

Title: Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy

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Annex A: 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 school is (or is proposed to be) situated. Any adverse impact, or potentially adverse impact, identified would then need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.

Below is an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed school on local schools and FE institutions. 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.

Identified need in the area

Over the last few years, there has been a clear issue of under provision of Reception Year places within the London Borough of Enfield. Enfield LA have been expanding the provision of primary school places which has included the expansion of Cuckoo Hall Academy (CHA)'s predecessor in 2004 and 2009 in response to growing demand. WHPA provides for additional places to meet the continued growing demand as part of a package of measure that will take provide the local area with a small surplus of places over the coming years.

The table below shoes the July 2010 Reception forecast from the GLA for the Lower Edmonton area (informed by the January 2010 Schools Census and the 2009 population projections). The capacity assumed the implementation of Enfield existing expansion plans which do not include WHPA.

| | <u>Projection of demand (year of projection)</u> | <u>Currently Planned Capacity</u> | <u>Surplus/ Deficit</u> |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 4410 | 4223 | -187 |
| 2012/13 | 4595 | 4223 | -372 |
| 2013/14 | 4564 | 4223 | -341 |
| 2014/15 | 4437 | 4223 | -214 |
| 2015/16 | 4329 | 4223 | -106 |

The LA's latest projections (reflected in the table below and informed by January 2011 Schools Census) include Woodpecker Hall as part of the current planned capacity as well as other measure that the LA has taken to increase local capacity. This allows them to move from the deficit shown above to a small surplus of reception places over the next five years in the Lower Edmonton Area. It should be noted that without the additional places provided by WHPA there would remain a small deficit of places in 2012/13 and 2014/15.

| | <u>Projection of demand</u> | <u>Currently Planned</u> | <u>Surplus/ Deficit</u> | <u>Surplus/Deficit if 60 WHPA</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|

| | <u>(year of projection)</u> | <u>Capacity</u> | | <u>places are removed</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------|---------------------------|
| 2011/12 | 4341 | 4458 | +117 | +57 |
| 2012/13 | 4467 | 4518 | +51 | -9 |
| 2013/14 | 4419 | 4488 | +69 | +9 |
| 2014/15 | 4402 | 4458 | +56 | -4 |
| 2015/16 | 4392 | 4458 | +66 | +6 |

Impact on maintained Primary Schools

There are **13 schools located** within a one mile radius (WHPA is aiming to be a very local school with a walk to school policy and this is the likely area from which the school will attract its children) of the proposed site, including Cuckoo Hall Academy which has proposed and is setting up the new school. **Nine of the 12 local schools excluding the proposer are Primary Schools, 2 are Junior Schools** and the remaining school is an **Infant School**. Two of the 12 schools are Catholic Schools and 1 is a Church of England School. The likely impact on these schools is listed below.

Cuckoo Hall Academy – Inspected prior to conversion to Academy status May 2009 categorised **outstanding**. Adjacent to Woodpecker Hall site.

Cuckoo Hall is a very large 660 mixed primary school (for pupils aged 3-11) and has been expanded twice in 2004 and 2009 to accommodate an increasing demand for places. Throughout the school there is significant diversity represented by a wide range of minority ethnic groups. In addition to the majority who are from White British, Black African, Caribbean or Turkish backgrounds, other groups include pupils of Asian or Eastern European heritage. The percentage of pupils eligible for FSM is well above the national average. The proportion of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities is above average. The main areas of need are in speech and language, or pupils have specific learning difficulties such as autism or emotional and social difficulties. The school has extensive links with other schools, colleges and organisations, including business partnerships. The school is **oversubscribed** with 274 applications for the 120 spaces in 2010. The school does not consider it appropriate to expand any further and in order to meet local community needs for primary places Cuckoo Hall have put forward the proposal for Woodpecker Hall (which will form part of a federation with the Academy). Given the neighbouring location and similar ethos, it is highly likely that applicants for Cuckoo Hall will be attracted to WHPA. However, given its current level of oversubscription and its outstanding rating it is highly unlikely that Woodpecker Hall will have a negative impact on future pupil numbers at Cuckoo Hall.

Houndsfield PS – Inspected December 2009 - categorised as **satisfactory overall** - 'survey inspection' visit in February 2011. 0.45 miles from WHPA (capacity 460 – NOR 459).

Houndsfield is larger than average mixed primary school for pupils aged 3-11 Most pupils are from minority ethnic groups. The large majority speak English as an additional language. The number of pupils who are eligible for FSM is much higher than average. The proportion of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities, principally speech, language and communication, moderate learning or behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, is well above average. The number of pupils joining or leaving the school other than the usual starting or leaving times is much higher than average. The school also has a speech and language unit which provides for pupils across the borough. The school became part of a hard federation with Churchfield Primary School in September 2008. The school is currently at **full capacity** despite its

Ofsted rating of 'satisfactory overall'. It is possible that, given its low Ofsted rating, WHPA will have an impact to draw pupils away from this school. However, given its Ofsted rating suggests that it is relatively weak, any impact of increased competition is likely to improve standards in the area, and the likely numbers of children that WHPA could divert from this school would not be sufficient to effect the continued viability of the school.

St Matthews CofE Primary School – Interim Assessment July 2010 - categorised as **good overall**. 0.50 miles from WHPA (capacity 210 – NOR 209).

This mixed Church of England primary school (4-11) is of average size and serves an increasingly diverse community. Of the 16 ethnic groups represented at the school, the largest are White British, Black Caribbean, Black African and White other. While most are competent in English, the proportion of pupils at the early stages of learning the language is around a tenth, and increasing. The proportion of pupils entitled to FSM is average. The number of pupils with SEN and learning difficulties and/or disabilities is above average, with a preponderance in the younger classes. They have a variety of needs including moderate learning difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties and autism.

As this school has a faith ethos likely to be attractive to its parents, with an Ofsted classification of good, we consider it likely that the opening of WHPA will only have a minimal impact on future pupil numbers.

Eldon Junior – Most recent inspection July 2008 and interim assessment January 2011-categorised as **good overall**. 0.56 miles from WHPA (capacity 560 – NOR 579).

This much larger-than-average junior mixed school (age 7-11) has almost double the percentage of pupils who have learning difficulties compared to the national average and a much higher percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals. Just over three fifths of the pupils speak a language other than English as their first language. Four fifths of the pupils are from ethnic minorities. The school is **oversubscribed** by 19 places (3%) which coupled with its Ofsted assessment of good suggests that they would not be significantly affected by the addition of the free school.

Eldon Infant – Inspected November 2010 – categorised as **satisfactory overall**. 0.56 miles from WHPA (capacity 306 – NOR 410).

This mixed infant (age 3-7) community school is larger than most similar schools. Most of the pupils who attend come from the immediate locality. The large majority are from minority ethnic groups, the largest proportions coming from Turkish and Somali backgrounds. The large majority of pupils come from homes where English is not the first language. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for FSM is well above average. The proportion identified as having SEN and/or disabilities is very high. A higher than average proportion of pupils start or leave the school during the year, as their families move in or out of the area.

The school shares its site with a children's centre, which is not run by the school's governing body. The neighbouring junior school is also on the same site and has recently formed a collaboration with Eldon Infant School. An executive headteacher leads both the infant and junior schools. This school is **oversubscribed** by 104 places (34%), and so even though the Local Authority has increased the number of reception places available from 140 to 145 in its projection plans for 2011/12 we do not consider it likely that the free school proposal would have a significant impact on this school.

Galliard PS – Inspected November 2009 – categorised as **good overall**. 0.63 miles from WHPA (capacity 480 – NOR 632).

This mixed community primary school is a very large school which serves a culturally diverse area in which many families face challenging circumstances. It was designated a Children's Centre in November 2007. It offers a large number of services for families and integrated education and daycare throughout the year for its pupils. Four fifths of pupils come from minority ethnic families. 11%, an increasing proportion, are from refugee or asylum-seeking families and 6% of pupils are in the early stages of learning English. The proportion of children with SEN and/or disabilities is average. A new resource base for pupils with complex needs has just opened. This school is **oversubscribed** by 152 places (32%) which coupled with its Ofsted assessment of being a good school suggests that it would not be significantly affected by the addition of the free school.

St Edmunds C – Interim Assessment July 2010 – categorised **good overall**. 0.70 miles from WHPA (capacity 395 – NOR 432).

This larger than average Mixed Roman Catholic school (4-11) is located in a mixed socio-economic area and admits pupils from a wide catchment. A below average proportion is eligible for FSM. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and with statements of SEN is broadly average. This school is **oversubscribed** by 37 places (9%) which coupled with its Ofsted assessment of being a good school suggests that it would not be significantly affected by the addition of the free school.

Alma – Inspected Mar 2011 – categorised **satisfactory overall**. 0.72 miles from WHPA (capacity 418 – NOR 431).

Most pupils come to this larger-than-average sized primary school from the local community. The school takes pupils from many different backgrounds and English is not the home language for about four-fifths of pupils. The main home languages for these pupils are Turkish, Bengali and Somali. The proportion of pupils identified as having SEN and/or disabilities is well above average as is the proportion known to be eligible for FSM.

This school is **oversubscribed** by 13 places (3%) and given its further distance from the free school we consider that it is not likely to be significantly affected by the addition of the free school.

St Mary's RC – Inspected February 2009 – categorised **good overall**. 0.88 miles from WHPA (capacity 39 – NOR 359).

This mixed voluntary aided mixed school (3-11) is larger than most primary schools, with an increasing roll. Most pupils come from the local Roman Catholic parish community, which extends beyond the surrounding area. The school has a below average proportion of pupils eligible for FSM. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is low, although the proportion with a statement of SEN is just below average. Over half of the pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds, which is much more than in most schools; these come predominantly from Black African backgrounds, but with a fair number from Irish and Other White backgrounds. Approximately one quarter of pupils, about twice the national average, have English as an additional language. Ofsted noted that there was a slight drop in standards in 2006 but standards have remained significantly above average over a period of years. This school is **undersubscribed** by 31 places (8%) which indicates that they may be affected by the addition of the free school. As this school has a faith ethos likely to be attractive to its parents (and potentially unattractive to other parents) we consider that the likely impact of the opening of WHPA will only be minimal and not sufficient to threaten the ongoing viability of the school.

Southbury – Inspected November 2009 – categorised **good overall**. Ofsted also carried an inspection as part of its 2010–11 survey inspection programme on nurture groups in January 2011. 0.96 miles from WHPA (capacity 408 – NOR 420). This is a large mixed community primary school (3-11). The majority of pupils come from the immediate area and adjoining neighbourhood. A few pupils are White British but a large majority come from a variety of minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is well above average. The percentage with SEN and/or disabilities is above average. A minority of the pupils are eligible for FSM. The number of pupils joining and leaving the school throughout the year is higher than in most schools. This school is **oversubscribed** by 12 places (3%) which, coupled with its inspection grade of good suggests a very limited impact from the addition of the free school.

Churchfield – inspected June 2010 – categorised **outstanding**; (previous inspection May 2007- categorised **good overall**). 1.03 miles from WHPA (capacity 609 – NOR 526).

This mixed large community school (3-11) is federated with another local primary school (Houndsfield). One governing body is responsible for both schools and an executive headteacher leads the federation. A large majority of its pupils have a minority ethnic heritage. The largest group is White non-British and other sizable groups have Black Caribbean or Black African backgrounds. The proportion whose first language is believed not to be English is well above average. The proportion of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities, including those with a statement, is around average. Most of these pupils experience speech, language and communication difficulties. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for FSM is well above average. This school is **undersubscribed** by 83 places (14%) which indicates that they may be affected by the addition of the free school. However, Churchfield's Ofsted improved rating of 'outstanding' indicates that this school is relatively strong and may become more popular in the future, and it is over a mile from the free school, and so we do not consider that any impact of the free school would be significant or likely to threaten the continued viability of the school.

Bush Hill Park – Inspected January 2011 – categorised **satisfactory overall**. 1.03 miles from WHPA (capacity 630 – NOR 576).

This is a very large mixed community school (3-11). Most pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds and a large majority have English as an additional language. An above-average proportion of pupils have SEN and/or disabilities, mainly learning difficulties, with a small minority having behavioural difficulties and a very few others with physical disabilities. A high proportion of pupils are entitled to FSM. Many more pupils than is usual join the school at other times than September/October as families newly arrive in the community. The school is a designated Children's Centre which offers a range of facilities, but not childcare. Its Ofsted rating of 'satisfactory overall' also indicates that it is relatively weak and it may be unpopular for this reason. Any impact of increased competition is likely to improve standards in the area. This school is **undersubscribed** by 54 places (9%) which indicates that they may be affected by the addition of the free school. It is possible that, given its low Ofsted rating, WHPA will have an impact to draw pupils away from this school. However, we anticipate that this effect will be marginal as it is relatively far from WHPA (there are 11 other schools between it and the proposed site), and certainly not sufficient to threaten the continued viability of the school. Given its Ofsted rating suggests that it is relatively weak, any impact of increased competition is likely to improve standards in the area.

The Raglan Junior - Inspected December 2008 – categorised **good overall**. 1.18 miles from WHPA (capacity 483 – NOR 476).

This mixed community junior (7-11) is a large multi-ethnic school in which far fewer pupils than average are White British. The largest minority groups are from other White, particularly Greek, and mixed or Caribbean backgrounds. More pupils than average have learning difficulties and/or disabilities including SEN statements. These are mostly for autism or social and emotional difficulties. More pupils than average speak English as an additional language. Fewer pupils than average are eligible for FSM. Extended services are available.

This school is **undersubscribed** by 7 places (1%) which indicates that they may be affected by the addition of the free school. While the level of surplus is high (83 places – 14%), the school is also relatively far from the Free School (there are 12 other schools between it and the proposed site) and it has been classified as good overall, so we consider it unlikely that the new school will have a significant impact on the Raglan Junior, and certainly not sufficient to threaten the continued existence of this school.

Nearby maintained secondary schools and further education institutions

As the school will be a 2 FE primary school offering 60 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.

Conclusion

This assessment concludes that:

- There is an increasing demand for primary places across the local authority which is being met through the expansion of a number of local schools as well as the opening of Woodpecker Hall.
- 6 of the 9 primary schools closest to the proposed school are already oversubscribed – heavily oversubscribed in many cases – so will not be substantially negatively affected by the new school. The local authority has already expressed support for Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy, as they see it as part of a solution to the growing need for primary places in the area. It is therefore very unlikely that this proposal would have any significant impact on schools judged satisfactory or above, unless they already have significant surplus places;
- Two local primary schools are only subscribed to capacity and four are under-subscribed. Two of these six have a faith ethos, unlike WHPA, so any negative impact is likely to be largely mitigated by parents desire to send their children to a school with that ethos or otherwise. Two only have a satisfactory Ofsted rating and so are more vulnerable to feel an impact from the free school. However, while they may be negatively affected by the opening of the new school, any impact of increased competition is likely to improve standards in the area. The remaining two are further from the proposed Free School (both just over a mile) than a number of other strong schools so any negative impact of the new school is likely to be small.
- Based on our assessment the evidence suggests that WHPA will not have a significant or potentially any real impact on local secondary schools, further education colleges which cater for pupils of a different age range, and there is not suggestion that this school will become a feeder school for any particular secondary school.

Overall our assessment is that the impact of the new school will not be significant on state-funded schools in the surrounding area, and will be beneficial in raising

standards by building on and reflecting the outstanding practices of Cuckoo Hall Academy and in improving choice in the area.