

**Title: School 21**

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

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

### **Introduction**

1. Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 places a duty upon the Secretary of State to take account what the impact of establishing the institution would be on maintained schools, Academies, institutions within the further education sector and alternative provision in the area in which the institution is proposed to be situated.

### **Background**

2. The School 21 proposal is to establish an all through non-selective and non denominational mixed school catering for the age range of 4-18 in Stratford in the London Borough of Newham. The first year intake will see 75 pupils in both Reception and Year 7 and each year thereafter building to a capacity of 900 by 2018. In addition, from 2014, the first 150 pupils will be admitted to the school's proposed 300 place sixth form taking School 21's total capacity to 1200.
3. The proposer group are a small group of teachers led by a former advisor to the Rt Hon Tony Blair. The whole school will be located in refurbished and extended accommodation of the former Stratford School. It is also proposed that a small part of this site will be given over to new SEN provision. The council is very supportive of this proposal.

### **Catchment Area and its Characteristics**

4. School 21 will be located on the site of the former Stratford (Old Rokeby) Secondary School, Pitchford Street, E15 4RZ in the London Borough of Newham. The local authority is Newham London Borough Council, which is the second most deprived boroughs in England and has one of the highest ethnic minority populations of all the districts in the country with no particular ethnic group dominating. The census also identified Newham as the most ethnically diverse district in England and Wales, with nine Wards in the top 15.
5. Newham has an exceptionally large youth population, with around a third under the age of 25 years with one of the highest birth-rates in the country. Our analysis shows that Newham will experience a severe pressure on school places at both primary and secondary ages. At secondary level, the basic need pressures start to bite from 2014/15, with an estimated additional 25FE being required in Year 7 by 2017. Further large-scale housing developments following the 2012 Olympics (11,000 homes are planned for the Olympic site in Stratford) could add to this pressure.

6. This proposal goes some way towards meeting that basic need, however, there is currently surplus capacity within the surrounding primary schools of this proposed Free School. There is also an increasing but not significant demand currently for secondary school places. See Table 1 (primary) and Table 2 (secondary) below.

**Table 1: Primary Overall: 27690 Net Capacity: 29093**

2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
No of pupils	Surplus								
28847	1%	29845	-3%	31165	-7%	32603	-12%	33688	-16%

**Table 2: Secondary 11-16 Overall: 18715 Net Capacity: 19633**

2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
No of pupils	Surplus								
18702	4.74%	18842	4.03%	18861	3.93%	19152	2.45%	19728	-0.48%

7. Stratford is located in the northwestern extremity of the borough and borders to the west with Hackney Wick in the London Borough of Hackney and Bow in London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and to the north with Leyton in London Borough of Waltham Forest. See Tables 3 (primary) and Table 4 (secondary) for projected growth rates of these neighbouring boroughs.

**Table 3: Number of primary school population and projections in neighbouring boroughs 2010/11 – 2015/16**

District Name	Capacity			Number of pupils on roll		
	Capacity as at May 2011 (negative value = deficit of places)	Surplus capacity 2010/11 (negative value = deficit of places)	Projected surplus capacity 2015/16 (negative value = deficit of places)	Actual 2010/11	Forecast 2015/16	Percentage increase in pupil numbers, 2010/11 - 2015/16
Hackney	17648	8.0%	-2.7%	16232	18119	11.6
Newham	29184	2.0%	-19.0%	28588	34741	21.5
Tower Hamlets	21909	4.2%	-8.1%	20995	23689	12.8
Waltham Forest	21231	0.2%	-26.1%	21199	26775	26.3

**Table 4: Number of secondary school population and projections in neighbouring boroughs 2010/11 – 2015/16**

LA Name	Capacity			Number of pupils on roll		
	Capacity as at May 2011 (negative value = deficit of places)	Surplus capacity 2010/11 (negative value = deficit of places)	Projected surplus capacity 2015/16 (negative value = deficit of places)	Actual 2010/11	Forecast 2015/16	Percentage increase in pupil numbers, 2010/11 - 2017/18
Hackney	11792	28.3%	15.5%	8450	9963	17.9
Newham	19198	7.7%	3.4%	17726	18550	4.6
Tower Hamlets	15410	17.0%	8.8%	12784	14048	9.9
Waltham Forest	13885	7.5%	-2.4%	12841	14217	10.7

8. School 21 will primarily serve the community of Stratford and will seek to draw children of all abilities from the local vicinity in which it will be located. If the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with statements of special educational needs, where School 21 is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- Children who are in the care of a Local Authority;
- Children whose siblings currently attend the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for admission purposes, this is half, full or adoptive brothers and sisters or a child in the care of the Local Authority living in the same household); and
- Children living closest to the school using home to school walking distance (see admissions policy for full definition).

### **Local Authority Perspective**

9. The Department wrote to the local authority on 18 March requesting their view on the impact of the proposed Free School on other local schools in the area. The authority responded on 27 March stating that Newham is a progressive authority that believes in the highest standards of education choice for all young people and that they continue to raise academic standards across all phases and endeavour to offer the very best of teaching and learning for all.
10. The local authority support the School 21 project and has been very accommodating in agreeing to release the council owned former Rokeby School site to accommodate this Free School on one site. During discussions, Newham made it clear that they welcomed the approval of School 21 (and the London Academy of Excellence, a 2012 Free School sixth form proposal) but expressed their concerns that making the former Rokeby site available to just one Free School would not be the best use of such a large site given the lack of alternative sites in Newham and the pressures they were facing in providing enough school places to meet Newham's basic need. Through negotiation, a mutually satisfactory solution to all three parties has been reached.

### **Consultation and Representations**

11. A statutory consultation was carried out over a six-week period between 16 April and 28 May. This was preceded by an extensive awareness campaign from proposal stage where the Trust sought to engage as many local parents and families as possible in support of its vision to establish a school fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to give all children the chance to succeed.
12. Informal consultation was carried out through a number of activities including: Head teacher visits to more than 10 local primary schools in the main postcode areas (E15, E7 and E6) including the major feeder schools to speak to parents and children and hand out prospectuses and other literature; over 8 children centres and nurseries in the local area; Website launch with detailed information about the school (core

team, curriculum plans, application process) which recorded over 150 hits in the first few months of opening; engagement with local community and faith groups; 1000 leaflets distributed at a major shopping centre and letters to 66 junior and infant schools - handed out to pupils as part as part of the Newham 'moving to secondary' prospectus; and a full page advertisement in the local paper and an open day attended by 300 parents.

13. In addition there has been considerable ongoing local and national media coverage due to the high profile of the lead proposer. Newham also sent over 1500 letters to families in E15, E17 and E6 with children between 3 and 4 years old.

14. For the purposes of the statutory consultation there were three main ways for stakeholders to give feedback. These were:

- Fill out the consultation questionnaire via the website (paper copies were made available for those without access to a PC);
- Attend a public consultation evening (held on 6 May); and
- Submit by email or telephone specific comments or questions.

15. In addition, tailored introductory letters and a consultation booklet was sent to local schools, community centres and groups contacted during the general consultation period as well as local businesses, universities and the two local MPs, Stephen Timms and Lyn Brown. Councillors from the four surrounding wards as well others who had expressed an interest were also sent letters and booklets.

16. Overall the statutory consultation received 22 responses – these were from 3 governors at local primary schools; 8 parents at local primary schools; and 4 parents at local children's centres/nurseries with others coming from staff from surrounding schools. Feedback was reported as being overwhelmingly supportive. The school's vision and education plan was particularly well received having a strong curriculum offer. Only one resident voiced their concern that there would be additional noise following the establishment of School 21 in an otherwise residential area. However, it must be countered by the fact that the site has previously been used for educational purposes and has only recently been vacated. School 21 has a behavioural policy for pupils which will help ensure residents are not unduly disturbed – this policy extends to keeping children in school throughout the day. School 21 also received one formal response from NewVic Sixth Form College in Newham who expressed strong support for the schools vision and offered to work with them on pre-16 engagement and enrichment work. A full copy of the consultation report is available via the schools website.

## **Impact on nearby maintained schools and Academies**

### **Impact Ratings**

17. A minimal rating implies that the school will not lose pupils to the free school or may lose some but will still be able to fill most or all of its places. It will not significantly impact on the school's overall attainment

and ability to improve.

18. A moderate rating implies that the school may lose some pupils but should still be able to fill most of its places. However there might be some impact on the school's overall attainment and ability to improve
19. A high rating implies that the school may lose some pupils and may exacerbate surplus capacity already in the school. There may be a significant impact on the school's overall attainment and ability to improve.

#### Impact assessment

20. This proposal is for an all-through school for the age range of 4-18 (to include a sixth form). For the purposes of this impact assessment, primary and secondary provision has been separated out. 80% of primary age pupils in the local authority travel approximately one mile or less to school. For secondary age children 80% of pupils travel an average of 2 miles. This impact assessment includes surrounding primary and junior schools up to a radius of one mile and for secondary two miles from the proposed Free School.

#### Analysis of Primary schools

21. There are a total of 15 primary and junior schools within a one mile radius of the former Rokeby School site; nine of these are rated as having a 'moderate' or 'high' impact rating with the remaining six rated as minimal. It is these nine schools that are considered to be most likely to be affected by the establishment of School 21 and therefore the in depth analysis has been restricted to these schools as part of this impact assessment. The primary and junior schools listed in Table 5 below are a mixture of small, medium and large primaries with a similar pupil make-up. Two schools have been Ofsted rated as outstanding, nine schools have been rated as good and four rated satisfactory; none were rated as inadequate. The 2011 national average for KS2 achievement in primary schools is 74% and 76% in the London Borough of Newham



**Table 5: List of primary and junior schools within 1 mile of the proposed Free School**

School	Sex of school	Faith	School Capacity	Headcount of Pupils	Surplus places	Distance (miles)	Ofsted rating	Impact rating
West Ham Church Primary School	Mixed	Yes	315	295	20	0.32	2	Moderate
Carpenters Primary School	Mixed	No	420	381	39	0.42	2	Moderate
Manor Primary School	Mixed	No	390	321	69	0.42	2	Moderate
Ranelagh Primary School	Mixed	No	432	413	19	0.54	2	Minimal
Park Primary School	Mixed	No	525	495	30	0.55	1	Minimal
Portway Primary School	Mixed	No	630	565	65	0.69	2	Moderate
St Francis' Catholic Primary School	Mixed	Yes	420	408	12	0.70	3	Moderate
Colegrave Primary School	Mixed	No	557	490	67	0.71	2	Moderate
Maryland Primary School	Mixed	No	420	406	14	0.83	2	Moderate
Earlham Primary School	Mixed	No	315	299	16	0.85	2	Minimal
Selwyn Primary School	Girls	No	420	414	6	0.89	2	Minimal
Gainsborough Primary School	Mixed	No	347	327	20	0.91	3	Moderate
Curwen Primary & Nursery School	Mixed	No	420	442	-22	0.92	1	Minimal
St Anthony's RC Primary School	Mixed	Yes	420	418	2	0.98	3	Minimal
St James' CofE Junior School	Mixed	Yes	360	305	55	0.98	3	High

**Summary of the nine local primary and junior schools considered to be potentially most affected**

The 2011 national average achievement for KS2 Level 4 in primary schools in both English and Maths is 74% with Newham schools achieving an average of 76%. The average distance travelled by primary aged pupils in the local area is 0.5 miles; at least 80% of pupils travel a distance of up to one mile. As part of the Mayor's Promise #3, all children in Newham primary schools are currently entitled to free school meals.

**West Ham Church Primary School**

West Ham Church Primary School is larger than the average sized primary school. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is well above average. The largest groups of pupils are those of Asian and Asian British and Black British heritage. The proportion of pupils who are at the early stages of learning English is well above average. The proportion of pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals is well above average. The percentage of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below that found nationally. Predominantly, these pupils have behavioural, social and emotional difficulties or speech, language and communication difficulties.

Rated as **good** by Ofsted, the school, which has a surplus of 20 (6.35%) places is has below average Key Stage 2 attainment last year with only 68%

of pupils achieving the expected level in English and Maths. The school has been fairly constant for the last three years but has seen a dramatic drop in attainment levels since 2008 where it was at 77%. The opening of School 21 within a third of a mile distance could encourage parents to send their children to an alternative new school and has therefore been impact rated **moderate**. The establishment of School 21 could however serve to help West Ham CPS improve to reach its former attainment levels.

### **Carpenters Primary School**

Carpenters Primary School is located near the Olympic Park and is an above average primary school. The majority of pupils are from a variety of ethnic minority backgrounds with more than three quarters from homes where English is spoken as an additional language. In addition to this, the number of pupils entitled to free school meals is well above average whereas the number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is considered to be average. The school has also received the International School Award and achieved 'Healthy Schools' status.

It is considered that the establishment of the new school will have some but not a significant detrimental effect on this school in terms of pupil loss or future financial viability. While Carpenters is located less than half a mile from the former Rokeby school site and has a deficit of 39 places (9.29%), being rated **good** following the last Ofsted inspection in September 2010, parents are likely to continue to support this established school and should be able to absorb any reduction in pupil numbers in the short term given pupil numbers in Newham is forecast to rise by 21.5% by 2015/16. Attainment level has steadily been increasing over the last few years and is now in line with the national average. On that basis a **moderate** rating has been applied.

### **Manor Primary School**

This is a two form entry primary school including a Reception class. The school is operating below full capacity having a surplus of 69 (17.69%) pupils. The vast majority of pupils are from different ethnic backgrounds and a high proportion of pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is above the national average where most of these have moderate learning difficulties. The school was rated **good** following the most recent Ofsted inspection in October 2009.

The percentage of pupils achieving KS2 Level 4 or above in English and Maths in 2011 was 78% being above national and borough average. It is possible that establishing the proposed Free School could exacerbate the surplus situation and have a negative effect on the long term financial viability of this school. However, a **moderate** rating is considered to be appropriate for Manor Primary again based on KS2 results.

### **Portway Primary School**

With a capacity of 630, this is a much larger than average school serving a culturally diverse community where most pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds; Black African and Asian Bangladeshi making up the largest

groups. More than half of the pupils are from families where English is not their first language. The proportion of pupils with special education needs and/or disabilities is below average as is pupils with a statement of special education needs. The largest groups are pupils with speech, language, behavioural, emotional and or social difficulties. The school has received a number of awards reflecting its commitment to teaching basic skills among others. Portway was rated **good** following its last Ofsted inspection in July 2010.

The school currently has a deficit in the number of pupils on roll of 65 (10.32%), some potential pupil loss could aggravate the situation in the short term. However, the school is nearly three quarters of a mile distance from the proposed free school; above the average distance travelled by primary pupils. Ofsted's most recent report complimented the school which has 91% of its students achieving KS2 in English and 94% in Maths. The potential loss of pupils to the new school should not therefore be significant enough to affect its long term financial viability with parents expected to continue to support this school. Based on this information, an impact rating of **moderate** is appropriate.

### **St. Francis' Catholic Primary School**

St Francis' is a larger than average school having a capacity of 420 with a current headcount of 408 pupils. The majority of pupils are of African and Caribbean heritage with an above average proportion of pupils speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is broadly average with the largest group consisting of pupils with moderate learning difficulties. There are two part-time and two full-time Nursery and Reception classes respectively with an additional two classes in each of years 1 to 6. The school was assessed as **satisfactory** by Ofsted in their last inspection in March 2010.

St Francis' achieved an average attainment of 73% in KS2 in 2011, an increase from the below average 66% the previous year. The opening of the proposed Free School three quarters of a mile away could have some effect although this is a faith school and should therefore be largely unaffected in numbers or future financial viability. The school has been given a **moderate** impact rating.

### **Colegrave Primary School**

This is a larger than average primary school located near the 2012 Olympic Park. It serves a culturally diverse community with the largest ethnic groups originating from Bengali and White Eastern European backgrounds. The proportion of students speaking English as an additional language is much higher than that found nationally as is the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals. The proportions of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are higher than in most schools. The school has gained the Investors in People award and the London 2012 Get Set Network award and has consistently good and improving teaching which is accelerating pupils' progress. Colegrave was rated **good** following the last Ofsted inspection in February.

The school currently has a surplus of 67 (12.03%) places. A loss of students could exacerbate the situation, although the school is large and is nearly three quarters of a mile distant from School 21 site. In addition, the school meets the government's current floor standards, and has received positive feedback from Ofsted. The school also achieved 74% attainment at KS2 in English and Maths in 2011, an increase from 64% the previous year and 63% and 60% in 2009 and 2008 respectively. Taking this in to account, an impact rating of **moderate** has been given.

### **Maryland Primary School**

Pupils from a wide area attend this school. The school serves an extremely wide range of backgrounds with the predominant groups from Black African, Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds while the proportion of Eastern European students has been growing steadily. Currently, a vast majority of pupils speak English as an additional language, with the most common being a Black African language, Urdu or Bengali. Approximately one in six pupils have special educational needs and/or learning difficulties; most of these are associated with emotional, behavioural or moderate learning difficulties. The proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is above average. The school has won a number of awards in recent years including 'Healthy Schools' status and Activemark.

The school has a capacity of 420 pupil places with the number of pupils on roll at January 2011 at 406 giving a small surplus of 14 (3.33%) places. Being a relatively large school, any loss of students would be minimal particularly given this school is above the average distance travelled by primary age pupils. However Maryland has received positive feedback in its latest Ofsted report, having achieved a rating of **good** in February 2010. The school also has above average attainment at KS2 with 81% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and Maths in 2011, an increase from 66% attainment in 2009 and 64% in 2008. We are confident of the impact rating being assigned as '**moderate**'.

### **Gainsborough Primary School**

Gainsborough Primary is another relatively large primary school where a very large majority of pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds; the largest group being of Black African heritage. Nearly three quarters of the pupils speak English as an additional language, with a significant number reported to be at the early stages of learning the language. The last Ofsted report, March 2011, rated the school as **satisfactory**. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average and the proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is also above average. Up to 12 pupils with autism attend a resource base and the remaining pupils have a variety of special needs. The Early Years Foundation Stage comprises a morning and an afternoon Nursery class and two Reception classes. Amongst other awards, the school has 'Healthy Schools' status and Artsmark.

The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and Maths in 2011 was 80%, being well above average attainment at KS2. Despite a surplus of 20 (5.76%) places this school is nearer to the limit of primary age pupils' travel distance and has therefore, been given a **moderate** rating.

## St. James' CE Junior School

St James' is a larger than average voluntary aided school which is in a soft federation with a neighbouring junior school. It was rated as **satisfactory** by Ofsted in their most current inspection report in February 2010. The proportion of pupils who come from an ethnic minority background and/or those who speak English as an additional language is above average as is those eligible for free school meals. The school has awards for promoting Pupils' healthy living.

This primary school has been given an impact rating of **high** as attainment was below average in 2011 with 69% of pupils achieving Level 4 or more in both English and Maths. Results from the previous three years have been 67%, 81% and 59%. With the school also having a surplus of places of 55, it is possible that establishing the proposed Free School, although a mile away, could have a negative effect on the long term financial viability and on the number of pupils entering St. James'.

### Analysis of Secondary schools

23. There are 17 secondary schools (including Academies and independents) within a radius of two miles from the Old Rokeby School site to be used for School 21 of which: 10 are impact rated as moderate and 7 rated minimal with none rated as being high. Three have been rated by Ofsted as outstanding (St Bonaventure's RC School; St Angela's Urseine School; and Plashet School), 6 rated good, and 7 rated as satisfactory and one independent). None have been rated as unsatisfactory. The ten schools considered to be most likely to be affected by the establishment of School 21 are rated as 'moderate' and have been included in the in depth analysis below as part of this impact assessment.

**Table 6: List of secondary schools within a 2 mile radius of the proposed Free School**

School	Type	Sex of school	Faith	School Capacity	Headcount of Pupils	Surplus Places	Distance (miles)	Ofsted rating	Impact rating
Sarah Bonnell School	Community	Girls	No	1200	1182	18	0.42	3	Moderate
Stratford School	Independent	Boys	No	920	899	21	0.89	N/A	Minimal
St Bonaventure's RC School	Voluntary Aided	Boys	Yes	990	1313	-323	0.92	1	Minimal
Eastlea Community School	Community	Mixed	No	1200	919	281	1.10	2	Moderate
Lister Community School	Community	Mixed	No	1350	1330	20	1.10	3	Moderate
St Angela's Urseine School	Voluntary Aided	Girls	Yes	1344	1740	-396	1.12	1	Minimal
Forest Gate Community School	Community	Mixed	No	1050	1067	-17	1.17	2	Moderate
Bow School of Maths and Computing (LB Tower Hamlets)	Community	Boys	No	697	605	92	1.24	3	Moderate
Buxton	Foundation	Mixed	No	1299	1263	36	1.38	3	Minimal

School	Type	Sex of school	Faith	School Capacity	Headcount of Pupils	Surplus Places	Distance (miles)	Ofsted rating	Impact rating
School									
Central Foundation Girls' School (LB Tower Hamlets)	Voluntary Aided	Girls	Yes	1406	1390	16	1.53	2	Moderate
Langdon Park Community School (LB Tower Hamlets)	Community	Mixed	No	950	880	70	1.73	2	Moderate
Cumberland School	Community	Mixed	No	1500	1386	114	1.75	3	Moderate
St Paul's Way Trust School (LB Tower Hamlets)	Foundation	Mixed	No	1200	745	455	1.81	3	Moderate
Cardinal Pole Roman Catholic School (LB Hackney)	Voluntary Aided	Mixed	Yes	1033	992	41	1.88	3	Moderate
Connaught School for Girls	Community	Girls	No	600	598	2	1.95	2	Minimal
Brampton Manor Academy	Academy Converter	Mixed	No	1520	1455	65	1.98	2	Minimal
Plashet School	Community	Girls	No	1374	1346	28	1.99	1	Minimal

### Summary of the ten secondary schools considered to be potentially most affected

There are a total of seventeen schools within a 2mile radius of the proposed School 21. The following ten schools have all been assigned an impact rating of **'moderate'** a detailed analysis of schools has been restricted to these schools. Seven schools have an impact rating of minimal; none have been rated 'high'. The national average of attaining five A\*-C GCSE's (or equivalent in all schools including English and Maths) in 2011 was 59%, with Newham achieving 58.5% (some of the schools assessed below are outside Newham; LB Tower Hamlets achieved an average of 61.5% and LB Hackney achieved 57.0%). The average distance travelled by pupils in the local area is 1.1 miles; at least 80% of pupils travel a distance of 2 miles. Secondary school aged children, whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits are eligible for free school meals in the London Borough of Newham.

#### Sarah Bonnell School

At 1200 pupils, Sarah Bonnell is a larger than average-sized girls' school. Students come from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds with the large majority from minority ethnic groups, mainly of Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian and Black African backgrounds. The number of Eastern European pupils has been increasing in the last few years. As with most schools in the area, the majority of students speak English as an additional language. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities is similar to that found nationally. Nearly half the students are known to be eligible for free school meals. The school received specialist language college status in 2003 and is working towards the advanced International School award.

While the school is within half a mile of the proposed site for School 21 it was rated by Ofsted as **satisfactory** and has recently undergone a major building programme which was completed in September 2010, this may help attract new pupils to the school. Although it has a small surplus of 18 (1.5%) places, the Free School is not expected to have a significant impact on headcount numbers in the longer term. Attainment of five A\*-C GCSE's (or equivalent in all schools including English and Maths) in 2011 was below national and borough levels at 56% but as the school is an girls school in a predominantly Asian community, parents may prefer to continue to send their daughters to this school.

### **Eastlea Community School**

Eastlea is again a large secondary school with a capacity of 1200. It gained specialist status for technology in 2001. Following its Ofsted inspection in June 2011 the school was given a rating of **good**. A high proportion of students are from minority ethnic groups, the largest of which is Black or Black British–African with a high proportion of students speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of students eligible for free school meals is above the national average as is the proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. The school has a specialist unit which caters for a small number of students with physical and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD).

The school currently has 281 (23.42%) surplus places having fallen below the government's floor target with regard to students' attainment and progression at the end of Year 11 in recent years. This may, in part, be due to the large number of changes in staff as well as changes in the roles of middle and senior leaders since the last Ofsted report in February 2009. Although the establishing of the Free School is likely to further impact on numbers, it is not considered that this will be significant or reduce the schools long term financial viability especially as basic need pressures start to bite from 2014/15.

### **Lister Community School**

With a capacity of 1350, Lister is a larger than average school which moved into a new purpose-built building in September 2011, funded under the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme. Most students come from minority ethnic backgrounds, with the largest groups being Bangladeshi, Pakistani and African. Over half of the school's roll speaks English as an additional language and has a higher than average proportion of students eligible for free school meals and of disabled students and those with special educational needs. The school has specialist status as a performing arts college and is a Newham school for the deaf. Lister was rated **good** following the last Ofsted report in February 2012.

As a larger than average school and with only a surplus of 20 places (1.48%) the school is not expected to suffer greatly from a reduction in pupil numbers. Lister meets the current government floor standard, however it has fallen well below the national average in terms of the proportion of pupils gaining five A\*-C GCSE's in 2011 with 52% an increase over the previous three years (39%.

40% and 38%).

### **Forest Gate Community School**

Forest Gate is an average sized comprehensive and has a rating of **good** awarded by Ofsted following the last inspection in September 2009. The majority of students are from ethnic minorities with a third from Indian or Pakistani origin and a quarter from the Bangladeshi community. A high proportion of students are entitled to free school meals and a very high percentage having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Of these, the percentage with a statement of additional need is similar to the national average. Forest Gate has recently been designated as a high performing specialist school and will specialise in applied learning. It has 'Healthy Schools' and International Schools status and Investors in People.

The school is located relatively near to the proposed site with a distance of 1.2 miles, slightly greater than the average distance travelled. The percentage of students gaining five A\*-C GCSE's is below the average at 54%. However, the school is running at greater than maximum capacity with an excess of 17 (-1.62%) pupils. While there is likely to be an adverse effect on the number of pupils, it is not expected to be detrimental to the long term future of the school.

### **Bow School of Maths and Computing**

The school is much smaller than the average-sized secondary school with a capacity of 697 places. The percentage of students from minority ethnic backgrounds is high, as is the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language. The majority of students are from Bangladeshi backgrounds with a wide range of other backgrounds represented in smaller numbers. The proportion of students known to be eligible for free school meals is high, as is the percentage of students who have special educational needs and/or disabilities; needs relating mainly to learning, behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The school was designated with specialist status in mathematics and computing in September 2008.

The percentage of students who gained five A\*-C GCSE's in 2011 was 48%, well below the national and borough average. With the relatively large surplus of 92 (13.2%) places, the establishment of School 21 could adversely affect future pupil numbers although it is approximately a mile and a quarter distant. However, plans are well advanced to relocate the school to a new site in 2014, where it will increase in size to an 1100+ co-educational school. Following the last Ofsted inspection in May 2011 the school was given a **satisfactory** rating overall with a rating of good for the school's capacity for sustained improvement. This school might see some short term loss but not significant overall.

### **Central Foundation Girls School**

Central Foundation Girls School is a larger than average secondary school having a capacity of 1400. The school has specialist status in performing arts, citizenship and English. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those with a statement of special

educational needs is above average. Most of these students have moderate learning difficulties, or behavioural, emotional or social difficulties. The vast majority of students are from Bangladeshi backgrounds with minority ethnic groups of White British, African and Black Caribbean origin. The proportion of students who speak English as an additional language is also high as is the proportion of students are also known to be eligible for free school meals in keeping with other schools in the borough.

It is possible that establishing the proposed Free School could exacerbate the surplus situation currently 16 places but this would not have a significant effect on the long term financial viability of this school when also taking account of the distance between this and the proposed School 21 and single sex school specializing in performing arts, citizenship and English. The percentage of pupils achieving five A\*-C GCSE's or above in 2011 was 58%, slightly below average attainment, which is a substantial improvement on the previous year (52%).

### **Langdon Park Community School**

The school, designated as a specialist sports college since 2005, is average in size and works closely with seven local primary schools as part of the Poplar Partnership. The number of students known to be eligible for free school meals and those who speak English as an additional language are high. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities is much greater than that usual, as is the proportion with a statement of special educational needs. These students have a variety of needs, mostly relating to behavioural and emotional and specific learning difficulties. The majority of students are of Bangladeshi heritage, with the next largest group comprising students of White British heritage. Langdon Park has received awards for several aspects of its work, including 'Healthy Schools' status and the Sportsmark award for physical education and sport. It was rated as **good** in its most recent Ofsted inspection report carried out in May 2011.

The school has a below average attainment of five A\*-C GCSE's at 53% and carries a surplus of 70 (7.37%) places. However, given the Ofsted rating and the distance from the proposed Free School of 1.7 miles, which is much greater than the average distance travelled, it is considered that the introduction of School 21 will not have a significant detrimental effect in terms of pupil loss or future financial viability.

### **Cumberland School**

Cumberland is an inner city school with specialist sports and applied learning status. With a capacity of 1500, Cumberland is a larger than average school serving a diverse community with a higher than average number of students from ethnic minority backgrounds; more than half of the students speak English as an additional language. Both the numbers of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and the proportion with special educational needs and/or disabilities is well above average for which it houses a specialist unit for students with autistic spectrum disorder. The school also has many students who are potentially vulnerable, for example with long term medical conditions or who are looked after. The school has received many national

awards, including Investors in People and the Inclusion Kitemark.

Cumberland achieved below average Key Stage 4 attainment in 2011 at 53% compared with 59% nationally (and 61.5% in Tower Hamlets). While the introduction of the proposed Free School could have an adverse impact on this school, given its larger than average size and distance of 1.7 miles from the proposed Free School, it is expected to cope with the potential loss of some pupils without suffering long term financially.

### **St. Pauls Way Trust School**

Following an Ofsted inspection in March 2009 the school was given a notice to improve in relation to achievement and standards. St. Pauls was reorganised following that inspection in September 2009 and has made huge improvements since then. In the next Ofsted report (July 2010) St. Pauls was given a rating of **satisfactory**. Most students are of Bangladeshi origin with minorities of Black British Africans and White British students; almost all students speak English as an additional language with a large proportion believed to be entitled to free school meals. There is also a higher than average proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including 26 deaf students who are catered for in the deaf support base.

St. Pauls has a capacity of 1200 but shows a surplus of 455 (37.92%) places. It has an average attainment at Key Stage 4, with 58% of pupils achieving the expected level in English and Maths in 2011, a significant improvement from 47% attainment the previous year. The impact rating for St. Pauls is considered moderate as the proposed free school could further impact on numbers, but it is not considered significant due to the relatively large distance of 1.8 miles from School 21 and should not drastically reduce the school's long term financial viability. Establishing School 21 could also help further improve standards not only in Newham but in surrounding schools in close proximity.

### **Cardinal Pole Roman Catholic School**

Cardinal Pole is an average sized comprehensive school in LB Hackney with a small sixth form of 128. The school is currently on a split site but will be moving into a new single purpose built building from this September under the BSF programme. A vast majority of students are of Black Caribbean or Black African heritage with almost half the student population speaking English as an additional language, however most students are fluent speakers of the language with only a few in the early stages of learning. The proportion of students with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those with statements of special educational needs, is in line with the national average. Ofsted rated this school **satisfactory** following their inspection in March 2011.

The school had well below average Key Stage 4 attainment in 2011, with half of the pupils achieving the expected level of five A\*-C GCSE's including English and Maths. However the opening of the proposed secondary Free School should not have a major impact on Cardinal Pole considering the distance between the two schools is almost two miles, being twice the

average distance travelled by pupils. The 1033 capacity school has a headcount of 992, a relatively small surplus of 41 (3.97%) and with the school moving in their new premises this year, additional pupils might be attracted. School 21 should not adversely affect Cardinal Pole in pupil numbers or future financial viability.

### Sixth Form Colleges

24. From 2014, School 21 will extend its provision to include a 300 place sixth form with a first year intake of 150. Although sixth form colleges attract pupils from a wide catchment area, the London Academy of Excellence (LAE) Free School proposal has been approved to open in September 2012 in Stratford E15 some 1.5 miles distant from School 21. This sixth form college will be a 16-19, co-educational, non-denominational, selective school with a first year intake of 220 pupils building up to a full capacity of 400 in 2015/16. LAE assume 50% of pupils will come from the Newham area.
25. It is not considered that establishing School 21 nearby will have an adverse effect on this sixth form college as it should be firmly established within Newham and known to potential pupils from neighbouring boroughs.

### Conclusion

26. Taking in to account of the demographic data and the future projected shortage of primary and secondary places across Newham, School 21 will go some way to providing pupil places in a basic need area. Any impact on local schools also needs to be balanced with the positive impact that School 21 will have in improving parental choice by widening the number and type of places available in local primary and secondary state provision, and by driving up standards in the surrounding schools. Both of these features are key aims of the Free Schools policy and we would expect School 21 to meet these aims in a particularly deprived area.
27. Officials have also considered the impact on local FE institutions, Academies, secondary, AP and special schools', however, it is considered that School 21 will have little or no direct impact on them and is outbalanced by the positive impact that the school will have on parental choice and in driving up standards in nearby and neighbouring borough institutions. It is therefore considered appropriate for the Secretary of State to enter in to a Funding Agreement with the Academy Trust.