

Title: The Greenwich Free School
Author: The Department for Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

Background

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. The Greenwich Free School is an 11-18, co-educational, non-selective, non-denominational school and aims to eventually reach a capacity of 700 pupils. The school would admit 100 pupils into Year 7 each year, with four forms of entry made up of 25 students in each class. From 2014/15 the school will admit 100 pupils into its Year 12. It aims to be at full capacity in 2016/17, when it expects to have 700 pupils on roll. The proposers' vision is to create a small, personal school, where teachers get to know every student as an individual and are able to challenge and nurture them. The curriculum will focus on depth before breadth, with a concentration on English, Maths, Science, Languages and the Humanities. There will be an extended school day of 8am until 5.30pm; and have classes supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities that reinforce the core curriculum.
3. Assessments have been arrived at 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 Local Authorities, the results of the Free School Trust's statutory consultation and other sources of evidence.

Catchment Area and Admissions

4. The school's admissions policy is fully compliant with the admissions code and will follow the Royal Borough of Greenwich's admissions criteria. Like many state-maintained schools in Greenwich, the Greenwich Free School will operate a Fair Banding system in order to ensure their intake is as comprehensive as possible. An equal number of places will be reserved for children placed in each band.
5. Where fewer than the published admission number for the relevant year are received The Greenwich Free School Trust will offer places at The Greenwich Free School to all those who have applied.
6. When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs where the school is named in the Statement, priority will be given to those children who meet the following criteria:
 - a. Children in public care
 - b. Medical or social needs: children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to this specific school

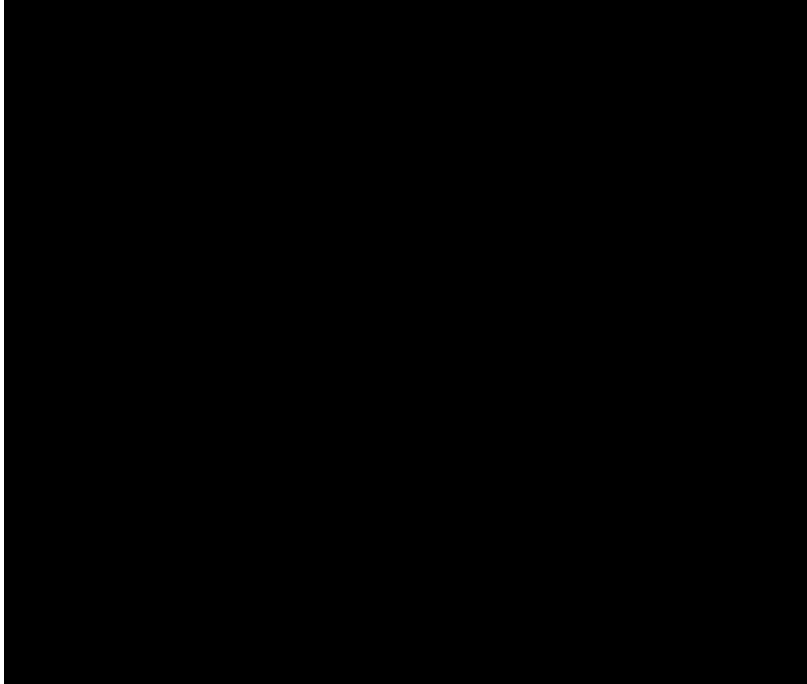
- c. Siblings* – children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application
- d. children who live nearest to the school (based on straight line distance).

7. In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria, priority will be given to those who live nearest to the school. Should two applicants live an equal distance from the school, the offer of a place will be decided by drawing lots.

8. If any band is undersubscribed all students falling into that band will be admitted and remaining places in the band will be filled from unallocated applicants from the nearest bands, taking a child first from the lower band and then from the higher band in accordance with their ranking against the oversubscription criteria.

9. The school does not have a self-defined catchment area. Instead they have created a proxy catchment area based on the distance travelled to school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Greenwich – 3 miles as confirmed by statisticians and data analyst from DfE Infrastructure, Funding and Longitudinal Analysis Division (IFLAD). As it is unlikely that any schools outside the 80% area will be more than minimally impacted, according to the IFLAD methodology for assessing impact. It is also unlikely that alternative provision institutions will be more than minimally impacted as the proposed new school offers a very different curriculum to that offered typically by alternative provision institutions. We have therefore assessed in more detail the impact on all mainstream maintained schools, Academies and post-16 institutions which are open currently within a three mile radius of the Free School. Below is a map showing the location of the new school in relation to neighbouring London boroughs.

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Data Sources

Desk-based impact assessment carried out by Infrastructure, Funding and Longitudinal Analysis Division (IFLAD)

10. A full desk-based impact assessment was provided following confirmation of the actual site of the new school. IFLAD based their assessment on a proxy catchment area based on the distance travelled to school by a significant majority (80%) of pupils in Greenwich – 3 miles. We consider it unlikely that any schools outside the 80% area will be more than minimally impacted. A detailed explanation of their assessment criteria is detailed in [Appendix 1](#) to this document.

Local Authority Representations

11. Greenwich, Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham, Newham and Southwark Local Authorities were invited to provide their views on the Free School proposal. Only Bexley, Newham, Lewisham and Southwark responded. Both Newham and Southwark's responses were that they believed that the new school would have only a marginal impact on their schools. Lewisham responded that the new school may have an impact on the St Matthew Academy but that it may not be significant, especially if the school builds its number gradually, which is what the school will be doing. Lewisham were supportive of a new school to meet demand for places in the Blackheath area. Bexley responded by saying that they did not believe that there was evidence of demand until at least 2015/16 onwards and that as a result either the new school would have difficulty attracting sufficient pupils or other local schools would have an even higher level of unfilled places than now.

Other research to take into account the local context or other pertinent information

12. This includes information collated from the internet including the published results from the 2011 School Capacity (SCAP) Survey, individual school and college websites, Local Authority websites and Ofsted inspection reports. The assessment does not take into account views on the proposed Free School from any other parties e.g. local schools, parents and community groups etc.

Greenwich Free School Trust statutory consultation under the Academies Act 2010, section 10

13. The Greenwich Free School Trust conducted its statutory consultation in a six week period from 16 January to 26 February 2012. They asked the following ten questions:

- a. Do you think the Secretary of State and the Greenwich Free School should enter into a funding agreement and therefore allow GFS to open?
- b. Are there any specific changes that you think should be made to the Agreement before being finalised? If so, what are they?
- c. Do you think that Adair House is overall a good site for the Greenwich Free School?
- d. Do you think the site is well placed to serve the educational needs of Greenwich and its overall community?

- e. Do you believe the site is sufficiently accessible?
- f. Do you think the fundamental ethos and approach to education is right for the Greenwich Free School?
- g. Do you think the planned approach to the curriculum is right?
- h. Do you welcome the plans for extended school day?
- i. Do you think the size of the school and its classes is right?
- j. Do you think we should make any changes to our approach to help ensure equality of opportunity?

14. They used a variety of media to consult and engage key stakeholders including: potential pupils; potential parents / carers; community stakeholders (local groups, businesses, faith groups including churches, etc.); Greenwich primary and secondary schools; Greenwich Council; the neighbouring Councils of Lewisham, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Bexley, Bromley, Barking and Dagenham; and local MPs.

15. The consultation involved a combination of letters to community groups and stakeholders, open meetings, and an updated Greenwich Free School website. Publicity for the consultation included adverts in the local press, posters in community meeting locations, an extensive leafleting campaign, door-to-door visits in target residential areas, letters to Chairs of Governors, Headteachers, Councillors and local MPs. The consultation was further supported by an on-line questionnaire to allow those stakeholders unable to attend a public meeting the opportunity to participate in the consultation process. Additional informal consultation took place through face to face meetings, telephone conversations, letters and emails.

16. The consultation made clear that the purpose was to consult on whether the Greenwich Free School should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. It included the specific question “Do you think the Secretary of State and the Greenwich Free School should enter into the agreement and therefore allow the GFS to open?”. The Trust included the website address for the Department’s model Funding Agreement document in the consultation document. 78.6% of respondents agreed that the Secretary of State and Free School should enter into the Funding Agreement. 85% of respondents said that there weren’t any specific changes that they thought should be made to the Agreement before being finalised. 69% of respondents said that they think the site is well placed to serve the educational needs of Greenwich and its overall community.

Main Assessment

The impact on the majority of schools should be minimal

17. We do not believe that the new school will have any impact on primary schools in the area as we do not believe that primary schools which are feeder schools for other secondaries may become less popular if those secondaries are no longer in such demand. The Royal Borough of Greenwich’s secondary school admissions guidance states that none of the schools in Greenwich have a named primary school as a feeder school. Some of the Voluntary Aided schools give priority in their admissions

oversubscription criteria to pupils who attend church primary schools. However, it is unlikely that the Greenwich Free School will have an impact on these schools due to the non-denominational status of the Free School. All of the local primary schools within 1 mile of the Free School are located within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. There is no evidence to suggest that primaries close to the Free School will become more popular as people move to be closer to the Free School. We do not believe that the new school will have any impact on special or alternative provision schools in the local area, given the very different curriculum offer provided by these types of school.

18. It is expected that the majority of secondary schools and FE institutions will feel a minimal or moderate impact of the Greenwich Free School. However, potentially five secondary schools may feel a high impact of the Free School. The secondary population is set to increase over the next few years so any loss of pupils to the Free Schools should be mitigated to a certain extent by the increased demand in the area.

	Level of Impact	Total
Impact on Secondary schools	Minimal	8 out of 19 schools
	Moderate	6 out of 19 schools
	High	5 out of 19 schools

	Level of Impact	Total
Impact on FE-sector establishments	Minimal	1 out of 3 establishments
	Moderate	2 out of 3 establishments
	High	0 establishments

Six secondary schools and two post-16 institution may feel a moderate impact but their long-term viability should not be affected

19. Thomas Tallis School, Eltham Hill Technology College for Girls, Trinity Church of England School, St Matthew Academy, George Green's School, The Royal Docks Community School, Greenwich Community College at Plumstead Centre and Shooters Hill Post-16 Campus may lose some pupils to the new school. However it is not expected that they will see a threat to their long-term viability.

Some risk to the long-term viability of five secondary schools if they lose a larger numbers of pupils

20. Crown Woods School, Corelli College, Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England School, Welling School and The Eltham Foundation School may suffer a high impact as a result of the Free School opening, potentially experiencing a significant loss of pupils. All five schools are either close to the new Free School and/or have a current surplus of places and below average attainment. These factors put all five institutions at a higher general risk of losing pupils to an attractive new provider.

Introduction

21. 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 Greenwich Free School is located in Greenwich. Table 1 below sets out the population growth in secondary schools between 2011/12 and 2017/18. There are 19 schools and three post-16 institutions within the three mile radius of the Free School located in Lewisham, Bexley, Newham and Tower Hamlets Local Authority areas. I have therefore additionally provided population growth figures for these areas.

Table 1: Number of pupils and projections for secondary school pupils in Greenwich, Lewisham, Bexley, Newham and Tower Hamlets 2010/12 – 2017/18

		Academic year 2010 /11		Academic year 2017/18		2010/11 – 2017/18
LA	Number of places in 2011	No of pupils	Surplus %	No. of pupils	Surplus %	% increase in secondar y school- age populatio n
Secondary school pupil population						
Greenwich	15,116	14,352	5%	15,580	-3%	8.6%
Lewisham	15,596	13,147	15.7%	15,819	-1.4%	20.3%
Bexley	22,515	19,488	13.4%	19,315	14.2%	-0.9%
Newham	19,198	18,899	1.6%	20,870	-8.7%	10.4%
Tower Hamlets	15,410	14,944	3%	17,551	-13.9%	17.4%

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 and Academies.

22. The secondary school population in Greenwich and the majority of its neighbouring boroughs is projected to rise significantly over the next seven years so any potential negative impact on local schools could be mitigated by the growing population.

23. In the neighbouring borough of Bexley, a small decline in the secondary population is projected. This could mean that any potential negative impact on the three schools located in Bexley - Harris Academy Falconwood, Bexley Grammar School and Welling School - may not be mitigated by increased demand for school places. However, due to attainment levels at Harris and Bexley Grammar, we expect the impact to be minimal-moderate.

Impact ratings for secondary schools and post-16 institutions

24. Table 2 below sets out the assessed individual impact on each secondary school and post-16 institution located within three miles of the proposed site of The Greenwich Free School. It shows that the Free School may have a

minimal impact on eight schools and one post 16 provider, a moderate impact on six schools and two post-16 providers and a high impact on five schools.

25. The Greenwich Free School is an 11-18, co-educational, non-selective, non-denominational school. It is therefore likely that any impact on the six faith schools and one faith post-16 provider will be mitigated somewhat by the fact that parents of prospective pupils will prioritise schools which have a faith ethos. Although there may be some parents of faith who would be equally attracted by a faith and a non-denominational school, for example, we expect this will be a minority and it is therefore unlikely that faith schools will lose a significant number of pupils to the Free School.

Table 2: Summary of the potential impact on secondary schools and post-16 providers located within 3 miles of The Greenwich Free School

School name	Distance from the Free School	Impact rating
<i>Schools / Post-16 providers with a minimal rating</i>		
Plumstead Manor / Negus School	1.5 miles	Minimal
St Thomas More Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	1.8 miles	Minimal
Harris Academy Falconwood	1.8 miles	Minimal
The John Roan School	2 miles	Minimal
St Ursula's Convent School	2.5 miles	Minimal
Bexley Grammar School	2.6 miles	Minimal
St Paul's Academy	2.6 miles	Minimal
Kingsford Community School	2.9 miles	Minimal
Christ The King Sixth Form College	2.5 miles	Minimal
<i>Schools / Post-16 providers with a moderate rating</i>		
Thomas Tallis School	1.2 miles	Moderate
Eltham Hill Technology College for Girls	1.5 miles	Moderate
Trinity Church of England School, Lewisham	2.3 miles	Moderate
St Matthew Academy	2.3 miles	Moderate
The Royal Docks Community School	2.8 miles	Moderate
George Green's School	2.8 miles	Moderate
Shooters Hill Post-16 Campus	0.4 miles	Moderate
Greenwich Community College at Plumstead Centre	1.7 miles	Moderate
<i>Schools / Post-16 providers with a high rating</i>		
Crown Woods School	1.5 miles	High
Corelli College	0.4 miles	High
Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England School	1.1 miles	High
The Eltham Foundation School	1.5 miles	High
Welling School	2.7 miles	High

Schools with a Moderate or High rating

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

Moderate rating

Thomas Tallis School (1.2 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-19 co-educational community school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,509 pupils and as of 2010/11 is oversubscribed with 1,609 pupils on roll.

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 – 63% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. It has Key Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 73% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%

Impact: **Moderate** – The school is located less than two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. It also has below average attainment at KS5 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 2010/11 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 its KS4 results are above the national average. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

Eltham Hill Technology College for Girls (1.5 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-16 community school for girls

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,113 pupils and as of 2010/11 was undersubscribed with 864 pupils on roll.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment above the national average – 61% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally.

Impact: **Moderate** – The school is located less than a two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. It is also operating with surplus places.

However, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, being located in the Royal Borough of Greenwich means that any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over

the next few years. Furthermore its KS4 results are above the national average and it is a single sex school, so parents wanting to send their children to this school may not be interested in the 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.

Trinity Church of England School (2.3 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-16, co-educational, Church of England comprehensive school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 689 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 457 pupils on roll.

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 – 64% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally.

Impact: Moderate – The school is located over two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. However, the school's KS4 results are above the national average and, as it has faith-based admissions criteria, it is unlikely that the new, non-denominational Free School will act as a significant draw for parents of prospective pupils. Furthermore, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, 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. Lewisham Local Authority, in their written submission to the Department on the proposal for a new school, did not highlight Trinity school as an institution at risk of losing pupils. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

St Matthew Academy (2.3 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 3-16, co-educational, Roman Catholic, comprehensive, sponsored Academy.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,345 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 1,016 pupils on roll.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment just above the national average – 59% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally.

Impact: Moderate – The school is located over two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. Despite a Satisfactory rating from Ofsted in 2010, Ofsted commented in its 2011 Section 8 (Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools) report that the Academy has made good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

The school's KS4 results are just above the national average and, as it has faith-based admissions criteria, it is unlikely that the new, non-denominational Free School will act as a significant draw for parents of prospective pupils. Furthermore, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, 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. Lewisham Local Authority, in their written submission to the Department on the proposal for a new school, highlighted the Academy as an institution at risk of losing pupils to the new schools. However, Lewisham confirmed that this may not be significant, especially as the new school is building its numbers gradually. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

The Royal Docks Community School (2.8 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-16, co-educational, comprehensive school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,200 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 1,005 pupils on roll.

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% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally.

Impact: **Moderate** – The school is located in Newham just under three miles from the preferred site and is therefore at some risk of losing pupils to the new school. It does though have below average attainment, so parents may be attracted to an alternative, and is operating with surplus places.

However, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years. In addition, Newham Local Authority, in their written submission to the Department on the proposal for a new school, highlighted that they consider that the new school will not have a direct impact on provision within Newham. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

George Green's School (2.8 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-19, co-educational, comprehensive school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,239 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 1,140 pupils on roll.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 48% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. It has Key Stage 5

attainment below the national average - 67% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%.

Impact: Moderate – The school is located in Tower Hamlets just under three miles from the preferred site, and is therefore at some risk of losing pupils to the new school. It has below average attainment, so parents may be attracted to an alternative, and is operating with some surplus places. However, even if it does lose some potential pupils to the Free School, any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the significant increased demand for secondary places in Tower Hamlets and the school's nearest local authority areas of Greenwich, Lewisham and Newham over the next few years. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

Shooters Hill Post-16 Campus (0.4 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 16-19 community school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,045 pupils and as of 2010/11 is oversubscribed with 1,171 pupils on roll.

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

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 75% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%

Impact: Moderate – The school is located over two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away. It has below average attainment, so parents may be attracted to an alternative. However, it is oversubscribed and, as the new school will not open its sixth form until 2014-15, any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

Greenwich Community College at Plumstead Centre (1.7 miles from the proposed site)

School type: Post-16, co-educational, General Further Education College

Capacity: 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. As of 2010/11 the Centre had 1,012 pupils on roll aged 16-18.

Ofsted: The Centre was rated as Satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2009.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 68% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%

Impact: Moderate – The school is located under two miles from the preferred site so, in principle, may lose pupils to the new school. It has below average

attainment, so parents may be attracted to an alternative. However, the new school will not open its sixth form until 2014-15 and therefore any loss of pupils may be mitigated by the increased demand for secondary places in the area over the next few years. Additionally, provision at the College is focused as much on adult learners as the 16-19 year olds that the new school will cater for - in 2010 around 60% of students at the College were aged 19 or over. We therefore do not expect that the opening of the Free School will affect the long term financial viability of the school.

High rating

Crown Woods School (1.5 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-18, co-educational community school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,963 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 1,416 pupils on roll.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2009. However, attainment has been in decline since that time.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 32% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. It has Key Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 41% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%

Impact: **High** – The school is located less than two miles from the preferred site, is currently undersubscribed and therefore may lose more pupils to the new school.

It also has below average attainment at both KS4 and KS5 and appears to be in decline. KS4 results from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 31%, 41%, 45% and 32% respectively. The average point scores per student at KS5 from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 574, 538, 579 and 531 respectively.

The introduction of the Free School could hamper the ability of the school to make improvements if the school loses potential pupils to the Free School (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range). The loss of pupils may also exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there is a high risk that, given its proximity, the new Free School could affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Corelli College (0.4 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-19, co-educational Academy converter

Capacity: The predecessor school, Kidbrooke School, had capacity for 1,479 pupils and as of 2010/11 was undersubscribed with 1,288 pupils on roll.

Ofsted: The predecessor school, Kidbrooke School, was rated as Good by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2008.

Attainment: The predecessor school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 35% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. It has Key

Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 63% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%.

Impact: High – The school is located under half a mile from the preferred site, is undersubscribed and is therefore at a greater risk of losing pupils to the new school than schools further away.

The predecessor school had below average attainment at both KS4 and KS5. KS4 results from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 28%, 40%, 40% and 35% respectively. The average point scores per student at KS5 from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 621.3, 599.3, 571.3 and 587 respectively.

The introduction of the Free School could hamper the ability of the school to make improvements if the school loses potential pupils to the Free School (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range). The loss of pupils may also exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there is a high risk that, given its proximity, the new Free School could affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England School (1.1 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-18, co-educational comprehensive school

Capacity: The school has capacity for 943 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 633 pupils on roll.

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 – 50% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. It has Key Stage 5 attainment below the national average - 52% achieving 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%.

Impact: High – The school is located just over a mile from the preferred site, is undersubscribed, and may therefore lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away.

The school has below average attainment at both KS4 and KS5. KS4 results from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 31%, 31%, 41% and 50% respectively. The average point scores per student at KS5 from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 393.4, 412.5, 436.6 and 503.9 respectively.

The introduction of the Free School could hamper the ability of the school to make improvements if the school loses potential pupils to the Free School (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range). The loss of pupils may also exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there is a high risk that, given its proximity, the new Free School could affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

The Eltham Foundation School (1.5 miles from the proposed school)

School type: 11-16, co-educational comprehensive school.

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,200 pupils and as of 2010/11 is undersubscribed with 922 pupils on roll.

Ofsted: The school was rated as Inadequate by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2010 and is in Special Measures.

Attainment: The school has Key Stage 4 attainment below the national average – 48% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally.

Impact: **High** – The school is located just over a mile from the preferred site, is already undersubscribed, and is in Special Measures. It may therefore lose more pupils to the new school than schools further away.

The school has below average attainment at KS4. Results from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 31%, 28%, 28% and 48% respectively.

The introduction of the Free School could hamper the ability of the school to make improvements if the school loses potential pupils to the Free School (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range). The loss of pupils may also exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there is a high risk that, given its proximity, the new Free School could affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Welling School (2.7 miles from the proposed site)

School type: 11-18, co-educational, Academy converter

Capacity: The school has capacity for 1,730 pupils and as of 2010/11 was undersubscribed with 1,597 pupils on roll.

Ofsted: The predecessor school, Welling Foundation School, was rated as Satisfactory by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2011.

Attainment: Data for the Academy is not currently available but the predecessor school had Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 attainment levels below the national average. For KS4, 41% of pupils at the predecessor school achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths GCSE in 2010/11 compared with 58.2% nationally. For KS5, 67% of pupils achieved 3 or more A Levels (or equivalent) in 2010/11 compared to the national average of 80.9%.

Impact: **High** - The school is located just under three miles from the preferred site, and is therefore at risk of losing pupils to the new school.

The predecessor school has below average attainment at both KS4 and KS5. KS4 results from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 29%, 39%, 51% and 41% respectively. The average point scores per student at KS5 from 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 514.4, 598.4, 622.5 and 607.7 respectively.

The introduction of the Free School could hamper the ability of the school to make improvements if the school loses potential pupils to the Free School (especially if they are at the higher end of the ability range). Additionally, Bexley Local Authority, in their written submission to the Department on the proposal for a new school, highlighted its concerns that the new school could

result in existing Bexley schools suffering from an even higher level of unfilled places. There is a high risk that the new Free School could affect the long-term financial viability of the school.

Conclusion

27. My assessment has concluded that the new school will have a moderate overall impact on the surrounding schools, although five secondary schools are at a high general risk of losing pupils, which may impact on their longer-term financial viability. The impact on these five schools may be to affect their long-term financial viability. The five schools are Crown Woods School, Corelli College, Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England School, The Eltham Foundation School and Welling School.

28. I conclude 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 schools at a high general risk of losing pupils are relatively weak, with pupil achievement below the national averages, and therefore the additional school will be likely to improve standards in the area;
- b. there are forecast increases in the secondary-age population in Royal Borough of Greenwich and the majority of neighbouring boroughs;
and
- c. the additional school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools. For example; a relatively small secondary school environment; a curriculum focused on English, Maths, Science, Languages and the Humanities; an extended school day of 8am until 5.30pm; and classes supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities that reinforce the core curriculum.

Appendix 1: How IFLAD have assessed the impact

Primary and Secondary schools

Catchment area: The school does not have a self-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 Greenwich – 3 miles. We consider it unlikely that any schools outside of the 80% area will be more than minimally impacted.

Impact ratings: Each school has an impact rating of either minimal, moderate or high.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

To estimate the extent of impact of the proposed Free School we can start by excluding specific types of school which we assume will remain relatively unaffected (i.e. they fall into the minimal category of impact). Although they may lose some pupils to the new Free School, we expect this loss to be minimal. We exclude schools based on the following assumptions:

- Alternative providers and special schools are excluded due to the substantial difference of offer between what they provide and a Free School. We expect the potential impact on these providers to be minimal.

We then assess the impact on all schools of the same phase of the Free School within the local area of the Free School. The local area is defined as a radius around the Free School based on the distance that the majority (over 80%) of pupils travel to school in the local authority. The distance travelled is also phase appropriate i.e. for a secondary Free School, we will only include the distances travelled by secondary school pupils.

Table A below sets out the data items we have used to determine the impact rating for each school assessed. It also provides an explanation of how and why the data item has been included.

Table A: Data items used in the desk assessment of impact for primary/secondary schools

Data item description	Rationale for use
Faith of school	If the school is offering the same faith ethos as the Free School, the school may lose more potential pupils to the Free School than schools of a different faith (or no faith) as they would be offering a more similar provision and would therefore be in more direct competition with the Free School for pupils
Distance from the Free School	The closer the school is to the Free School, the greater the potential impact as pupils in schools closer to the Free School are likely to have shorter distance to travel to the Free School than schools further away. This may make the Free School more attractive to them than for pupils who would have to travel a longer distance.
Surplus places – the number of places unfilled in the school	The greater the existing surplus in the school the greater the potential impact because the loss of pupils to the Free School is likely to exacerbate existing surplus within the school.
Over or undersubscribed for latest entry into year 7	A school that is oversubscribed for entry is less likely to be negatively affected by the new Free School than a school which is undersubscribed. A school which is oversubscribed, an indicator that the school is a popular choice amongst parents school, should be able to fill surplus places created if pupils leave whereas an undersubscribed school may struggle.
Latest Ofsted grade	The better the Ofsted grade of the school, the less likely the school will be negatively affected by the new Free School. A 'good' school should be able to attract and retain pupils by providing a good quality of education and keeping pupils engaged.
Attainment (SECONDARY ONLY) - percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and maths and how this compares to the national rate	The higher the proportion of pupils in the school attaining 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and maths, the less likely the school will be negatively affected by the new Free School. A school with a high proportion of pupil getting good GCSEs suggests that the pupils are engaged in the academic curriculum and the school may therefore lose fewer pupils to the new Free School than a schools with a low number of pupils getting good GCSEs.
Attainment (PRIMARY ONLY) - percentage of pupils achieving the expected level at KS2 in	The higher the proportion of pupils in the school attaining the expected level at KS2 in both English and maths, the less likely the school will be negatively affected by the new Free School.

<p>both English and maths and how this compares to the national rate</p>	<p>A school with good attainment should find it easier to attract pupils and withstand competition from the Free School than schools with poorer attainment.</p>
<p>Attainment (FIRST SCHOOLS ONLY) – aggregate across the 5 core subjects (reading, writing, speaking & listening, maths and science), pupils achieving the expected level at KS1 and how this compares to the national rate</p>	<p>The higher the aggregate across the core subjects, the less likely the school will be negatively affected by the new Free School. A school with good attainment should find it easier to attract pupils and withstand competition from the Free School than schools with poorer attainment.</p>