

Impact Assessment for Abacus Belsize Primary School

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 (later as amended by the Education Act 2011) places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take into account what the impact of establishing the institution would likely be on maintained schools and Academies 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. Abacus Belsize Primary School is a mixed primary school for pupils aged 4-11 proposed to be set up in Camden local authority (LA). It has no faith ethos or proposed specialism. They will however include a little teaching of Mandarin. The aim is to provide eventually 30 places in each year from Reception to year 6, starting with just Reception in 2013. The school will have 210 places in total when at full capacity.

3. Camden overall has 2.7% surplus places for Reception, and is in the “high” category for basic need. The percentage of surplus places is well below the national average. The primary population is growing at about 1% (ie 100 extra pupils) per year.

4. The parents group have a point that there is a shortage of places in Belsize and children have to travel outside. The catchment area defined in their admissions policy has a population of about 20,000, but contains just one 168-place primary school (apart from private schools).

5. The local area (one mile radius) has 33% FSM, which is higher than the national average of 19.2%, though lower than Camden as a whole. The local area (LSOA) ranks just inside the 50% most deprived in the country.

6. The London Borough of Camden recognizes the demand from the parent proposer group and has been working with them for a number of years but not found a suitable site in the Belsize area. They support the demand for parental preference within the borough but their view has been that generally there are sufficient places in schools within 2 miles of the Belsize area and that they have plans to deal with shortages of places in the borough through the expansion of existing popular and successful schools including adding bulge classes.

7. The proposers undertook a public consultation about the proposed school which included distribution of 1600 leaflets. These were distributed widely to a variety of parents, local residents, schools and nurseries and other stakeholders. The consultation was also publicised in the local press, on the website and at a public meeting. 89% of respondents were strongly in favour of the proposed Free School, and there were no significant local objections.

8. Note: the analysis and table of the impact of the school has been undertaken at a stage where the permanent site is not confirmed. It is based on postcode NW3 4PB, which is the fire station – close to the centre of the

catchment area. A different postcode (when the permanent site is identified) would produce a slightly different but overlapping list of schools within a given radius.

9. Of the 15 nearest primary schools, two are judged by Ofsted to be outstanding, twelve to be good, and one requires improvement. They typically achieve better than the national average at KS2 - 87% achieving the expected level at KS2 in English and Maths in 2011, compared to a national average of 80%. The four nearest schools to the centre of the catchment are all faith schools. Information on the characteristics of the local schools is shown in table 1.

10. There is no significant threat to the future viability of any of the local schools. In the local area of the proposed school, it is expected that no schools will feel a high impact, three schools will feel a moderate impact, and twelve schools will feel minimal impact. The impact ratings on local schools are shown in table 1.

11. Of the schools with a moderate impact:

- St Dominic's is the nearest at 0.6 miles from the fire station site. This school has had poor performance and surplus places in the past, and is the only one rated as requiring improvement. However its performance has improved (by over 30% in two years) and it is now full at Reception. It draws a Roman Catholic intake.
- Rhyl Primary is a community school with 6% surplus places. However it is rated good by Ofsted, achieving 83% at KS2, is 0.8 miles from the fire station site and is twice as big as Abacus.
- Carlton Primary is an undersubscribed community school. However it is rated good by Ofsted, achieving 76% at KS2 (slightly below but close to the national average), is 0.9 miles away and is twice as big as Abacus.

12. Overall, officials judge that the size and location of the Abacus Belsize Primary School means that any impact of the Free School is manageable.

13. The establishment of Abacus Belsize Primary School is likely to have a positive impact in improving parental choice by widening the number and type of places available, particularly for parents not wanting faith-school places, and by driving up standards in surrounding schools and colleges.

14. In the light of the evidence there is no reason why the Secretary of State should not enter into a Funding Agreement as a result of negative impact.

Table 1: Impact of Free School on local primary schools

School name	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2011/12	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
St Paul's Church of England Primary School	4-11 age range				Minimal
	Voluntary Aided School	210 school places	Well above average	Good	The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Church of England	Surplus of school places of 3% of total school capacity	96% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		
Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12				
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, NW3	4-11 age range				Minimal
	Voluntary Aided School	168 school places	Well above average	Good	The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Church of England	Surplus of school places of -11% of total school capacity			

	Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	89% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		
Rosary Roman Catholic Primary School	3-11 age range	315 school places	Average or close to average	Good	Minimal
	Voluntary Aided School	Surplus of school places of 2% of total school capacity	78% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Roman Catholic	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12			
St Dominic Catholic Primary School	3-11 age range	336 school places	Above average	Requires Improvement	Moderate
	Voluntary Aided School				This school is 0.6miles from the fire station site. It has had poor performance and surplus places in the past, however its performance has improved (by over 30% in two years) and it is now full at Reception. It draws a Roman Catholic intake.
	Roman Catholic				

	Mixed	Surplus of school places of 22% of total school capacity Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	86% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School may affect the long term financial viability of the school
George Eliot Primary School	3-11 age range Community School No faith Mixed	420 school places Surplus of school places of 4% of total school capacity Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	Well above average 95% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.	Outstanding	Minimal The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Fleet Primary School	3-11 age range Community School No faith	210 school places	Above average	Good	Minimal

	Mixed	Surplus of school places of 1% of total school capacity Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	83% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Fitzjohn's Primary School	4-11 age range Community School No faith	210 school places Surplus of school places of 0% of total school capacity	Well above average	Good	Minimal
	Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	90% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Robinsfield Infant School	3-7 age range Community School No faith	180 school places	Infant school - no KS2 data	Good	Minimal

	Mixed	Surplus of school places of 1% of total school capacity Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12			The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Rhyl Primary School	3-11 age range				Moderate
	Community School	420 school places	Above average	Good	Rhyl primary has 6% surplus places. However it is rated good by Ofsted, achieving 83% at KS2. It is 0.8 miles away from the fire station site and is twice as big as Abacus.
	No faith	Surplus of school places of 6% of total school capacity	83% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School may affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Mixed	Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12			
Primrose Hill School	3-11 age range				Minimal
	Community School	420 school places	Well above average	Outstanding	
	No faith				

	Mixed	Surplus of school places of -5% of total school capacity Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	95% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
Carlton Primary School	3-11 age range Community School	420 school places	Below average	Good	Moderate Carlton Primary is undersubscribed. However it is rated good by Ofsted, achieving close to the national average at KS2. It is 0.9 miles away from the fire station site and is twice as big as Abacus.
	No faith Mixed	Surplus of school places of 21% of total school capacity Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	76% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		The Free School may affect the long term financial viability of the school
Barrow Hill Junior School	7-11 age range Community School	240 school places	Above average	Good	Minimal

	No faith	Surplus of school places of 5% of total school capacity			The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Mixed	Undersubscribed for entry in 2011/12	85% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		
Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School	4-11 age range				Minimal
	Voluntary Aided School	208 school places	Above average	Good	The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Church of England	Surplus of school places of 4% of total school capacity			
Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	88% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.			
New End Primary School	3-11 age range	411 school places	Above average	Good	Minimal
	Community School				

	No faith	Surplus of school places of 2% of total school capacity			The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	85% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		
Gospel Oak Primary School	3-11 age range				Minimal
	Community School	420 school places	Well above average	Good	The Free School is unlikely to affect the long term financial viability of the school
	No faith	Surplus of school places of 2% of total school capacity			
	Mixed	Oversubscribed for entry in 2011/12	91% of pupils achieved the expected level at KS2 in English and maths.		