

Title: Wapping High School
Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

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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.

Background

2. Wapping High School will be an 11 – 16, co-educational, non-faith secondary school. It plans to open in 2012 with an intake of up to 81 places in year 7, and a subsequent intake of up to 81 places each year until full. The school aims to reach full capacity in 2016/17 and will have 405 places.

3. The school will open with two temporary sites in 2012, and is planned to move to a permanent site at 153-157 Commercial Road E1 in 2013. The temporary sites are St George's crypt (St George in the East, Cannon Street Road, E1 0BH) and St Paul's crypt (St Pauls Church Shadwell, 302 The Highway, London E1W 3DH)

4. The proposers are a parent group from the area around Kennet Street, Wapping E1W. Their vision is for a 405 place non-faith 11-16 school in Tower Hamlets. The Trust wants Wapping High School to be a school for all children in the area, which is reflected in their inclusive admissions policy and meets the needs of the South Wapping priority zone - which currently has no secondary schools. The school will offer a broad and balanced curriculum, with an emphasis on personalisation to meet the individual needs of pupils through extended opportunities, wider learning experiences or additional learning support, an emphasis on high standards and attainment, an extended day and an Enterprise and Innovation Specialism.

5. The proposers' aims include that the school will achieve high standards, for example that the school will be judged to be outstanding by Ofsted and the number of students achieving a grade A* – C in the English Baccalaureate exceed the national average.

6. In contrast to the proposed new school, three of the four nearest schools to the priority zone for admissions are single sex, and three of the four are also faith schools.

7. The small size of the school, which helps facilitate a personalised curriculum, is in contrast with the other schools in Tower Hamlets – all of which have a higher admissions number, and the nearest to the proposed catchment zone has 1396 on roll.

8. In developing their application, the proposers undertook a survey of 260 randomly selected families from Wapping. 70% of respondents stated that they were not satisfied with the existing provision of Secondary Schools in Wapping.

Overall provision of secondary places in Tower Hamlets area

9. Across the whole Tower Hamlets local authority area, there is currently a slight surplus of secondary places. Total secondary capacity for the area exceeds the number on roll by 3%. However the secondary school population is projected to grow significantly over the next few years, with an increase of 18.0% in pupil numbers from 2011/12 - 2017/18.

10. Any potential negative impact on local schools should be mitigated by the growing population (see LA District forecast - Secondary (Year 7 - 13)).

	Capacity	Number on roll
Tower Hamlets	15410	14891

Actual	Forecast							Forecast growth	
2010/11	2011/12	'12/13	'13/14	'14/15	'15/16	'16/17	'17/18	2011/12 – 2017/18	% increase
14944	14871	15008	15262	15705	16304	16884	17551	2,680	18.0

Local Authority View

11. The Local Authority was invited to provide its views on the Free School proposal. The Corporate Director for Children Schools and Families responded to that invitation on 30 April 2012.

12. They commented that “The area covered by the Wapping High School proposal is not [their] priority for meeting the increasing demand for school places”. They have not been in favour of the Free School proposal as “our focus for increasing capacity is elsewhere in the Borough”.

13. They acknowledged that they expect the total school roll of 5 -16 year olds to increase by 10,000 by 2021. They expect to need a further 23 forms of entry by 2021. They have plans for providing an additional 5 forms of entry at Stepney Green School and an expansion of 4 forms of entry at Bow School. They said the Council is including the remainder of the projected need in its strategic planning.

Catchment Area, its Characteristics and Admissions

14. The school's admissions arrangements are compliant with the new Admissions Code. Pupils will be admitted at 11 without reference to ability, aptitude or social background. Should the school be over-subscribed, after admitting all children with a statement of SEN which names the school, priority will be given in the following order:

- Children who are currently or have previously been in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by the authority (looked-after children).
- Children who live within the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone and have a sibling¹ already admitted to the school, who will be in attendance at the same time.
- Other children who have a sibling already admitted to the school, who will be in attendance at the same time.
- Children who live within the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone. In the event that there are more applications under this criteria than places remaining, the Governors will prioritise between these children by reference to distance².
- Other children by reference to distance².

15. In the event of a tie-break between two or more applications the Wapping High School Governors will prioritise the requests by reference to distance. Distance will be defined as the shortest walking route from the child's front door of the address that it registered with the GP to 22 Wapping Lane, E1W 2RL (the centre of the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone).

Note: The South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone (SWPA Zone) is defined as:

South of Cable Street and Royal Mint Street
West of Butcher Row
North of the River Thames
East of Mansell Street.

16. The definition of the SWPA Zone originates from the local authority, prior to the Trust adopting it. Both the authority and the Trust have done this in response to the shortage of school places for pupils in the Zone – which has no secondary schools. The local authority's approach is not to develop a school in the SWPA Zone, but to include pupils from it among the oversubscription criteria for Mulberry School and Stepney Green.

¹ The definition of siblings includes brother, sister, step-brothers, step-sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters and adopted brothers and sisters living at the same address.

² Distance will be defined as the shortest walking route from the child's front door of the address that it registered with the GP to 22 Wapping Lane, E1W 2RL (the centre of the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone).

17. Wapping High School will operate a waiting list where, in any year, the school receives more applications for places than there are available. This will be maintained by Wapping High School and it will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application and failure of any appeal undertaken in line with the defined process. The waiting list will be maintained for at least one academic term in the academic year of admission.

18. A student's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the over-subscription criteria. Where places become vacant, they will be allocated to students on the waiting list in accordance with the criteria. Any parent applying for a school place outside the normal admissions round will be added to the waiting list in strict priority order and this may mean they could be ranked higher than those that have been on the waiting list for some time.

19. The school has received 42 applications for 81 places to date and parents will be made formal offers of places for their children on 6 July 2012 subject to the signing of the Funding Agreement.

Representations, meetings with local schools, and consultation

20. The Trust wrote to all of the state funded schools in Tower Hamlets on approval of the Free School application in October 2011. The Trust has offered to meet with all the Headteachers at these schools to explain the proposal for Wapping High School. Visits have been made to Mulberry Girls School, Langdon Park, Bethnal Green Academy, City of London Boys School and City of London Girls School, as well as to five primary schools and a Montessori Primary School. The outcome of all of these meetings has been a

commitment to work in partnership to improve the provision of education for children in Tower Hamlets.

21. No direct representations have been received by the Department but a public consultation has been carried out by the proposer group. Free Schools are obliged, under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, to consult with those persons they think are appropriate as to whether the Academy Trust should enter into the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

22. The Academy Trust has used various methods to carry out consultation. This included in person (local authority, local MP (Jim Fitzpatrick), potential parents, visits to eight primary schools and meetings in five of the secondary schools), direct email or post to all the state funded schools in Tower Hamlets, newspaper and website notices for the wider community. It has also used printed forms with details of the school proposal for residents in the local area, two half-day information events at community hubs and a stall at a local festival. A formal consultation was promoted on the Trust's website and 5000 copies of a flyer were distributed in Wapping, Shadwell, Whitechapel and Limehouse. This included the following questions, and allowed 6 weeks for responses:

“Should the Trustees enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open Wapping High School?” 62% of those responding to this agreed

and

“Do you agree that a Free School is needed in this area of Tower Hamlets?” 64% of those responding to this agreed.

23. Of the 18 people who disagreed that the school should sign a FA, 8 gave no reason.

Of the 10 who gave a reason:

- 6 said there was no need for another school
- 3 objected to Free Schools policy in general, saying it is divisive or diverts funds from other schools
- 3 objected to the school being supported by Helen Mirren
- 1 said that it should be located in a different place (on the News International site).

(Note: these add to more than 10 because some gave more than one reason).

24. We believe the consultation undertaken by the Academy Trust is sufficient to comply with S.10 of the Academies Act 2010 and that it is reasonable for the Secretary of State to enter into the Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust.

Nearby schools

25. We have looked at the impact of the school on the defined catchment area (ie the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone), then beyond this at schools within 1 mile, and then at all the schools in the local authority area and the nearest schools in neighbouring local authorities. It is officials' view that it will be unlikely that other schools further away from the Free School will be impacted or will be more than minimally impacted.

26. There are **no** secondary schools within the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone.

27. There are four schools listed as within 1 mile on local authority website (the shortest routes by road according to the AA are longer):-

	Distance from E1W 2RL according to the AA website
Mulberry School for Girls E1 2JP	0.8 miles
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate <u>Girls'</u> School E1 0LB	1.1 miles
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate <u>Boys'</u> School E1 0LB	Ditto
Sir John Cass' Foundation and Redcoat CE School E1 0RH	1.5miles

28. There are a further 11 schools (and a Sixth Form College) within 3 miles on the local authority website:

	Distance from E1W 2RL according to the AA website
Stepney Green Maths and Computing College E1 4SD	1.6 miles
Swanlea Secondary School E1 5DJ	1.7 miles
Oaklands Secondary School, E2 6PR	1.8 miles
Bethnal Green Technology College, E2 6NW	1.9 miles
Morpeth Secondary School, E2 0PX	2.1 miles
Raine's Foundation School Upper School, E2 9LY	2.1 miles
St Paul's Way School, E3 4AN	2.3 miles
Central Foundation Girls E3 5AN	2.5 miles

Langdon Park Secondary School, E14 0RZ	2.8 miles
Bow School of Maths and Computing E3 2QD	3.0 miles
George Green Secondary School E14 3DW	4.2 miles
Cambridge Heath <u>Sixth Form College</u> E2 0LB	2.1 miles

Neighbouring Local Authorities

29. There are no state schools in neighbouring local authorities where the impact is expected to be significant:-

- The City of London (to the west) has no state funded secondary schools. Instead they sponsor academies in Southwark and Islington.
- In Hackney (to the north), the nearest two state funded schools are Haggerston E2 8LS (3 miles) and Bridge Academy E2 8BA (3.3 miles). It is envisaged that the impact on Bridge Academy will be minimal. The impact on Haggerston will be moderate or minimal. Its GCSE attainment (5+ A*-C include English and Maths) was 54%, just under the national average). It has an 18% surplus and an Ofsted rating of satisfactory. However it received 590 applications for 180 places, and there are 14 schools in Tower Hamlets nearer to the SWPA Zone.
- In Southwark (to the south), the nearest state funded school is St Michael's Catholic College SE16 4UN. This is 2.1 miles away. However the River Thames forms a natural barrier between Southwark and Tower Hamlets and it is envisaged that the impact on this school will be minimal.
- In Newham (to the east) the nearest state funded school is Eastlea Community School E16 4ND. This is 4.1 miles away.

Additional Academy provision in Tower Hamlets

30. There is also a proposal for a new 16-19 Academy at City Gateway. The proposal is that from this September, a new 16-19 Academy Provision will combine alternative provision for 14-16 year old pupils with 16-19 year olds. It will be based temporarily for 1 year at 28 Ensign Street, Ensign Street, London E1 and then, subject to securing their preferred permanent site, it will move in 2013 to Clipper House, Mastmaker Court, Mastmaker Road, E14 9UB.
31. Student numbers are expected to be 260 in 2012-13 (of which about 60 will be 14-16 yr olds), rising to about 471 (about 130 14-16

year olds) from 2013 onwards. The preferred permanent site is 2.8 miles from the centre of the South Wapping Priority Admissions Zone, and the alternative provision for 14-16 year olds will draw from a wide area (across Tower Hamlets and perhaps beyond). Officials consider that the Wapping High School proposal will not have more than a minimal effect on the viability of the City Gateway proposal.

Impact on other schools

32. There are no schools identified where the impact is expected to be high.

33. **It is expected that the majority of secondary schools in Tower Hamlets will feel a minimal impact from Wapping High School.** These schools are typically oversubscribed so, even if they did lose pupils to the Free School, they should still be able to fill most or all of their places. Additionally, the secondary population is set to increase over the next few years so any loss of pupils to the Free School should also be mitigated by the increased demand in the area. Three of the four closest schools to the centre of the SWPA Zone are faith schools, and tend to draw their pupils from a wider area.

	Distance	Surplus places % (positive no. indicates surplus)	Admission number	Applications received	Ofsted grade	Attainment (5+ A*-C GCSE or equivalent incl. Eng & Maths)	Impact rating 0-4= minimal 5-8= moderate 9+ = high
Mulberry School for Girls	0.8miles	0.57	210	722	1	77%	1 Minimal
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Girls School	1.1miles	5.36	150	277	2	58%	7 Moderate
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Boys School	1.1miles	2.17	120	303	2	52%	5 Moderate
Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School	1.5miles	-29.36	180	1206	1	81%	2 Minimal
Stepney Green Mathematics and Computing College	1.6miles	8.23	180	535	1	59%	3 Minimal
Swanlea School	1.7miles	-9.05	210	715	1	64%	2 Minimal
Oaklands School	1.8miles	-8.67	120	479	1	59%	1 Minimal
Bethnal Green Technology College	1.9miles	19.31	180	302	3	78%	6 Moderate
Morpeth School	2.1miles	-9.58	240	955	1	57%	1 Minimal
Raine's Foundation School	2.1miles	8.89	150	424	2	59%	3 Minimal
St Paul's Way Trust School	2.3miles	37.92	240	443	3	58%	8 Moderate
Central Foundation Girls' School	2.5miles	1.14	240	554	2	58%	2 Minimal
Langdon Park Community School	2.8miles	7.37	180	514	2	53%	4 Minimal
Bow School of Maths and Computing	3.0miles	13.2	125	234	3	48%	8 Moderate

Note: table excludes Cambridge Heath (which is a Sixth Form College), and George Green which is 4.2 miles away.

Schools where the impact is moderate

34. The impact of the Free School on five of the secondary schools in Tower Hamlets above has been assessed as moderate:

- 1) Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Girls School, and
- 2) Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Boys School

This pair of schools is close to the SWPA Zone, and they are expected to be

moderately or minimally affected by the proposed Wapping High School. Both have an Ofsted rating of good, and GCSE attainment around or slightly below national average. They may lose pupils particularly if the new school succeeds in setting high standards of attainment.

Their potential loss of pupils will, however, be mitigated by the fact that they are both faith schools, and draw children on a faith basis from a wider area. They also draw pupils from families who prefer to have single-sex education. Furthermore they have a capacity of 1700 between them, much larger than the 405 places at Wapping High School, and they are both nearly full.

3) Bethnal Green Technology College

Bethnal Green currently has a 19% surplus of places, and an Ofsted rating of 3. It is 1.9 miles from the SWPA Zone and is expected to have a moderate effect from the proposed new school.

Bethnal Green's potential loss of pupils is mitigated by the fact that although it currently has surplus places, it is achieving above average GCSE results (78%) which will strengthen its appeal. It received 302 applications for 180 places. Bethnal Green is also now a Technology College and will continue to attract pupils interested in this specialism.

4) St Paul's Way Trust School

St Paul's Way Trust School has an Ofsted rating of satisfactory and currently has a 38% surplus of places. Its GCSE attainment is around the national average. There is a moderate risk to the school from loss of pupils, particularly if the proposed school succeeds in setting high standards of attainment.

However, the impact on St Paul's will be reduced in that it is only the 11th nearest school to the SWPA zone (out of 15 in Tower Hamlets). The proposed capacity of Wapping High School, at 405, is much smaller than the 1100 capacity of St Paul's Way.

5) Bow School of Maths and Computing

Bow School currently has an Ofsted rating of satisfactory and a 13% surplus of places. Its GCSE attainment is slightly below the national average. There is a moderate risk to the school from loss of pupils.

The impact on Bow School will be mitigated by the fact that of all the Tower Hamlets schools, it is the furthest away from the SWPA Zone (apart from George Green School, which is excluded from the list in para 29). Bow School has a specialism in Maths and Computing and will continue to attract pupils interested in this specialism. It received 234 applications for 125 places. The local authority is sufficiently confident of take up of places at Bow School that they have plans to expand it.

Impact on primary and FE provision

35. The impact of the proposed school has been considered with respect to primary schools and FE provision (and including the Sixth Form College). These are not expected to be impacted because they are a different phase of education.

Conclusion

36. Although there is currently a slight surplus (3%) of secondary places across the whole Tower Hamlets local authority area, there will be growing pressure on places over the next few years as the secondary school population is projected to grow significantly, with an increase of 18.0% in pupil numbers from 2011/12 - 2017/18. 2,680 additional places will be needed between these years, and the school population will continue to increase beyond that.

37. The impact on the majority of secondary schools should be minimal as the number of places offered by Wapping High School (81 per year, 405 in total) is small compared to the growing demand for secondary school places in the area during the coming years and any impact will be spread across a large number of schools. Many of the local schools are already oversubscribed so even if they did lose pupils to the Free School, they should still be able to fill most or all of their places. All these schools are relatively large.

38. There are no schools at high risk from the proposed Wapping High School. The five schools most at risk are only moderately affected by the proposed new school. Three of these have an Ofsted rating of satisfactory (and the other two a rating of good). Four of these schools are at or below the national average for attainment at GCSE. Therefore an additional school will be likely to improve standards in the area.

39. The additional school will give parents a greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools. For example it is a small school, with a strong emphasis in its vision of a personalised curriculum and providing an extended school day.

40. I conclude that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into the Funding Agreement in light of the possible impact of the school.