

Title: Discovery New School

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Annex B

Impact Assessment

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 is 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.

Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.

Background

There are 36 maintained schools and Academies within a three mile radius of the planned permanent site of Discovery New School. We have made the assessment based on schools within a 3 mile radius as this is the likely area from which pupils will be drawn to the school.

Reception year pupils intending to join Discovery New School in September 2011 are also placed at local state primary schools. The state school places are evenly spread across Crawley primary schools and are therefore not impacting on any particular school. .

Despite the existing surplus in many surrounding state schools we do not believe any ongoing surplus in these local schools can be directly attributed to the establishment of Discovery New School as this surplus is a long standing issue borne out, to some extent, by the outcome of the Trust's consultation (see below)..We do not believe that secondary schools, Academies, or further education institutions will be affected as Discovery New School will be a primary school admitting children aged 4-11.

Catchment area

The school received a total of 85 applications for places in September 2011. The catchment area encompassed all of Crawley, matching the boundaries of Crawley Borough Council.

Consultation

The proposal group have carried out a consultation amongst stakeholders. The consultation saw the group distribute a consultation document amongst local residents, parents, councillors and surrounding schools.

38 responses were received with 73.7% of respondents believing that a Funding Agreement should be signed between Discovery New School Trust and the Secretary of State. 92.1% of respondents were in favour of Discovery New School's Montessori style of education whilst 68.5% had either made an application, or were very interested in sending their child/children to Discovery New School.

Examples of the positive feedback include –

“It will allow greater choice for parents who are not happy with current state school and levels of meeting their child's individual needs.”

“This is a very exciting opportunity for local children and the community in general. It is MUST!”

“There are no other Montessori Schools in this area and DNS would provide us with one.”

“It gives students the opportunity of small classes which is usually only available on the independent sector. Therefore, each student has more opportunities to succeed.”

The only negative feedback came from the head teacher of Gossops Green Primary School who believed that her school's mainstream budget would be cut as a result of Discovery New School opening. She also voiced her opposition to Discovery New School being “run by unqualified staff in an area where there are vacancies in local schools.”

We believe the opposition from Gossops Green Primary School may stem from their concerns that pupils may decide to transfer to Discovery New School. Gossops Green has not been performing well in recent years and is undersubscribed by 13%. The most recent Ofsted inspection, in June 2010, saw the school deemed “satisfactory”. However, the previous Ofsted inspection, in March 2009, saw the school deemed to be “inadequate” and given a Notice to Improve.

One pupil is joining Discovery New School from Gossops Green in September 2011. They are a Year 2 transfer.

CRB checks have been commissioned and completed for the Chair of the Discovery New School Trust, the Principal Designate, the Finance Director and a Trustee.

Local Authority opinion

West Sussex County Council supports the establishment of Discovery New School. The Council believe that that the establishment of Discovery New School will not significantly impact local primary and secondary maintained provision. The school will provide a unique primary Montessori education that is clearly sought after, as shown by the number of applications received from parents wishing for their children to attend the school. The need for more primary places further enhances the need for a new school.

In addition, West Sussex County Council submitted primary place forecasts to PfS in August 2010. This indicates that there will be sufficient pupil places for West Sussex overall until 2012-13. The council then predicts that planned housing developments and population increase in the area will lead to a deficit of primary places by 2014-15.

Forecasts are as follows:

2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
No of pupils	Surplus/Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/Deficit
56603	4061 (7%)	58472	2192 (4%)	60018	646 (1%)	61666	-1002 (2%)	62188	-1524 (-3%)

In summary, West Sussex County Council anticipates there being a 4% surplus capacity for 2011-12. They estimate that West Sussex will need to maintain a surplus capacity of between 5-8% of overall places within its existing school stock, particularly in areas of new housing, to meet the need for pupil places. Crawley has been identified as a particular area of concern.

Nearby maintained primary schools

The permanent site for the proposed Discovery New School is at Broadfield House in Crawley. Table 1 details the 28 maintained primary schools located within a 3 mile radius of Discovery New School. Below you will also see that we have provided more detail on schools within a one mile radius in relation to the establishment of Discovery New School:

1. Broadfield East Infant School –

A mixed infant school and nursery rated 'Good' in their most recent Ofsted report. This school is 0.1 miles from Discovery New School and has a capacity of 268 pupils, currently oversubscribed by one. We do not believe that the opening of Discovery New School will have an adverse impact on Broadfield East Infant School since Discovery New School will be offering a unique Montessori education and Broadfield East Infant School is a strong performing infant school where the majority of pupils will naturally progress onto the neighbouring junior school.

2. Broadfield East Junior School –

Closely linked to the neighbouring infant school, Broadfield East Junior School has a capacity of 360 but has only 274 pupils on roll. The school was deemed 'Satisfactory' by Ofsted in June 2010 and had only 43% of pupils gaining a Level 4 or above in both English and maths in the most recent Key Stage 2 examinations. We believe that the potential future crossover of pupils from this school to Discovery New School may have some impact on the school this will be minimal (Discovery has an intake of only 16 reception pupils each year) and therefore should not prevent the establishment of a new school in the area.

3. Desmond Anderson Primary School –

Situated 0.4 miles from the Discovery New School site, this school has a capacity of 315 and is currently undersubscribed by one. November 2009 saw the school deemed 'Satisfactory' by Ofsted and the most Key Stage 2 tests saw 59% of pupils gain Level 4 or above in English and maths.

4. Seymour Primary School –

Seymour Primary School is based 0.5 miles from Discovery New School and is

very undersubscribed. It has a capacity of 540 but only 457 pupils on roll despite being deemed 'Good' by Ofsted in June 2010 and 62% of pupils receiving Level 4 or above at Key Stage 2. This school is unpopular with parents a fact which we do not believe should hinder the establishment of a new school.

5. Southgate Primary –

Situated 0.7 miles from Discovery New School, Southgate Primary School is also heavily undersubscribed. It has a capacity of 420 but only 320 pupils on roll. 60% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English and maths and June 2009 saw it deemed 'Satisfactory' by Ofsted. As above the unpopularity of Southgate Primary should not prevent the opening of a new school.

6. The Oaks Primary School –

The Oaks is another undersubscribed school situated approximately one mile away from Discovery New School. It has a capacity of 432 but only 368 pupils on roll and was deemed 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2008. It recently had 61% of pupils achieve Level 2 or above Key Stage 2 English and maths. Due to the distance from Discovery New School and the unique Montessori provision on offer at Discovery, we do not think that The Oaks Primary School will be significantly impacted by the establishment of a new school.

7. St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School –

This primary school has a capacity of 420 pupils and is full. In January 2009, Ofsted deemed this school as 'Good' and it also scored very high Key Stage 2 results with 76% of pupils gaining Level 4 or above in English and maths. As this school is a Catholic faith school, we believe that the difference in provision between the school and Discovery New School will not lead to any significant negative impact.

In addition, no primary schools within a three mile radius of Discovery New School have yet to apply to convert into Academies or are being brokered into Academies.

Statistics of surrounding primary schools

Overall, 16 of the schools are rated at least 'Good' by Ofsted, with 1 demonstrating 'Outstanding features', and 3 rated 'Outstanding' in their most recent inspections. 2 of the schools are Church of England schools and another 2 are designated Roman Catholic.

25 of the 28 state schools have surplus places at the time the information was gathered. 12 have a surplus of 10% or less. 11 have more than 10% surplus places. None of these schools have more than 30% surplus places. Whilst the current surplus at many schools is a concern, as stated above, the local authority anticipates a deficit of primary places in 2014/15.

Nearby maintained secondary schools and post-16 institutions

There are 6 maintained secondary schools in a 3 mile radius of the planned Discovery New School site.

As Discovery New School will be a primary school, we believe that the school will not impact on maintained secondary provision.

Conclusion

Overall, Discovery New School will be offering a unique Montessori primary education in Crawley. As shown by the oversubscription of Discovery New School, there is clear appetite for this the education on offer at the school.

As the table below shows, the vast majority of surrounding schools have not been performing at a particularly high level. The competition that Discovery New School will provide will encourage surrounding schools to raise their performance in order to retain pupils in order to remain financially viable.

In addition, the local authority forecasts a shortage of primary places in 2014/15, suggesting that new primary provision is ultimately needed.

We do not think that surrounding schools will be significantly impacted by the opening of Discovery New School. As stated earlier, pupils joining Discovery New School in Reception hold second choice places at a variety of surrounding primary schools.

Discovery New School has already begun developing relationships with surrounding schools. For example, the Principle Designate has met with other primary head teachers from the part of Crawley in which Discovery is situated. She has also offered to meet all of maintained school head teachers from across Crawley having met with West Sussex County Council.

Table 1 – Primary schools within 3 miles of Discovery New School

Name	Distance from DNS	Type	Type	Number on roll	Capacity	Percentage surplus	Age range	Ofsted rating	Time of inspection	KS2 Eng+Maths Level 4
Broadfield East Infant School and Nursery	0.1	Community	Primary	269	268	+0.7	3-7	Good	Sep-08	n/a
Broadfield East Junior School	0.2	Community	Primary	274	360	-24	7-11	Satisfactory	Jun-10	43
Desmond Anderson Primary School	0.4	Community	Primary	314	315	-0.4	4-11	Satisfactory	Nov-09	59
Seymour Primary School	0.5	Community	Primary	457	540	-26	3-11	Good	Jun-10	62
Southgate Primary	0.7	Community	Primary	320	420	-24	4-11	Satisfactory	Jun-09	60
The Oaks Primary School	1	Community	Primary	368	432	-25	4-11	Good	Dec-08	61
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	1	Voluntary aided	Primary	420	420	0	4-11	Good	Jan-09	76
Cottesmore School	1.1	Other Independent	Independent	115	170	-33	4-13	Good	Feb-09	n/a
Hilltop Primary School	1.2	Community	Primary	334	420	-21	4-11	Satisfactory	Jul-10	63
Gossops Green Community Primary	1.2	Community	Primary	464	528	-13	4-11	Satisfactory - S8 deemed s5	Sep-10	n/a
Bewbush Community Primary	1.2	Community	Primary	396	560	-30	4-11	Good formerly in SM	Mar-09	56
St Andrew's CofE Primary School	1.4	Voluntary aided	Primary	n/a	n/a	n/a	4-11	Good	Jun-10	61
Waterfield Primary School	1.5	Community	Primary	260	210	+23	3-11	Satisfactory with good features	Sep-09	64
West Green Primary School	1.5	Community	Primary	201	210	-5	4-11	Satisfactory	Apr-09	85
The Mill Primary School	1.6	Community	Primary	295	378	-22	4-11	Satisfactory	May-09	60
Three Bridges Junior School	1.7	Community	Primary	225	270	-17	7-11	Satisfactory	Nov-10	58
St Margaret's CofE Primary School	1.8	Voluntary aided	Primary	417	420	-0.8	4-11	Good	Jul-09	83
Northgate Primary School	1.9	Community	Primary	420	462	-10	3-11	Good	Jun-09	59
The Brook School	1.9	Community	Primary	180	189	-5	4-7	Outstanding	Oct-09	88
Three Bridges Infant School	1.9	Community	Primary	242	243	-0.5	3-7	Good	Dec-08	n/a
Langley Green Primary	2.1	Community	Primary	352	360	-3	3-11	Satisfactory	Oct-08	n/a
Maidenbower Junior School	2.1	Community	Primary	581	600	-3	7-11	Satisfactory	Jan-10	n/a
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School	2.1	Voluntary aided	Primary	341	315	+8	4-11	Good	Jan-11	77
Maidenbower Infant School	2.1	Community	Primary	269	273	-2	4-7	Outstanding	Sep-09	n/a
Colgate Primary School	2.3	Community	Primary	124	140	-12	4-11	Satisfactory	Nov-09	n/a
Handcross Park Preparatory School	2.4	Other Independent	Independent	269	279	-4	2-14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pound Hill Junior School	2.4	Community	Primary	341	378	-10	7-11	Good	Feb-11	n/a
Pound Hill Infant School	2.4	Community	Primary	268	270	-1	4-7	Outstanding	May-08	n/a
Handcross Primary School	2.5	Community	Primary	116	105	+10	4-11	Good with outstanding features	Oct-07	73
Milton Mount Primary School	2.7	Community	Primary	411	420	-3	4-11	Good	Feb-11	n/a

Map 1 – schools surrounding Discovery New School (Broadfield House)

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