

Title: ARK Conway 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 will need to be balanced against the benefits of establishing the new Free School.

Background

ARK has worked closely with Hammersmith and Fulham Council, who are strongly supportive of the proposal. ARK has also been working with the North Hammersmith Parents' Group, a small parent-led campaign led by Emily Phillips who attempted to get a primary school established on the Wormholt Library site in 2009.

As part of the consultation exercise, ARK has been proactively seeking the views of a broad range of people within the local community, both in public and private meetings, and through correspondence. Recipients included the local MP, Andy Slaughter, all councillors, local school heads and early years' centres as well as the North Hammersmith Parent Group and the Wormholt Tenants and Residents Association.

The ARK Conway Primary Academy proposal was originally for the establishment of a 2FE (420 pupils) primary school on the site of the former Wormholt Library site. Following discussions with Hammersmith and Fulham town planners, officials were advised that issues around the building's listed status, its location in a conservation zone, and the size of building necessary within a residential area, were unlikely to be resolved ahead of a 2011 opening. This advice reflected much of the local opposition. To progress the proposal, a range of options were considered and it was agreed that a smaller 1FE development for 210 pupils at full capacity was more realistic for this site.

Local Authority Perspective

The demographic changes experienced by the borough have been and continue to be connected with those of London as a whole and with Inner London in particular, and are influenced by the labour and housing markets of the capital and by national demographic trends. The age structure of the population is also generally similar to other Inner London boroughs. Increases in the numbers of 0-4s and 5-14s are projected to continue increasing in the period 2001-2021.

The Changing Age Structure of Hammersmith and Fulham, 1991-2016						
Age Group	1991 (000s)	2001 (000s)	2011 (000s)	2016 (000s)	% change 1991-2001	% change 2001-2016
0-4	9.4	10.8	11.0	11.2	+14.9	+3.7
5-14	13.5	19.3	20.0	20.4	+43.0	+5.7

The proposed location of ARK Conway is the former Wormholt Library, on the edge of the White City Estate in North Hammersmith, which is an area of very high levels of deprivation. There is clear evidence of basic need pressure for additional primary places in the Shepherd's Bush and White City area, which ARK Conway will help to address. The local authority has confirmed that there is a substantial shortage of primary places, with only 375 permanent primary places available in this area (September 2010) with 518 primary applications for that year. Hammersmith and Fulham data predicts an extra 180 reception places will be needed across the borough in the next 5 years and that there will be a 19.5% rise in child (0-4 age group) population over the next 10 years.

In recent years the Council has implemented a number of short term measures including bulge classes at several schools to meet immediate pressure for additional places. This will still leave a shortage of places in the area, which will in part be met by the establishment of ARK Conway. This provides a basis for approving the proposed Free School.

Nearby maintained schools and Academies

As this is a proposal for a 1FE primary school and children of primary age are more likely to attend a school close to home for domestic reasons, it is schools within the immediate area of the proposed ARK Conway Primary Academy that are considered likely to be more affected for impact assessment purposes. Within a 1.0 mile radius of the former Wormholt library, there are nine state maintained primary schools (see table below), and we feel a consideration of the impact on these schools is sufficient to carry out the s9 impact analysis given the size of intake of ARK Conway [and other local circumstances]. We further understand from ARK that they now have 30 pupils enrolled to the school for September, the furthest living one mile from the school site.

Summary of local primary schools

Wormholt Park Primary School is a mixed 2 Form Entry community school with a Nursery, which is approximately 0.3 miles from the Wormholt Library site. It was judged as Good by Ofsted following their last visit in November 2008. The school has a pupil roll of 448, against a capacity of 394, between the ages of 3-11. Wormholt Park has previously taken on a 1 year bulge class to help address local pressure for places. This school is likely to be impacted by the addition of ARK Conway being close by, however current numbers are unsustainable; ARK Conway would help relieve some of this pressure and by consequence, aid a raising of standards.

Pope John Roman Catholic School is a mixed 1 Form Entry Voluntary Aided school for ages 3-11 with a Nursery, and is approximately 0.7 miles from the Wormholt Library site. It was judged as Outstanding by Ofsted during their last visit in May 2008. The school is over subscribed at 235 on roll having a capacity of 203 (Edubase). Due to the Ofsted rating, parents are likely to continue to choose this school although ARK Conway will give further parental choice.

East Acton Primary School is a mixed 3-11 age primary currently being oversubscribed with an additional 56 pupils. The school is of average size. The pupils come from a wide variety of minority ethnic groups, the largest group being Black African. Three quarters of the pupils are learning to speak English as an additional language. A large majority of these pupils speak Arabic or Somali in addition to learning English. Just under half of the pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals; this is a higher than average proportion. An average proportion of pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Their needs mainly relate to speech and language and social communication difficulties and specific learning difficulties relating to behavior. There is a high turnover of pupils joining and leaving the school at different times. Ofsted rating this year was Satisfactory.

Canberra Primary School is a 2 Form Entry community school with a Nursery, which is approximately 0.8 miles from the Wormholt Library site. In June 2010 it was rated Good by Ofsted, having formerly been placed in Special Measures in July 2008. As a result of being in Special Measures, Canberra is currently federated with Phoenix High School, with Sir William Atkinson as the Executive head teacher. Under his leadership the school has improved significantly and become more popular locally. There is a legacy of under-subscription (at one point Canberra had under 300 pupils for the 413 places), but it is close to full in Reception and Year 1 reflecting the local pressure for primary places and improvements in the school. As an improving and popular school, Canberra is unlikely to suffer greatly from ARK Conway being half a mile away.

Good Shepherd RC Primary School is an average sized Roman Catholic school having a far higher proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups than is usual. The largest groups are of African and Caribbean heritage. Many pupils are at an early stage of learning English. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average. The proportion of pupils entering or leaving the school at times other than normal is average. Of these, an increasing number of older pupils have no English on enrolment. Very few pupils have a statement of special educational need but a higher proportion than average are identified with learning difficulties, mainly for moderate learning difficulties. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has places for 60 children aged 3 to 5. Being faith based, this school might not be first choice for parents not of the same faith or having no faith. Ofsted rating in 2009 was Good

Greenside Primary School is an average primary school. Most pupils are of White British heritage, although pupils come from a wide range of backgrounds, the largest of which are Black or Black British. The proportion with special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly average. These pupils have a range of difficulties but most relate to specific learning problems. The school has provision for the Early Years Foundation Stage in its Nursery and Reception classes. There has been a significant turnover of staff in recent times. The school is accredited as a Healthy School and has been awarded an Activemark and was rated as Satisfactory in December 2009. Being almost one mile distant, we do not expect Conway to greatly impact on this school.

John Perryn Primary School is a larger-than-average primary school. It serves an ethnically diverse area in East Acton which includes housing available for temporary occupation by families. The school population is highly mobile, with a large number of pupils arriving or leaving throughout the year. Most pupils are from a wide range of minority ethnic groups. The most numerous groups at present are Somali, White British and those from Arabic-speaking countries, while just under one-tenth of the pupils are of Traveller heritage. Almost three-quarters of pupils do not speak English as their first language and a significant minority are at an early stage of learning English. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly average. The school moved into new premises in April 2009, following an extensive rebuilding programme. In June 2010 Ofsted rated the school as Satisfactory.

Wendell Park Primary School pupils come from a wide variety of backgrounds although the school is located in an area with significant elements of social and economic deprivation. The roll has increased markedly in recent years. Pupils come from a wide variety of ethnic origins, with White British and Black African pupils forming the largest groups. Around half the pupils are at an early stage of learning English when they start school. The proportion of pupils who join at unusual times is higher than average and nearly one in ten are asylum seekers or refugees. The school has extended school status and runs the SHINE club on Saturdays for pupils in Key Stage 2. Ofsted rated the school as Good in 2008 and has been confirmed as sustained in their recent interim report (January 2011). As with other schools at this distance some impact might be felt by the establishment of ARK Conway although to what degree is hard to judge.

Old Oak Primary School is a 1.5 Form Entry community primary school with a Nursery, which is approximately 0.9 miles from the Wormholt Library site. It was judged Good by Ofsted in November 2010 (previous judgement in 2007 was also Good). Standards at the end of Key Stage 2 are low, with 57% of pupils securing level 4+ in both English and maths in 2010, up from 51% in 2009. However, levels of progress from Key Stage 1 to 2 are above average and so the school would not be beneath our floor target. The school has a full roll of 349 being 9 above capacity. Due to the steady improvement in attainment and not being too oversubscribed, this should remain a popular choice and would not envisage a drop in intake.

List of nearest primary schools (within 1.0 mile)

Name of institution	Form Entry	Age range and pupil numbers above capacity	Distance from the Wormholt Library site
Wormholt Park Primary School	2FE	3-11 +54 14%	0.3 miles
Pope John Roman Catholic School	1FE	3-11 +32 16%	0.7 miles
East Acton Primary School	1FE	3-11 +56 27%	0.7 miles
Canberra Primary School	2FE	3-11 -29 -7%	0.8 miles
Good Shepherd RC Primary School	1FE	3-11 +29 11%	0.9 miles
Greenside Primary School	1FE	3-11 +6 3%	0.9 miles
John Perryn Primary School	1FE	3-11 +19 5%	0.9 miles
Wendell Park Primary School	2FE	3-11 +50 14%	0.9 miles
Old Oak Primary School	1.5FE	3-11 +9 3%	0.9 miles

Source: Edubase

Officials have also considered impact on local FE institutions. However, because of the proposed Free School age range, there will be no impact on them.

Conclusion

Taking into account the projected shortage of primary places in the coming years, and the relatively small size of ARK Conway, the impact on any individual school is likely to be limited other than to help reduce over subscription. Given that the school is now planned as a 1 Form Entry school, and ARK Schools has confirmed pupils are now enrolled from within a radius of one mile distant, ARK Conway is therefore unlikely to impact on any one particular institution listed. It can also be seen that impact will be largely positive in helping to reduce the deficit of primary places as well as improving parental choice and by default driving up standards in surrounding schools. Both of these features are key aims of the Free Schools policy, which we would expect ARK Conway to fully contribute to given their experience and record of achievement.

Given all this information, we consider that the impact of establishing the ARK Conway Primary Academy on maintained schools and Academies in the surrounding area to be outbalanced by the positives and is not expected to any school closures in the short (or) long term.