

Impact Assessment: Continu Plus Academy (AP)

| School name | LA | Age range | Distance from free school (miles) | School type | Ofsted grade | Impact rating |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Forest Oak School | Worcestershire | 11-16 | 2.3 | Pupil Referral Unit | Good | None. This PRU is closing from 31 August 2013. |
| Newbridge Short Stay Secondary School | Worcestershire | 11-16 | 11.9 | Pupil Referral Unit | Inadequate | Minimal. The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school |
| Cherry Tree Learning Centre | Dudley | 5-16 | 12.1 | Pupil Referral Unit | Good | Minimal. The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school |
| Whiteheath Education Centre | Sandwell | 5-16 | 12.7 | Pupil Referral Unit | Outstanding | Minimal. The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school |
| Sycamore Secondary Short Stay School | Dudley | 11-16 | 13.5 | Pupil Referral Unit | Satisfactory | Minimal. The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school |
| The Forge Secondary Short Stay School | Worcestershire | 11-16 | 14.6 | Pupil Referral Unit | Satisfactory | Minimal. The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school |

Note: Attainment data is not available.

The Continu Plus Academy (CPA) Free School is an alternative provision (AP) for up to 120 children aged 11-16 who have been excluded, have behavioural issues, or are refusing school. The free school is proposed to be set up in Kidderminster.

The table shows six Pupil Referral Units. Currently, excluded pupils from the Wyre Forest and Hagley area of Worcestershire are offered places at Forest Oak School. At a Cabinet meeting in February, Worcestershire County Council decided to close the nearest PRU – Forest Oak School – with effect from 31 August 2013. They have subsequently tendered for AP provision to KS3

and KS4 pupils in the Wyre Forest and Hagley area and the CPA were successful in being awarded that contract, which runs for 3 years from 1 September 2013 (with a possible extension of 2 years). The remaining PRUs are located between 10 and 15 miles away, not all of which are based in Worcestershire. The creation of the free school will therefore have no negative impact on local schools.

The Continu Plus Academy is therefore expected to have a positive impact by providing high quality alternative provision in an area where there is currently no alternative provision.

The Continu Plus Academy is fully supported by the seven secondary schools in the Wyre Forest and Hagley area (Stourport High School, Baxter College, Bewdley School, King Charles I School, Haybridge High School, Hagley Catholic High School, Wolverley CoE High School) and written confirmation states that they expect to commission a total of 43 places in the academic year 2013-14. As part of the AP contract with Worcestershire County Council, the local authority will commission and fund a minimum of 60 places for 2013-14 and the following two academic years (2014-15 and 2015-16.)

A S10 public consultation was carried out by the trust in early 2013 and the results were overwhelmingly positive. In addition, as part of the Secretary of State's duty under S9 of the Act, the department sought the local authority's views on the proposed free school. The LA responded in positive terms and is supportive of the proposed free school.