

Title: Barnfield Moorlands Free School

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Annex A - Impact Assessment for Moorlands Free School

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.

Background

Moorlands Free School will open on the predecessor independent school site in Leagrave, Luton. In 2014 the Free School will move to a permanent site. It is proposed that this will be a new build on the Barnfield Federation's, New Bedford Road site. Barnfield College currently operates out of this site and it has previously received planning permission for a new building on the area proposed for the Free School. However, the side agreement that will be made with the Free School and Barnfield's Federation also enables the school to move to a site acquired by Barnfield on which they will build a school. This provision has been made to give some flexibility in the event that planning permission is not obtained to build the school on the New Bedford Road site. Given that the school is expected to move to New Bedford Road and there is only a small risk that this will not happen we have taken New Bedford Road to be the permanent site for this impact assessment. Similarly, the section 10 consultation by MFS was also carried out on the basis that New Bedford Road is the permanent site.

As mentioned above, the duty under section 9 of the 2010 Act is to assess the impact of the new school on schools in the area in which the new school is (or is proposed to be) situated. We have a good argument that the school is proposed to be situated at New Bedford Road and, accordingly, we have complied with the duty under section 9. However, it could also be argued that "is (or is proposed to be) situated" means where the school "is (or will be) situated" and if the school relocates to a different permanent site we risk a challenge on the basis that we did not comply with our section 9 duty properly as we did not assess the impact of the alternative site. In those circumstances, the section 10 consultation may not have been properly carried out meaning there is a risk of challenge if a decision is made to enter the Funding Agreement in that knowledge.

We consider that the risk of such challenges being brought is low, as is the risk of any such challenge being successful. However this is something the Secretary of State will wish to take into account when deciding whether to agree to enter the Funding Agreement.

The current planned admissions arrangements will not change. Current arrangements reflect a wide catchment area covering nineteen wards across Luton and Central Bedfordshire. They also set out that a minimum of 20% of places will be provided to pupils who live within a set priority admissions area, made up of areas with high levels of deprivation. The priority area and the wider catchment area combined contain 53 primary schools, of which 19 are situated in the priority catchment area. Pupils who might attend the Free School are likely to come from these areas and as a result, the impact of MFS could potentially fall on those schools contained in these areas or close to it.

There is significant basic need for primary places in Luton. Partnerships for Schools have predicted further growth in this need, forecasting a shortage of 2,250 places (11%) by 2014-2015. This position is supported by the LA. Pupil place planning information submitted in May 2010 gives a breakdown:

2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
No of pupils	Surplus	No of pupils	Deficit	No of pupils	Deficit	No of pupils	Deficit	No of pupils	Deficit
19308	3%	20207	1%	20888	5%	21552	8%	22178	11%

Admissions and phasing

Whilst the school remains on its current site, it plans to expand from its current capacity of 197 pupils to 378 pupils within the first three years. It will then expand to full capacity, 504 places, within five years of opening once it moves to the permanent site. We have therefore considered both the immediate impact on other schools and the impact on future intake, when it moves location.

The admissions policy is fully compliant with the admissions code. If the school is over-subscribed, after children with SEN where the school is named on the statement priority will be given in the following order:

- Looked after children;
- children who have a sibling attending MFS at the time of admission;
- children living inside the priority admission area made up of deprived wards of Luton (20% of the remaining places);
- children in the wider catchment area;
- children living outside the wider catchment area using a straight line measurement from the main entrance of the Academy to the main entrance of the pupil applicant's home.

Where the numbers of applicants from the priority admissions area or wider catchment area exceeds the number of places, offers will be determined by random allocation.

There are no plans to alter the priority admissions area or the wider catchment area when the school moves from its temporary site to the permanent site.

The Free School received 434 applications for the 114 places available in September 2011. Of these, 181 were from the priority catchment area and 253 from the wider catchment area. Of the 114 places, 29 will be offered to siblings of pupils attending the existing school, 19 will be offered to children in the priority catchment area and 66 places will be offered to children from the wider catchment area.

Impact Analysis

As outlined in the Admissions and Phasing section above, the Free School will employ a large catchment area and a smaller priority admissions area. Application data for the first year has shown that there is a large spread of applications from pupils living inside these catchment areas (Table 1). However, It also shows a high number of applications from children living in those wards near to the temporary site (88 from Leagrave ward and 73 from Challney). From this we can assume that when MFS moves to its permanent site at New Bedford road, a high number of applications will subsequently be received from those living near to the New Bedford road site.

Whilst not all pupils living in the areas highlighted above will be attending schools in the same locations, there are very few alternative options for pupils that are not captured either in the priority admissions area or the wider catchment area. As a result, the analysis of impact will focus on;

- Impact on schools closest to the temporary and permanent site
- Impact on schools in the priority admissions area
- Impact on schools within wider catchment area

The view of the local authority and other representations will also be taken into consideration alongside LA place planning.

Primary schools near the temporary site

There are 11 Primary schools within a one mile radius of the temporary site set out in Table 2. Of these, 9 are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted and 2 are rated Satisfactory. Moorlands is a converting independent school with high performance in national KS2 tests, as a result it is likely to be viewed alongside high performing, oversubscribed schools, both initially and in the long term. However, the high basic need in the area will mean the 9 schools rated Good or Outstanding that are near to the temporary site will not experience reductions in pupil numbers.

The impact of the Free School is likely to be greater on local schools which are underperforming and are operating with surplus capacity. Schools like these are normally more vulnerable to losing children when additional school places become

available elsewhere. For this reason, the analysis of schools near to the temporary site is focused on those underperforming schools in the area.

Ferras Junior School - Satisfactory

Ferras Junior School rated Satisfactory by Ofsted, performed eleven percentage points below the LA average for Key Stage 2 results in 2010. The Free School is likely to attract applications from pupils currently attending this school in the first year and subsequent years. Ferras currently hold 35 surplus places, 9.7% of the total capacity of the school (360), however due to basic need for places, pupil numbers have risen over the past three years.

Pirton Hill Primary – Satisfactory

Pirton Hill infant and junior schools were amalgamated in September 2008 creating a 630 place primary school. The school currently holds 113 surplus places and performs consistently below LA average in KS2 tests, the Free School is therefore likely to attract pupils that would have normally attended this school.

Due to the level of basic need for places in the LA, we expect any impact on these schools to be marginal. The impact has been judged as marginal as any pupils lost by these schools are likely to be replaced by others as a result of the current 1% deficit in pupil places and if not, the number of pupils lost will be low compared to the size of school and even taking into account their current level of surplus places will not affect their viability.

Primary schools near the permanent site

There are 7 primary schools within a one mile radius of the proposed permanent site (Table 3). Of these, 5 are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, 1 Satisfactory and 1 has a Notice to Improve.

Judged as a group, the same arguments as those for schools near the temporary site apply. Due to the high demand for primary places in Luton, the wide catchment area and random allocation of places within the catchment areas, those schools closest to the permanent site and performing well will be minimally affected by the Free School. Those schools performing poorly will be affected to a greater extent but the impact will still only be marginal and the viability of these schools will not be affected. An analysis of those schools performing poorly is below:

Icknield Primary School - Satisfactory

Despite the Ofsted rating, Icknield Primary school is popular, the school is currently operating at capacity and performed 4% higher than the local authority average in KS2 tests in 2010.

Stopsley Community Primary School – Notice to Improve

Stopsley Community Primary School is a large primary school of 420 places. It was rated inadequate and given a Notice to Improve by Ofsted in November 2010. A

monitoring inspection in June 2011 concluded that the school was making satisfactory progress. The school currently holds 34 surplus places.

Impact on schools within the priority admissions area

There are 19 primary schools inside the priority admissions area, Table 4 provides more information. Of these, 8 are judged to be Satisfactory by Ofsted and the following 3 hold significant numbers of surplus places.

Pirton Hill Primary School

A judgment on the impact on this school has been outlined above. Being part of both the priority admissions area and close to the temporary site will increase the impact on this school. However, the impact will reduce when MFS relocates to the permanent site as despite still being part of the priority admissions area, Pirton Hill Primary School will not be located within 1 mile of the MFS.

Waulud Primary School

Despite an Ofsted rating of Satisfactory and surplus places at 21%, Waulud Primary School achieved KS2 results of 73% level 4 in English and Maths in 2010, above the Local Authority average of 69%. Although it is likely that Moorlands Free School will have an impact on this school, its high exam results and current 1% deficit in Luton's pupil places mean that any pupils lost by the school are likely to be replaced by others. As a result, we would expect any impact to be marginal.

Whitefield Infant and Junior Schools

Whitefield Infant and Junior Schools received Satisfactory ratings from Ofsted and have high surplus places (16% and 23%). They are situated on the outskirts of Luton close to the highly performing Sundon Park Junior School (81% level 4 at KS2) and Cheynes Infant School, which is rated Good by Ofsted. The Moorlands Free School is likely to attract pupils from Whitefield Infant and Junior Schools, but when combined with the applications from pupils at other schools living inside the priority catchment area and the high demand for primary places in the area, the overall effect is likely to be marginal.

Although a number of the Good and Outstanding schools in this area also hold surpluses, the number of pupils they are likely to lose is low compared to those schools performing poorly and as a result, the overall impact on these schools will be marginal.

Impact on schools in the wider catchment area

The wider catchment area contains 30 other schools, outlined in Table 5. Although a number of these schools are performing poorly, due to the reasons outlined and the proposer's admissions arrangements the impact on the wider catchment area is also likely to be minimal.

Nearby maintained secondary schools and post-16 institutions

Our assessment is that this proposal, for a primary school admitting children aged 4-11, would not have a direct impact on any secondary schools or post-16 institutions, including Academies.

The introduction of a new primary school may, however, have an indirect impact on local secondary schools by increasing the number and type of primary feeder schools and therefore impacting on their feeder primary schools. However, in the same way as the likely effect on other primary schools in the area generally, the effect on primary feeder arrangements is likely to be negligible.

The Free School will become a member of the Barnfield Federation from September 2013. The Federation contains a number of Academies, a studio school and an FE College in Luton. It is likely that the Moorlands Free School will, in time become a feeder school to some of the Academies within the Barnfield Federation. This will have a positive impact on these schools, providing higher security over admissions numbers on an ongoing basis.

LA view and other representations

The Local Authority has indicated their support for the project and has not raised any issues relating to the impact on other schools.

They recently identified a site close to the permanent site for an 840 place primary school which has come to the Department as a Free School application through the 2012 round. Due to the shortfall in places the LA proposal would still be viable with the Free School in close proximity to the proposed school.

The governors of Ferras Infant School (2.1 miles from the Free School's temporary site) wrote to Moorlands Free School supporting their move from an independent school to a Free School. No concerns in relation to a detrimental impact on any schools have been raised.

Conclusions

We have concluded that Moorlands Free School is most likely to have an adverse impact on those relatively poorly performing schools operating with significant surplus capacity. However, given what we know of Moorlands catchment areas and oversubscription criteria for 2011 and that there is a projected increase in demand for primary school places in future years, the impact Moorlands Free School will have on any of these types of schools or schools closest to the proposed temporary or permanent sites likely to be marginal.

Furthermore, as the number of required pupil places is predicted to grow over the next five years, the impact of injecting new primary places into the system will be beneficial. The loss of pupils to any schools needs to be balanced with the positive impact that the Moorlands Free School will have in improving parental choice by widening the number and type of places available in local primary state provision, and by driving up

standards in surrounding schools. These features are key aims of the Free Schools policy and we would expect the Moorlands Free School to drive up standards in schools across the board, improving standards for all young people in the area.

Table 1 Summary of Applications by Ward (2011)

Priority Catchment Area

Dallow	24	
High Town	3	
Biscott	19	
Northwell	10	
Leagrave	88	Total
Lewsey	38	182

Combined Catchment area (not covered by Priority admissions area)

Challney	73	
Saints	29	
Round Green	11	
Luton Icknield	9	
Limbury	16	
Stopsley	2	
Bramingham	17	
Barnfield	0	
Sundon Park	40	
Dunstable Icknield	2	
Houghton Regis	10	
Dunstable Downs	3	Total
Northfields	2	214

Out of catchment area

Wignmore	4	
Crawley	13	
Flitwick	2	
Farley	7	
Toddington	2	Total
Other	10	38

Table 2 – Primary Schools within a 1 mile radius of Moorlands Temporary Site

School Name 2010	Type	% Pupils level 4 or above Eng and Maths 2010	Ofsted Report	Number of school places	Number of pupils (NOR)	Number of surplus places	Surplus as a percentage of places
Leagrave Primary School	Primary	N/A	Good	420	396	24	5.7
Beechwood Primary School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	690	668	22	3.2
Ferrars Junior School	Primary	58%	Satisfactory	360	325	35	9.7
Ferrars Infant School	Primary	#N/A	Good	270	270	0	0
St Martin de Porres Primary School	Primary	63%	Good	420	462	0	0
Pirton Hill Primary School	Primary	57%	Satisfactory	630	517	113	17.9
Southfield Primary School	Primary	69%	Good	420	360	60	14.3
Downside Infant School	Primary	#N/A	Good	360	326	34	9.4
Downside Junior School	Primary	69%	Good	360	336	24	6.7
Chantry Primary School	Primary	77%	Outstanding	420	402	18	4.3
Norton Road Primary School	Primary	78%	Good	390	359	31	7.9

Table 3 – Primary Schools within a 1 mile radius of Moorlands Permanent Site

School Name 2010	Type	% Pupils level 4 or above Eng and Maths 2010	Ofsted Report	Number of school places	Number of pupils (NOR)	Number of surplus places	Surplus as a percentage of places
Bushmead Primary School	Primary	89%	Outstanding	666	655	11	1.7
William Austin Infants' School	Primary	#N/A	Good	450	448	2	0.4
William Austin Junior School	Primary	75%	Good	540	541	0	0
Icknield Primary School	Primary	73%	Satisfactory	630	629	1	0.2
Warden Hill Infant School	Primary	#N/A	Outstanding	270	260	10	3.7
Warden Hill Junior School	Primary	78%	Good	360	343	17	4.7
Stopsley Community Primary School	Primary	N/A	Inadequate	420	386	34	8.1

Table 4 – Primary Schools within the Priority Admissions Area

School Name 2010	Type	% Pupils level 4 or above Eng and Maths 2010	Ofsted Report	Number of school places	Number of pupils (NOR)	Number of surplus places	Surplus as a percentage of places
Beech Hill Community Primary School	Primary	76%	Satisfactory	630	609	21	3.3
Beechwood Primary School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	690	668	22	3.2
Chantry Primary School	Primary	77%	Outstanding	420	402	18	4.3
Dallow Primary School	Primary	60%	Good	630	622	8	1.3
Denbigh Infant School	Primary	#N/A		270	268	2	0.7
Denbigh Junior School	Primary	60%	Satisfactory	360	360	0	0
Ferrars Infant School	Primary	#N/A	Good	270	270	0	0
Ferrars Junior School	Primary	58%	Satisfactory	360	325	35	9.7
Foxdell Infant School	Primary	#N/A	Good	270	268	2	0.7
Foxdell Junior School	Primary	86%	Outstanding	270	260	10	3.7
Leagrave Primary School	Primary	N/A	Good	420	396	24	5.7
Maidenhall Primary School	Primary	66%	Satisfactory	630	629	1	0.2
Pirton Hill Primary School	Primary	57%	Satisfactory	630	517	113	17.9
Southfield Primary School	Primary	69%	Good	420	360	60	14.3
St Martin de Porres Primary School	Primary	63%	Good	420	462	0	0
St Matthew's Primary School	Primary	39%	Satisfactory	660	605	55	8.3
Waulud Primary School	Primary	73%	Satisfactory	420	332	88	21
Whitefield Infant School	Primary	#N/A		180	151	29	16.1
Whitefield Junior School	Primary	66%	Satisfactory	270	208	62	23

Table 5 – Primary Schools within wider catchment Area (excl those in priority catchment area)

LA_estab	School Name 2010	Type	% Pupils level 4 or above Eng and Maths 2010	Ofsted Report	Number of school places	Number of pupils (NOR)	Number of surplus places	Surplus as a percentage of places
8232192	Ardley Hill Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	300	202	98	32.7
8235202	Ashton St Peter's VA CofE School	Primary		Good	150	153	0	0
8232040	Beecroft Lower School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	300	222	78	26
8212293	Bramingham Primary School	Primary		Good	420	414	6	1.4
8212004	Bushmead Primary School	Primary	89%	Outstanding	666	655	11	1.7
8212247	Cheynes Infant School	Primary	N/A	Good	270	255	15	5.6
8212259	Downside Infant School	Primary	N/A	Good	360	326	34	9.4
8212258	Downside Junior School	Primary	69%	Good	360	336	24	6.7
8232038	Dunstable Icknield Lower School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	300	239	61	20.3
8232168	Hadrian Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	260	262	0	0
8232209	Hawthorn Park Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	300	259	41	13.7
8232058	Houghton Regis Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	75	59	16	21.3
8212272	Icknield Primary School	Primary	73%	Satisfactory	630	629	1	0.2
8232217	Lark Rise Lower School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	225	220	5	2.2
8212239	Norton Road Primary School	Primary	78%	Good	390	359	31	7.9
8212256	Putteridge Infant School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	270	306	0	0
8212255	Putteridge Junior School	Primary	84%	Satisfactory	360	335	25	6.9
8212006	Ramridge Primary School	Primary	43%	Good	420	342	78	18.6
8213361	Sacred Heart Primary School	Primary	65%	Good	420	407	13	3.1
8232149	St Christophers Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	225	207	18	8
8213356	St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	Primary	84%	Satisfactory	480	474	6	1.3
8213357	St Joseph's RC Infant School	Primary	N/A	Good	360	359	1	0.3
8233348	St Vincent's Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary	78%	Good	210	193	17	8.1
8212244	Stopsley Community Primary School	Primary	66%	Inadequate	420	386	34	8.1
8212246	Sundon Park Junior School	Primary	81%	Satisfactory	360	298	62	17.2
8212250	The Meads Primary School	Primary	60%	Satisfactory	480	361	119	24.8
8235200	Thomas Whitehead CofE School	Primary		Satisfactory	210	197	13	6.2
8232166	Thornhill Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	180	144	36	20

8232279	Tithe Farm Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	240	143	97	40.4
8212262	Warden Hill Infant School	Primary	N/A	Outstanding	270	260	10	3.7
8212254	Warden Hill Junior School	Primary	78%	Good	360	343	17	4.7
8232152	Watling Lower School	Primary	N/A	Good	225	185	40	17.8
8212278	William Austin Infants' School	Primary	N/A	Good	450	448	2	0.4
8212252	William Austin Junior School	Primary	75%	Good	540	541	0	0