

Title: Maharishi School

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ANNEX D – S9 Impact assessment

Maharishi is looking to expand from its current capacity of 86 to 135 pupils in the first year, rising to 155 in the second and 180 in the third year. This expansion will take place in all years of the school.

The surplus of places amongst the five schools within a mile of Maharishi vary from 9% - 23%. This equates to around 370 surplus places.

Partnership for Schools (PfS) has indicated that their latest data shows that the primary population in Lancashire is growing rapidly with a declining number of surplus places. However, the secondary population is decreasing, which will result in an increase in the number of surplus places. Their projections are as follows:

Primary

2010/11		2011/12		2013/14	
No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit
88303	12%	90642	10%	96538	4%

Secondary

2010/11		2011/12		2013/14	
No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit	No of pupils	Surplus/ Deficit
6866	12.27%	66775	12.39%	65456	14.12%

Although the above tables show that the number of surplus places will increase in 2013/14 for secondary places, it must be noted that this will gradually decrease as the primary cohort, which will be increasing year on year, move into secondary education.

In Lancashire, the majority (around 80%) of primary school pupils travelled 1.5 miles or less to school. For secondary this is three miles. Detailed consideration of the potential impact of the opening of Maharishi as a Free School on the primary and secondary schools, as well as a more general comparison between Maharishi and other schools in the area, are set out below. In order to reach their capacity to expand in the first year, Maharishi will need an additional 49 pupils from neighbouring schools.

Currently, the majority of the schools within the three miles distance have surplus places, which vary from 1% - 34%. However, there are two primary schools that are oversubscribed:

- St John's Catholic Primary School is in the most deprived 20%¹ of the country and is oversubscribed by 9%;
- Trinity Church of England/Methodist School is in the second most deprived area and is oversubscribed by 24%;

Ofsted rated St John's as 'outstanding' at its last inspection. Trinity Church of England/Methodist School has been rated as 'good'. Maharishi is not a religious school, though it has a strong ethos, so our view is that it is unlikely to appeal to parents who would like to send their child to either of these two schools.

Comparison against other schools locally

In comparison to other schools locally Maharishi provides a distinctive education through practical application of consciousness-based education and daily practice of Transcendental Meditation. They also have small class sizes (no more than 15 pupils per class). The only other school that may offer a similar class sizes is Dalton St Michael's Church of England Primary School, which has 60 pupils on roll and is within a mile of Maharishi.

Maharishi is a popular and high achieving school. The number of pupils to be admitted to the school is to increase due to the school becoming a Free School and the school is oversubscribed for 2011 entrants.

There are three primary and two secondary schools within a mile of Maharishi (Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, Cobbs Brow School, St James' Catholic Primary School, Dalton St Michael's Church of England Primary School and Lathom High School: A Technology College). Ofsted has rated four of the schools as 'good' and the other, Lathom High School, has been rated as 'satisfactory'. Maharishi has been rated as 'outstanding', although it must be noted that Maharishi is a fee paying independent school with small class sizes, which enables their pupils to have more interaction with the tutor than pupils in a large state funded school and therefore it is arguably not directly comparable.

When looking at the schools outside the immediate neighbourhood of Maharishi, of the 35 (primary and secondary) schools within a three mile radius only five primary schools have been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted, of which two are Roman Catholic and one Church of England.

In comparison to the three nearest secondary schools, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College (51%); Lathom High School: A Technology College (47%) and Glenburn Sports College (38%), GCSE results for Maharishi at 92% easily exceeds all three. However, it must be noted that the other three schools cater for over 800+ pupils, which is significantly higher than Maharishi and have a higher number of pupils with SEN.

¹ This deprivation measure is based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) at the lower super output area (LSOA) of geography which covers on average 1,500 residents.

Impact on primary schools within 1.5 miles of Maharishi

All the primary schools within 1.5 miles of Maharishi are rated as 'good' (eight schools) or 'outstanding' (two schools) by Ofsted and all have surplus places, except two. Within these schools, the majority achieve above average results KS2 results. The number of pupils likely to move from primary schools around 1.5 miles of Maharishi is approximately 20 – 25 between all year groups in the initial years. This would have created a more significant imbalance in the local schools if Maharishi were looking to recruit pupils in one year only. As Maharishi is recruiting pupils in all year groups the impact on local schools is likely to be relatively low for neighbouring schools.

Even in future years when the vast majority of pupils will be admitted in the Reception class through to the secondary school, when it is possible that the all-through entry may be a factor that makes the school more attractive to parents than other primary schools in the area, due to the low numbers of pupils per year, the impact on neighbouring schools is likely to be relatively low.

We have also considered the impact on primary schools within up to 3 miles of Maharishi. We consider that due to the small numbers of pupils who will be attending Maharishi, coupled with the oversubscription criteria based on distance of the pupil's home from Maharishi, the impact on any schools between 1.5 and 3 miles rated unsatisfactory or satisfactory will be minimal, whilst the impact on any schools within such an area rated outstanding or good is likely to be negligible. On this basis, we have considered only those rated unsatisfactory or satisfactory individually.

Name	Distance from Maharishi	Surplus (No. of places)	Gender	Ofsted rating	Impact
Cobbs Brow School	0.6	9% (24)	Mixed	Good	It is likely Maharishi will have the biggest impact on this school as they are the nearest primary to Maharishi and currently rated as 'good' by Ofsted. Its KS2 results are also below average. ² As Maharishi will not be charging fees, parents may decide that they would like to send their child to a school that has been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted.
St James' Catholic Primary School,	0.9	19% (39)	Mixed	Good	It is unlikely Maharishi will have an impact on

² KS2 results from 2009 have been used due to the 2010 boycott

Skelmersdale					this school as this is a faith school, which has been rated as 'good' by Ofsted. It is unlikely parents who send their children to a faith school would consider sending their children to Maharishi, as they will likely have chosen that specific school for the faith ethos, which will be different from the specific ethos and philosophy of Maharishi.
Dalton St Michael's Church of England Primary School	1.0	11% (8)	Mixed	Good	It is unlikely Maharishi will have an impact on this school as this is a faith school, which has been rated as 'good' by Ofsted. As for St James' Catholic School, we consider it unlikely that parents who send their children to this faith school would consider sending their children to Maharishi in any significant numbers, for the same reasons.
Woodlands Community Primary School	1.1	1% (4)	Mixed	Outstanding	It is likely Maharishi will have an impact on this school. Although they are currently rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted, the KS2 results are below average (59%) compared to 72% nationally, so Maharishi might appeal to parents who are likely to make a choice based on attainment. We consider the impact will, however, be minimal.
Crow Orchard Primary School	1.1	14% (25)	Mixed	Good	It is unlikely Maharishi will have an impact on this school as is it over a mile away and the school achieves good KS2 results (86%)

					compared to the national average of 72%. The school is also rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. It is unlikely that parents would want to move their child from a school that has a high achievement rate academically.
Trinity Church of England/Methodist School	1.2	-24% (-51)	Mixed	Good	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As for the other faith schools referred to above, our view is that parents who send their children to a faith school are not likely to consider sending their children to Maharishi in any significant numbers. However, this school is currently oversubscribed and if Maharishi takes pupils from this school it may benefit them as it will reduce their pupil numbers, which will help bring it in line with the number of pupils the school actually can accommodate.
Brookfield Park Primary School	1.3	22% (60)	Mixed	Good	It is likely Maharishi will have a minor impact on this school. However, the KS2 result at 75% is higher than local and national average. It is unlikely that parents would want to move their child from a school that has a high achievement rate academically. Also, the school has 208 pupils on roll. The number of pupils Maharishi is planning to take from local schools is relatively low. It is therefore unlikely that

					Maharishi will have much effect on the financial viability of this school.
Kingsbury Primary Special School	1.3	24% (12)	Mixed	Good	Kingsbury is a special school which provides for pupils with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities. These include pupils with moderate, severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties and those with autism spectrum conditions. It is highly unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school.
St Edmund's Catholic Primary School	1.3	11% (16)	Mixed	Good	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school, given that it is a Catholic school with good results and has a relatively large pupil roll (131).
St John's Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale	1.5	-9% (-19)	Mixed	Outstanding	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi. However, this school is currently oversubscribed and if Maharishi takes pupils from this school it may benefit them as it will reduce their pupil numbers, which will help bring it in line with the number of pupils the school actually can accommodate.

Impact on unsatisfactory or satisfactory primary schools within 3 miles of Maharishi

Name	Distance from Maharishi	Surplus (No. of places)	Gender	Ofsted rating	Comment
Elm Tree Community Primary School	1.6	30% (12)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This is a special school. It is highly unlikely Maharishi will have an impact on this school due to the nature of pupils it attracts.
Hillside Community Primary School	1.8	5% (10)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school has 200 pupils on roll. It is likely Maharishi may have a very minor impact on this school, should parents decide to move their children to Maharishi.
Ormskirk Lathom Park Church of England Primary School	1.9	14% (4)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi in any significant numbers.
St Francis of Assisi RC Primary School	2.2	14% (47)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi.
Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School	2.4	11% (32)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi in

					any significant numbers.
Moorside Community Primary School	2.5	21% (36)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school has 139 pupils on roll. Given the distance from Maharishi, combined with distance from the school as an oversubscription for Maharishi, it is likely any impact Maharishi may have will be very minor impact, should parents decide to move their children to Maharishi.
St John's Catholic Primary School, Burscough	2.8	32% (56)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi
St Thomas the Martyr Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School	2.9	23% (48)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school. As with the other faith primary schools, our view is that parents who send their children to this school are unlikely to consider sending their children to Maharishi in any significant numbers.

Impact on secondary schools within 3 miles of Maharishi

Of the secondary schools within 3 miles of Maharishi, two thirds are rated as 'satisfactory' by Ofsted and the other third are rated as 'good'. Of those secondary schools with published results, all achieved below average results. Maharishi performs very well in comparison, with 92% of its pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at A* to C in 2010. The number of pupils likely to move from secondary schools around 3 miles of Maharishi is approximately 20 – 25 between all year groups. It is highly unlikely Maharishi will have a significant

impact on admissions to secondary schools beyond the first year as when at static state, admissions will be to the primary element of the school with children staying at the school until they reach the end of their secondary schooling.

We have also considered the impact on secondary schools within up to 6 miles of Maharishi. We consider that due to the small numbers of pupils who will be attending Maharishi, coupled with the oversubscription criteria based on distance of the pupil's home from the Maharishi, the impact on any schools the impact on any schools between 3 and 6 miles rated unsatisfactory or satisfactory will be minimal, whilst the impact on any schools within such an area rated outstanding or good is likely to be negligible. On this basis, we have considered only those rated unsatisfactory or satisfactory individually.

Name	Distance from Maharishi	Surplus (No. of places)	Gender	Ofsted rating	Comment
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College	0.5	11% (100)	Mixed	Good	It is likely Maharishi will have an impact on this school. However, since the school has over 774 pupils on roll, it is unlikely to have a significant impact. Also, Maharishi may not appeal to parents who would like to send their child to a religious school.
Lathom High School : A Technology College	0.6	23% (199)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This is the secondary school that Maharishi is likely to have the most impact on, given its close proximity and the fact that it has been rated only as 'satisfactory' by Ofsted. However, since the school caters for over 670 pupils, Maharishi is unlikely to have a major impact on its viability.
Glenburn Sports College	1.5	34% (356)	Mixed	Satisfactory	It is likely Maharishi will have an impact on this school, especially, as it has been rated as only 'satisfactory' by Ofsted. However, since the school has 677 pupils on roll, Maharishi is

					unlikely to have a major impact on the school's viability.
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(No other secondary schools within 3 miles of Maharishi)

Impact on unsatisfactory or satisfactory secondary schools within 6 miles of Maharishi

Name	Distance from Maharishi	Surplus (No. of places)	Gender	Ofsted rating	Comment
Burscough Priory Science College	3.4	8% (58)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school specialises in English, ICT, Physical Education, Performing Arts and Science. It is highly unlikely Maharishi will have any impact on this school due to its specialist nature. The school has 712 pupils on roll, so any impact will be very minimal.
Ormskirk School	3.5	13% (218)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school has 1401 pupils on roll. Due to the size of Maharishi, combined with the distance from this school, it is unlikely to have a major impact on this school.
Up Holland High School	3.9	9% (84)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school has 871 pupils on roll. Due to the size of Maharishi, combined with the distance from this school, it is unlikely to have a major impact on this school.
Abraham Guest High School	4.3	45 (40)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school has 927 pupils on roll and is becoming a sponsored Academy. Due to the size of Maharishi, combined with the distance, it is unlikely to have a major impact on this school.
Rainford High Technology	4.3	-4% (-58)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This is a specialist technology college,

College					which has capacity for 1452 pupils. However, it has 1510 pupils on roll. It is highly unlikely pupils who would want to go to this school for its special nature would consider going to Maharishi.
PEMBEC High School	4.8	64% (545)	Mixed	Satisfactory	This school specialises in business and enterprise. This school is being closed with a number of pupils moving to Abraham Guest High School.

Impact of Further Education Institutions

There are six FE institutions (St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College, Winstanley College, Rainford High Technology College and Ormskirk School) within a six mile radius of Maharishi.

Maharishi does not have and does not intend to have a sixth form. As such, we do not believe that the opening of Maharishi as a Free School will have any impact on local FE institution.

Lancashire LA

The Department wrote to Lancashire LA in January for their views on Maharishi becoming a Free School. The LA responded in February saying that they are happy to support this application as the school is not looking to expand significantly or adopt an admission policy that would adversely impact on neighbouring schools.

Conclusion

Analysing the schools that are oversubscribed or have relatively low surplus places, it seems that parents in Lancashire prefer a school with an ethos and high moral values. Although Maharishi is not a faith school, it does provide an ethos and a behaviour policy that would probably be attractive to parents. This has been supported by the fact that the school is oversubscribed for September 2011.

In comparison to other schools locally, Maharishi is a high achieving school. This has been demonstrated by their GCSE results and Ofsted inspection. As suggested above, as a fee paying school Maharishi will be at an advantage in terms of the pupil / teacher ratios and the teacher contact time available to each individual pupil as a result.

Maharishi is looking for between 20 - 25 pupils in the primary school and around the same numbers for the secondary school. The spread of pupils between primary and secondary school is reasonable and is unlikely to cause an imbalance in year groups in other schools surrounding Maharishi, as the numbers will be spread across the year groups.

It seems highly unlikely, due to its ethos and philosophy and the fact that parents choose to send their children to Maharishi for those reasons that children from Maharishi will move to other secondary schools once they have completed their primary education. As it is likely that pupils will progress through Maharishi from primary to secondary school, this will mean that pupils who would ordinarily have been applying for a place in a secondary school at that time will not be doing so. Whilst this does mean that in each academic year the proportion of children applying for secondary school places in Lancashire may be slightly lower than would be expected had Maharishi not become a Free School, we do not envisage that this will have a significant impact on any other particular secondary school once Maharishi has completed its expansion.

In general, the number of pupils being taken away from the LA maintained schools in the area is relatively low and the primary school population in Lancashire is growing rapidly. It is our view that Maharishi expanding and becoming a Free School will have a very marginal impact on other schools locally, given the small size of the school, the specific nature of the provision and the way in which it plans to build up numbers, but that such impact will not threaten the viability of any of the maintained schools in the area. Our view is that any such impact is balanced by the quality of education on offer at the school and the increase in diversity within state-funded schools in the area, which in turn increases parental choice.