

**Title: Walsall Studio School**

**Author: Department for Education (DfE)**

**Approved in July 2012, opened in September 2013**

### **Impact Assessment – Section 9 Academies Act Duty**

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 (later 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 Annex B1) which concludes that the impact on most local schools and colleges should be minimal to moderate. Two schools, Joseph Leckie Academy and Wodensborough Community Technology College, have been assessed as high impact but there are mitigating factors that would reduce this to moderate. Attainment is below the national average in both schools. Joseph Leckie Academy is an 11-18 specialist technology academy, rated as “Good” by Ofsted in April 2013 and has surplus places of 21%. With its Ofsted rating, parents/students are less likely to be attracted to an alternative unless it was one that better met the needs of the student. Wodensborough Community Technology College is an 11-16 specialist technology school, has surplus places of 24% and was rated as inadequate by Ofsted in November 2011, so parent/students may be attracted to an alternative. On 8 May, it announced its’ intention to consult on moving to academy status, sponsored by Ormiston Academies Trust. As both schools are, or will be, academies it is expected that education standards will improve and thus make the schools more attractive. In addition, Walsall LA has not raised any concerns about the Studio School and its impact locally, and has been supportive in promoting the school. The statutory consultation did not raise any issues.
3. Whilst a loss of even a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issue in both schools the unique provision offered by the Studio School and its specialism (Business Social Enterprise, which is sufficiently different to the other schools’ specialisms) will be a mitigating factor against having an unduly adverse impact on any one school. Currently no applications have been received from students at these schools. The Studio School is small (at steady state admitting 50 Yr 10 and 100 Yr 12 students) with a comparatively wide catchment area (extending to South Staffordshire). With its unique curriculum it will also offer parents and students greater choice.
4. There are three colleges (Walsall College, Sandwell College, and Dudley College of Technology) within five miles of the Studio School, all of which are likely to feel a minimal impact.

5. The secondary school population in Walsall and its surrounding area is forecast to fall very slightly by 0.6% between 2011/12 and 2018/19. It is, therefore, unlikely that any negative impact will be mitigated by an increased demand for secondary school places in the local area as the secondary school aged population is projected to remain relatively stable over the next few years.
6. Walsall Council (the Local Authority where the school will be located) has been broadly supportive of the Studio School. We also wrote to Sandwell, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Local Authorities. Wolverhampton and Sandwell responded and did not have any particular objections.
7. We conclude that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Trust in light of the possible impacts on the basis that:
  - a. The school will be likely to improve standards in the area;
  - b. The school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools. It will offer a unique curriculum model, provide work experience opportunities for students and offer an extended school day with a more “business-like” ethos.

## Annex B1 – Light Touch Impact Assessment

### Secondary Schools

School name	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2011/12	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
Blue Coat Church of England Academy, Walsall	Academy Sponsor Led	No capacity data - opened in 2012	No KS4 data - opened in 2012	Not yet inspected - opened in 2012	Unable to assess
Queen Mary's High School	Academy Converters	792	98%	Outstanding	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Queen Mary's Grammar School	Academy Converters	792	99%	Outstanding	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
West Walsall E-Act Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	No capacity data - opened in 2012	No KS4 data - opened in 2012	Not yet inspected - opened in 2012	Unable to assess
Joseph Leckie Academy	Academy Converters	1414	50%	Good	Moderate: for the reasons stated in annex B.
Wood Green Academy	Academy Converters	1470	70%	Outstanding	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School College of Performing Arts	Voluntary Aided School	798	39%	Good	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Willenhall E-ACT Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	1620	No KS4 data - opened in 2012	Not yet inspected - opened in 2012	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
The Mirus Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	1448	No KS4 data - opened in 2012	Not yet inspected - opened in 2012	Moderate: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school
Wodensborough Community Technology College	Community School	1315	33%	Inadequate	Moderate: For the reasons stated in annex B.

### Post 16 Colleges

College name	Ofsted	Number of learners aged 16-18	Proportion of learners aged 16-18	Average Point Score per student 2012	Impact Rating
Walsall College	Good	3305	52.0%	443.4	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect

<b>College name</b>	<b>Ofsted</b>	<b>Number of learners aged 16-18</b>	<b>Proportion of learners aged 16-18</b>	<b>Average Point Score per student 2012</b>	<b>Impact Rating</b>
					the long term viability of the school.
Sandwell College	Satisfactory	2048	51.1%	370.2	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Dudley College of Technology	Good	2553	52.5%	527.4	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.