

Title: Canary Wharf College

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Annex B

Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty

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 schools is (or is proposed to be) situated.

Background

In undertaking this assessment we have focused on the catchment area within 1.5 miles of Canary Wharf College as limited transport links over the river mean that pupils are most likely to be drawn from within the Isle of Dogs.

Local schools

There are 69 Primary schools in Tower Hamlets with a roll of 23,212 pupils. Tower Hamlets has the highest number of pupils in the UK on free meals at 52% and is the 3rd most deprived area in the country. Local authority (Tower Hamlets) report that population projections indicate the need for a further 5,000 under 5 places by 2021. The large majority of pupils come from Bangladeshi backgrounds and many other ethnicities are represented in smaller numbers. Three quarters of pupils come from homes where English is not the first language.

There are 11 schools located within 1.5 miles to Canary Wharf College of which 2 are in the independent sector. Of the 9 maintained schools, 8 are Primary Schools (that includes 1 Church of England and 2 faith school) and 1 is a Junior School. Seven of these are oversubscribed and two are at capacity. One- Arnhem Wharf Primary- is being extended by 181 places as part of a phased project to enable the school to admit more pupils to meet the increased demand for places in the area. Once Arnhem's expansion is completed in 2017, it will have a capacity of 630

The number of maintained schools with a deficit of places locally suggests that the opening of Canary Wharf College Primary would contribute to meeting basic need requirements and would not prevent any local schools being filled to capacity. The results of capacity studies for the Isle of Dogs have shown that up to 1,029 additional primary places are required (Source: Interim Planning guide for Tower Hamlets).

Table showing capacity and pupil numbers of the 9 maintained schools in 2010/11:

School	Number on roll (Source: Edubase March 2011)	% oversubscribed	Most recent Ofsted
Seven Mills	229	9%	Outstanding
Arnhem Wharf	449	0%	Good
Cyril Jackson	450	7%	Good
Woolmore	240	17%	Good
Cubitt Town Infant & Junior schools	690	9%	Outstanding
St Edmund RC	206	0%	Good
St Luke's CoE	247	3%	Outstanding
Holy Family RC	235	11%	Satisfactory
Harbinger	328	4%	Good

Seven Mills Primary School E14 8LY – a mixed school 0.4 miles from Canary Wharf College. Capacity is 210, Currently 229 pupils aged 3 -11. The last Ofsted inspection in July 2008 awarded a grade 1 outstanding to the school. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English is 79%, Maths 76% and Science 66%. There are 6.1% pupils with statements of SEN or supported at School Action Plus. There are 65% pupils on free schools meals. The school includes pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and speech, language and communication problems. The school is currently oversubscribed and so it is likely that even if Canary Wharf College were to attract approaching half its children from those that currently would go to this school, which we consider very unlikely, it would only serve to bring it down to its full capacity levels. .

Arnhem Wharf Primary School (E14 3RP) – a mixed school 0.5 miles from Canary Wharf College. Currently has 449 pupils aged 3 – 11. The school premises are currently being extended as part of a phased project to enable the school to admit more pupils to meet the increased demand for places in the area. When the expansion is completed in 2017, the school will have a capacity of 630. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English is 79%, Maths 81% and Science 88%. The proportion of pupils who are entitled to free school meals is much higher than in most schools, although exact figures were not available from the school's last Ofsted report. 12.2% pupils have statements of SEN or are supported at School Action Plus. About 1 in 5 pupils has special educational needs and/or disabilities, most commonly associated with emotional, behavioral or social difficulties. While the school is being extended, the level of basic need in the area with further planned development means that the opening of Canary Wharf College is likely to have a minimal impact on future numbers. We have sought the Local Authority's view on this and they have no major concerns.

Cyril Jackson Primary School (E14 8HH) – a mixed school 0.2 miles from Canary Wharf College, this school is oversubscribed. The school has a capacity of 420 but currently accommodates 451 pupils aged 3 – 11. Performance data: the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English 69%, Maths 73% and Science 78%. Most pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. 18.6% pupils have statements of SEN or are supported at School Action Plus. The school has a 20 place provision for pupils with speech and language difficulties. Ofsted Inspection in March 2010 awarded an overall grade 2 (Good) and a grade 1 (Outstanding) for sustained improvement. 48% of pupils are on free schools meal. The school is currently oversubscribed and so it is likely that even if Canary Wharf College were to attract over half its children from those that currently would go to this school, which we consider unlikely, it would only serve to bring it down to nearer its full capacity levels

Woolmore Primary School (E14 0EW) – a mixed school 1.0 mile from Canary Wharf School. Capacity of 204 but currently has 240 pupils aged 3 – 11. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English is 81%, Maths 78% and Science n/a%. The percentage of pupils eligible for free schools meals is 57%. Pupils with statements of SEN or supported at School Action Plus: 11.7%. The school was inspected by Ofsted in March 2010 and was awarded a grade 2 for overall effectiveness and grade 2 for capacity for sustained improvement. The school is currently oversubscribed by 17% and so it is likely that even if Canary Wharf College were to attract approaching half its children from those that currently would go to this school, which we consider very unlikely, it would only serve to bring it down to its full capacity.

Cubitt Town Junior School (E14 3NE) - a mixed school 0.2 miles from Canary Wharf College. The school has an infant school for 3 – 6 year olds and a junior school for age 7 – 11. The Infant school has a capacity of 270 and has 358 pupils; the Junior school capacity is 360, but currently has 332 pupils. The percentage of eligible pupils on free school meals (57%) is more than the national average. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are 4.9%. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English is 81%, Maths 84% and Science 88%. The school was inspected by Ofsted in March 2007 and received grade 1 outstanding. The infant school is currently oversubscribed and so it is likely that Canary Wharf College will have a minimal impact on future pupil numbers as the younger children work their way through the junior school.

St Edmund Primary Roman Catholic School (E14 3RS) – a mixed faith school. Capacity is 206 and currently has 206 pupils aged 3-11. The percentage of pupil on free school meals is 27%. There are 37 pupils with SEN statements. The percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in English is 69%, Maths 73% and Science 78%. The school is in a 'soft federation' with Our Lady Roman Catholic Primary School. The headteacher is currently also serving as executive headteacher of that school. Pupils come

from a cosmopolitan mix of different ethnic backgrounds, with the largest being from African and Caribbean countries. The school was awarded grade 2 for overall effectiveness in July 2008 by Ofsted. The Ofsted report notes that the number of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is considered average. Several other schools that are oversubscribed are nearer to Canary Wharf College. Finally St Edmunds is a very popular school and we understand that it is not oversubscribed only because it cannot accommodate any more pupils. Therefore it is likely that there will be a minimal impact on future pupil numbers, even taking into account that this is a mixed faith school and potentially competing for some faith children with the proposed Free School.

St Luke's Church of England Primary School E14 3EB- a mixed faith school 0.6 miles from Canary Wharf College. Capacity is 240 and currently has 247 aged 3 – 11. Percentage achieving Level 4 or above in English 85%, Maths 92% and Science 92%. The last Ofsted inspection in January 2008 awarded a grade 1 Outstanding to the school. 6.7% of pupils have statements of SEN or are supported at School Action Plus. The school admits some pupils from areas with a high level of economic deprivation. A high proportion are from ethnic minority groups, many of which are at an early stage of learning English. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is well above average. The school is currently oversubscribed and so it is likely that Canary Wharf College will have a minimal impact on future pupil numbers.

Holy Family RC Primary School E14 ODE – a mixed school. This is a one form entry school serving pupils from Catholic families in Poplar and the surrounding area, on the edge of the catchment area for Canary Wharf College. Capacity 210 and currently has 235 pupils. Pupils come from a wide range of ethnic heritages, the largest being White British, African and Caribbean. Around a quarter of pupils are bilingual, including a small but growing number of pupils who join the school at early stages of learning English. Almost half of the pupils are entitled to free school meals, which is very high. Pupils with statements of SEN or supported at School Action Plus: 14.5% - a higher than average proportion of pupils have statements of special educational need. At its last Ofsted inspection it was rated as Grade 3 (satisfactory). There is another RC primary school – St Edmunds- within the Canary Wharf catchment area that was rated as 'good' in its last Ofsted report. While it is full, it is not overcapacity. For parents seeking an RC education, it is more likely that they would apply to St Edmunds. Several other schools are oversubscribed and nearer to Canary Wharf College and so it is likely that there will be a minimal impact on future pupil numbers in the Holy Family RC Primary School.

Harbinger Primary School (E14 3QP) – a mixed school 0.5 miles from Canary Wharf College. Capacity 315, currently 328 pupils aged 3 -11. Performance data for achieving Level 4 or above in English is 71%, Maths

77% and Science 80%. 12.2% of the pupils have statements of SEN or supported at School Action Plus. 44% of the pupils are on free schools meals. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is well above the national average. Ofsted inspection in 2009 awarded a grade 2 good performance. The school is currently oversubscribed and so it is likely that Canary Wharf College will have a minimal impact on future pupil numbers.

Nearby maintained secondary schools and post-16 institutions

1. Canary Wharf College will open in September 2011 with 60 pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (with 20 in each year group) and will build its pupil numbers over the next 5 years until it achieves its full capacity of 280. When in steady state, pupils are likely to transfer to secondary schools in the local area. It is not envisaged, however, that it will be a feeder primary school to any one school. As the school will be a 2 FE primary school offering 40 places per year, it is unlikely to have a substantial impact on the viability of local secondary schools, and even less likely to impact post-16 and FE institutions.

Local Authority opinion

Officials have sought opinion from the Tower Hamlets Local Authority where the school will be located. The Local Authority has confirmed the undoubted need for school places in the area and said that while the primary need is a current challenge, it has in place plans to create additional capacity within some of its schools and has further expansions planned to meet pupil growth. It has also raised reservations with regard to the school's proposed temporary site and the availability of outdoor space; the ability of the school to provide a broad and balanced curriculum because its low pupil: teacher ratio which will place greater financial pressure on the school through additional staff costs; the proposed school's capacity to cater for the needs of SEN pupils and the site's lack of facilities to prepare hot meals in an area where there is a high percentage of children receiving free school meals. On this latter point it was suggested by the Local Authority that an option might be to buy in meals from the Local Authority.

Since then there have been a number of changes to the proposed plans for the school including the identification of a new site at the Docklands Settlement. The Authority has not provided the Department with any comments on the new site but the indications are that it has worked constructively with the school to develop its site plans. Canary Wharf's Business Plans sets out how it will develop its SEN provision and there is no reason to suggest that the school will not work positively to support the additional needs of its pupils or restrict its admissions policy. Indeed, its admissions policy allows priority to be given to children with 'exceptional social or medical need' thus demonstrating that the school is open to all and may serve to help remove some of the barriers which exist for those particular children.

Extended school day

In order to support local working families, the school's business case sets out that it will operate an extended day from 8.30 am to 4pm for all children with an optional further hour of extended day activities for infant children and two hours for junior children. The aim is for the Extended Day Activities to grow steadily over the next few years so that the school will eventually provide over two hundred and fifty enrichment activity places per week for the children. It is intended that extended day activities will be run "at cost". It is also hoped that the parents association will support these activities and that sponsorship will be secured to reduce costs further. The school hopes that local educational activity groups will be attracted to use the school premises for holiday activities in art and music for the local children. In addition, the Docklands Settlement can offer additional "wrap around care" (7.30 -8.30am and 4.00 – 6.15pm)- also at cost and available to all children.

Conclusion

In light of the current shortage of primary school places in the area and the fairly small size of the proposed Free School, the new school is unlikely to have any negative impact on any local school, and certainly not one that might threaten the continued viability of any local school. Indeed given the places shortage in the area it could be argued that the new school will have a positive impact on the overall availability of primary education in the area and provide much-needed places as well as meeting parental demand for a school with a non-denominational Christian ethos.

Map showing local schools

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