

Title: Bristol Free School

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Annex C: Section 9 Academies Act 2010 impact assessment

Executive Summary

This paper considers the potential implications of opening a new Free School in North Bristol for the local schools system. Key messages are:

The proposed new school addresses a current mismatch between demand and supply

There is clear parental demand for a new state secondary school whilst at the same time there is surplus capacity in existing schools. This suggests that some parents do not want what these schools (which have relatively low GCSE performance) are offering. So the system is clearly not working for some parents – it is allocatively inefficient, in economic terms, as the right mix of education is not being provided to meet demand.

Impact of the new school on existing schools will depend on where it takes its pupils from

Analysis of individual schools suggests three tentative conclusions. First, the greater it's intake from the independent sector, the lower the impact on existing state schools (but the higher the deadweight costs). Second, over-subscribed schools will see minimal impact as they will continue to fill their places regardless. Third, the biggest impact may be on under-subscribed poorly-performing schools which lose pupils (and potentially non-FSM pupils).

Risk to performance and short term viability of some schools if they lose too many pupils

If some under-subscribed poorly-performing schools lose too many pupils, through direct or indirect effects, their performance may be affected (depending on which types of pupils they lose). Losing too many pupils may affect their viability, but risks to longer term viability could be mitigated by the projected rise in demand for overall places in the area.

Introduction

1. This assessment is in three parts: (a) a brief summary of future capacity needs, (b) an overview of the potential impact on individual neighbouring schools and (c) a general assessment of the implications for the system as a whole.

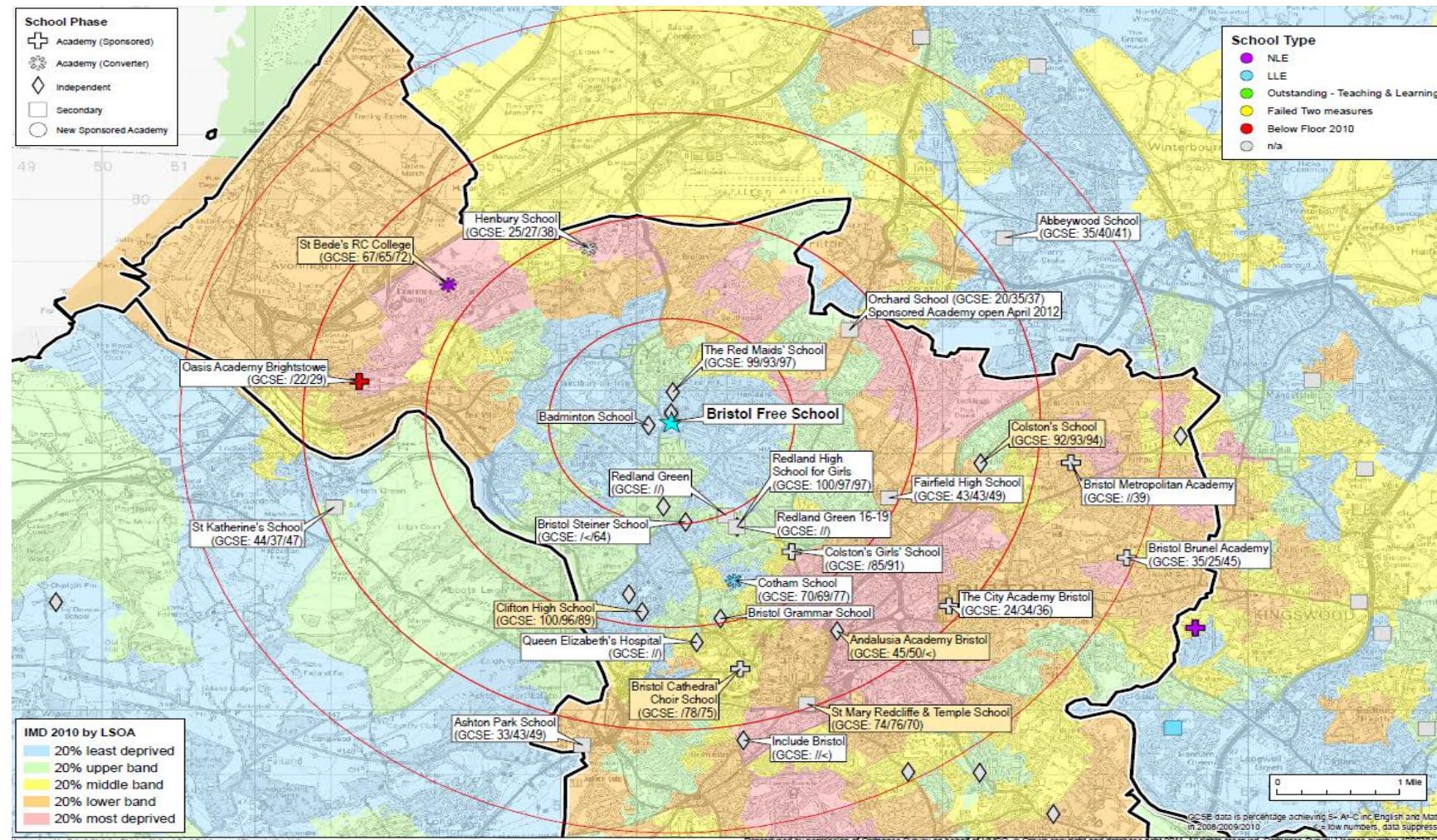
Box 1: Bristol Free School

Bristol Free School is a mixed comprehensive secondary school for 11 – 16 year olds with a maximum capacity of 750 places. The school will be managed by the Bristol Free School Trust, a joint trust set up by Bristol Parents' Voice and the Russell Education Trust. The proposed school was instigated by a group of parents known as Parents' Voice who have been petitioning Bristol Council, for some time, for a good quality secondary school in North West Bristol.

2. The map overleaf provides a pictorial school landscape of North Bristol, showing the locations of all the secondary schools in the area. It includes schools in both the state-

funded and fee-paying independent sectors – to provide the full picture. The star in the centre of the map shows the proposed location of the new Free School. The distance between each concentric circle around the new school represents one mile.

Map of the North Bristol schools system



Impact of a new school on local capacity

Adequacy of supply – short term sufficiency but long term shortage

3. A number of schools currently have surplus places. The total proportion of surplus in the area is 12.3% for state secondary schools in North Bristol. So there is **currently excess capacity in the system** – at the same time as being a shortage of places in the most popular, oversubscribed schools. However it is predicted that **by 2017 demand for places at secondary state schools will start to exceed the supply of places available**. This means that in the longer term there will be a need to expand current capacity in the state school system, either through expansion of existing schools or opening new ones.

Increase in demand for secondary state education

4. Three trends lead to this increase in aggregate demand for school places from 2017¹:
 - 1) Rising birth rates locally – number of primary pupils in Bristol are expected to increase by 21% between 2009/2010 and 2014/2015
 - 2) International migration and migration within the European Community
 - 3) Trend for some families to move their children out of the independent sector and refrain from moving away from the city due to the recession.

Impact of a new school on other schools in the state-funded system

5. This section summarises the potential impact of the Bristol Free School on state secondary schools within three miles of its proposed location. In Appendix 1, we take each school in turn and assess the likely impact on each.
6. The analysis looks at what might happen if the new Free School takes its pupils from existing state schools. However, the *magnitude* of any impacts on these schools (though not necessarily their nature) will be reduced if the new school attracts pupils who would otherwise have left the state system for the fee-paying sector. This would appear to be a moderate to high risk in this case – but it is hard to determine these specific impacts on individual schools.

Impact on oversubscribed schools

7. There are seven oversubscribed schools within three miles of the Bristol Free School. Most of these are significantly oversubscribed. For example, Cotham School had 643 first, second and third preferences in 2011 for 216 places. **For these schools we expect the impact to be minimal**. Even if these schools lost pupils to the new Free School, they would still be highly likely to fill all of their places. However, although these schools would still fill their places, their average pupil ability might decline slightly if the parents of the highest ability pupils choose the Free School. The new Free School may also relieve some of the pressure on these schools meaning that more pupils might get their

¹ Information taken from a briefing note on Bristol primary schools, by Partnership for Schools, July 2011

preferred school in the future.

Impact on schools which met all first preferences

8. There were two schools which had more first, second and third preferences than school places but all first preferences were met. These were Fairfield School and the City Academy Bristol. We have assessed the potential impact of the new Free School as high for Fairfield and moderate for the City Academy Bristol. Fairfield is one mile closer to the new Free School site than the City Academy Bristol which is why the impact is expected to be greater.
9. Both schools currently have a significant amount of surplus capacity, above average proportions of pupils eligible for FSM and the number on roll has been falling over the last few years. At the same time both schools have seen some improvement in the proportion of pupils attaining 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths.
10. The introduction of Bristol Free School **may mean these schools will lose pupils**, increasing already **existing surplus and reducing the amount of funding they will receive**. This may impact on their ability to sustain improvements, which may decrease their ability to attract new pupils to the school.

Impact on undersubscribed schools

11. There are three undersubscribed schools within three miles of the Bristol Free School (Orchard, Henbury and Oasis Academy Brightstowe). Each of these have a PFI contract. We have evaluated the potential impact of the new Free School as high for Orchard and Henbury schools and moderate for Oasis Academy Brightstowe. Orchard and Henbury are closer to the new Free School site than Oasis Academy Brightstowe which is why the impact is expected to be greater.
12. All of these schools already have a significant amount of surplus, above average proportions of pupils eligible for FSM and the number on roll has been falling over the last few years (except for the Academy which has remained relatively stable). The proportion of pupils eligible for FSM has been steadily rising over the last few years in each of these schools.
13. At the same time, these schools have seen significant improvements in the proportion of pupils attaining 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths. For example, 39% of pupils achieved this standard in Henbury School, up from 27% in 2009. This is a 12 percentage point increase, the largest improvement of all secondary schools in Bristol. The introduction of the Bristol Free School may mean these schools will lose more pupils, increasing surplus, which will reduce the amount of funding they receive.
14. However, in the longer term, projected demand for basic need places in the area is expected to exceed supply by 2017. This means that even though the new Free School will have increased the capacity of the state school sector - and therefore eased some of the pressure on oversubscribed schools - the level of surplus in currently

undersubscribed schools is expected to diminish as more pupils need a secondary state funded place.

15. Given the above, we can **summarise the implications for undersubscribed schools as:**

- The new school poses a threat to these undersubscribed schools, in terms of attracting some of their pupils which, in turn, impacts on their short term viability;
- This threat to their viability might be alleviated in the longer term due to the increasing demand for places, as long as the undersubscribed schools can improve their performance and attract some of this increased demand;
- However, making such an improvement will be difficult for the schools if their pupil rolls fall and their proportions of FSM pupils increase.

Potential impact on parental choice

Meeting unmet parental demand for good school places (assuming success of the school)

16. Whilst all of the schools in the North Bristol area are improving, only those with high GCSE results are able to fill all of their places. It is likely that parents are choosing schools on both the reputation of a school and its headline GCSE results. The evidence assessed in the paper suggests that they are little influenced by value added measures or short term improvements, given the clear association between GCSE performance and whether or not a school has surplus places.

17. This means that almost all of the high performing schools in North Bristol are oversubscribed and the proportion of parents getting their first choice school is unusually low, compared to nationally. This deficit of good quality places leads to signs of particularly high (unmet) demand for brand new high quality provision. Indeed, Parents' Voice has been petitioning the Council for some time for a new secondary school in North Bristol.

18. The new Free School is an attempt to help address these problems. It could have two possible effects. If the school performs well and competes effectively, overall pressure on oversubscribed schools could be alleviated. The school will provide 750 places at full capacity so it has the potential to have a sizeable impact on this problem, in the medium term. On the other hand, it will have knock-on implications for other schools. But it is hard to predict this effect with any certainty because it will depend on where the new Free School takes its pupils from:

- *From existing state schools with moderate performance* – If the school takes its pupils from schools in the middle of the performance distribution, it will potentially open up these schools to parents who currently send their children to schools which are not performing as well. This could affect the pupil intake of these middle-performing schools (and their overall GCSE performance) depending on the extent to which the pupils they gain differ from those they lose to the new school;
- *From existing poorly performing schools* - If more parents move away from poorly performing schools, surplus in these schools may increase in the short term. This could segment the system should it be the non-FSM pupils who move, leaving these

poorer performing schools with increasing proportions of FSM pupils with lower prior attainment at Key Stage 2;

- *From the independent sector* – If the new school attracts a large number of pupils who would otherwise have gone to fee-paying independent schools, this may meet demand from some parents but will entail deadweight costs (since the costs of educating these pupils will be transferred from parents to the state).

Encouraging parents to ‘opt-in’ to the state system – but at the risk of some deadweight

19. The level of parental dissatisfaction with secondary state education is unusually high, as evident in the high number of parents opting for private education or state funded schools in neighbouring local authorities. The new school is located in an area which has only one relatively well-performing school - St Bede's RC College – which is a faith school. The establishment of a new Free School in the area could potentially attract some of these parents into the state sector if it offers what they feel is not currently being provided.
20. Attracting *some* parents from the independent sector could be seen as a broadly positive development for the system – as it could increase competition, which could have wider benefits for all pupils. In essence, this is because there is now a larger group of parents that will be choosing state schools in the local area – giving schools an added incentive to improve in order to attract these additional parents.
21. However, if the new school attracts too many pupils who would have left the state sector, it will crowd out the opportunities for existing state-funded pupils. As mentioned above, the greater the appeal of the new school to parents currently choosing the fee-paying sector, the higher will be the short term level of economic deadweight, since state funding will be required to fund pupils whose parents who otherwise would have paid for private education.

Better access to good schools for some pupils from deprived backgrounds

22. It is clear that pupils eligible for FSM in North Bristol are more likely to attend poorly performing schools. The new Free School has the potential to improve access to good quality schooling for this group. However, there is a risk that it offers only a marginal opportunity for change, since the school is located in a relatively affluent area and intends to take 80% of its pupil intake from this area.
23. Studies have found that parents from less privileged backgrounds are less likely to want their children to travel far to attend good schools; they usually choose the closest school for their children. To mitigate this effect, Bristol Free School will draw 10% of pupils each from Southmead and Seamills, two neighbouring deprived areas. The overall effect of the new school on equity of access will depend on whether, in reality and over time, it sees the 20% disadvantaged intake as a floor or a ceiling.

Overall impact on supply side functioning

Meeting long term pressure for basic need places in North Bristol

24. Opponents of the Free School claim that there are already a large number of schools in the area with many surplus places. However, this is only true in the short term.
25. There is currently an aggregate surplus of around 12% (or over 820 places) amongst the schools in North Bristol, of which around 620 are in the three PFI schools closest to the new Free School. But there is projected to be a capacity deficit from 2017. Partnership for Schools analysis suggests that (with current rates of exit from the state sector and without the Free School) there will be a surplus of around 440 Year 7 places in 2011, a deficit of 147 places in 2017, growing to a deficit of 925 Year 7 places in 2021. Over the medium to longer term, therefore, capacity will need to expand in order to meet the additional demand for places.
26. The new Free School will meet part of that additional future need. In the first year after the school opens in September 2011, local supply will expand by 150 places for entry in year 7 and will increase year by year until the school caters for a full school cohort of 750 pupils in years 7-11, in 2015. So the new school will provide a sizeable contribution to reducing this deficit. This additional capacity would, in principle, help facilitate choice and competition in the local schools system, as well as accommodate some of the additional demand.

Increasing diversity of provision in North Bristol

27. The new school has the *potential* to further increase diversity in the state schools system. This is primarily because it is a new provider entering the local system and it may bring a different character and ethos with it. It is less clear what its music specialism will add to choice, given that additional music lessons are not part of the timetabled curriculum, and the school will not use selection by musical aptitude as a basis for selection.

Increasing competition amongst schools

28. By virtue of being a new provider in North Bristol, the new school will increase competition for pupils and state funding. However, it is hard to predict which schools the Free School itself will consider as its main competitors or which of the existing schools will themselves see it as their competition.
29. Schools do not necessarily compete with their closest schools. They could compete with those schools competing for the same pupils, with schools having similar performance or with schools of similar types. Moreover, which schools are considered competitors may not necessarily be the same schools that parents *see* as being in competition for their children (i.e. their choice set). Given the intended intake of the new Free School, it is likely that it will be competing in what are effectively two different segments of the system (i.e. affluent local families and those in the deprived communities in its

catchment). It is important to distinguish between two different but related effects: (a) the impact on competition itself and (b) the impact of that competition on individual schools.

30. The school's primary parental market will be the parents who live in the affluent locality of the school (some of which may have previously opted for the fee-paying sector). The highest performing nearest state school is St Bede's RC College, which is a faith school. The wider evidence on parental choice suggests that more affluent parents tend to be concerned about school quality. So it is likely that the new school's main competitors will be the high performing schools to the south west of the Free School site, which could lose some of their pupils as a result of its opening. However, these schools are already oversubscribed. So even though they may face increased competition from the new school, the impact of that competition is more likely to affect which pupils go to these schools rather than how many.
31. The school's 'secondary market' (if we can call it that) will be parents living in the two neighbouring disadvantaged areas that are also in the school's self-defined catchment area, from each of which it plans to draw 10% of its pupils. The Free School will be competing for those pupils with the schools that such pupils attend currently, which are likely to be poorer performing schools. There may be a moderate or high impact on five local schools in particular – Orchard, Henbury, Fairfield, Oasis Academy Brightstowe, and City Academy Bristol – all of which perform relatively poorly at GCSE and are within 1.7 – 3 miles of the Free School. Given the limited number of good school places available to parents in the two disadvantaged areas, there could be strong competition for the places available in the Free School. It may well be the relatively well-off parents of higher ability pupils in the disadvantaged areas that take up the limited number of Free School places – and the impact on the schools that lose such pupils could be severe, especially if it is concentrated on one or two schools.
32. Regardless of whom its competitors are, any impacts resulting from an increase in overall competition will be very small at first. The new school will start off with just one year's cohort of 150 pupils in total, of which 30 will be taken from the two deprived neighbourhoods. However, any impacts will become more important over time as the new school establishes itself in the area and takes in more pupils; 750 in total, of which 150 will be from the two deprived areas.

Some risk of increased pupil segregation

33. The main initial effects of competition – in terms of a reduction in pupils - are expected to be felt by undersubscribed schools that have low GCSE results (such as Oasis Academy Brightstowe, Henbury School, and Orchard School), which are most likely to lose pupils to the new school. There are likely to be a number of parents at these schools who are unhappy with their current place and will move to the Free School if given the opportunity to apply (or even to another higher performing school, as places open up elsewhere through knock-on effects).
34. We do not have evidence, but it may not be unreasonable to assume that the more active parents currently sending their children to these poor schools – and whom take

advantage of the opportunity to apply to the Free School - may be from predominately middle-class families with non-FSM children. If this were to happen, then there is a risk of self sorting, with proportionately more FSM pupils remaining at the poor schools. In the long term, other things being equal, this could lead to a worsening of educational performance in the undersubscribed schools since we know there is an attainment gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils.

35. This presents a specific risk to the Bristol Academies that are tied into long-term PFI deals with an annual management fee. The short term viability of the schools is therefore finely balanced and will depend on: (a) which of them lose pupils to the new school, (b) how many they individually lose and c) the ability of the pupils they lose (as this may affect the school's GCSE results, which in turn may affect parents' perceptions of the school). While this represents a risk for the Department and the local authority to manage, it should be mitigated by the local bulge in secondary pupil numbers which is expected over the medium term. It can also be mitigated by improvements in performance at each school.

Summary of advantages, disadvantages and risks of opening a new school

36. The box below provides a summary of the potential pros and cons of opening a new school in the area, based on our earlier assessment.

Box 5: Summary of advantages, disadvantages and risks			
Issue	Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
DEMAND SIDE			
Demand	Meets parental demand for a new secondary school in the area	Only meets demand for a proportion of families of vocal families	
Appeal to parents	May appeal to those parents that have left the state education sector through dissatisfaction	May crowd out places for current state school pupils if it attracts a large number of pupils from the fee-paying sector	Potential deadweight cost of pupils who would have entered the fee-paying sector
Access to schools for deprived pupils	Better access to schools for pupils from two deprived areas and potentially through indirect effects on other schools	Limited to pupils in two catchment areas and the number of pupils affected is not large	Increases surplus in undersubscribed schools as pupils move out of them
Choice	Increases choice by adding a another option to local provision		
SUPPLY SIDE			
Impact on local capacity	Relieves pressure on oversubscribed schools and indirectly could increase access to other popular schools	Some expected pupil movement out of already undersubscribed schools	Increased sorting of pupils from different socio-economic backgrounds
Basic need impact	Helps meet long term pressure for basic need places	Short term increase in existing surplus capacity	Could take pupils away from existing schools with surplus places
Diversity	Increases diversity of provision primarily by allowing a new provider to enter the local school system		Parental demand for what it offers might not be sufficient
Competition	Increases competition for pupils by allowing new entry into the system	Competition may be limited to certain segments of the overall system	Little change amongst underperforming schools

Appendix 1 – State school profiles and impact of a new school

The following paper summarises the potential impact of the Free School on state secondary schools within approximately 3.2 miles of Bristol Free School (to reflect the average distance that pupils in Bristol travel to attend a secondary school) in order to enable the Secretary of State to comply with his duty under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010. Each secondary school is evaluated in turn and the likely impact on each is then assessed.

As the catchment area of Bristol Free School is currently based on the St Ursula's site (the generally preferred option for the permanent site for the school), distances to the Free School are based on this site, and not on the DEFRA site, which is where the school will open on a temporary site for a 1 year period in September.

Within one mile of the free school, there are 2 independent schools which are not included in this impact assessment. The fact that they charge fees makes it hard to identify how many parents would switch to the state funded sector, in addition to the fact that there is no duty under section 9 Academies Act 2010 to consider the impact on independent schools.

Impact ratings: Each school has an impact rating of either minimal, moderate or high.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

1. Redland Green school (1.1 mile from proposed site)

School type: Community

Capacity: This school is about average size with 945 pupils, around 180 per year group. There is little surplus capacity in this school and all places were filled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was also significantly oversubscribed for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted with a good capacity to further improve.

Attainment: The school was opened in 2006. The first year group of students will sit GCSE examinations in 2011 and so a full set of external examination results is not yet available.

Intake: Only 3.7% of the school's population are eligible for FSM compared to 15.4% in secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA.

Impact: **Minimal** - At just over a mile away, it is the closest community school to the proposed Free School so it would be expected to lose some potential new entrants to this new school.

Restricted

The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles so this school could lose more pupils than schools further away. Although no results are available for this school, it has been rated good by Ofsted. Also the school was significantly oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would be highly likely to fill all of its places.

2. Colston's Girls' School (1.6 miles from proposed site)

School type: Academy – sponsor led

Capacity: This school is small with capacity for 720 pupils, around 112 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school but all places in Year 7 were filled. It was significantly oversubscribed in for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

Ofsted: It is rated as outstanding by Ofsted

Attainment: 91% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 85% in 2009. This is well above both the national average (53.4%) and the average for Bristol LA (46.2%). The school has above average value added and above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Colston's Girls	91.0	85.0	n/a	n/a

Intake: 12.2% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort was significantly above the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – it is located 1.6 miles from the Free School so it would be expected that it may lose some of its potential new entrants to this new school. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so could lose more pupils than schools further away. However it is rated as outstanding by Ofsted and has significantly above average GCSE results. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a proven track record of excellence rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also significantly oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places. It is also possible that due to this being a single sex girls' school, parents who are specifically seeking places as this type of school may be unlikely to send their children to BFS.

3. Cotham School (1.63 miles from proposed site)

School type: Community

Capacity: This school has a capacity of 1139 with around 216 pupils per year group. It has surplus places in the current year 7 but is oversubscribed for the cohort due to start in September 2011.

Ofsted: It is rated as outstanding by Ofsted

Attainment: 77% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 69% in 2009. This is well above both the national average (53.4%) and the average for Bristol LA (46.2%). The school has above average value added and CVA is well above average.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Cotham School	77.0	69.0	70.0	61.0

Intake: 20.4% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort was significantly above national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** - It is located 1.6 miles from the Free School so it would be expected that it may lose some of its potential new entrants to this new school. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so this school could lose more pupils than schools further away. However it is rated as outstanding by Ofsted and has significantly above average GCSE results. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a proven track record of excellence rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also significantly oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places.

4. Orchard school (1.7 miles from proposed site)

School type: Foundation (application for conversion to Academy status currently ongoing)

Capacity: This school is about average size with 992 pupils, around 189 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school with around 14% of places unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was undersubscribed for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

Ofsted: It is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted with satisfactory capacity for sustained improvement. Orchard School, formerly Monks Park School, opened as a National Challenge Trust school on 1 September 2009. The Ofsted report also found there is a strong commitment to rapid improvement, fostered by the headteacher, senior leaders and the governing body. As a result, it is improving quickly.

Attainment: 37% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 35% in 2009 and 20.0% in 2008. This is below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has below average value added and slightly above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths

Restricted

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Orchard school	37.0	35.0	20.0	23.0

Intake: 32.4% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% in secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. According to the Ofsted report a higher than average number of students join or leave the school at times other than the usual points in Years 7 and 11. There are also more pupils than average with special educational needs and the APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort was below the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is part of a PFI

Impact: High – It is 1.7 miles from the proposed Free School so it would be expected that it would lose some of its potential new entrants to this new school. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so could lose more pupils than schools further away. It has significantly below average attainment and only a satisfactory Ofsted grade. Parents seeing this information would generally not see this as their first choice school especially when there are alternatives on offer. This is currently true, with the school significantly undersubscribed. It is likely that this new Free School will increase the surplus capacity in this school.

Analysis of distance travelled to school has shown that affluent parents are more likely to travel further for a good school. We therefore expect that if this school loses pupils to the Free School, it will be those from more affluent backgrounds. Research shows that ‘differences in the home learning environment, particularly at the age of three, have an important role to play in explaining why children from poorer backgrounds have lower test scores than children from better-off families.’²

Therefore in the coming years the intake, based on APS at KS2, could weaken further as the free school becomes established.

The school already has a high incidence of pupils joining and leaving at other times than usual during the academic year. If surplus places increase, the incidence of this may also increase. Overall these changes may impair the school’s ability to sustain improvement as its circumstances become even more challenging than they already are. This school is also part of a PFI.

5. Henbury School (1.82 miles from proposed site)

School type: Community school. Has recently applied to become an Academy

Capacity: This school is about average size with 945 pupils, around 185 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school with around 16% of place unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was undersubscribed in for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

² Poor children’s educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviour? Alissa Goodman and Paul Greg 29 March 2010

Restricted

Ofsted: It is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted, with a better capacity for sustained improvements.

Attainment: 39% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, up from 27% in 2009. This is below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has below average value added and average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Henbury school	39.0	27.0	25.0	26.0

Intake: 31.9% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort was around the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is part of a PFI

Impact: **High** – It is 1.82 miles from the proposed Free School so it would be expected that it would lose some of its potential new entrants to this new school. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so could potentially lose a few more pupils than schools further away. It has significantly below average attainment and only a satisfactory Ofsted grade. Parents seeing this information would generally not see this as their first choice school especially when there are alternatives on offer. This is currently true, with the school significantly undersubscribed. It is likely that this new Free School will increase the surplus capacity in this school.

Analysis of distance travelled to school has shown that affluent parents are more likely to travel further for a good school. We therefore expect that if this school loses pupils to the Free School, it will be those from more affluent backgrounds. Research shows that 'differences in the home learning environment, particularly at the age of three, have an important role to play in explaining why children from poorer backgrounds have lower test scores than children from better-off families.'³

6. Fairfield School (1.92 miles from proposed site)

School type: Community school

Capacity: This school is slightly larger than average size with 1080 pupils, around 150 per year group. There were 298 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences in 2011 but all 1st preferences met. There is significant surplus capacity in the school.

Ofsted: It is rated as satisfactory by Ofsted, with some areas of strength.

Attainment: 49% of pupils achieved 5 A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths

³ Poor children's educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviour? Alissa Goodman and Paul Greg 29 March 2010

Restricted

in 2010, up from 43% in 2009. This is slightly below the national average of 53.4% and above the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has average value added and above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Fairfield school	49.0	43.0	43.0	31.0

Intake: 30.5% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. Over two thirds of the school are from ethnic minorities, of which, around 21% are black African. In their 2008 report, Ofsted recommended that the school raises attainment for Black Caribbean, Indian and Pakistani groups

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: High – It is 1.92 miles from the proposed Free School so it would be expected that it may lose some of its potential new entrants to this new school. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so could potentially lose a few more pupils than schools further away. It has significantly below average attainment and only a satisfactory Ofsted grade. Parents seeing this information would generally not see this as their first choice school especially when there are alternatives on offer, even though in 2011 it filled all the places in year 7. It is likely that this new Free School will increase the surplus capacity in this school.

7. St Bede's Catholic school (2.26 miles from proposed site)

School type: Voluntary Aided School

Capacity: This school is slightly smaller than average size with 850 pupils, around 150 per year group. It is significantly oversubscribed.

Ofsted: It is rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

Attainment: 72% of pupils achieved 5 A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 65% in 2009. This is significantly above the national average of 53.4% and above the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has above average value added and above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
St Bede's	72.0	65.0	67.0	64.0

Intake: 6.7% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. The school follows the admissions code but is allowed to give priority to children of the catholic faith. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort was well above national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – it is located 2.26 miles from the Free School so it may not lose any pupils, because of the distance: The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles. It is rated as outstanding by Ofsted and has significantly above average GCSE results. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a proven track record of excellence rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places. It is further important to note that as a voluntary aided Roman Catholic faith school, a certain proportion of its intake will be from this faith; a non-Roman Catholic school will therefore be unlikely to be a viable option for this proportion of the pupil population. Combined with the school's Ofsted rating as outstanding and its location, it appears unlikely that this school will lose anything other than a minimal number of pupils to BFS.

8. Bristol Cathedral Choir school (2.47 miles from proposed site)

School type: Sponsor-led Academy

Capacity: This school is significantly smaller than average size with 650 pupils, around 100 per year group. It is significantly oversubscribed.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted.

Attainment: 75% of pupils achieved 5 A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, compared to 78% in 2009. This is significantly above the national average of 53.4% and above the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has above average value added and slightly above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Bristol Cathedral Choir	75.0	78.0	n/a	n/a

Intake: 3.8% of pupils are eligible for free school meals compared to 15.4% in secondary schools nationally and 21.3% in Bristol LA. The school follows the admissions code but is allowed to give priority to children of faith. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was well above the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – it is located 2.47 miles from the Free School. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It is rated as outstanding by Ofsted and has significantly above average GCSE results. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a proven track record of excellence rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places. Parents seeking to send their children to a faith school may also be less likely to choose to send their children to BFS.

9. Oasis Academy Brightstowe (2.58 miles from proposed site)

School type: Sponsored Academy with Christian denomination. It opened in September 2008 and has specialist status in mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT).

Capacity: This school is around average size with capacity for 945 pupils, around 160 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school with around 24% of place unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was undersubscribed for entry in the 2011/12 academic year, with 144 preferences for 162 places.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted, with good capacity for sustained improvement. The Ofsted report notes 'the rapid pace of improvement at the academy since it opened is clear from students' rising achievement and improving behaviour, attitudes and attendance. The success of the academy's leaders in generating the drive and ambition to improve outcomes for students is outstanding'

Attainment: 29% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 22% in 2009. This is significantly below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has below average value added but above average CVA. The Ofsted report notes that 'although GCSE results in 2010 were low, the progress that students made from their starting points was good, and in some cases outstanding. The rate at which students in all year groups make progress is accelerating and is now good, because the quality of teaching has improved so substantially.'

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	29.0	22.0	24.0	16.0

Intake: 30.9% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. About a third of all students have been identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities, and these students have a wide range of different needs. This is higher than the national average of 20.6%. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was below the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Moderate** – It is located 2.58 miles from the Free School. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. However it has significantly below average attainment, currently below the floor target of 35%. Parents seeing this information would generally not see this as their first choice school especially when there are alternatives on offer. This is currently true, with the school slightly undersubscribed in 2011/12. However it has a good Ofsted report. Given that the school is already undersubscribed, the Free School may further increase the surplus capacity in this school. In the coming years the intake, based on APS at KS2, could weaken further as the free school becomes established.

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Although we have said the impact may be moderate, there is some uncertainty around this because there is evidence that the school serves pupils with SEN very well. Future parents may still decide to choose this school because it has track record on helping children with SEN.

10. St Katherine's School (2.87 miles from proposed site)

School type: Community school located in North Somerset LA.

Capacity: This school is around average size with capacity for 1000 pupils, around 180 per year group. There is a little surplus capacity in this school with around 5% of places unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was oversubscribed in for entry in the 2011/12 academic year, with 364 preferences for 180 places.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features and with good capacity for sustained improvement.

Attainment: 47% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, compared to 37% in 2009. This is slightly below the national average of 53.4% and just above the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has average value added and above average CVA. The Ofsted report notes that 'although GCSE results in 2010 were low, the progress that students made from their starting points was good, and in some cases outstanding. The rate at which students in all year groups make progress is accelerating and is now good, because the quality of teaching has improved so substantially.'

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
St Katherine's	47.0	37.0	44.0	40.0

Intake: 13.6% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. It has an above average intake of pupils with special educational needs. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was around the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – it is located just almost 3 miles from the Free School. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It has slightly below average GCSEs results which might increase the number of potential new entrants opting for the new Free School. This effect could be quite significant as there are currently a large number of pupils from Bristol LA attending this school for lack of viable alternatives in their region. Nevertheless the school is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a proven track record of excellence rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also oversubscribed for admissions for the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places.

11. The City Academy Bristol (2.87 miles from proposed site)

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School type: Sponsored Academy. It opened in September 2003. It is a specialist sports college.

Capacity: This school is a larger than average school with capacity for pupils 1,236, around 195 per year group. There is some surplus capacity in this school with around 24% of places unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was oversubscribed with more preferences than capacity for admission for entry in the 2011/12 academic year. However, it was able to meet all first preferences.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features and with good capacity for sustained improvement.

Attainment: 36% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths, up from 34% in 2009 and 24% in 2008. This is significantly below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has around average value added and above average CVA. The Ofsted report notes that it 'is a good school and there has been marked improvement since the last inspection. From their often very low starting points on entry to Year 7, students of all ethnicities typically make significant progress. Standards across most subjects have lifted from very low levels to just below average.'

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
The City Academy Bristol	36.0	34.0	24.0	21.0

Intake: 48.1% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. Over two thirds of students are from minority ethnic groups. Over four in ten students learn English as an additional language and 31% are in the earliest stages. The proportion of students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is well above average, as is the number of students with a statement of special educational needs. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was below the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Moderate** – it is located almost 3 miles from the Free School site. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. However it has significantly below average GCSEs results which might increase the number of potential new entrants opting for the new Free School. However it is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a good Ofsted report rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also slightly oversubscribed for admission into the 2011/12 academic year so with some lost demand it may still be able to fill all of its places.

12. St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School (2.97 miles from proposed site)

School type: Voluntary Aided Church of England school.

Capacity: This school is a larger than average school with capacity for pupils 1,364 around 216

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per year group. There is no surplus capacity in this school with almost all places filled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was significantly oversubscribed with 459 preferences for 216 places.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features.

Attainment: 70% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up down from 76% in 2009. This is significantly above both the national average of 53.4% and the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has above average value added and above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
St Mary Redcliffe and Temple	70.0	76.0	74.0	70.0

Intake: 8.2% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The majority of students are White British, although a larger proportion than average are from mixed race and minority ethnic families. The percentage of students entitled to free school meals is well below average. The percentage of students with learning difficulties and disabilities and the number with a formal statement of special educational needs are also well below average. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was above the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – It is located almost 3 miles from the Free School site. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It has significantly above average GCSE results and it is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding features. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a good Ofsted report rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was also significantly oversubscribed for admission into the 2011/12 academic year so even with some lost demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places. It is further important to note that as a voluntary aided Church of England faith school, a certain proportion of its intake will be from this faith; a non-Church of England school may therefore not be a viable option for this proportion of the pupil population.

13. Ashton Park School (3.23 miles from proposed site)

School type: Foundation school.

Capacity: This school is a slightly larger than average school with capacity for pupils 1155, around 210 per year group. This school is neither oversubscribed nor undersubscribed and all places filled in year 7 in 2010/11. In 2011/12 the school met all first preferences for its places.

Ofsted: It is rated as good by Ofsted.

Attainment: 49% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and

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maths in 2010, up from 43% in 2009. This is below the national average of 53.4% but above the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has above average value added for maths and below average value added for English. It has above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ashton Park school	49.0	43.0	33.0	34.0

Intake: 15.9% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The percentage of students entitled to free school meals is around average. The percentage of students with learning difficulties and disabilities and the number with a formal statement of special educational needs are around the national average. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was close to the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Minimal** – It is located just over 3 miles from the Free School site. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It has improving GCSE results and it is rated as good by Ofsted. Parents may prefer to send their child to a school with a good Ofsted report rather than send them to a brand new school. The school was neither oversubscribed nor undersubscribed for admission into the 2011/12 academic year so even with slightly less demand it would still be highly likely to fill all of its places, with a few second and third choices.

14. Abbeywood Community School (3.25 miles from proposed site)

School type: Community school.

Capacity: This school is a larger than average school with capacity for pupils 1214, around 216 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school with around 50% of places unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was heavily undersubscribed with fewer preferences than capacity for admission for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

Ofsted: It is rated as making satisfactory progress to improve by Ofsted.

Attainment: 41% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 40% in 2009. This is below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has well below average value added and well below average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Abbeywood school	41.0	40.0	34.0	41.0

Intake: 15.8% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The percentage of students entitled to

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free school meals is around the national average. The percentage of students with learning difficulties and disabilities and the number with a formal statement of special educational needs are around the national average. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was slightly above the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Moderate** – It is located just over 3.2 miles from the Free School site in Gloucester LA. The average distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It has below average GCSE results and it is rated as showing satisfactory improvement by Ofsted. Although this school is heavily undersubscribed, it serves another LA so it is not expected to lose many more pupils as a result of the free school being set up. Although there is a slight risk there will be an indirect impact as a result of the free school freeing up capacity in other schools. So parents may choose other schools instead of this school.

15. Bristol Metropolitan Academy (3.28 miles from proposed site)

School type: Academy.

Capacity: This school is a smaller than average school with capacity for pupils 945, around 216 per year group. There is surplus capacity in this school with around 46% of places unfilled in year 7 in 2010/11. It was heavily undersubscribed with fewer preferences than capacity for admission for entry in the 2011/12 academic year.

Ofsted: It was a failing school that was taken over in 2008. It is rated as making good progress to improve by Ofsted.

Attainment: 39% of pupils achieved 5+ A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths in 2010, up from 30% in 2009. This is below the national average of 53.4% and below the average for Bristol LA of 46.2%. The school has average value added and above average CVA.

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 A* to C including English and maths				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	39.0	30.0	34.0	29.0

Intake: 35.1% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. The percentage of students entitled to free school meals is well above the national average. The percentage of students with learning difficulties and disabilities and the number with a formal statement of special educational needs are around the national average. The APS at KS2 for the KS4 cohort in 2010 was well below the national average of around 25 points.

PFI: This school is not part of a PFI

Impact: **Moderate** – It is located just over 3.2 miles from the Free School site. The average

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distance travelled in Bristol is 1.6 miles, so the longer distance means it is unlikely to lose many pupils. It has below average GCSE results and it is rated as showing good improvement by Ofsted. Although this school is heavily undersubscribed, it is improving so it is not expected to lose many more pupils as a result of the free school being set up. Although there is a slight risk there will be an indirect impact as a result of the free school freeing up capacity in other schools. So, parents may choose other schools instead of this school.

This impact assessment is based on the St Ursula's site because it is around this site that the BFS catchment area has been drawn.

We have assumed that the catchment area will remain the same for the foreseeable future. If the catchment area was recast around the alternative DEFRA site then two schools (Orchard School and St Katherine's School) in particular might face an increased risk of losing pupils to the BFS.