

Title: All Saints Junior School

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Annex A: Impact assessment – Section 9 Academies Act 2010

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 and institutions within the further education sector in the area in which the additional school is (or is proposed to be) situated.
2. Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.

Background

3. The curriculum offered by the CfBT is not noticeably distinct. Instead the All Saints Junior School will help to address basic need pressures across the primary estate in Reading. The proposal for All Saints Junior School developed to meet a particular demand and need for junior school places for those children who currently attend the infant school. Parents of these children have difficulty securing an appropriate school place when their children leave the infant school as other local provision is organised as all through primary and there is currently no separate junior provision. Of the 15 children from the infant school who applied for a Year 3 place last year, two were given places on the basis of their statements of special educational needs, three gained places through appeals, two received very late offers, two chose private education over poorly performing local schools and four went to other maintained schools outside the local authority.
4. The Borough Council readily acknowledges that there is a shortage of places for primary-age children in the Borough. In 2009, 14.2% of Reading's primary-aged pupils attended schools maintained by other local authorities, compared to only 4.3% coming in from elsewhere. Changing demographics mean that this problem is set to increase over the medium term. The 2008 sub-national population projections for Reading estimate an increase of 1,900 five-to nine year olds between 2010 and 2020. In addition, there are a number of sites around Reading that have outline planning permission for housing. If these sites are developed and occupied there could be up to 420 additional school-age children in the area.
5. Shortages are particularly acute in the area around the proposed site for the Free School. All the primary schools closest to the proposed Free School have full reception classes this year, and three of the four have full Year 2 classes as well. Given that all the local primary schools are full, or nearly so, and are likely to remain so given the demographic pressure in the area, it is unsurprising that the local authority has been supportive of the proposal, and we have received no objections from local schools.

Table 1: Projected available places in reception places in the three closest primary schools, and the closest voluntary aided school based on live births.

Restricted – Policy

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Oxford Road Primary	-58	-68	-71	-85
St Mary & All Saints Primary	18	21	23	23
Battle Primary	-26	-34	-39	-64
Coley Primary	-15	-25	-9	-26
Total	-18	-106	-96	-152

6. The table above demonstrated the pressure on places in the area. Where the demographic pressure is less immediate around St Mary & All Saints Primary School, that school still has full reception classes (and will continue to do so), as it helps meet the demographic need closer to other primary schools in the area. Indeed only one school in Reading has vacancies in its reception year.

Admissions arrangements

7. All Saints Junior Schools' admissions policy is fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code, and has been developed in consultation with the local authority. If the school is over-subscribed, priority will be given in the following order:
- looked after children;
 - children who have strong medical or social grounds for admission;
 - children who are attending All Saints Infant School
 - children living in the designated area who have a sibling who will be attending either All Saints Infants or All Saints Junior School in the coming September;
 - children whose home address is not in the designated area of the school but have a sibling who will still be attending All Saints Infants or All Saints Junior School in the coming September;
 - children whose permanent home address is in the designated area of the school;
 - other applicants (with the tiebreaker being a straight-line distance from the school).
8. Definitions of terms included in the admissions policy such as 'home address' are taken directly from Reading Borough Council's guide to school admissions for parents and carers.
9. All Saints Junior School was part of the co-ordinated admissions process for Reading. The School had 18 applications for 25 places available, although it is likely that one of those applications was a second preference, and the child in question will secure a place at an outstanding local primary school which has recently become an Academy.

Nearby maintained schools and Academies

10. There are 50 state funded primary schools within a 3 mile radius of the planned permanent site of the All Saints Junior School, which may be impacted by the establishment of the school. As part of their consultation, CfBT Schools Trust have been proactively seeking the views of local primary schools (although not necessarily all 50), and secondary schools. They have been working closely with officers at Reading Borough Council to ensure that their school meets the identified need of the pupils leaving All Saints Infant School, and others in the vicinity that have difficulty securing a school place, whilst minimising the impact on other local schools.
11. In considering the impact on other local schools we have primarily considered the impact on primary schools within a one mile radius as the crow flies of both the permanent and temporary sites, as being a small primary school in the city it is likely that most of the children will live within this distance of the junior school. Overall we consider any impact on the schools to be negligible, on the basis that the children from the infant school are generally dispersed to a number of schools that happen to have a place in Year 3 in any particular year. Paragraph 3 above demonstrates the particular difficulties in securing a Year 3 school place for these children. As all these schools are facing demographic pressures on places, it is highly unlikely the establishment of a Free School will have an impact on the number of children they admit. The greatest impact on other schools is likely to be on the feeder infant school and the four closest primary schools.

All Saints Infant School

12. We believe there is likely to be a positive impact on the feeder infant school, which may experience increased applications as a result of it being easier to secure Year 3 places for children leaving the infant school.

Oxford Primary School

13. We believe there is likely to be a neutral impact on Oxford Road Primary School, as although the Junior School will share part of Oxford Road's designated area, the school is currently oversubscribed and projected to become more so in the coming years. Oxford Road is an average sized primary school which was judged to be "good" by Ofsted in 2010. The impact is likely to be on which children are admitted to Oxford Road – given it is oversubscribed – rather than a positive or negative impact on the viability of the school. CfBT have taken care to share part of its designated area with Oxford Road, but not all. This means that if the oversubscription criteria need to be applied, and this criterion in particular, not all of the children admitted on the basis of criteria other than attendance at All Saints Infant School will be drawn entirely from Oxford Road's designated area when the Free School is oversubscribed, and so it is considered that the impact on that school will be minimised. This was decided after consultation with the headteacher of Oxford Road.

Battle Primary School

14. We believe there is unlikely to be an impact, other than a neutral one, on Battle Primary School. Battle Primary School is an average sized primary school which was judged to be "satisfactory" but with good capacity for sustained improvement

by Ofsted in 2009. The impact is likely to be on which children are admitted to Battle Primary School – given its reception classes are full, with a demographic pressure indicating that it is likely to be oversubscribed – and there is a demographic pressure in the wider local area – rather than a positive or negative impact on the viability of the school. We therefore judge the impact of the opening of the All Saints Junior School on Battle Primary School to be neutral.

Coley Primary School

15. We believe there is unlikely to be an impact, other than a neutral one, on Coley Primary School. Coley Primary School is a smaller primary school which was judged to be “satisfactory” by Ofsted in 2009. The impact is likely to be on which children are admitted to Coley Primary School – given its reception classes are full, with a demographic pressure indicating that it is likely to be oversubscribed – rather than a positive or negative impact on the viability of the school. We therefore judge the impact of All Saints Junior School on Coley Primary School to be neutral.

St Mary and All Saints Primary School

16. We believe there will be a small, short term potentially negative impact on St Mary and All Saints Primary School. St Mary and All Saints is an average sized primary school which was judged to be “good” by Ofsted in 2009. It is this school – rather than the closer Oxford Road Primary School – which children attending All Saints Junior School are likely to have moved to after they leave the infant school. In the first year of the Free School’s operation, Reading Borough Council believe that St Mary and All Saints may have up to ten places available in Year 3. Their view, however, is that it does not significantly impact on the viability of the school, especially as like all local primary schools in the area it is full to capacity in its reception years, and is likely to remain so for several years to come. Given the level of in year transfers between schools, it may well be that the school fills the vacant places through these transfers, whereas previously it would have been unable to do so as it was full.

17. Given the school is a voluntary-aided church of England school, the increased popularity of All Saint Infant School may mean some parents applying for reception places for their children may choose to apply to All Saints Infant School instead, but again the impact will be on precisely which children attend the school rather than the number of children or the viability of the school. The primary school has not raised any concerns about the establishment of the Free School with the Department, or to our knowledge, with the local authority.

18. We judge the potential impact on the primary school to be outweighed by the positive impact of the Free School in allowing a cohort of children to move to a school together, rather than being a dispersed to a number of schools.

Wilson Primary School

19. We believe there is unlikely to be an impact, other than a neutral one, on Wilson Primary School. Wilson Primary School is a smaller primary school which was judged to be “outstanding” by Ofsted in February 2011. In the unlikely event that

there is an impact it is likely to be on which children are admitted to Wilson Primary School – given its reception classes are full and there is a demographic pressure in the wider local area – rather than a positive or negative impact on the viability of the school. We therefore judge the impact of All Saints Junior School on Wilson Primary School to be neutral.

Southcoate Primary School

20. We believe there is unlikely to be an impact, other than a neutral one, on Southcoate Primary School. Southcoate Primary School is a smaller primary school which was judged to be “good” by Ofsted in 2007, and confirmed in an interim inspection in January 2011. In the unlikely event that there is an impact it is likely to be on which children are admitted to Southcoate Primary School – given its reception classes are full and there is a demographic pressure in the wider local area – rather than a positive or negative impact on the viability of the school. We therefore judge the impact of All Saints Junior School on Southcoate Primary School to be neutral.

Local Authority Views on Impact on Primary Schools

21. Reading Borough Council has not responded formally to the Department’s request for views on the All Saints Junior School project, other than to express their support for it. Officials have been in contact with the local authority, which has confirmed that the establishment of the Free School is likely to ease the pressure on primary places that they currently face, and in particular provide upper primary places for a group of children for whom it recently has had difficulty in finding Year 3 places. The Free School will therefore have a positive impact on parental choice in those areas. The council has worked closely with CfBT throughout the process, and CfBT have responded positively to the council’s advice around shaping the school’s proposed admissions arrangements, and in particular around the proposed catchment area for the school.

Impact on Secondary Schools

22. As All Saints Junior School is a primary school, officials consider that its establishment will not have an impact on local secondary schools, other than that they will need to consider whether they will include All Saints Junior School as an additional feeder primary school in secondary schools’ admissions arrangements.

Impact on Independent Schools

23. Given that a number of parents of children at the feeder infant school, being unable to secure a suitable Year 3 place for their child, have decided to take them out of the state sector, there may be a slight impact on local **independent schools**, by drawing pupils who may otherwise have been educated in the independent sector. Given the size of the proposed school, and that in the past only two or three pupils from the infant school have gone onto independent schools, the impact is not significant. A couple of local independent schools may well close at the end of the financial year, and so the Free School provides the local authority with additional capacity in which to place displaced Year 3 pupils from the independent sector if necessary.

FE institutions

24. As All Saints Junior School is a primary school, its establishment will not have an impact on local FE institutions.

Conclusion

25. Taking into account the projected shortage of primary places in the coming years, and the relatively small size of the All Saints Junior School, the impact on most individual schools is likely to be negligible. There may be a short term potentially negative impact St Mary and All Saints Primary School given the majority of the children at the new Free School are likely to have been placed there this year, but this impact will decrease over time as demographic pressures increase the demand for primary school places. Given that the All Saints Junior School is only planned as a 1FE school it is unlikely that it will have a significant detrimental impact on any particular provision across the borough or in neighbouring boroughs. All Saints Infants School will be most affected, but in a positive way as applications to that school may well increase with the prospect of a sister junior school that the infant school's pupils can progress to.

School Name	Capacity	No. of Pupils	Places available in Y3	Distance (miles walking distance)	Ofsted Rating
Oxford Road Primary School	210	203	0	0.5	2
Battle Primary School	380	411	1	0.6	3
Coley Primary School	175	187	3	0.8	3
St Mary and All Saints Primary School	420	360	10	1.0	2
Wilson Primary School	258	278	1	0.9	1
Southcoate Primary School	420	374	6	1.1	2

26. All Saints Junior School will improve parental choice by widening the number and type of places available in local primary state-funded 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 All Saints Junior to play a part in driving up standards in schools across the board, improving standards for all young people in the area.

27. Given all this information, we consider that the impact of establishing the All Saints Junior School on maintained schools, Academies and FE institutions in the surrounding area is minimal and out-weighted by the positive impact that the school will have on parental choice and in driving up standards in nearby institutions.