

## Annex B: Impact Assessment

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 (later as amended by the Education Act 2011) places on duty on the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the institution would likely be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the institution is (or is proposed to be) situated. Any adverse impact will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new school.
2. We have carried out an Impact Assessment (see the table below) which concludes that the impact on most local schools should be minimal. The other schools in the area do not cater for the same pupil needs with the exception of Hillside Special School. This school is 17 miles away from Churchill Special Free School, is rated outstanding and caters for a broader range of needs and ages; therefore, the impact is likely to be low.
3. Suffolk County Council has stated that they support the establishment of Churchill Special Free School. Both the Senior Adviser and the Interim Director of the Children and Young People's Services have written to the Department stating that they will work in collaboration with the free school to fill the gap in the provision in the area. They also state that 'there is strong local support from the community and town and county councillors for specialist provision to be established in the area'.
4. The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services at Cambridgeshire County Council has also written to the Department expressing support for the school and intends to develop a good working relationship in order to place appropriate pupils at the school in the future.
5. The assessment has concluded that the free school will have a minimal overall impact on the surrounding special schools and therefore we conclude that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into a funding agreement with the free school trust in light of the possible impacts on the basis that:
  - The additional school will be likely to improve standards in the area
  - The school will reduce the number of out of county placements and distances pupils will need to travel for their education
  - The additional school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools in the area

School name	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2010/11	Special Needs	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
Granta School	2 – 19 community special school	165 capacity – undersubscribed with 27% surplus places	n/a	PMLD - Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty, MLD, SLD	Satisfactory	Minimal – The free school is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Hillside Special School	3 – 19 community special school	72 capacity – undersubscribed with 8% surplus places	n/a	PMLD, MLD, ASD, BESD, MSI, PD, SpLD, SLCN	Outstanding	Minimal – The free school is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
The Edith Borthwick School	3 – 19 community special school	151 capacity – oversubscribed with -10% surplus places	n/a	SLD, ASD, MLD	Good with outstanding elements	Minimal – The free school is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Riverwalk School	2 – 19 community special school	115 capacity – undersubscribed with 3% surplus places	n/a	SLD	Good with outstanding elements	Minimal – The free school is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school