

Title: Sandbach School

Author: Department for Education (DfE)

Annex B: S9 Impact assessment

Background – Sandbach School

The important consideration within this impact assessment is that Sandbach is a successful existing independent school, which provides the boys state-funded provision within the Sandbach area. Therefore, we are not examining the impact of a completely new school upon provision in the area.

Sandbach School is an established 11-19 independent comprehensive school for boys that serves the community of Sandbach and Haslington. It is a specialist Arts College and was judged ‘outstanding’ in every category at the last OFSTED Inspection. The current maximum capacity of the school, including sixth form, is 1265. The number on roll, including sixth form, is 1220. The school is predicting that it will be at full capacity by 2012/13 as there has been organic growth due to rising demographics. The school’s population closely reflects that of the surrounding population with 96.7% defining themselves as ‘White British’. 6.9% of pupils have SEN needs, are statemented or are on School Action Plus.

The school has used its independent heritage to develop a distinctive offer that they feel is particularly well aligned to the needs of boys. This includes an emphasis on ‘active learning’ and a substantial extra curricular offering.

Around two thirds of the pupils are drawn from the catchment area of Sandbach/Haslington, which is a fairly affluent market town. The remaining third come from the Crewe area, which is more deprived and is in the middle 20% of districts nationally using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

Performance information shows that 65% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C with English and maths in 2010, a slight dip on the year before (68%).

There are four maintained secondary schools and two Academies within a five mile radius of the Free School. Of these, one is the girls’ school, which is the closest school, and which Sandbach boys’ school mirrors and complements. Holmes Chapel School, Sir William Stainier School and Alsager School are the closest maintained secondary schools, at 3.7 miles distance each. A detailed analysis of the impact on each of the six schools / Academies is set out below.

PfS information on deficit/surplus places in local area: Key issues for Cheshire East LA

Forecasts indicate a drop in secondary population in the next five years with surplus places therefore likely to increase.

2010/11		2011/12		2013/14	
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No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit
2891	4.49%	21530	6.06%	20605	10.10%

The figures for schools in the location of the Free School do not seem to indicate a basic need case.

Information on local secondary schools/FEIs:

Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College

This, the 'sister' school to the proposed Free School, is located 0.8 miles away and caters for girls only from 11-18. It is a non-denominational Academy converter and has a comprehensive admissions policy. Its capacity is 1285 and the school had 1359 on roll in 2010, indicating popularity and over-subscription.

The percentage of KS4 pupils achieving Level 2 threshold including English and mathematics in 2010 was 74%, a rise from the previous year. The percentage of pupils with SEN, with statements or on School Action Plus is 3.8%. The proportion of pupils identifying themselves as White British is 96%, with very small numbers from other ethnic minority groups.

The most recent Ofsted report again reports the school to be 'outstanding'.

Given that this is a single sex girls' school, the new Free School, as a single sex boys' school, would have no impact.

Holmes Chapel School

Holmes Chapel School is 3.7 miles away from the proposed Free School. It is a non-denominational foundation school with a comprehensive admissions policy. It has 1180 capacity and had 1178 pupils, including the sixth form, in 2010. Ethnicity data shows that 96% of pupils are of white British origin, with the remaining percentages composed of small numbers of 'white other', Asian, Chinese and Bangladeshi ethnic origins.

Holmes Chapel's performance data shows that 79% of pupils obtained 5 A*-C grades including English and maths in 2010, a rising trend within the school. The average total point score for pupils is 502.7. 4% of pupils are classified as having SEN, have statements or are on School Action Plus.

The latest Ofsted report was 2007 when the school was graded outstanding. The interim assessment in 2011 indicates that standards have been maintained.

Given the high standards at the school, it is unlikely that the new Free School would draw pupils away from this school and hence the impact should be minimal.

Alsager School

Alsager School is 3.7 miles away from the proposed Free School. It is a non-

denominational foundation school with a comprehensive admissions policy. Its capacity is 1362, with a total of 1346 pupils on roll, including sixth form, in 2010. Ethnicity data shows that 96% of pupils are of white British origin, with the remaining percentages composed of small numbers of 'white other', Caribbean, Asian, mixed heritage and Chinese ethnic groups.

Alsager School performance data shows that 74% of pupils obtained 5 A*-C or equivalent grades including English and maths in 2010, a slight dip from 2009 figure of 76%. 3.2% of pupils are identified as having SEN, statements or on School Action Plus.

The most recent Ofsted report from 2009 grades the school as 'good' for both overall effectiveness and the school's capacity for sustained improvement.

Given that Alsager specialises in Business, it would be unlikely to attract pupils away from the Arts and Sports specialisms offered by Sandbach, hence the impact should be minimal.

Sir William Stanier School

Sir William Stanier School is 3.7 miles away from the proposed Free School. It is a non-denominational community school with a comprehensive admissions policy. Its capacity is 1050, and there were 947 pupils aged 11-15 on roll in 2010. There are no post-16 learners. 92% of the pupils are of white British origin, with small numbers of pupils from 'white other', Caribbean, mixed, Bangladeshi, black and Chinese origin.

Performance information shows that 47% of pupils achieved 5* A-C or equivalent grades including English and maths in 2010, making it the lowest performing school in this analysis, although the performance of pupils is improving in year on year trends. There are a relatively high number of pupils with SEN, statements or on School Action Plus, at 8.2%.

The most recent Ofsted monitoring visit from 2010 shows that the school is making satisfactory progress.

In light of the lower results achieved by pupils at this school it may be concluded that this is the secondary school that prospective pupils may possibly be drawn away from. There is a possibility that there could be an impact on the school.

Middlewich High School

Middlewich High School is 4.8 miles away from the proposed Free School. It is a non-denominational community school with a comprehensive admissions policy catering for pupils aged 11-16. Its capacity is 700; it has 694 pupils on roll and is thus close to capacity.

Performance information shows that 53% of pupils achieved 5* A-C or equivalent grades including English and maths in 2010, a drop of 11% on 2009 figures. Most pupils live in the locality of Middlewich and the neighbouring town of Winsford. The proportion of students with special

educational needs, statements or on School Action Plus is 10.4%. Most pupils are of White British heritage: 98% of pupils identify themselves as White British, with very few from other ethnic minority backgrounds.

The most recent Ofsted report shows the school's overall effectiveness is 'good', and its capacity for sustained improvement is also graded 'good'.

As most pupils are from the local area, and it is almost 5 miles away from the proposed Free School, it is unlikely that the new Free School would have an impact on this school.

Congleton High School

Congleton High School gained Academy status in April 2011. This school is 5 miles away from the proposed Free School. It is an 11-18 mixed secondary Academy. The school's capacity is 1134, and it had 1068 on roll in 2010.

Performance information shows that 59% of pupils achieved 5* A-C or equivalent grades including English and maths in 2010, part of a slightly rising trend. Ninety four per cent of students are of White British heritage and the remainder are from a range of minority ethnic groups. 5.6% of pupils have SEN needs, are statemented or are on School Action Plus.

It was graded 'good' for overall effectiveness and 'good' for capacity for sustained improvement.

As this school is at the edge of the 5 mile radius considered, the distance involved would make it unlikely that the Free School would have an impact.

Local FE Institutions (FEIs)

South Cheshire College lies just outside a five mile radius of the proposed Free School. Currently, 64% of pupils stay on to the sixth form, with only some five pupils attending from other schools. Given that the increase in post-16 numbers for the Free School is to cope with increased year group sizes lower down in the school, and the curriculum at Sandbach differs from that on offer at South Cheshire College, it is concluded that there would be minimal, if any, impact on the post-16 provision at the College, or indeed FEIs within a wider boundary.

Primary Schools

The feeder primary schools for Sandbach are Sandbach Primary, Wheelock Primary, Haslington Primary, The Dingle Primary, St John's Primary, Elworth Hall Primary, Elworth C of E Primary and Offley Road Primary. All school heads were consulted on the change to Free School status and no issues were expressed. There is unlikely to be any impact on the local primary schools by the change in status.

Overall conclusion

As the school already exists as state-funded provision and its small expansion is a result of organic growth (i.e. increased numbers lower down in the school), impact on places at the surrounding schools will be minimal, and non-

existent on the closest school as that is a single sex girls' school. The impact of the growth of the post-16 provision on local FEIs is also considered to be minimal.