

## Interim Equality Impact Assessment – Free school Application by Graveney School

Department	Children's Services Department
Decision	(i) Support the Graveney school application to the DFE for a free school in the Professional Centre Franciscan Road, Tooting
Involved in preparation	Planning and Development Team, Policy, Planning, Review & Information team, and the Directorate, Wandsworth Children's Services

<b>Key dates for the assessment</b>
Start of consultation period 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2012 – 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
Interim completion dates for EIA: 15 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2012

### 1. Aims of the decision?

The aim of this decision is to agree the Council's support for proposals by Graveney Secondary School to open a free school to be submitted to the DFE  
Progression of the scheme would be subject to DFE consideration of the bid.

## **2. Rationale behind the decision?**

The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools in the local area (Education Act 1996 Section 14) and to secure diversity of provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice (Education Act 1996, Section 14 (3A) added by (Education and Inspections Act 2006, Section 2)

The Council's policy regarding schools is to promote choice and diversity for parents in the availability of local schools and to ensure that there are adequate school places to meet demographic need. The business case for the school on the Professional Centre site will create additional school places for young people who reside in Wandsworth. Supporting the business case for the Graveney Free School therefore supports this policy and does not represent a move away from it.

## **3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to contribute to the EIA?**

The first stage of the statutory consultation on the proposals for Graveney to sponsor a free school ends on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Should the application be agreed by the DFE further detailed consultation will take place with prospective parent/carers and the community. This is an interim EIA based on the information available at this point in time. Any further equalities issues arising from the outcome of the consultation will be addressed after the consultation has ended. Graveney school has led the consultation process, which has involved producing an online information leaflet containing a short questionnaire and holding two public meetings in February which have been well attended. In total 70+ people in total have attended the two meetings. The aim of the consultation has been to establish the demand for the school and to invite prospective parents/carers and other interested members of the local community to give their views. The full proposal is set out on the Graveney School web site and views can be submitted on the site. Consultation and meetings have offered opportunities, for local residents, schools and other organisations to contribute to the development of the proposals.

To date views from the 2 meetings and the on line consultation have been very positive and in favour of the Graveney free school proposal. For the DFE application to progress there must be evidence a commitment from parents/carers to fill 60% of the places over three years. At February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 there was committed from parents for 90 of the 180 places.

Throughout the process both the Council and Graveney School have kept the local community up to date with plans for the school. The Council's website has the facility for residents to comment on news stories and propose changes to Council policy through an e-petition.

The application to the DFE will reflect the views of parent/carer and community views on the proposal.

<b>4. Data held on the likely impact of the decision in relation to protected characteristics</b>		
	List data held	Gaps in information
Overall	<p>Consultation findings conducted by Graveney School from an on line questionnaire and information leaflet during February 2012. Two open meetings for parents and local residents have been well attended more that 70 people in total had attended a meeting.</p> <p>Responses to the Education and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 reported the latest forecast for additional primary places in the borough and the Executive agreed to publish proposals for statutory notices. The Committee also requested that a further report was brought back on the options for providing school places in the local wards where the free school is proposed. This report will go the OSC on 22<sup>nd</sup> February setting out the options for school places in planning area 2 whereby an additional 2 forms of entry (FE) will be needed on top of planned expansions for September 2012 and September 2014 to meet projected demand for places</p>	<p>The finding of the consultation will be available after the consultation period has expired 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012.</p> <p>Decision from OSC on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to agree additional 2 FE and approval for a variation in the schools capital budget</p>
Race	<p>Ethnic breakdown for the schools in the wards of Tooting, Graveney and Furzedown</p> <p>Breakdown of ethnic groups by Ward from 2001 census</p>	<p>Latest census information is not yet available. Information on school population is included to mitigate against this.</p>
Gender	Gender breakdown of schools in the wards of Tooting Graveney and Furzedown	
Disability	SEN breakdown of schools in the wards of Tooting Graveney and Furzedown	
Age	The Graveney free school will provide education for children aged from 4-11	

Faith	Information not currently collected. The proposed school is non-denominational.	
Sexual Orientation	Information not currently collected.	

**5. What does available information show in relation to the potential impact of the proposed policy? What is the impact on different groups? Please give details**

The EIA has reviewed the school profile in the three wards in the immediate area of the proposed Graveney free school by the BME, Gender and SEN equality categories to assess whether it is likely the free school will have an adverse impact on the equality profile of schools in the area. These wards are Tooting, Graveney and Furzedown wards.

**Race**

There is a higher proportion of BME pupils – specifically Asian pupils - in the 11 primary schools in these wards compared to the average for primary schools in the borough. This reflects the communities that currently live in these wards. A new school is expected to similarly reflect this pattern. The additional 2 FE provide by the proposed free school will ensure all communities in these wards have improved access to a primary school by 2013.

Graveney School is already providing excellent education to BME pupils. It has an established academic and inclusion ethos and has been judged as outstanding by Ofsted.

Schools in Tooting, Graveney and Furzedown Wards	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	BME total	White	Unknown
Broadwater	47.3%	24.0%	9.3%	2.8%	83.4%	14.9%	1.7%
Fircroft	33.7%	16.5%	12.9%	3.4%	66.5%	31.7%	0.2%
Gatton	51.3%	24.3%	13.8%	6.9%	96.4%	1.7%	1.7%
Hillbrook	33.9%	28.6%	9.0%	2.6%	74.2%	24.0%	0.7%
Smallwood	23.01%	27.6%	15.9%	1.3%	67.8%	28.9%	0.0%
Eardley	11.8%	49.2%	15.5%	2.6%	79.1%	19.3%	3.0%
Furzedown	30.2%	17.9%	8.9%	2.2%	59.3%	38.9%	1.1%
Penwortham	18.0%	16.7%	14.9%	0.6%	50.2%	48.1%	0.9%
Fransican	35.2%	34.4%	6.8%	3.0%	79.5%	18.9%	0.0%
Sellincourt	44.1%	19.5%	9.0%	6.2%	78.8%	19.5%	0.0%
St. Boniface	33.0%	11.4%	11.9%	0.9%	57.1%	40.6%	0.0%
<b>Average across the 11 locality schools</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Primary school average in Wandsworth</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

## Gender

Census data is not a good comparator to use for primary school pupils given when the census was conducted. No projection census data is available for wards and therefore borough-wide primary school pupil population is the best comparator available although this does not take into account the differences between wards. The borough average for male pupils is 50.3%. The table below shows that the schools in these wards have an average male pupil population of 50.7% which is very close to the borough average. This suggests that the decision, particularly the proposed admission arrangements, would not have a negative impact on either gender.

	Male	Female
Broadwater	47.6%	52.4%
Fircroft	49.5%	50.5%
Gatton	50.6%	49.4%
Hillbrook	55.1%	44.9%
Smallwood	49.8%	50.2%
Eardley	47.8%	52.2%
Furzedown	51.2%	48.8%
Penwortham	50.6%	49.4%
Fransican	50.9%	49.1%
Sellincourt	51.2%	48.8%
St. Boniface	53.7%	46.3%
Average across 11 locality schools	50.7%	49.3%

## Disability

The admission criteria proposed ensure that if the school is over-subscribed children with the school named in their statement of educational will be given priority. The make up of the pupil population of existing local primary schools suggests that there will be no negative impact from the wider remaining admissions criteria. The table below shows that the number of pupils with some form of special education need in the schools in these wards is broadly similar to the borough average.

	School Action	School Action+	SEN Statement	SEN Statement
Broadwater	8.7%	6.4%	1.5%	16.6%

Fircroft	11.5%	3.2%	2.5%	17.2%
Gatton	11.2%	4.8%	1.0%	16.9%
Hillbrook	8.6%	7.3%	2.4%	18.3%
Smallwood	8.4%	9.2%	11.3%	28.9%
Eardley	17.3%	12.7%	1.6%	31.7%
Furzedown	20.6%	6.3%	1.6%	28.4%
Penwortham	6.1%	7.8%	3.2%	17.1%
Fransican	24.7%	17.3%	0.8%	42.9%
Sellincourt	21.2%	7.7%	4.9%	33.8%
St. Boniface	10.8%	7.4%	1.7%	19.9%
<b>Average across the 11 locality schools</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
<b>Borough Average</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>

The new school would have the usual admission arrangements i.e. priority for admission would be given in the following order: a) Children Looked After; b) children with an exceptional medical or social need for a place; c) siblings of existing pupils and d) children living nearest to the school. Equally importantly, Graveney School will itself retain its existing admissions criteria, so the new school will not become a feeder for Graveney and pupils of other local schools such as Furzedown and Penwortham will continue to be likely to gain admission due to their proximity to Graveney. As the proposal originated from the need to provide additional local places, the expectation is that the new school should not pose a threat to existing schools but will enhance local provision for parents at a time of growing demand.

The funding agreement requires the proposed free school has regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) and any guidance issues relating to sections 316 and 316A of the Education Act. It also requires the proposed free school to “use its best endeavours to, in exercising its functions in relation to the school, to secure that, if any registered pupil has special educational needs, the special educational needs provision which the pupil’s learning difficulty calls for is made”.

The general conditions of grant for the proposed free school also require it to have an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupils, including pupils with SEN both those with and without a statement of SEN.

## Faith

The proposed free school is a non-denominational and therefore is unlikely to specifically have a negative impact on pupils with regard to their faith or beliefs. It will provide religious education and collective worship provision in line with that offered in other non-denominational maintained schools.

Information on the faith of pupils in the 11 local primary schools is not collected and therefore it is not possible to estimate the potential impact of the proposals on the school population.

## Age

The proposed school provides primary education for children aged 4 – 11 years to statutorily defined age groups and therefore age is not considered as part of this assessment.

## Sexual Orientation

Information on sexual orientation is not collected so it has not been possible to assess the impact in this area.

6. What does your review of the information show?	Evidence for your answer
a )No impact continue with policy	Data in relation to gender, ethnicity and disability shows that the likely cohort of the school is likely to broadly reflect the profile of the other schools in the area. The evidence suggests that proposed arrangements, in terms of admissions and the funding agreement for the proposed free school would have no significant impact on young people and their families in relation to the protected characteristic groups.
b) Adjust policy in light of impact	
c)Continue with the policy despite impact	
d) stop policy	

7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed policy or mitigate any negative impact?
None



<b>8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective?</b>	
Race	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Gender	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Disability	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Faith	Collected
Age	Not required
Sexual Orientation	Not collected

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