

Title: Stoke Studio College for Manufacturing and Design Engineering

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 on 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 should be minimal to moderate. Two schools have a high impact rating.
3. **Co-Operative Academy at Brownhills** is located less than the average distance travelled to secondary school by pupils in Stoke-on-Trent (1.33 miles) so, in principle, is likely to lose more pupils to the new Studio School than schools further away. Additionally, it has attainment below the national average so parents/pupils may be attracted to an alternative. The school was undersubscribed for entry in 2011/2012 and has an existing surplus of places of 39%. The loss of even a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there could be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.
4. **Holden Lane High School Specialist Sports College** is also located less than the average distance travelled to secondary school by pupils in Stoke-on-Trent and is therefore likely to lose more pupils to the new Studio School than schools further away. Attainment is also below the national average and following its most recent Ofsted inspected it was rated 'Satisfactory' so parents/pupils may be attracted to an alternative. The school was undersubscribed for entry in 2011/2012 and has an existing surplus of places of 20%. The loss of even a few pupils could exacerbate the existing surplus issue in this school and there could be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment, viability and ability to improve.
5. However, the secondary school aged population is projected to increase over the next few years so any potential negative impact may be mitigated by an increased demand for secondary school places in the local area.
6. We wrote to Stoke on Trent City Council as part of the section 9 consultation, seeking their views on the plans to open the studio school. Their response confirmed that the proposal was likely to fit in with local requirements and support the local authority's priority of reducing NEETs and providing wider

opportunities for students within this age group. The response also noted that while additional provision is not required per se in the area where the studio school will be located, given the numbers involved, the impact would be negligible.

7. The assessment has concluded that the Studio School will have a moderate to minimal overall impact on the majority of the surrounding schools and sixth form institutions and a high impact on two local secondary schools. However the secondary school population in the City of Stoke on Trent is forecast to rise by 15.1% between 2011/12 and 2018/19 which may mitigate some of the impact that the Studio School will have on the schools facing a greater risk to their long-term viability.
8. We conclude that it is appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter into a Funding Agreement with the College Academies Trust in light of the possible impacts on the basis that:
 - A. The additional school will be likely to improve standards in the area;
 - B. There are forecast increases to the secondary school population in the City of Stoke on Trent where the Studio School will be located in the longer term, and;
 - C. The additional school will give parents greater choice and will offer something different to existing schools. It will have a focus on Manufacturing and Design Engineering and Business and Enterprise and offer an extended school day.

Annex B1 – Impact Assessment

Secondary Schools

School name	School type	Capacity	Attainment in 2011/12	Ofsted grade	Impact rating
Heywood Engineering College	Academy Converters	1041	34%	Satisfactory	Moderate: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Co-operative Academy at Brownhills	Academy Sponsor Led	1050	45%	Not Yet Inspected	High: The Studio School is likely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Holden Lane High School SSC	Community School	1140	54%	Satisfactory	High: The Studio School is likely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Birches Head High School	Foundation School	931	51%	Good	Moderate: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
St Margaret Ward Catholic School and Arts College	Voluntary Aided	967	74%	Satisfactory	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Ormiston Horizon Academy	Academy Sponsor Led	1050	59%	Requires Improvement	Moderate: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the

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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
Stoke on Trent College	Satisfactory	2007	30.1%	434.5	Minimal; The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College	Satisfactory	1565	99.9%	697.7	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.
Newcastle under Lyme College	Good	3171	65.9%	669.9	Minimal: The Studio School is unlikely to affect the long term viability of the school.