



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0870 0012345 ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk



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### **Free School Proposal: Canary Wharf College**

Thank you for submitting your proposal to set up a new school to the Department for Education. It has now been fully assessed and judged to be sufficiently strong in all areas to proceed to the next stage. I am therefore pleased to approve your proposal and invite you to proceed to business case stage.

During this next stage, I would recommend that you focus on your plans for the primary school and its growth in the first 5-6 years and would specifically like to see further development of your proposed Admissions policy and how this is relevant to the area where the school will be located. In terms of your longer term plans for an all through school, it would be helpful if you could consider how you will ensure you will be able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum in the secondary phase with the current pupil projections.

I understand that you are looking to open your new school in September, 2011 . The Department will of course work with you to do everything it can to make this a reality. However, this is a very challenging timescale. Your DfE lead, [REDACTED], will discuss with you the implications of this, once you have had the opportunity to consider the process and work required. I am very keen for Free Schools to be innovative and responsive to parental demand, and I believe that the new school your group is proposing can carry through this vision.

As you know, Free Schools form an integral part of the Government's education policy to improve choice for parents and raise standards for all young people. I will be looking to your proposal, along with others in these initial cadres of Free Schools, to shape the way forward for future proposers.

## Business Case

I want to ensure that you have the support you need to develop your business case. Attached to this letter you will find a table which sets out the tasks that will need to be completed. Please complete this table, identifying which tasks you are able to take forward alone and those for which you think you will require additional support, and submit it to your named DfE lead, [REDACTED]. Please note that the DfE cannot fund any work that its officials have not explicitly agreed to support.

## Admissions

All Academies and Free Schools are required to have inclusive admission arrangements which comply with the School Admissions Code. Officials will be happy to assist Free Schools in developing such policies in readiness for a 2011 opening, as the first academic year is likely to fall outside local co-ordination of admissions. For 2012/13 and subsequent years you will be required to be within local co-ordination. You should therefore provide your local authority with your admission number and admission arrangements for inclusion in their admissions prospectus as soon as they are determined (15<sup>th</sup> April each year).

I will look forward to receiving your final business case in due course. Please continue to work with [REDACTED] in the Department throughout this process, and direct any questions you have to her.

In addition to this letter, I will also be writing to your local authority and local MP to inform them that your proposal has moved forward to business case stage.



MICHAEL GOVE