 pupils in Year 12 in 2014, and 100 pupils for Year 12 and Year 13 from 2015. 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, such as St Wilfred's Church of England Academy, Our Lady and St John Catholic College, and St Mary's College (Roman Catholic) offer a different ethos to the Muslim designation of the Free School's 6th Form, and children and their parents may not be attracted to a 6th form with a different ethos, or indeed with a single sex intake. The only other post-16 provider in the immediate area is Blackburn College which is a large general further education college offering a range of vocational and academic courses, with an outstanding Ofsted rating (2008). Parents and pupils may be attracted to the college because of its Ofsted rating and by its non-faith and co-educational status and may not wish to attend a Muslim designation, single sex 6th form.

Primary schools and Alternative and Special provision

18. 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

19. The overall impact on local schools and colleges in the area should be minimal. One secondary school (Blakewater College) is likely to suffer a high impact as a result of the Free School opening, given its proximity, low pupil numbers, poor relative standards and the significant proportion of its pupils who are of Indian or Pakistani origin (based on the intake at the Tauheedul Girls' School we can expect the Free School to draw almost exclusively from these communities).

20. 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 Muslim ethos in Blackburn.