

Title: Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School

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Annex C - Impact Assessment for Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School

Introduction

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 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 should be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school. We have therefore carried out this assessment which uses information provided in Etz Chaim's business case and other relevant representations. It looks at where children who might attend the proposed school may otherwise have gone to school. We will need to consider whether we need to undertake a new impact assessment if the proposed sites are not secured.

2. We conclude that the establishment of Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School is likely to have an impact on nearby institutions, but that the relatively small size of the school as a 1 form entry primary school and nursery, the religious character of the school, combined with a strong demand for a Jewish Free School in Mill Hill due to its growing Jewish community, and a projected place pressure for primary provision in Mill Hill and Barnet more generally, means that this impact is likely to be marginal. In addition, the local authority has previously stated that it has an under-provision of approximately 10 forms of entry in September 2011 and that the school would help address this shortage in line with plans Barnet has to expand several other schools.

Analysis

3. The school will be a 1 form entry primary school which will build up to full capacity over 7 years. It will be designated as Orthodox Jewish.

4. There are several maintained schools, Academies and FE institutions close to the planned temporary and permanent sites of Etz Chaim Primary School, both within Barnet LA and in other boroughs. Officials do not believe that this proposal, for a primary school admitting children aged 3-11, would be likely to impact any secondary schools or post-16 institutions, including Academies. There are, however, many local primary schools which could potentially be impacted by the establishment of the proposed school. This analysis looks at the catchment area of the school and in particular highlights other Jewish schools which might be impacted.

5. Prior to submitting the business case to the Department, the Etz Chaim Free School Trust sought the views of all 7 primary schools in NW7. These schools were also invited to public meetings as well as being invited to comment on the proposal. The Principals Designate are now working on

building links with other local headteachers – at both Jewish and non-Jewish schools. The Governing body is also seeking to make links with other Governing bodies and we understand they have set up a regular committee meeting between themselves and the governors of Mathilda Marks Kennedy school, which is the closest Jewish school.

Catchment area

6. The proposed permanent site for the Free School is currently occupied by the Mill Hill Garden Centre on Daws Lane, London. NW7 4SL. The proposed temporary site is adjacent to this. The Trust initially offered places within a catchment area of 0.67 miles for the nursery. The furthest offer accepted was from a pupil living 0.71 miles away. Initial offers were made to pupils living up to 1.1 miles away for reception places and the majority of places have been offered to pupils who live no more than 1.5 miles away, with half of the places being offered to pupils living under 0.7 miles away. The Trust considers that the uncertainty about the site has had an impact on the demand for reception places this year and expects that in future years the furthest place offered will be no further than 1 mile away from the school. They have based this information on enquiries for 2012 places.

7. In undertaking this analysis we have considered the likely impact on the schools closest to the proposed temporary and permanent sites (schools in NW7 and schools within 2 mile of the proposed site as the home of the furthest away pupil to have accepted a place is 1.5miles away). In light of the offers made so far, we have also considered separately the impact on all Jewish schools within 5 miles of the site. We think it is reasonable to assume that parents of pupils who live over 1.5 miles away are not likely to choose Etz Chaim unless they specifically wish their children have a Jewish education.

8. Officials have not received any representations from any schools, but the Free School Trust is having ongoing conversations with the local schools and other Jewish schools in the area. Our analysis suggests that no single school is likely to suffer uniquely or significantly, and we have not therefore undertaken a detailed assessment of each individual school or sought views directly from individual local schools. The Trust consulted the seven schools in the same NW7 post code prior to submission of the business case.

Other nearby maintained primary schools

9. There are nine infant and junior schools in Barnet and ten within a one mile radius of the proposed permanent site. These are shown in Tables 1 and 2. This group of schools makes up a total of eleven schools (as just two schools within a one mile radius are not in NW7 and one school in NW7 is outside a one mile radius). Only one of these schools is a Jewish school. Six of these are graded Outstanding and five are graded Good. Of these, all schools were either full or operating above capacity in 2010 according to the school census in 2010, apart from Woodcroft Primary School (92.3%) and Dollis Hill Junior School (66.7%). Dollis Junior school was only at 66.7% capacity in 2010 though rated as 'good' by Ofsted. The school is an improving school and the last Ofsted report states that attainment is average. It is a

Foundation school for boys and girls aged 7-11. The Local Authority believes that the location of the school has impacted on its popularity. They have also indicated that though there are surplus places, these are not in reception to Y2, which is over capacity as the need for places puts pressure on all schools.

10. Of the closest 11 schools, Etz Chaim is unlikely to draw pupils away from the three non-Jewish faith schools (2 Roman Catholic schools and 1 CofE school) as Etz Chaim would be unlikely to appeal to parents of those faiths. Our view is that Etz Chaim's modern orthodox Jewish faith ethos means it is unlikely to attract a substantial number of pupils away from the other community schools. If this does happen, the overall viability of the schools is unlikely to be affected due to Etz Chaim being 1 form entry.

11. We have not considered in detail the impact on non-Jewish maintained schools which are further than a 1 mile radius from the proposed site. This is because we have already concluded that the overall viability of maintained schools within a 1 mile radius is unlikely to be affected. The pupil who accepted from the furthest distance is due to travel from 1.5 miles away with half of pupils under 0.7 miles away having accepted a place. In addition, we support the view of the Trust that admissions this year have been unsettled due to issues surrounding the site. There are 18 extra schools which are between a 1 and 2 mile radius away, 4 of which are Jewish schools considered within the section below. Of the remaining 12, 5 are schools of other faiths, which we think are unlikely to be affected by the opening of Etz Chaim. The remaining 7 are all oversubscribed, with one exception, which was at 96.3% capacity in 2010.

Nearby maintained Jewish primary schools

12. All of the 13 Jewish schools within a five mile radius are oversubscribed, except four. These are shown in Table 4. Of these, Edgware Junior School is at 93.3% and the Independent Jewish Day School is just under capacity at 98.6%. Akiva School's ongoing expansion from 1 to 2 FE explains the 78.1% capacity figure in 2010. Pardes House is only at 46.5% capacity. It is an Orthodox Jewish boys' school which had previously been in special measures prior to the appointment of the current head teacher in 2008. Given the distance from Etz Chaim (3.3 miles), the fact that it caters only for children aged 2-5 and is a single sex school (boys only), our view is that Etz Chaim is unlikely to attract a significant number of pupils away from the school. In addition, we understand that the school ethos is Orthodox Jewish rather than modern Orthodox Jewish and it would appear, therefore, that Etz Chaim will be primarily attractive to parents from a different strand of the Jewish faith (although the school aims to be welcoming to all, not just those of the Jewish faith).

13. Mathilda Marks-Kennedy (MMK) is the closest Jewish school. It is a 1 form entry primary and was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2007. MMK admits between 26 and 28 places per year group. The school was over capacity in 2010 at 122.9%. The proposer group reports that for September 2010, MMK received 106 applications for 26 places. Of the 26 reception places available, 18 of them were taken by siblings leaving 8 places for 88

applicants (1 in 11). We understand this is a consistent pattern in terms of shortages of space. The proposers report that during consultation, the majority of expressions of interest from parents were from parents with addresses located around MMK. Proposers also found that these parents do not include any families with older children already attending MMK, who are likely to take up places there.

14. Proposers report that some Jewish and other schools in the area will be temporarily expanding – for example: Rosh Pinah and Woodridge schools will both be taking an additional Reception class for September 2011; it is proposed to permanently expand Broadfields Primary School by one form of entry by September 2011 and Edgware Jewish Primary School (which is 5 miles from the proposed location of Etz Chaim) became a voluntary aided school in January 2011, having previously been an independent school. It added an additional 30 maintained school places of Reception capacity in the Edgware area (though we have assumed that some of the parents who chose to send children there as an independent school will still choose the school now it is a maintained school).

15. Although there is surplus capacity in some schools, the strong demand from Jewish parents and the current oversubscription levels in the Jewish schools within 5 miles (apart from one which has been underperforming), mean that Etz Chaim is likely to have little impact on the intake or continued viability of the Jewish schools in the area.

Nearby maintained secondary schools and post-16 institutions

16. Etz Chaim Primary School will be a school admitting children of primary age. It will begin with a reception and nursery class in September 2011, and will build up over the next seven years by admitting a new reception class each year. 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 1 FE primary school, Etz Chaim 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

17. Officials have sought opinion from the local authority on a regular basis, but since the approval of the initial proposal to progress to the Business Case stage, we have not formally asked for the LA's views. We know that both officers and councillors are supportive of the proposal as it will contribute to addressing the basic need issues in the borough.

18. The Trust has met with the local MP regularly and the MPs of neighbouring wards. They have also met with local councillors.

19. We have not sought the views of neighbouring local authority officers or councillors as there are currently no pupils planning to attend from a neighbouring borough. We have also not had any representations from other local authorities.

Pupil place planning information

20. There is place pressure in Mill Hill and in Barnet more generally. The local authority has indicated an under-provision of approximately 10 forms of entry in September 2011 which Etz Chaim would help address, in addition to plans to expand several other schools.

21. Mill Hill has a substantial and growing Jewish community including a significant number of young families. Existing Jewish schools in the area are over-subscribed.

Conclusion

22. In conclusion, officials consider the likely impact of establishing Etz Chaim Jewish Primary Free School on other maintained schools (both Jewish and non-Jewish) in the area the school is proposed to be located in to be marginal, and that any negative impact on particular institutions is balanced by the positive impact that Etz Chaim will have on parental choice and in improving the shortage of available primary provision in the local area. Given the size of the school, it is likely to attract a minimal number of pupils away from other schools. The character of the school will mean that it is unlikely to have any impact on other already oversubscribed Jewish schools, though it may have a marginal effect on some of the community schools in Barnet.

Table 1: Primary schools in NW7

Courtland School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Foundation School
Fairway Primary School and Children's Centre*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Paul's CofE Primary School NW7	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School

*Outside a 1 mile radius

Table 2: Primary schools within a 1 mile radius of the permanent site

The Annunciation RC Junior School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Courtland School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Foundation School
Mathilda Marks-Kennedy	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School

Jewish Primary School				
St Paul's CofE Primary School NW7	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Woodcroft Primary School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School

*Outside NW7

Table 3: Primary schools within a 2 mile radius of the permanent site

The Annunciation RC Infant School	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
The Annunciation RC Junior School	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Barnfield Primary School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School
Beis Yaakov Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Blessed Dominic RC School*	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Broadfields Primary School&	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School
Colindale Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Courtland School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Deansbrook Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Infant School	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Dollis Junior School	Barnet	London	Open	Foundation School

Edgware Infant School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School
Edgware Junior School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School
Fairway Primary School and Children's Centre*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Frith Manor Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Goldbeaters Primary School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School
Krishna-Avanti Primary School*	Harrow	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Menorah Foundation School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
The Orion Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Rosh Pinah Primary School*	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Joseph's RC Infant School*	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Joseph's RC Junior School*	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Mary's CofE Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Paul's CofE Primary School NW7	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Sunnyfields Primary School*	Barnet	London	Open	Community School
Woodcroft Primary	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Community School

School				
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* Not considered in the analysis above.

Table 4: Jewish primary schools within a 5 mile radius of the permanent site

Akiva School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	Brent	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Beis Yaakov Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Edgware Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Barnet	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Hasmonean Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Hertsmere Jewish Primary School	Hertfordshire	Radlett	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Independent Jewish Day School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Menorah Foundation School	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Menorah Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Michael Sobell Sinai School	Brent	Harrow	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Pardes House Primary School	Barnet	London	Open	Voluntary Aided School
Rosh Pinah Primary School	Barnet	Edgware	Open	Voluntary Aided School