

Annex B: Impact Assessment

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 as amended by the Education Act 2011) places a 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 within 1.5 mile radius should be minimal to moderate. One school, Royal Park Primary School, is at a high general risk of losing a significant number of pupils. Analysis of impact on protected characteristics is minimal as the composition of ethnicity in the Royal Park School shows 71.1% of pupils classified as white British ethnic origin, 3.4% of pupils classified as any other mixed background ethnic origin, 2% of pupils classified as white and black Caribbean ethnic origin, 11.4% of pupils classified as African ethnic origin and 3.4% of pupils classified as Bangladeshi ethnic origin. HCS will be a Christian faith school which will not be attractive to all parents. The primary school aged population is projected to increase over the next few years so any potential negative impact will be mitigated by an increased demand for primary school places in the local area.
3. The London Borough of Bexley stated that they support the establishment of the HCS. The Deputy Director of Schools & Education Improvement of the LA has written to the Department explaining that they see the HCS as a very important part of their pupil place planning, and the local authority is happy to actively promote the project to parents.
4. The Deputy Director went on to say that in 2011, there were not enough places for new Reception children in Foots Cray, and Bexley considered expanding a local school. A further school opened some extra places, however this was not adequate. The projection for the next year 10 years shows that Cray Meadows, where the school will be sited, will have one of the highest increases in the borough in the number of children aged 4, and that three new Reception classes will be needed in the Sidcup planning area, consequently HCS is needed to help meet future demand. The LA is including it in the plans for provision of school places in Sidcup and would support it opening in 2013.
5. The assessment has concluded that the Free School will have a moderate to minimal overall impact on the majority of the surrounding schools. However the projection for the next 10 years shows that the local area is expected to see the highest increase in population thus resulting a significant need of primary places which may mitigate some of the impact that the school will have on those facing a risk to their long-term viability.
6. 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;

- There are forecast increases in the primary school population in Bexley; and
- The additional school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools.

School name	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2010/11 (% achieving the expecting level in English and maths at KS2 2011)	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School	Voluntary Aided School	204	72%	Satisfactory	Moderate - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school. It's 'Satisfactory' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this. While HCS does offer a Christian faith alternative, it is not Catholic.
Orchard School	Community School	210	59%	Satisfactory	Moderate - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school. It's 'Satisfactory' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this.
Royal Park Primary School	Community School	383	70%	Satisfactory	High - the school may lose some pupils and this may exacerbate surplus capacity already in the school (which is the highest in the area). However, this effect should be lessened by the projected increase in the primary school population locally over the next five years.
Gray's Farm Primary School	Community School	408	60%	Inadequate	Moderate - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school. It's 'Inadequate' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this.
Midfield Primary School	Community School	232	88%	Good	Minimal - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.

Birkbeck Primary School	Community School	399	92%	Outstanding	Minimal - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Holy Trinity Lamorbey Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Aided School	390	82%	Satisfactory	Moderate -the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school although HCS does present a rival Christian faith offer. It's 'Satisfactory' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this.
Longlands Primary School	Community School	312	74%	Satisfactory	Minimal - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school. It's 'Satisfactory' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this.
Burnt Oak Junior School	Community School	240	88%	Satisfactory	Minimal - the Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school. It's 'Satisfactory' Ofsted rating may lead some parents to consider HCS but the predicted population increase in the area is likely to offset this.