



**LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

**DECISIONS:** to be made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley.

**MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2019**

**At 11:00AM or at the conclusion of Lead Member for Children & Families whichever is the later.**

**COMMITTEE ROOM - COUNTY HALL, LEWES**

**A G E N D A**

- 1 Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 24 June 2019 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
- 2 Disclosures of interests  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
- 3 Urgent items  
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
- 4 East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019/20 (*Pages 5 - 38*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 5 Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023 (*Pages 39 - 126*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 6 School age range change - Stonegate Church of England Primary School (*Pages 127 - 130*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 7 Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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27 September 2019

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## **LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley, on 24 June 2019 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillors Galley and Field spoke on item 4 (see minute 8)

### **7 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 3 JUNE 2019**

7.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2019.

### **8 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

8.1 Councillor Standley declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 4 as a member of Wealden District Council and as a member of Wealden District Council's Local Plan Sub-Committee.

8.2 Councillor Galley declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 4 as a member of Wealden District Council

### **9 REPORTS**

9.1 A copy of the report referred to below is included in the minute book

### **10 AREA REVIEW OF RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION**

10.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding a review of rural primary schools in East Sussex.

10.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to –

1) agree that the local authority takes forward a statutory process to consult on the closure of Broad Oak Community Primary School by 31 August 2020;

2) agree that the Local Authority takes forward a statutory process to consult on the closure of Fletching CE Primary School by 31 August 2020; and

3) agree that the consultations on the proposals would begin on 5 July 2019 and run until 11 October 2019

Reason

10.3 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, included as part of its Core Offer, to ensure there is the right number of school places in the right areas. It also has a duty to ensure that schools can offer a viable, high quality education to their pupils. An increasing number of small schools in East Sussex face uncertainty in terms of their ability to deliver a high quality education that meets the needs of their local community and that is financially viable. As the body responsible for school organisation the Local Authority has a duty to take a strategic view of the school landscape. The number of schools facing financial challenges, and coming to the Children's Services Department and Orbis for support means that it cannot ignore the issues they are facing. Taking action now to rationalise provision in a number of areas would provide

the remaining schools with more certainty over their pupil numbers, enabling them to operate more effectively and efficiently in terms of financial performance and with less surplus places.

10.4 Taking action at Broad Oak and Fletching now will reduce the risk to the Local Authority of managing financial deficits and quality of education provision in these very small schools which impacts directly on children and their families. Doing nothing at this time is not an option – it would simply exacerbate the situation and place more small schools at risk of closure in the coming years as a greater number of schools would become unviable. There is a reputational risk to the Local Authority if appropriate action is not taken in a timely, controlled manner now which is then required at a future date.

10.5 The area review has been a thorough process, fully supported by the Diocese of Chichester, and has involved engagement and dialogue with a number of rural schools. The Children's Services Department has listened carefully to what schools have told it throughout the process and, in some cases, this has resulted in changes to its proposals and in other cases confirmed its initial thinking. For some schools the review has generated opportunities which provide them with a potential solution to the challenges they face.

10.6 The proposals would ensure the Local Authority is able to fulfil its statutory obligations and ensure a sustainable network of rural schools in East Sussex that offer the highest quality of education

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **7 October 2019**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019/20**

Purpose of report: **To approve the publication of the latest update to the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019/20**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

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**The Lead Member is recommended to approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019/20**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 East Sussex County Council (the Council) has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, across the county for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

1.2 The Council, through the Childcare Act, 2006, has a role in shaping the childcare market. The Council seeks to achieve this by working in partnership with key stakeholders including schools and providers from the private, voluntary and independent sectors (PVI) to create a sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning.

1.3 In support of our statutory obligation, the Council publishes a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the purpose of which is to understand the current and projected supply and demand for early education and childcare places, including the affordability, accessibility and quality of available places. The assessment will also identify any gaps in provision and describe how these gaps will be addressed.

1.4 Until now the sufficiency of early years places has been covered in the Education Commissioning Plan covering. In future it is proposed that this is covered in a separate, annual, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the first of which covers the period 2019/20. The report has been produced using the most recent sets of data which take account of the latest information on births and population trends, the childcare provider market, housing developments and parental take-up of funded places. The draft report can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

### **2. East Sussex context**

2.1 As of April 2019 East Sussex had 408 early years' education and childcare providers across all sectors; maintained, PVI and childminders.

2.2 In line with the falling birth rate in the county, current early years forecasts indicate that across the county there is sufficient capacity within the sector to meet demand. Forecasts show there is no imminent shortfalls in our major towns, although by the middle of the next decade places in Hailsham and Bexhill could be tight due to the volumes of new housing development in these areas. Wivelsfield Parish, with increased volumes of new housing is also showing a potential shortfall, but as new housing is on the fringes of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill families may look for early years provision in these West Sussex towns. The situation in each area will be updated in subsequent versions of the report.

2.3 The quality of early education in East Sussex is high. At the end of December 2018, 98.9% of early years providers were judged to be Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. This compares favourably with the national average of 95.2%

### **3. Conclusions and reasons for recommendation**

3.1 In conclusion, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient early education and childcare places to meet present and future demand across the county. The updated Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for the period 2019/2020 clearly sets out the projected demand for places in the

future and where we think we will need to support the sector to provide additional places in the right locations to meet parental demand.

3.2 Accordingly, the Lead Member is recommended to approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2019/20.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019/20

**Appendix 1**



**East Sussex  
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment  
2019**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1.** The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a statutory document that outlines how East Sussex County Council (the local authority) plans to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).' The compiling and publication of this CSA meets the local authority's statutory duty under sections 6 and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006, and is also in line with local authority statutory guidance.
- 1.2.** This report focuses on two key areas of the childcare market in East Sussex:
  - measuring the demand for, and supply of childcare within the five districts of East Sussex identifying gaps in the market
  - planning how to support the childcare market within East Sussex to address any shortfall.
- 1.3.** The report will assess the supply and demand of current levels of provision and compare with known capacity to predict future demand based on population data, so that any shortfall can be identified.
- 1.4.** The Childcare Act 2006 gives local authorities a role in shaping the childcare market. The local authority is committed to working with providers from the private, voluntary and independent sectors (PVI) and the maintained sector to create a sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning.
- 1.5.** Local authorities are required to report annually to elected members and publish information for parents to show how each authority is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes providing specific information about:
  - the current and projected supply and demand for early education and childcare places
  - affordability, accessibility and quality of early education and childcare places and details of how any gaps in provision will be addressed
- 1.6** Settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) may be PVI organisations or schools. All provision is funded either by government entitlements or by parents.
- 1.7** The Childcare Act 2006 also requires the following actions and measures which identify the strategic role local authorities' play. Local authorities are required by government to support (though not necessarily provide) the following:
  - early education places for two, three and four year olds supporting eligibility, flexibility and quality
  - distributing the funding streams that support early education places
  - securing sufficient childcare so far as is practicable in a free market

- providing information to parents/carers
- providing information, support and training to early education and childcare providers

**1.8** Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places for every eligible child in their area, offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks per year and up to 52 weeks of the year, until the child reaches compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday).

Eligibility depends on a child's age and whether they meet certain funding criteria.

Fig.1 Funded early education criteria by age group

Funded early education		Criteria
All 3 and 4 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 570 hours. The 570 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approximately 11 hours per week).	This is the universal entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds until they enter Reception class as a rising 5 at a state funded school. If parents choose not to take up a school place in the September following the child's fourth birthday, they can choose to continue to take up their child's funded place at a PVI childcare provider until their child reaches compulsory school age.
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds	Up to an additional 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, equivalent to 1,140 hours. The 1,140 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approximately 22 hours per week).	Extended entitlement for working parents. The extended entitlement is for either lone working parents or families where both parents are working, and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. Eligibility is determined by HMRC.
Eligible 2 year olds	15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year. The 570 hours can be stretched up to 52 weeks a year (approx. 11 hours per week).	For parents on either low income or a range of benefits (including Universal Credit; the child is looked after by the local authority; has left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order; is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or has a statement of Educational need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC plan).

Source: Statutory Guidance for local authorities published by the Department for Education (DfE) June 2018

**1.9** All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 15 hours a week, or 570 hours a year of funded early education. Since September 2017 some 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours a week, or 1,140 hours a year of funded childcare. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family is working), and each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. This also includes self-employed parents.

## **2. Key findings**

The key findings are summarised below, more information on each of the key areas is provided in other sections of this document.

### **2.1 East Sussex is growing and changing**

The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by nearly 55,300 to 607,473 between 2017 and 2032 (East Sussex in Figures (ESIF) published in May 2019). Forecasts project that there will be a decline in the working age population (18-64) of over 4% to 295,000 people in 2031 and a further 35,100 more homes will be required. For further details see section 5.

### **2.2 Across the county there are sufficient 0-5 childcare places to meet demand**

Data taken from the local authority's early years forecasting model (September 2019) indicates that across the county there is sufficient capacity within the sector to meet demand. The forecasts show that there are no imminent shortfalls in the major towns – although places could be tight in Hailsham and Bexhill by the middle of the next decade. Wivelsfield Parish, with relatively high volumes of new housing, is also showing a potential shortfall, although some of the new housing is on the fringes of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill and some parents may look to provision in these West Sussex towns instead. For further details see section 7.

### **2.3 The quality of early education and childcare in East Sussex is high**

- 98.9% of early years providers were judged to be Good or Outstanding at the end of December 2018, comparing favourably with the national average of 95.2%, for further details see section 10
- The percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage is above the national average, for further details see section 10.

### **2.4 The cost of childcare remains below national averages**

- The average charge by providers for day-care childcare in East Sussex is £4.50 per hour. The national average according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare Survey 2019 for children aged three and four is £4.92.

[familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2019](https://familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2019)

- In April 2019 92% of funded providers in East Sussex offered the extended hours for the 30 hour entitlement to families in their care.

For further details see section 7

## **2.5 The childcare picture in East Sussex**

- There has been a higher than national decline in the numbers of childminders in East Sussex since 2015, 20% compared to 17% nationally. In the year August 2017 to August 2018 East Sussex saw a drop of 6% in the number of childminders.
- The number of full day care/sessional settings and childminders' that closed in 2018 was sixty-six, of those fifty-five (83%) were childminders. In the same period twenty-five new providers, settings and childminders, opened.
- Historically many families have adapted their work pattern or used informal childcare options such as grandparents or friends to manage their childcare needs. This data was supported by findings from phone calls made to families as part of the expansion to funded 2 year places from June 2014 to July 2016, where eligible families reported the reasons they did not take-up a funded place.

### **3. Childcare sufficiency – areas for development**

To ensure a sufficient supply of high quality early years and childcare provision, the local authority will:

#### **3.1 Data/Sufficiency**

- Propose to undertake termly availability audits electronically through the online provider portal as well as an annual data refresh. This will ensure any sufficiency issues are addressed as quickly as possible.
- Encourage the Early Years Hubs to work together in partnership to better understand local availability to meet parental demand.
- Monitor areas of new housing development and community growth to target new early year's places. Development to be aligned with school place planning priorities where applicable.
- Continue to monitor all sectors of the market to identify potential reasons for any decline in provider numbers.
- Use the early years forecasting model to analyse sufficiency across all five districts looking particularly at supply and demand.
- Encourage take-up of funded places, particularly 2 year old funded places, in areas where take-up rates are lower.

#### **3.2 Family Information**

- Use social media and the East Sussex Children and Families web pages to widen access to information about early education and home learning.
- Help parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.

#### **3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

- Improve the quality of existing web-based information and extend the number of topics available for providers to access including Special Educational Needs, behaviour, funding, universal childcare support and increase usage of social media.
- Ensure all information is up to date and accessible via the Local Offer.
- Use data from across the local authority to ensure all children identified with SEND are accessing their early education entitlement and that support is in place.
- Improve the skills and knowledge of the early years providers to meet the needs of children with SEND through reviewing inclusion groups and implementing on-line SENco training that can be accessed by all early years' providers and not just the setting SENco.
- Continually review and update current training offers to providers with a specific SEND focus, most of which is offered at no cost to childcare settings.

## **4. Support for Parents**

### **4.1 Affordability**

To be sustainable childcare providers need to ensure their operating costs are met by the income generated. At the same time, childcare needs to be affordable to parent and carers.

The local authority cannot determine the business models of childcare providers as the sector is influenced by market forces. However the local authority does have a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient affordable childcare for families who need it and manage the market where a gap is identified.

Current legislation states that local authorities cannot intervene in how a provider operates its private business. This includes charges for provision over and above a child's funded place.

### **4.2 Help with childcare costs**

There are options available to parents and carers to help with childcare costs. Parents and carers must select the option that best suits their personal circumstances. Further information for parents and carers in East Sussex can be found by following:

[east sussex-help with childcare costs](#)

## 5. Population

- 5.1 According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2018 mid-year estimates, the population in East Sussex is around 554,590. This is approximately 1% of the population of England. The population is projected to increase by nearly 10% by 2032.

Fig. 2 Population projections (all ages) from 2018 to 2032

Year	Population 2018	Population 2032	Actual Change 2018-2032	% Change 2017-2032
East Sussex	554,590	607,473	52,883	10

Source: East Sussex County Council projections, May 2019

- 5.2 It is estimated that there are a 106,000 children aged 0-17 in East Sussex.
- 5.3 Over the last decade the population in East Sussex has increased by 6.81%

Fig.3 Population Increase (all ages) in the last decade 2008 to 2018

Source: ONS Mid-year estimates, published June 2019

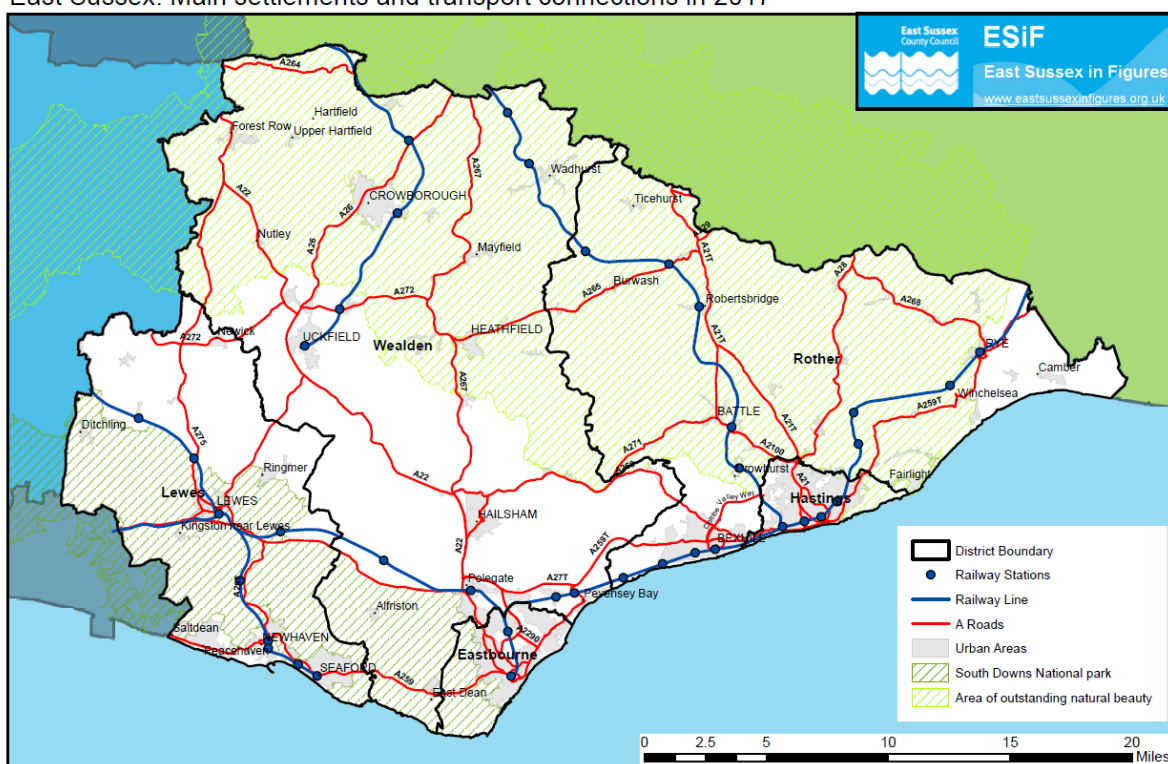
	2008	2018	Percentage change 2008-2018
England	51,815,853	55,977,178,	8.0%
East Sussex	519,197	554,590	6.8%
Eastbourne	98,361	103,160	4.9%
Hastings	88,722	92,855	4.7%
Lewes	95,455	102,744	7.6%
Rother	90,120	95,656	6.1%
Wealden	146,539	160,175	9.3%

- 5.4 East Sussex comprises five borough and district council areas: Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden (Fig.4).



Fig.4 Map of the five borough and district council areas in East Sussex

East Sussex: Main settlements and transport connections in 2017



**5.5** The table in figure 5 below shows the breakdown of numbers of children aged 0-17 and disabled children aged 10-17 using the ONS mid-year estimates 2018 and disability projections

Fig.5 Projected number of children with overall disability in 2018

	Total population aged 0-17	Total population aged 10-17	Projected number of children with overall disability Aged 10 to 17
<b>East Sussex</b>	106,378	48,105	1,874
<b>Eastbourne</b>	19,975	8,592	387
<b>Hastings</b>	19,243	8,137	382
<b>Lewes</b>	20,079	9,313	323
<b>Rother</b>	16,140	7,533	312
<b>Wealden</b>	30,941	14,530	471

Source ESiF: East Sussex County Council Projections May 2019

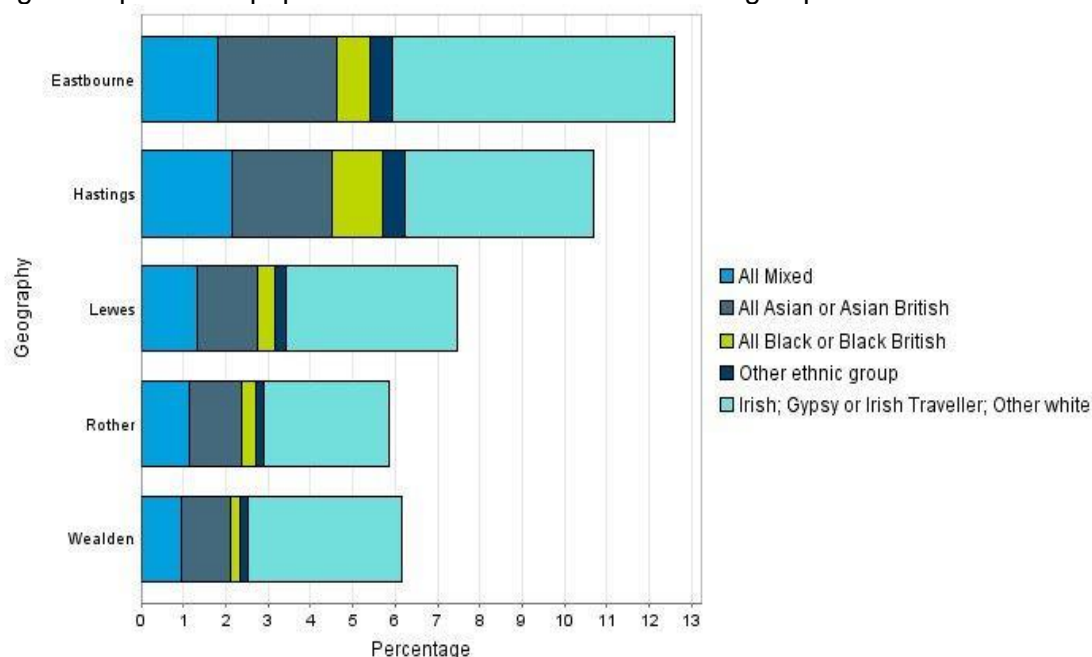
**5.6** In the latest published Department of Works and Pensions Family Resources Survey 2017/18, (published 29 March, 2019), around 8% of children and young people are disabled.

**5.7** East Sussex is a county of extremes and is predominately rural in character. Of its five boroughs and districts, three are larger and rural: Lewes, Wealden and Rother, with Eastbourne and Hastings being mainly urban. Nearly three

quarters of the population live in urban areas (58% live in the coastal urban areas and a further 18% live in market towns).

- 5.8** Just over 25% of families in East Sussex live in a rural area with these children being largely served by pre-schools and childminders.
- 5.9** The population in East Sussex is characterised by a predominately White British population, with Eastbourne and Hastings having the largest levels of other ethnicities.

Fig. 6 Proportion of population of non-White British ethnic groups in 2011

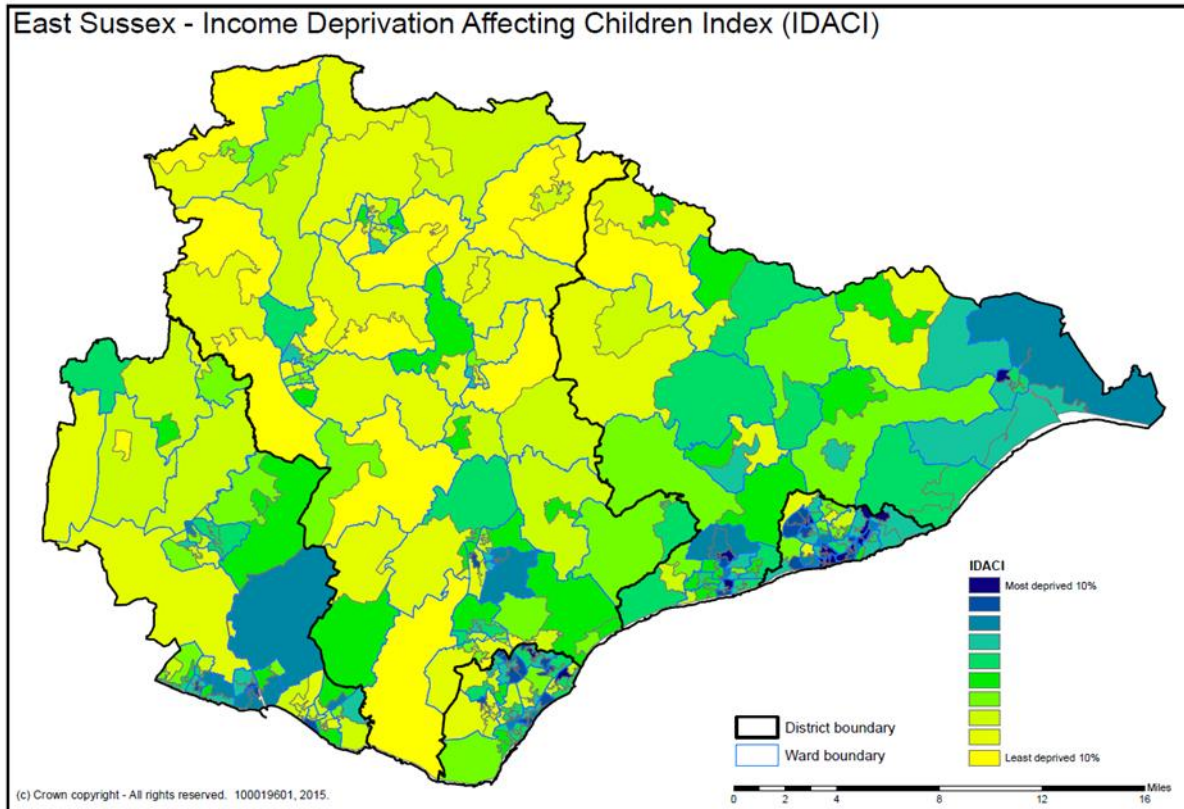


Source: ESiF-: Ethnic group in 2011 - super output areas

- 5.10** There are around 50 languages spoken in East Sussex. For 3,945 school children English is not their first language. 18.3% of these children are aged 0-5. Polish is the most widely spoken first language other than English across schools in East Sussex, with Portuguese being the second and Arabic the third. (Source: January 2019 School Census - Pupil Count Final-EAL)
- 5.11** The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. The map below (Fig.7) shows the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The small areas used are called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), and there are 32,844 in England. The measures rank every LSOA in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). The 10% of LSOAs with the lowest rank in the country are in the most deprived decile (coloured

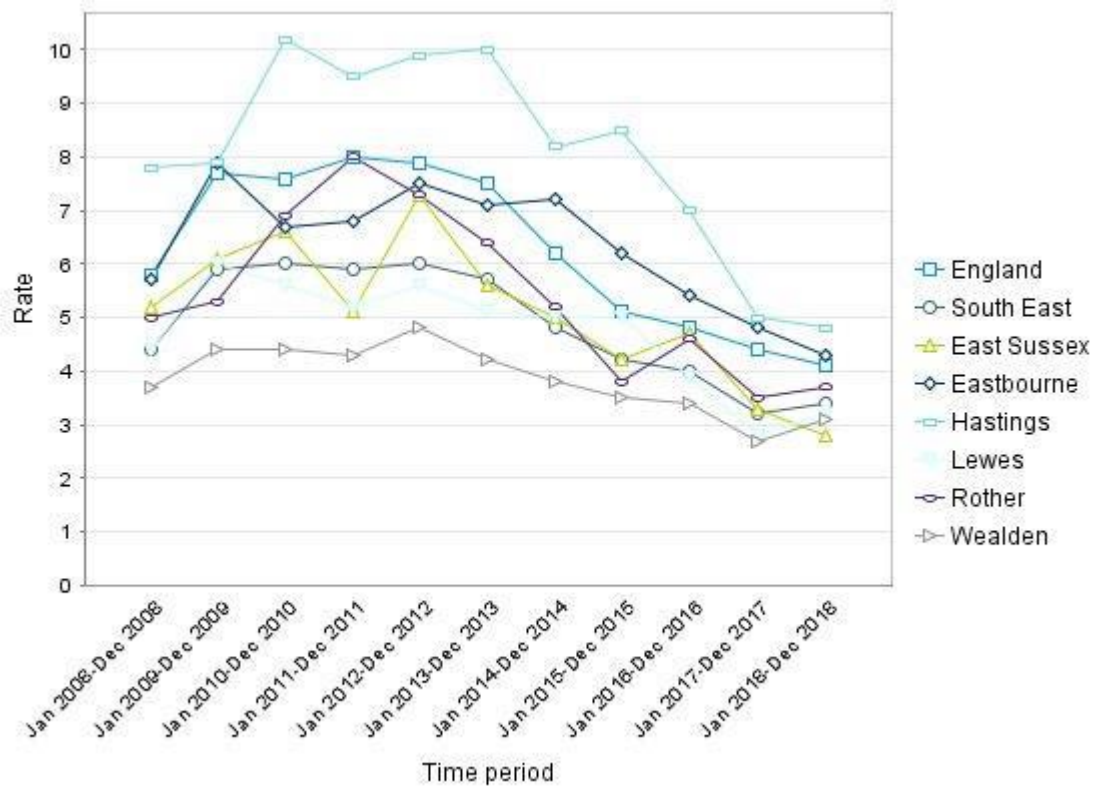
dark blue on the map below), and the 10% highest rank are in the least deprived decile (yellow).

Fig. 7 National deprivation rank in neighbourhoods LSOAs in East Sussex



- 5.12** Two Hastings neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived 1% in the country, situated in Baird and Tressell wards. Seven Hastings neighbourhoods are among the most deprived 5% nationally, along with one neighbourhood in Bexhill.
- 5.13** East Sussex has a higher number of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile (6%) compared to the rest of the South East (3%).
- 5.14** The labour market profile comparison between East Sussex, South East of England and England shows East Sussex is performing better than average for being economically active but falls behind the South East average.
- 5.15** Figure 8 below shows unemployment rates for the ten years from 2008. Unemployment rates in East Sussex reflect the downward England and regional trend since 2013. At the end of 2018, the rate in East Sussex (2.8%) was lower than the England average (4.0%). The rate was above national average in Hastings (4.8%) and Eastbourne (4.03%).

Fig. 8 Unemployment estimates, 2008-2018 - districts



Source: ESIF Model-based estimates from Annual Population Survey data combined with Claimant Count Data.

## 6. Projected Housing Growth

- 6.1** There are several major growth areas in East Sussex which will see future economic growth, new housing, new schools and other infrastructure planning and investment. New housing will attract the need for childcare provision that may be above the supply level of existing provision, see Fig.9.

Fig.9 Number of new dwellings to be built by area

Adopted Local Plans (adoption date)	Number of dwellings over plan period
Lewes: Joint Core Strategy (June 2016)	6,900 (2010-2030) 345 p.a.
Hastings: The Hastings Planning Strategy (February 2014)	3,400 (2011-2028) 200 p.a.
Eastbourne: Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013)	5,022 (2006-2027) 239 p.a.
Rother: Core Strategy (September 2014)	5,700 (2011-2028) 335 p.a.
Wealden: Core Strategy (January 2019)	14,228 (2013-2028) 949 p.a.

Source: East Sussex State of the County Report - 2019

- 6.2** Substantial new housing developments are planned in Hailsham and Bexhill and this is where we are likely to see the biggest increase in demand for early years and childcare provision. The Wivelsfield area also has relatively high volumes of new housing so there are indications that there will be an increased demand for childcare in the area. Some of the new housing is on the fringes of Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill so some parents may look to find provision in these towns.

## 7. Sufficiency of childcare places

- 7.1** East Sussex has 517 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate more than one type of childcare, such as a school having a breakfast and after school club as well as a nursery or a pre-school offering a holiday club.

Fig.10 Number of providers by type in East Sussex

Childcare Provider Type	April 2019
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	233
Maintained/Academy Nursery	41
Independent School Nursery	13
Nursery	182
Crèche	4
Nanny	19
Standalone Holiday Play Scheme	25

Source: East Sussex Synergy FIS Portal- April 2019

- 7.2** Not all childcare providers offer the funded early education places. The table below shows the number of childcare providers offering funded early education places in both the PVI sector and those run by local authority-maintained schools and academies, by borough and district council area.

Fig.11 Number of providers by sector in Each District

District	Nursery Provision & Childminders			School Provision		
	Nursery Private	Nursery Voluntary	Childminder	Academy	Maintained (Inc. Children Centres)	Independent
Eastbourne	25	6	29	5	2	3
Hastings	19	13	18	8	1	0
Lewes	24	10	26	2	9	0
Rother	13	19	12	3	3	5
Wealden	22	28	30	2	6	5

- 7.3** The number and distribution of funded childcare places being offered by childcare providers varies between districts, with most places located within urban areas. For families living in rural areas the choice of type of provision is more limited.

Fig.12 Number of full time equivalent (FTE) places available by borough / district v FTE demand for all children

Districts	Provider capacity (FTE Places)	FTE demand all children				
	2019/20 Onwards	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Eastbourne	2,409	1,794	1,813	1,862	1,863	1,762
Hastings	1,781	1,452	1,518	1,600	1,626	1,501
Lewes	1,886	1,524	1,585	1,647	1,680	1,625

Rother	1,647	1,333	1,359	1,390	1,400	1,356
Wealden	2,780	2,092	2,118	2,191	2,226	2,319
East Sussex Total	10,503	8,176	8,224	8,424	8,501	8,564

Source: Early years forecasting model results (Apr 19) – August 2019

- 7.4** Take up of the 15 hour universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is high across all areas of the county. Figure 13 shows the number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing their universal 15 hour offer by borough / district. The population estimate contains children already accessing a Reception class place in school.

Fig.13 Number of 3 & 4 year olds accessing a funded place in April 2019

District	Number of children accessing a Universal 15 hour offer place in April 2019	Population estimate of 3 and 4 year olds - 2018
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>8,319</b>	<b>11,433</b>
Eastbourne	1765	2,340
Hastings	1683	2,214
Lewes	1411	2,061
Rother	1078	1,597
Wealden	2382	3,221

Source: East Sussex Headcount data – April 2019

- 7.5** Analysis of the supply and demand of places for eligible funded 2 year olds shows that take-up is slower than for the universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement. Only 40% of the 2 year old population meet the Department for Education's (DfE) eligibility criteria to access a funded place and the economic and social vulnerability of these families can impact on take-up rates. One key factor is parental preference for wanting to keep very young children at home; this is particularly relevant for 2 year olds. Local childcare offers which do not meet parental preferences and informal childcare being used instead of a more formal option such as a nursery all contribute to the impact on the pattern of take-up. Figure 14 shows the number of eligible 2 year olds accessing a funded early education place by district.

Fig.14 Number of eligible funded 2 year olds accessing a funded place in April 2019

District	Number of funded 2 year olds accessing the 15 hour offer	Population estimate of all 2 year olds - 2018
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>5,452</b>
Eastbourne	290	1,087
Hastings	442	1,084
Lewes	182	942
Rother	186	751
Wealden	257	1,588

Source: East Sussex Headcount data – April 2019

- 7.6** In East Sussex, the number of children taking up the extended entitlement (30 hours) for the summer claim period 2019 equates to 35.4% of the total number of 3 and 4 years accessing a funded early education place. This is an increase of 4.2% on the same period in 2018.



- 7.7** Data regarding the cost of childcare is not currently gathered via the Early Years Census in January each year but this will commence in East Sussex from January 2020. Figures 15, 16 and 17 show the current average cost of 25 hours of childcare a week (part-time place) and 50 hours of childcare a week (full-time place), nationally and in the South East.

Fig. 15 Average cost of 25 hours of childcare for children 0-5

<b>Cost of 25 hours a week childcare</b>	<b>Nursery under two</b>	<b>Two and over</b>	<b>Childminder under two</b>	<b>Two and over</b>
<b>England</b>	£124.73	£120.99	£110.61	£109.95
<b>South East</b>	£141.70	£131.16	£121.82	£120.12

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

Fig. 16 Average cost of 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5

<b>Cost of 50 hours a week childcare</b>	<b>Nursery under two</b>	<b>Two and over</b>	<b>Childminder under two</b>	<b>Two and over</b>
<b>England</b>	£236.19	£231.75	£218.22	£217.06
<b>South East</b>	£267.36	£260.86	£243.64	£240.24

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

Fig. 17 Average cost of 25 or 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5 accessing funded hours

	<b>Cost of 25 hours a week childcare, including universal entitlement for three and four year olds (paying for 10 hours)</b>	<b>50 hours a week, including extended entitlement (paying for 20 hours)</b>
<b>England</b>	£49.36	£94.42
<b>South East</b>	£52.23	£103.46

Source: Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2018

- 7.8** Childcare for younger children is often more expensive due to factors such as staff/child ratios etc. Most parents find that their childcare costs reduce as their child grows and all children are entitled to some form of funded nursery education from the funding period following their third birthday, meaning childcare fees for parents fall.



## **8. Consultation with Parents**

**8.1** Consultation with parents and carers is an important part of establishing the demand for childcare. The last childcare survey was undertaken in February 2017 prior to the roll out of the 30 hours extended childcare offer. At that time:

- There were 502 parental responses
- 92% of those that responded had a child 3 years old or under
- 70% of parents wanted childcare all year round
- 83% of respondents wanted childcare on Monday to Fridays only
- 5.4% wanted childcare on Saturdays and 4.2% wanted Sundays
- 79% of parents wanted between 20-30 hours of childcare a week
- 37% respondents were willing to use more than one provider

Parents will be invited to complete a survey during the spring of 2020 via the East Sussex Consultation Hub to establish on-going demand for childcare within East Sussex.

## **9. Demand for childcare**

- 9.1** The local authority's Customer Relations Team (which incorporates the Family Information Service) takes enquiries by email, social media and by phone between 10am and 3pm during week days. This service helps parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand and access the benefits of high quality childcare and early learning for their children.
- 9.2** For the period 1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019, the Customer Relations Team responded to 1,787 enquiries. The enquiry data shows that childcare and early learning enquiries were the 6th most common enquiry. The most common enquiry was about applying for our i-go leisure card for children with disabilities.
- 9.3** Direct enquiries to the Customer Relations Team have decreased steadily over the past years as the web content offer has developed. In May 2018 the number of calls to the team was 112. This reduced to 83 in May 2019.
- 9.4** More people are now using the local authority's website to answer their questions on help with the cost of childcare and the linked directory East Sussex Community Information Service website to find childcare. When customers do contact the Customer Relations Team, these contacts are now more often via digital means (email, web form or social media). The helpline now receives the more complex enquiries regarding eligibility to additional available funding streams from professionals working with vulnerable families.
- 9.5** The Customer Relations team uses social media to promote the Early Years Education Entitlement, 30 hours funded childcare and tax-free childcare. The top Facebook post in 2018 (ranked by engagement) reached 32,004 people had 3,460 likes, 3,684 followers, shares and 25,620 engagements.
- 9.6** In the period from 1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019 the number of 'entrances' where visitors entered our website through our Help with childcare costs page about funded childcare was up 26.4% and the bounce rate\* was down 7.1% compared with the same period in the previous year. The page has information about funded early education, tax credits and childcare vouchers for parents and professionals working with families, such as social workers and health visitors.

(\*when a user enters the site and leaves instantly without spending any time in the site)

Source: East Sussex customer management system – Fresh Desk and East Sussex social media management platform - Hootsuite

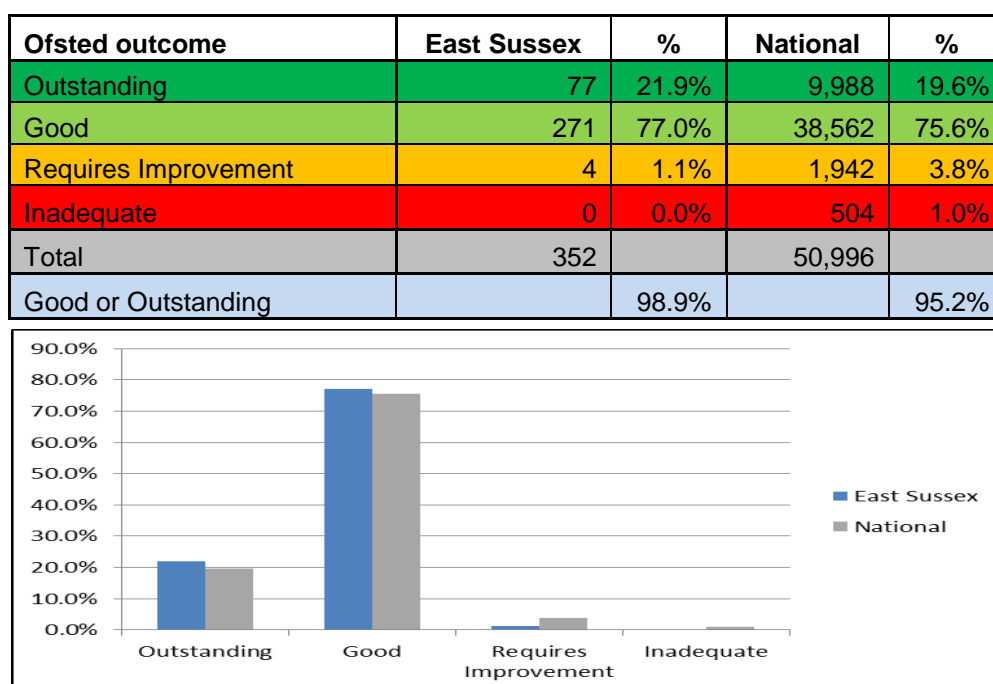
## 10. Quality of provision & workforce development in East Sussex

- 10.1** Evidence shows that the quality of childcare is a significant factor affecting a child's future chances. High-quality early education improves children's school readiness and cognitive development, whilst poor-quality early education does very little to boost children's development.

### [joseph rowntree blog-30 hours](#)

- 10.2** The quality of early provision is measured through inspections undertaken by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). Ofsted is the sole arbiter of quality and through the inspection process each setting will receive one of four grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate) depending on the inspection findings.
- 10.3** Data on the inspection outcomes of registered early years and childcare providers in East Sussex at their most recent inspection compared to the national picture shows the quality of provision across East Sussex is higher than the national average. By the end of December 2018 98.9% of registered early years providers were judged good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Fig. 18 EY providers: Ofsted inspection grades at 31st December 2018



Source: Ofsted Outcomes December 2018

- 10.4** Support is available for providers to improve the quality of delivery and meet the requirements of the EYFS and Ofsted. The quality of provision plays an important part in the sufficiency of places.

- 10.5** All newly registered early years providers and childminders in East Sussex are offered a package of support by our team of Early Years Support and Intervention Officers. The support entails a management and safeguarding audit and observations of practice to ensure providers are confident in delivering the Statutory Framework for the EYFS. With this continued support offered through until inspection all our new early years providers have achieved good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection.
- 10.6** In 2019, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS was 76%, remaining above the national average for the fifth consecutive year by 4%.

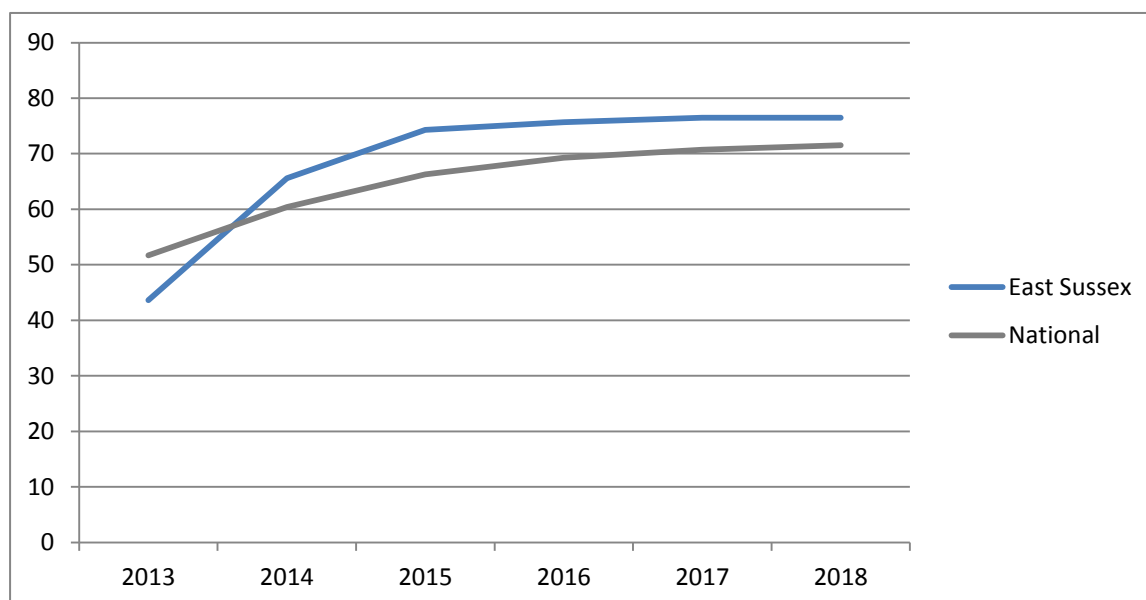
Fig. 19 Comparison of East Sussex EYFSP results against national

**EYFSP results: Percentage achieving a good level of development**

	East Sussex	National
2013	43.6	51.7
2014	65.6	60.4
2015	74.3	66.3
2016	75.7	69.3
2017	76.5	70.7
2018	76.5	71.5
2019	76.0	71.8

Source: DfE Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results: 2018

Fig. 20 Comparison of East Sussex EYFSP results against National



Source: DfE Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results: 2018

- 10.7** In 2018, the attainment of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS was 61.3%, remaining 5.1% above the national average. The percentage difference

between FSM pupils and national non-FSM pupils in 2018 was 12.5%, 4.8% below the national average.

- 10.8** The local authority has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the Early Years Team aims to improve outcomes for children through the development of a highly skilled workforce. The training is available to practitioners working in any registered provision, as well as prospective childminders. Courses are subsidised for the private and voluntary sector.
- 10.9** Bespoke training is also provided for free to whole teams in settings on a package of support or as a traded service. Feedback from providers evidences that the training is needed and valued. Priority is given to providers who have received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade to improve practice.
- 10.10** Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county, and this reflects a national issue. East Sussex Council provides a recruitment website for use by providers to support the appointment and development of their workforce.
- 10.11** The Early Years Team are developing Early Years Hubs for Excellence, which is part of our approach to enable the variety of providers – private, voluntary, childminders, independent, maintained and academy, to work together to deliver sustained improvements. Currently there are 16 Hubs which are linked to the Education Improvement Partnerships (EIP's). Each Early Years Hub has its own action plan where the focus is agreed by accessing data outcomes which informs the training and support to the early years sector.
- 10.12** East Sussex has also been funded by the DfE from the Early Years Social Mobility Programme to develop two Continuous Professional Development (CPD) partnerships in areas with high levels of children in receipt of 2 year funding and early years pupil premium (EYPP). The funding will support the training of four practitioners in each partnership which will be delivered by the DfE's national partner Educational Development Trust (EDT), in partnership with Elklan Ltd. This programme is to support the DfE's target to halve by 2028 the percentage of children leaving Reception year without the communication, language and literacy skills they need to thrive and it is anticipated that this will reach beyond our two partnerships via the Early Years Hubs for Excellence.
- 10.13** East Sussex is involved in a Baby Room Project which supports practitioners in baby rooms to reflect on their day-to-day interactions with the children in their care and researching how to improve their practice in early communication to support quality childcare.

- 10.14** The Integrated Progress Review (IPR) is now embedded amongst our health visitors and early years practitioners; this will allow swifter intervention and support to children identified through the review process.
- 10.15** The REAL Creative project (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy), encourages families to take advantage of the wonderful resources available in our libraries and to share the joy of reading together. The project builds around the four strands of early literacy – oral language, early mark making, a love of books and environmental print.
- 10.16** '50 Things to do before you're 5', is a list of fun and educational activities for families, carers and childcare practitioners to do across East Sussex – all at low-cost or no cost. The objective being to help solve the problem of children reaching their first school experience with low literacy levels, language skills, or just a lack of life experiences.

## **11. SEND**

**11.1** Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND). Nationally it is recognised parents often find it challenging to access childcare, this may be due to parental confidence in the provider's ability to attend to their child's individual needs.

**11.2** All childcare settings are required to comply with the SEND Code of Practice and with the requirements of EYFS. A wide range of activities and clubs for young people with a disability or additional needs across East Sussex are listed on the East Sussex Local Offer pages at

[east sussex special needs and disability-local offer](#)

**11.3** Research suggests some childcare providers may not be as confident in their own ability to meet the needs of children with a high level medical need. The local authority offers providers training and specialist equipment if appropriate. The Children's Services works and Health teams within the local authority work in partnership to ensure providers have access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.

**11.4** Information on childcare is available to all parents online. Additional information is available to parents of children with SEND via the East Sussex Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents to gain access to the funded early years entitlement offer.

**11.5** There is a statutory duty for all local authorities to provide an SEN Inclusion Fund. This stream of funding has been operating in East Sussex since 2010. This funding is a contribution for early years providers to meet the individual needs of children with SEN and who are in receipt of 3 and 4 year old early education funding. If appropriate funding can be allocated to children prior to their being age eligible to access early education funding. In the spring 2019 funding period 121 children were in receipt of this funding stream and attended 91 different early years' providers. In the summer 2019 funding period the number of funded children rose to 137, attending 84 early years' providers.

**11.6** For children with more complex needs additional funding support is provided via a combination of funding streams including Early Years and High Needs Block. For some children joint funding will be allocated from both the Children's Services and Health teams within the local authority.

**11.7** Although there is no statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2 year old Early Education funding, support within East Sussex is not age dependent so provision is made for this age group. Requests for additional funding can be made if a child has an identified need

that requires additional support The number of awards made in the spring 2019 funding period was 34.

- 11.8** In April 2017, the Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced for early years providers to support children with SEND. Its purpose is to remove ‘barriers’ which prevent children from accessing their free early education entitlement. To attract DAF, children must be receiving Disability Living Allowance and be in receipt of the 3 and 4 year early education entitlement. This funding is paid annually to the provider nominated by the parent/carer. In the financial year 2018/19 East Sussex made a DAF payment to 78 children.
- 11.9** In April 2015 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), was introduced to enable childcare providers delivering the funded nursery education entitlement for three and four year olds to apply for additional funding of up to £300 per year, per eligible child, to support children from families on certain benefits. Children are also eligible if they are Looked After by the local authority, adopted from care or have left care under a special guardianship or residence order.
- 11.10** During the summer 2019 funding period 8,319 three and four year olds claimed early education funding. EYPP payments were made for 1,020 children to childcare providers in both the PVI and maintained sectors across East Sussex. This represents 12.26% of the number of 3 and 4 year old children claiming early years education funding.
- 11.12** The identification of eligible children relies upon parents making schools and settings aware so that they can apply for the funding. To ensure as many parents as possible talk with their childcare provider about possible eligibility, publicity work through leaflets and the local authority’s website continue to raise awareness and increase the take-up rate.

[east sussex information on early years pupil premium](#)



## **12. Looked After Children**

- 12.1** Looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.
- 12.2** In East Sussex 66 looked after children accessed a funded place with childcare providers during the 2019 summer funding period.
- 12.3** The local authority's Early Years Funding Team works closely with colleagues in the Virtual School team, Adoption and Special Guardianship teams and Fostering teams to track looked after children to identify access to early years provision. However it is acknowledged that childcare provision may not be suitable for all looked after young children.
- 12.4** From September 2018 children in foster care have been able to be funded for the extended entitlement (30 hours). In East Sussex, three children were funded under these criteria within the summer 2019 funding period.

### **13. Childcare for children over 5**

- 13.1** Out of school childcare includes breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday play schemes. This form of childcare can operate either on or off a school site and may be run by the school directly or by the PVI sector.
- 13.2** In addition, many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs, film clubs etc. Although these may not be formally classed as childcare they still provide a safe learning environment for children whilst parents/carers are at work or studying. However, these types of clubs may not operate consistently throughout the school year and may vary from term to term and are often only an hour in duration.
- 13.3** It is recognised that good quality out of school childcare has a positive effect upon children's outcomes. Research has shown that this type of good quality childcare can improve children's behaviour, social and emotional skills as well as impacting upon academic performance. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds that attend after school clubs on average achieve a two points higher score in their Key Stage 2 assessment in English, Maths and Science than those that did not take part in after school clubs. For more information on schools providing wraparound and holiday childcare places see link below.

#### **[dfe guidance for schools on wraparound and holiday childcare](#)**

- 13.4** Dependent upon specific criteria, not all wraparound provision has to be Ofsted registered and there is no legal requirement to inform local authorities of operation. A provider who only offers two hours a day or provides two activities or less is not legally required to register with Ofsted. A setting however, may choose to join the voluntary part of the childcare register to allow parents to claim childcare vouchers. In addition, providers do not have to meet specified child/adult ratios if they are caring solely for children over the age of eight.
- 13.5** It is, therefore, difficult to determine the exact number of places available for children outside of school hours and in holiday periods. Many non-registered holiday activities are run by local leisure or sport centres which may not be represented in local authority figures that show the number of places reportedly available by all registered providers in East Sussex. Fig. 21 shows the number of providers offering wrap around care during term time and holiday care across the county.

Fig. 21 Number of Ofsted registered providers offering care during term time and holidays

District/Borough	Number of breakfast clubs	Number of after school clubs
Eastbourne	7	12
Hastings	13	8
Lewes	6	17

Rother	9	10
Wealden	10	18

**Source:** Extract from Synergy FIS Provider Portal – May 2019

- 13.6** 25% of schools in the primary phase run their own breakfast club on site
- 13.7** 21% of schools in the primary phase provide an after school club on site. This data only refers to known childcare provision and does not include extra-curricular after school activities such as gardening clubs, film clubs etc.
- 13.8** Fig. 22 shows the number of holiday clubs/play schemes run across the county.

Fig. 22 Number of holiday clubs and play schemes across East Sussex

	Number of holiday clubs / play schemes
Total in PVI Sector	34
Total in Maintained Sector	9

Source: Extract from Coram (Family & Childcare) 2019 Holiday Survey for local authorities in England

- 13.9** Provision run by schools in the maintained sector in East Sussex has decreased by 50% since April 2018 (see Fig. 23).

Fig. 23 Changes to the total number of providers offering holiday clubs/play schemes in East Sussex

	Changes in Number of Providers Increase/Decrease
PVI Sector	-1
Maintained Sector	-9

Source: Extract from Coram (Family & Childcare) 2019 Holiday Survey for local authorities in England

- 13.10** For the majority of families there is sufficient holiday childcare for 4-7 year olds and 8-11 years old in all areas of the county. But for those families with disabled children or parents working full-time (9am-5pm on weekdays) or atypical hours there are still some gaps in provision.
- 13.11** In 2016 parents were given the 'right to request' that their child's school should consider establishing wraparound childcare or allowing PVI providers to use the school facilities to deliver childcare at times when the school is not using them. Whilst it is not compulsory to offer wraparound childcare at parental request, schools should not refuse a request without reasonable justification.
- 13.12** The demand for childcare significantly lowers for young people of secondary school age (11 years and over) as many parents/carers feel their children are independent enough not to require childcare outside of school hours. This age group of children are more likely to access activities run by leisure centres or other private organisations. or other type of provider.
- 13.13** Figure 24 shows the current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex.

Fig.24 Current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex

	<b>Breakfast club session (avg. cost)</b>	<b>After school club session (avg. cost)</b>	<b>Holiday play scheme session (avg. cost)</b>
<b>Maintained Sector</b>	£3.70	£7.71	£22 per day £125 per week
<b>PVI Sector</b>	£4.57	£8.82	£36 per day £180 per week

Source: Synergy Report: FIS Out of School Club Report (July 2019)

**13.14** Figures 25 and 26 below show the locations of breakfast clubs and after school clubs in East Sussex.

Fig.25 Location of breakfast clubs (including providers also offering after school clubs) July 2019

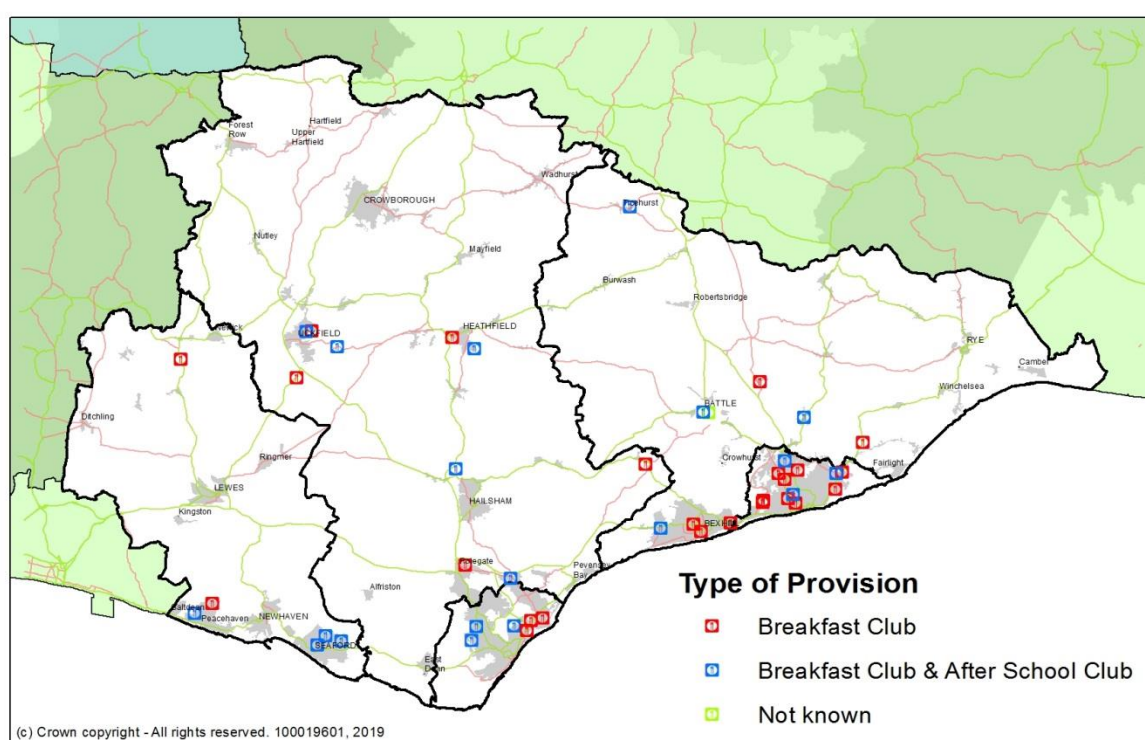
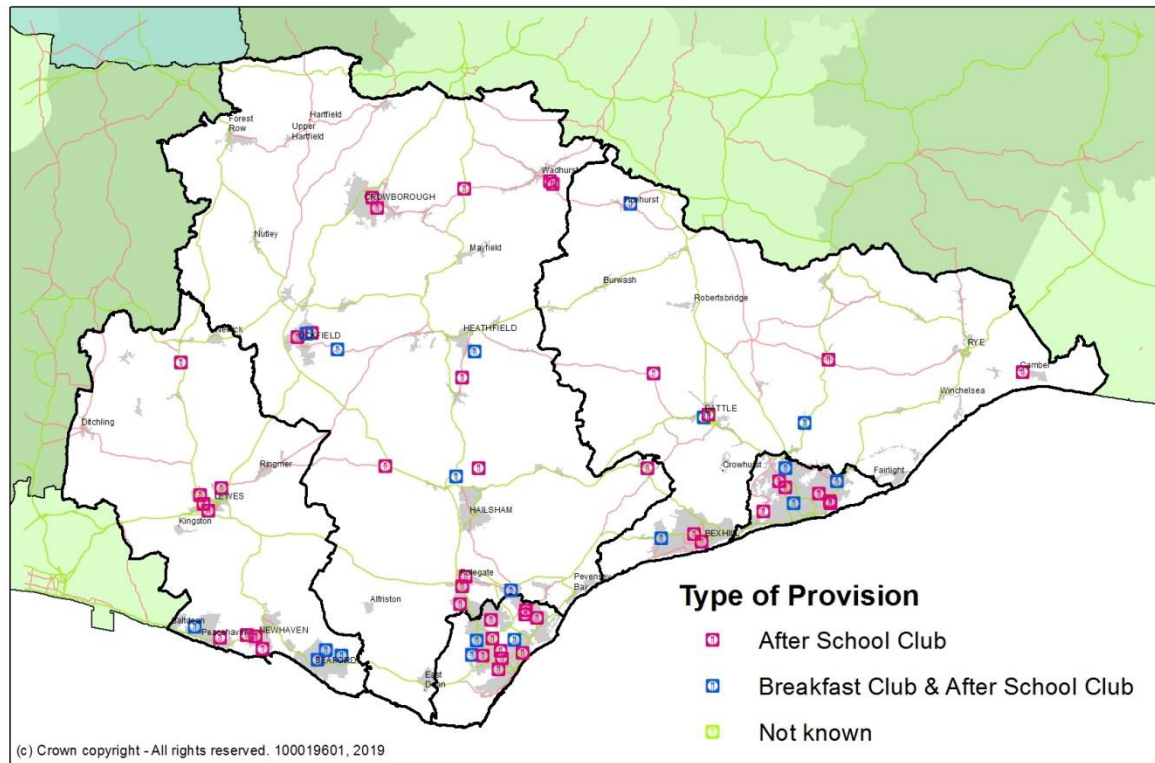


Fig.26 Location of after school clubs (including providers also offering breakfast clubs) July 2019



## Appendix 1

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Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **7 October 2019**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023**

Purpose of report: **To approve the publication of the latest update to the Education Commissioning Plan covering the period 2019-2023.**

---

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to:**

- 1) approve the publication of the Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023 and**
  - 2) agree to the plan being re-branded the 'School Organisation Plan' prior to its publication.**
- 

## **1. Background**

1.1 East Sussex County Council (the Council) has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet present and future demand across the county.

1.2 The Council is responsible for promoting a good supply of strong schools through planning, organising and commissioning places in a way that raises attainment, increases diversity, encourages collaboration and promotes community cohesion. The Council seeks to achieve this in partnership with key stakeholders including schools and academies, parents and carers, the dioceses, borough and district councils, the Department for Education (DfE), the Regional Schools Commissioner and local communities.

1.3 In support of our statutory obligation, the Council publishes an Education Commissioning Plan (the plan), the purpose of which is to understand the projected demand for places in the future and to set out where we think we will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision to maintain a sustainable network of schools with the right number of places in the right locations to serve local need.

1.4 The current plan, covering the period 2017-2021, was approved for publication by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability on 22 January 2018. The plan can be viewed by following the link under 'background documents' below.

1.5 A new plan for the period 2019-2023 has been produced using the most recent set of pupil forecasts which take account of the latest information on births, GP registrations, parental preferences, housing developments and migration patterns. The updated draft plan can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

## **2. East Sussex context**

2.1 Births in East Sussex rose significantly from 2001/02 and peaked at around 5,500 in 2010/11. This was reflected in higher primary school intakes in the county. To meet the increased demand for places nearly 3,400 net additional primary school places were created across East Sussex in the period 2010/11 to 2018/19.

2.2 Since 2010/11 births in the county have fallen; in 2016/17 there were fewer than 5,000 births. The fall in births is reflected in a fall in primary reception intake numbers across the county. However, some parts of the county, most notably Hailsham and Bexhill, are likely to see demand for primary school places rising in the medium term as the result of significant new house-building in those areas.

2.3 Recent high numbers in primary schools are now being reflected in rising Year 7 secondary school intakes. Year 7 numbers are predicted to peak around 2022/23 or 2023/24. As a result of rising numbers there will be a need to provide additional secondary school places in some areas of the county, most notably Willingdon, Newhaven/Peacehaven and Hailsham.

### **3. Proposed re-branding of the plan**

3.1 In the past the plan has included information on early years and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision as well as mainstream schools. Information on early years and SEND is now included in separate strategy documents and, consequently, the plan focusses exclusively on primary and secondary school places. As one of a number of policies and strategies relating to education provision in East Sussex we believe it would be more helpful to the reader if the plan was re-branded the 'School Organisation Plan'.

### **4. Conclusions and reasons for recommendation**

4.1 In conclusion, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet present and future demand across the county. The updated plan for the period 2019-2023 clearly sets out the projected demand for places in the future and where we think we will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision to maintain a sustainable network of schools with the right number of places in the right locations to serve local need.

4.2 Accordingly, the Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) approve the publication of the Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023 and
- 2) agree to the plan being re-branded the 'School Organisation Plan' prior to its publication.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager  
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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

All

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/management/download/>

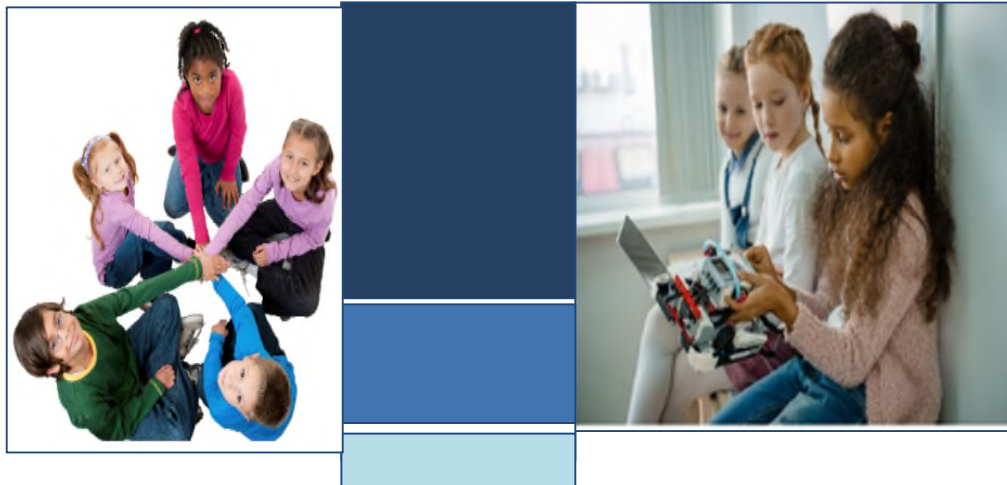
#### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023





# Education Commissioning Plan 2019-2023



*\*Cover to be finalised*

## Foreword

Welcome to the Education Commissioning Plan for the period 2019 to 2023. This is a four year rolling plan that is updated annually. It sets out how East Sussex County Council seeks to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand across the county.

The document contains information on:

- The current pattern of school provision across the county
- Forecasts of future school numbers
- Our plans to meet the need for additional places in areas of growth
- Our plans to address the over-supply of places in areas with falling rolls

Births in East Sussex rose significantly from 2001/02 and peaked at around 5,500 in 2010/11. This was reflected in higher primary school intakes in the county. To meet the increased demand for places nearly 3,400 net additional primary school places were created across East Sussex in the period 2010/11 to 2018/19.

Since 2010/11 births in the county have fallen; in 2016/17 there were fewer than 5,000 births. The fall in births is reflected in a fall in primary reception intake numbers across the county. However, some parts of the county, most notably Hailsham and Bexhill, are likely to see demand for primary school places rising in the medium term as the result of significant new house-building in those areas.

Recent high numbers in primary schools are now being reflected in rising Year 7 secondary school intakes. Year 7 numbers are predicted to peak around 2022/23 or 2023/24. As a result of rising numbers there will be a need to provide additional secondary school places in some areas of the county, most notably Willingdon, Newhaven/Peacehaven and Hailsham.

We recognise that housing developments may not come forward at the rates identified and that our place planning strategies may need to change as a result. However, the plan sets out the situation as it currently stands. We continue to work with the five local planning authorities, developers, school leaders, governors, academy trusts and the dioceses to ensure there are the right numbers of school places in the right locations at the right time.

While there will continue to be areas of growing demand for school places, given the predominantly rural nature of East Sussex, there will be areas with a declining demand. We will work with schools facing challenges associated with falling rolls which can create budget pressures and which challenges school leadership, organisation and long term viability.

The next few years will be an exciting and challenging time as we continue a programme of delivering additional school places in areas of need but also work with schools with falling rolls. At the heart of this programme is our commitment to ensure that we continue to provide local places to meet local needs and secure high quality education for all East Sussex children and young people.



**Councillor Bob Standley**  
**Lead Member for Education and Inclusion,**  
**Special Educational Needs and Disability**



**Stuart Gallimore**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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# 1 Introduction

East Sussex County Council (the local authority) has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the right locations to meet demand. We are responsible for promoting a good supply of strong schools through planning, organising and commissioning places in a way that raises attainment, increases diversity, encourages collaboration between schools and promotes community cohesion. We seek to achieve this in partnership with key stakeholders including headteachers, governors, academy trusts, parents and carers, dioceses, local planning authorities and local communities.

The need for school places fluctuates in response to population changes, new housing developments and government policy and can lead to rising as well as declining pupil numbers. Increases in demand can lead to the establishment of new schools or the expansion of existing schools. Decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in places through changes to admission arrangements or the rationalisation of provision.

The purpose of the Education Commissioning Plan is to understand the projected demand for school places in the future and to set out where we think we will need to commission additional places or re-organise existing provision. It is a contextual document, providing the framework within which proposals for change may be brought forward. Any reviews of education provision we undertake and any recommendations for school re-organisation (for example opening, closing, federating, amalgamating, enlarging or contracting of schools) will, in part, be based on information contained in the plan.

We endeavour to communicate clearly with schools and local communities about current and predicted place planning pressures in their area, while managing expectations with regard to the certainty of forecasts. This document seeks to provide a comprehensive account of trends in pupil numbers and likely upcoming pressures, drawing on a variety of data sources. However, future pupil numbers, particularly in individual areas of the county and in individual schools, may be affected by unanticipated changes to planned local housing targets, changing migration patterns and swings in parental preference and are not always possible to predict with total accuracy. Therefore, the plan does not conclusively set out all the actions we might take in the future, but rather provides an overview of challenges that may arise during the period of the plan. In general, we will only name particular schools in the plan when there is certainty that a proposal will be implemented or where this is already underway.

The plan focusses exclusively on primary and secondary school places and is one of a number of policies and strategies that relate to education provision in East Sussex. Some of these are set out in Chapter 2.

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## 2 Policies and strategies

### 2.1 Admissions and Transport

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. East Sussex County Council is the admissions authority for community schools and voluntary controlled church schools. The governing boards of voluntary aided church schools, academy trusts and free schools set the admissions criteria for their individual school(s).

Parents have the right to express a preference for a school, which is not the same as choosing the school where their child will attend. Parents in East Sussex are invited to indicate up to three preferences when applying for a school place for their child.

For September 2019, the local authority was able to offer a place at a preferred school to 97% of reception applicants, 98.5% of junior applicants and 95.5% of secondary applicants.

[Apply for a school place](#)

### 2.2 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is a statutory annual report presented to the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability. It reports on the sufficiency of childcare and the state of the childcare market across East Sussex.

We have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). We also have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient early learning places for all eligible two, three and four year-olds. Childcare provision needs to be organised to support parents or carers who are in work or training for work.

Add link when available

### 2.3 Excellence for All 2019-2021

The local authority's '*Excellence for All 2019-2021*' strategy includes a shared vision of creating an excellent education system in East Sussex, where no child or educational establishment is left behind, and where all young people are well prepared to make a positive contribution as global citizens and life-long learners.

Since the first *Excellence for All* strategy was published in 2013, East Sussex schools have made progress towards realising the vision outlined in that strategy of delivering a truly world-class and inclusive education for all pupils.

Over these years, we have witnessed a rapid increase in the number of children and young people in East Sussex accessing high quality education, as the percentage of schools and settings judged good or better now exceeds both national and regional levels. Attainment and progress rates continue to rise in many schools and settings and the majority of pupils make an excellent start to their education as performance for the county is above national levels in early years and at Key Stage 1 (KS1).

[Excellence for All 2019-21](#)

## 2.4 East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2019-2021

The East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2019-2021 sets out the shared aims for children and young people with SEND in East Sussex. It has been developed and will be delivered by partners in Education, Health and Social Care in accordance with The Children and Families Act 2014. The strategy identifies priorities for the next three years as:

- Building capacity for inclusion in schools, settings, colleges and services
- High quality provision, outcomes and aspirations
- Effective planning for transition and journey of a pupil
- Communication and engagement with families and pupils

The strategy will be subject to a continuous review cycle, informed by focus groups, for each of the four priority areas led by partners across the sectors. The Strategy and Governance Group holds responsibility for ensuring the strategy's aims are delivered.

[SEND Strategy 2019-21](#)

## 2.5 Post-16 education and training

Local authorities have statutory duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. Specifically these are:

- To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19, or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996. To fulfil this, local authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.
- To make available to all young people aged 13-19 and those up to 25 with SEND, support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of ESA 20082
- Tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties, as is promoting effective participation.

The post-16 offer should meet the requirements of increasing participation, by offering a wide range of options with clear progression routes into further or higher education or employment with training. The post16 offer should also reflect the local skills needs and priority sectors of East Sussex, with a curriculum plan and progression pathways which are influenced by local employers. The growth of the East Sussex economy is a key strategic priority and Skills East Sussex, the strategic board for skills, helps drive this work through a strong partnership of local employers, post16 education, training providers and schools. This includes a focus on securing good quality careers advice through local Careers Hub activities, embedding an Enterprise Advisors Network, the provision of a Work Experience Service and commissioning of a Youth Employability Service for young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

The 16-19 Strategy East Sussex: All Young People Learning & Working (due for review in 2019/20): [16-19-strategy-east-sussex-all-young-people-learning-working](#)

Skills East Sussex: [Skills-East-Sussex](#)

The Careers Hub – East Sussex [c360/careers-hub](#)

The local authority receives no capital funding for Post-16 provision; this is commissioned and funded by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA).

## 2.6 National framework

For more information about the national framework within which local authorities must work in relation to education provision and place planning please refer to the Department for Education (DfE) website at: <http://www.gov.uk/schools-colleges>

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## 3 The local perspective

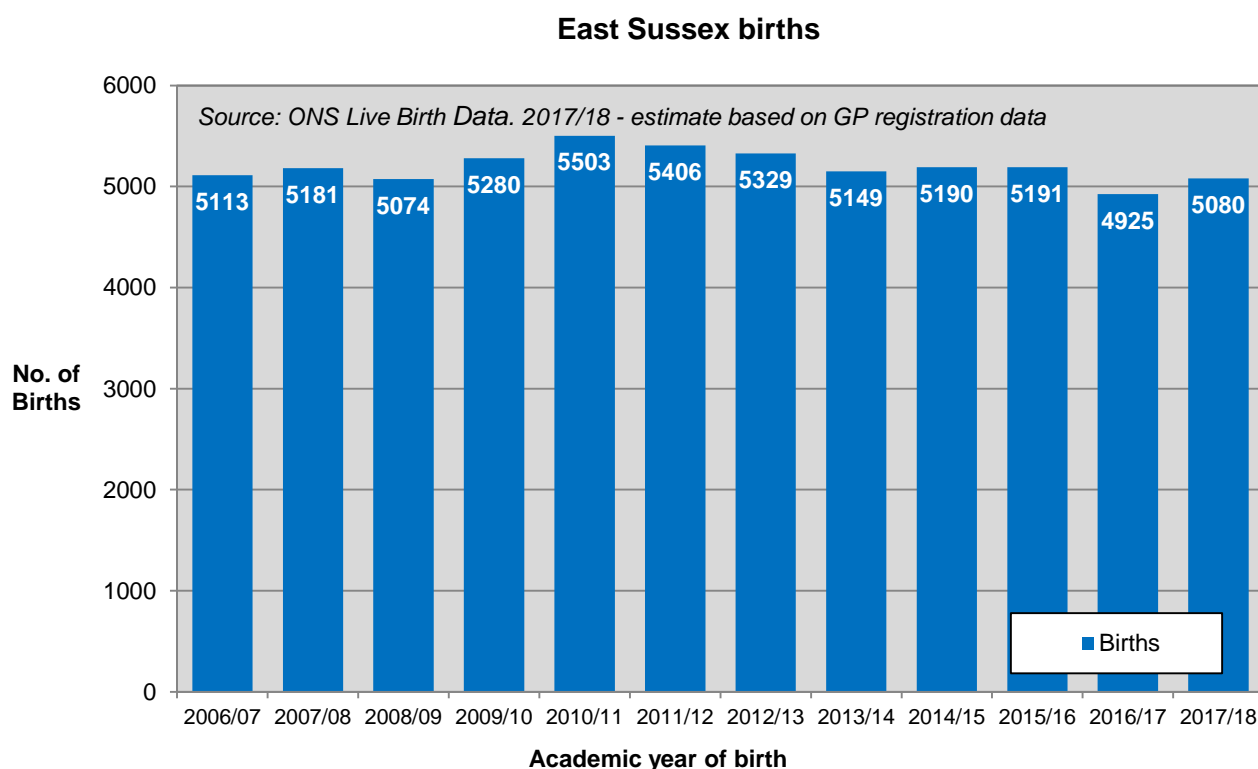
### 3.1 Population

The overall population in East Sussex has grown steadily, rising from 493,000 in 2001 to 550,000 in 2018 (Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates).

Around three quarters of the population live in urban areas (Source: 2011 Census). The main centres of population and employment are concentrated in the southern coastal strip of the county in Eastbourne, Hastings and St. Leonard's, Bexhill, Newhaven, Seaford and Lewes.

The picture for East Sussex as a whole is of an ageing county. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is forecast to rise from 25% in 2017 to 27% in 2023 and 31% by 2030 (Source: ESCC Policy Based Population Projections April 2019).

However, in line with national trends, births in East Sussex grew significantly from 2001/02, peaking at 5,503 in 2010/11. Since then birth totals countywide have fallen to 4,925 in 2016/17. The following chart demonstrates this. The forecast rise in 2017/18 is based on under-one year olds registered with general practitioners (GPs) as at 31 August 2018.



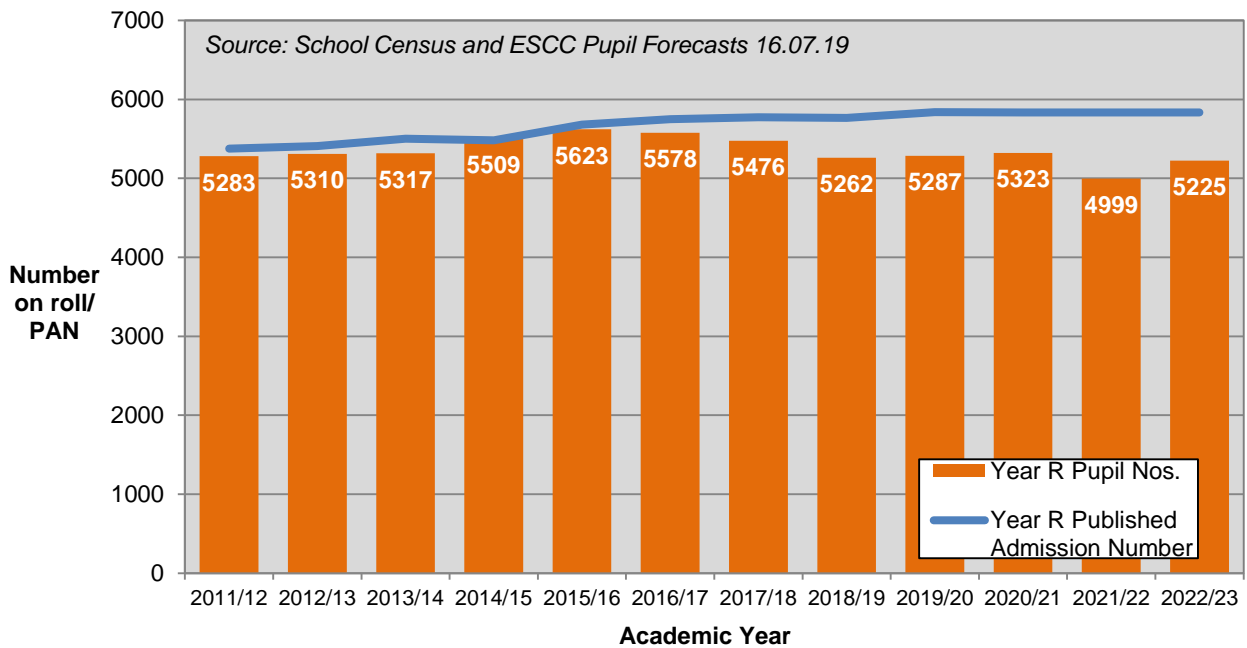
### 3.2 School numbers

The fall in births countywide is reflected in a fall in primary reception year (Year R) intake numbers. In 2018/19 there were 5,262 Year R children on roll in East Sussex schools, a fall of 6% on the peak year of 2015/16. By 2021/22 Year R intake numbers are predicted to have fallen further to just under 5,000 (a fall of 11% on 2015/16 figures). In 2022/23 based on GP registrations of under-one year olds in 2018, forecasts show a possible upturn in Year R intakes.

It remains to be seen whether this marks the beginning of a general upswing or is merely a blip in a downward trend. From 2023/24 which is beyond the plan period, the forecasts show countywide Year R intakes rising, albeit slowly. Forecasts beyond the plan period are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data and should be treated with caution. However, in areas of the county such as Hailsham and Bexhill, where high volumes of new housing are planned, Year R numbers are forecast to rise in the medium term.



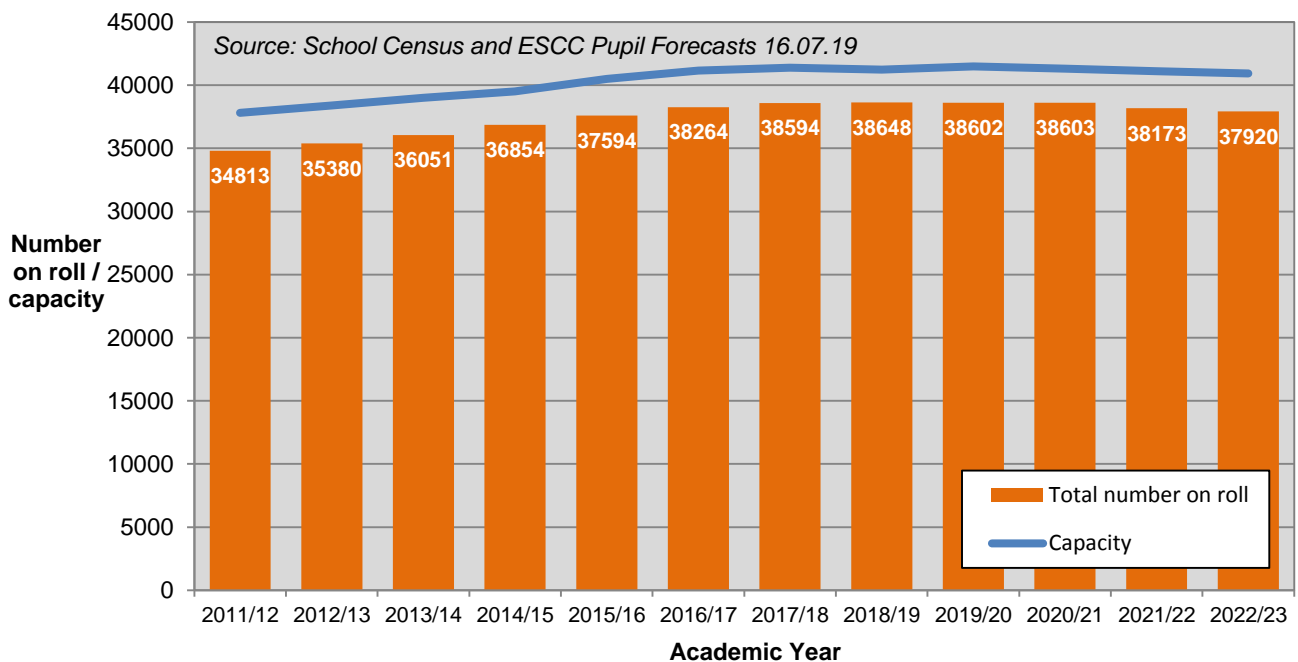
### East Sussex primary Year R numbers



At the January 2019 School Census 38,648 children were educated in the 151 state-funded primary (including all-through) schools in East Sussex. The capacity of these schools was 41,228 meaning there were 2,580 surplus places (6%) across the county. 16 primary schools had surpluses of 25% or more.

Total numbers on roll in primary schools have started to plateau, leaving around 7% surplus places overall, although this figure will vary from area to area. Numbers are forecast to decline further at the start of the next decade, falling to approximately 37,900 by 2022/23.

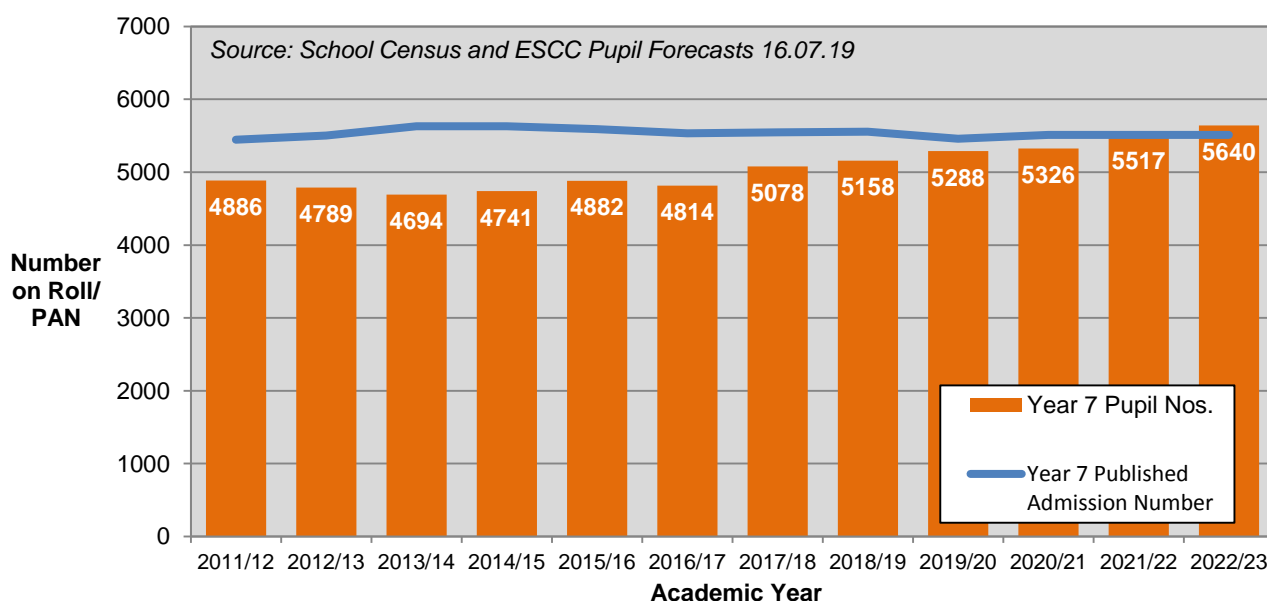
### East Sussex total primary numbers



Recent high numbers in primary schools are now being reflected in rising Year 7 secondary school intakes. Year 7 numbers are predicted to peak around 2022/23 or 2023/24, with total numbers on roll in secondary schools peaking around 2024/25 or 2025/26. As a result of rising numbers, surplus places in secondary schools are predicted to fall rapidly, meaning that by the early to middle part of the next decade, compared to currently planned capacities, there will be little or no

slack in the system to alleviate the impact of the pressures from rising pupil numbers. Strategies to address this are set out in later chapters of the plan.

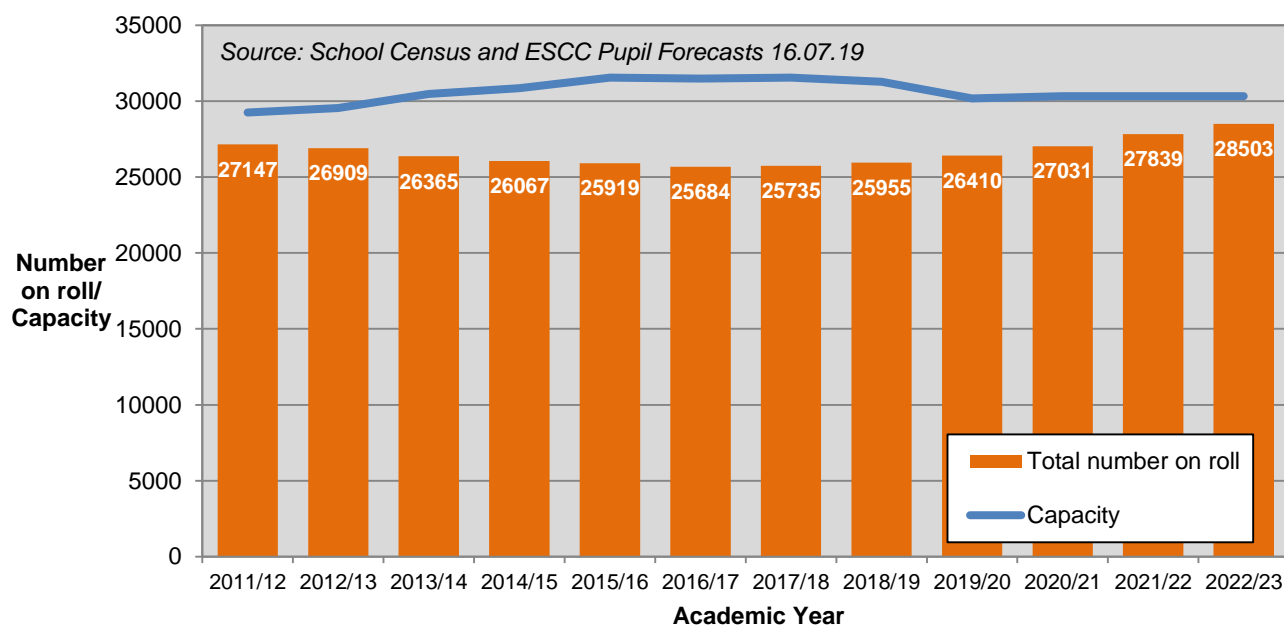
### East Sussex secondary Year 7 numbers



At the January 2019 School Census 25,915 young people aged 11-18 attended the 28 state-funded secondary (including all-through and 14-18) schools in East Sussex. The capacity of these schools was 31,420 resulting in an overall surplus of 5,505 places (18%) across the county. Six secondary schools had 25% or more surplus places.

By 2022/23 secondary school numbers are expected to have increased by about 10% to just over 28,500.

### East Sussex total secondary numbers



## 3.3 Cross-border movement

At primary school level (across all year groups) East Sussex imports around 450 children from the neighbouring authorities of Kent, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove and exports approximately 700 children to these same authorities.

At secondary school level (across all year groups) East Sussex imports approximately 700 children from the neighbouring authorities of Kent, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove and exports approximately 1,400 children to these same authorities. Kent Grammar schools represent a particular 'pull factor' for East Sussex children.

### 3.4 Schools in East Sussex

On 1 September 2019 there were 175 state funded mainstream schools in East Sussex ranging from local authority maintained schools to academies and free schools. A breakdown of the different types of school is provided in the following table.

School Type	Type of School								Totals
	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Academy	Free School	Studio School	University Technical College	
Infant (5-7)	4	1			2				7
Junior (7-11)	3				3				6
Primary (4-11)*	38	44	22	2	30				136
All-through (2-16)					1				1
All-through (4-18)					1	1			2
Secondary (11-16)	5		1	2	9				17
Secondary (11-18)	3				3				6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175</b>

\* Some primary schools include nursery provision and therefore have an age range of 2-11 or 3-11.

Of the 49 academies, 45 are part of a multi-academy trust while 4 are stand-alone academies.

14 of the 23 voluntary aided schools in East Sussex are Church of England, one is Church of England/Methodist and eight are Catholic.

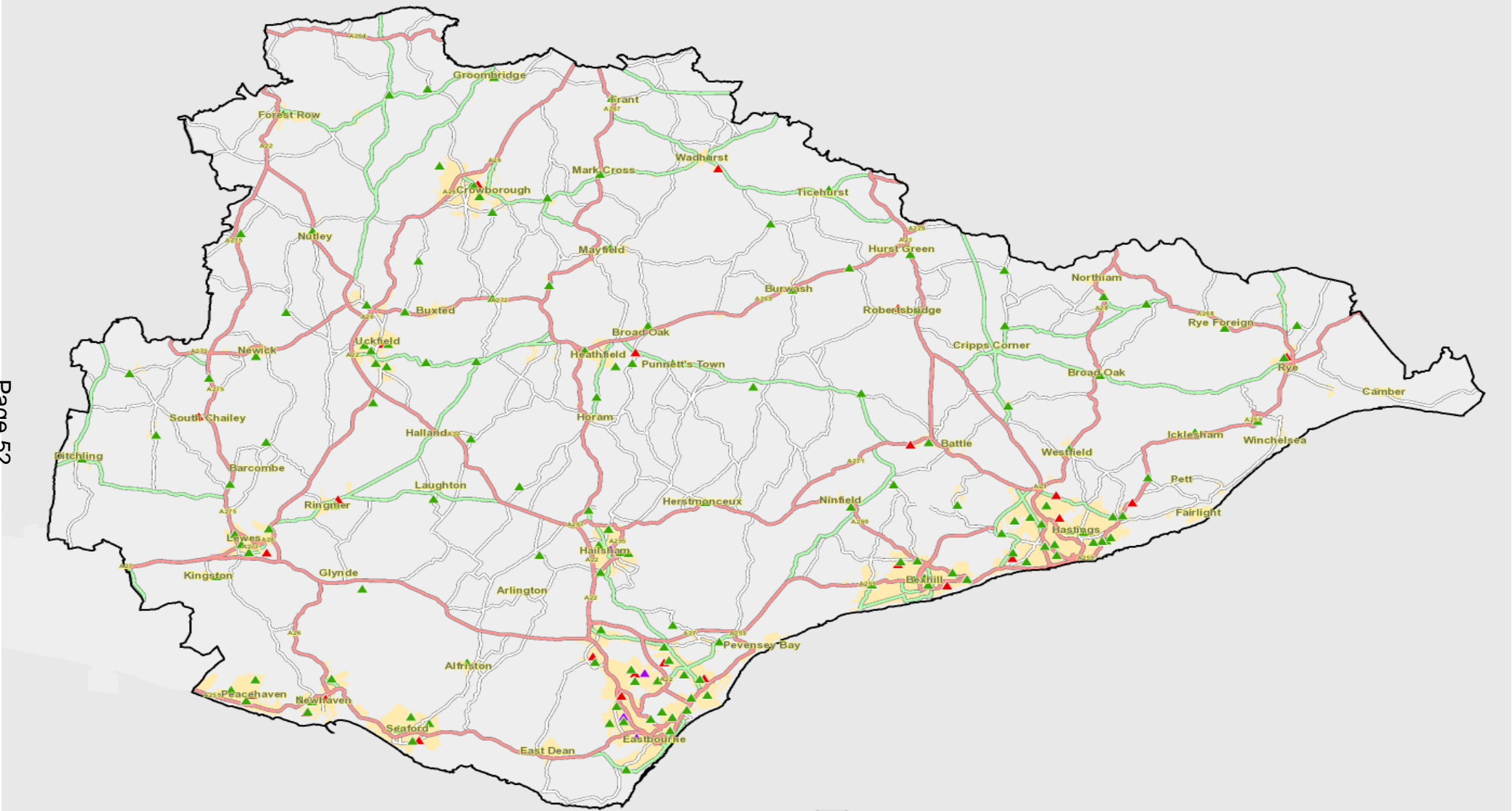
There are 13 federations in East Sussex made up of 31 primary schools.

Reflecting that East Sussex is a mix of rural and urban areas, 68 of the 136 primary schools in the county (50%) are classified as rural. The 13 linked infant and junior schools are all located in urban areas, mainly Eastbourne.

The map below shows the location of primary and secondary schools in East Sussex.

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Key:  Primary Schools  Secondary Schools  Pru and All Through Schools



## 4 Guiding principles to school organisation

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the local authority's approach to school organisation to ensure there are sufficient places to meet demand and to support school leadership teams and governing boards to provide a high quality education for all their pupils.

The guiding principles underlying our approach are:

- To ensure that schools are of the right size and in the right location to meet local demand for places.
- To ensure that school provision is sustainable in all parts of the county and is well placed to deliver a high quality education that meets the needs of their local community and makes best use of public funding.
- Where there is sustained evidence that a school is failing to meet the needs of its local community and/or to deliver improved outcomes and/or is not financially viable, to explore a range of partnership solutions where appropriate e.g. collaborations, federations, amalgamations and multi-academy trusts (MATs) or, finally, to consult on closure.
- To support the federation or amalgamation of linked infant and junior schools. The local authority recognises the benefit of continuous provision from early years to the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2), the benefit this brings to staff and the reduction in vacancies when a headteacher leaves at a time of a national recruitment crisis.
- To ensure any change to school organisation impacts positively on school performance and on the life chances of children; to support governing boards to review, on an annual basis, their organisational and leadership arrangements and to plan for building leadership capacity.
- To develop an approach to school organisation review that enables stakeholders to engage fully and effectively in the process.

### 4.2 School planning areas

The county of East Sussex is divided into five boroughs and districts (local planning authorities). Within these areas there are:

- 17 primary planning areas which closely reflect school admissions areas. There is a planning area for each town in East Sussex. For the purposes of the plan, rural primary schools admissions areas (which tend to be single school admission areas) have been grouped together under the headings of 'Rural Lewes', 'Rural Rother' and 'Rural Wealden'.
- 17 secondary planning areas which closely reflect school admissions areas. Many secondary school admissions areas relate to a single school. In Eastbourne, where the single school boundaries are complex and overlapping, six secondary schools (including two all-through) have been grouped together for school place planning purposes. Hastings Borough is a four school admissions area and this is reflected in the planning area. Bexhill planning area contains two schools, one of which (a Catholic Aided school) has a much wider catchment area than the town.

We work closely with the five local planning authorities in the production of their Local Plan documents. This planning process identifies the requirement for additional school places arising from new housing development. It is anticipated that, through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), new housing development will contribute a percentage of the funding required to provide additional school places.

### 4.3 Pupil forecasting

In producing forecasts of future demand we take into account factors such as births, trend data, parental preference, housing growth and existing and planned capacity as well as patterns of inward and outward migration. The forecasts within this document provide a comprehensive account of predicted future trends in numbers and the areas of the county where pressures on

places are most likely to occur. However, pupil forecasting is complex and, as a result, is not an exact science. For example, it is not always possible to predict changes in local demand for school places owing to swings in parental preference, changing migration patterns or revisions to planned local housing targets. In consequence, the forecasts contained in this document are likely to be subject to a margin of error and may be revised in subsequent updates of the plan. Pupil forecasts are updated annually and exceptions identified in order to manage the risk of under/over-supply of school places.

It is important to note that while the local authority will seek to meet parental preference, our projections are primarily concerned with ensuring we have sufficient places in a given area. It may be the case that some schools in an area that are consistently oversubscribed give the impression that there is a shortage of places when this is not the case overall as other schools in that area have capacity. The principal factor for place planning is the number of places in an area compared to the number of children requiring a place and it is this that the local authority seeks to predict and respond to.

As evidenced in the DfE's 2018 local authority school places scorecard, published in June 2019 our primary pupil forecasts are accurate to +0.7% one year ahead and +2.1% three years ahead. Our secondary pupil forecasts are accurate to +0.9% one year ahead and +3.1% three years ahead. While we have a track record of accurate forecasting, derived from sound methodology and our forecasts generally compare well to other local authorities, they are forecasts not guarantees.

#### **4.4 Creating new places**

When the local authority identifies a shortfall of capacity it will consider providing additional school places, either through the expansion of existing schools or through commissioning new provision. The local authority welcomes proposals from existing schools to expand and from interested parties to establish new provision in areas of pressure.

The local authority will consult with key stakeholders when developing proposals to provide new places. When considering proposals for adding new places to meet demand the local authority will take account of the following principles:

- prioritise the expansion of good and outstanding schools
- consider the pattern of parental preference and local demand for places
- consider the diversity of provision
- consider transport patterns to reduce travel times to schools wherever possible
- consider safe routes to schools
- where there is demand for both school and early years places, the local authority will consider providing additional accommodation designed to ensure a seamless transition between nursery and Year R
- support new schools (including academies and free schools) where their location will help relieve pressure on places and / or increase parental preference and raise outcomes
- where possible, only enlarge schools where it creates or sustains round forms of entry as the preferred model of organisation
- value for money.

The local authority recognises that at times some of these principles might be incompatible with each other and therefore applied in a priority order appropriate to the context and circumstances.

Whilst it would be desirable for every child to be educated in permanent school buildings, the local authority must be certain there is a long term need before we provide additional permanent school places. This is to ensure it doesn't add surplus capacity to the system which may then create viability issues in times of low pupil numbers. If the need is considered short term, the local authority will generally use temporary classrooms which provide a valuable and flexible resource and are a recognised way of providing school places for a short period.



## 4.5 Surplus places

Schools operate most efficiently and effectively when full or nearly full. To this end the local authority seeks to keep the number of surplus places (the number of places in schools that are unfilled) to a minimum. However, it is generally accepted that not all unfilled places in a school are surplus places, but that a small margin of surplus capacity is often allowed to facilitate parental preference, to take account of the fact that schools with available places may not always be in the part of a planning area where the demand is, and to allow for a degree of error in the forecasts. In larger towns around one form of entry (30 intake places) is allowed while in other areas around half a form of entry (15 intake places) is allowed although margins vary depending on specific forecasts, capacities and circumstances. This figure is deemed to give the appropriate amount of flexibility in an area and is set against the need to ensure the efficient use of resources. In practice, the amount of surplus places planned for in an area will also take account of local circumstances – such as the preference to provide places in round forms of entry.

## 4.6 School leadership

School leadership teams and governing boards face increasing pressures to maintain the efficient organisation and effective leadership of their schools, particularly of rural primary schools, with regard to:

- recruiting headteachers
- developing alternative models of school leadership
- creating effective partnerships between schools.

Within this challenging context, building leadership capacity and succession planning is an issue that must be part of any governing board's strategic planning. The local authority works with governing boards to develop strategies to build capacity and to plan well in advance for strong, sustainable future leadership of a school. It is vital that this is approached and managed in a forward thinking and proactive manner and not in response to the resignation or retirement of a headteacher.

The local authority supports governing boards to take a strategic approach to the challenge of developing a model of leadership that will suit their school in the future. This includes exploration of the suitability of executive headteacher arrangements as part of a collaboration, federation or Multi-academy trust (MAT).

Academisation has not progressed as quickly in the primary sector as the local authority had envisaged. In undertaking their due diligence, academy trusts, both local and national, find some small schools to be financially unviable or too isolated to be included in their trust.

Across East Sussex, a range of models of school organisation and leadership and management exist, including co-leadership and executive leadership. 31 schools in East Sussex are part of a collaboration or federation arrangement. Although federations are recognised as a way of enabling smaller schools to work more formally in partnerships to improve the quality of provision, raise standards and share costs, given their size there does need to be a sufficient number of schools involved in such arrangements and significant structural changes made to achieve savings. This can take some time to realise. A number of existing federations are already facing financial pressures and have had to identify new ways to address these challenges.

## 4.7 School organisation reviews

An increasing number of primary schools are facing financial challenges and schools' budgets are under considerable pressure. The impact of these financial challenges is often more acute in small rural schools due to the characteristics of rural communities; low birth rates and in-area demand for places which can vary noticeably from one year to another. Fluctuating pupil numbers are difficult to manage and can lead to irregular class sizes and inefficient staff to pupil ratios. A number of rural schools have, or are predicted to have; significant surplus places (25% or more). Smaller schools tend to have a higher proportion of their budget allocated to fixed

costs than larger schools and, as such, have less flexibility to respond to cost pressures, unexpected events, and deficit recovery.

The Department for Education has confirmed the introduction of a new Funding Formula for schools from 2021/22. The DfE has recognised the need to retain some funding protection within the funding formulae which will include a minimum funding guarantee and retain a lump sum for each school. Nonetheless, it is likely that more small schools will experience increasing financial pressures in the future. All schools need to consider more efficient organisational structures and operations, to secure reductions in overall costs whilst continually improving school performance; this involves reviewing class organisation, leadership, management and staffing structures and partnership options. The DfE published a research report in March 2019 *Running Small Schools Efficiently*. Many of the suggestions in this report are already being implemented and considered by schools in East Sussex. The Church of England Education Office published a report in March 2018 called *Embracing Change: Rural and Small Schools*, which also considers the challenges faced by small rural schools.

The local authority has a duty to consider the organisation of school provision to create a sustainable network of schools in rural areas; rationalisation of provision can benefit other schools by reducing surplus places in an area the remaining schools can have more certainty over their pupil numbers and operate more efficiently with less surplus places and in relation to fluctuating demands.

To support this, the local authority regularly reviews every primary school's context drawing on a range of information including pupil numbers, finance, pupil performance, leadership arrangements and succession planning. The local authority also conducts regular reviews of specific geographical areas drawing on the same information. The reviews will reach a view about the effectiveness of arrangements for the organisation and management of primary schools across the county and at individual school level. The outcome of the review could lead to the identification of primary schools where support should be provided for governors to explore issues specific to the organisation and leadership challenges in their school.

Key issues that will be considered in relation to individual school's contexts include:

- succession planning where there is a current headteacher vacancy or possible vacancy within the next two years
- year groups with fewer than ten pupils
- classes made up of three or more year groups
- total pupil numbers of fewer than 80 pupils, or a surplus of more than 25% for three or more years
- a declining trend in the level of parental preferences
- a low birth rate and in-area demand for places
- a two year declining trend of pupil performance, as measured by attainment and progress data
- evidence of financial difficulties being experienced by the school.

In addition to the ongoing review process, there will be times when the local authority wishes to conduct a more detailed review of specific school/s and/or a specific geographical area. This review could be conducted for any school/s in which there is significant change in circumstances at any time of the year that could impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the school/s. Examples of significant change in circumstances include:

- the position of a headteacher becomes unexpectedly vacant
- a school is placed in an Ofsted category of concern of serious weaknesses or special measures
- a school has remained in an Ofsted category of requires improvement for the last two inspections
- a school becomes eligible for intervention by the local authority
- a school has a pre-existing licensed deficit and is unable to create a viable recovery plan
- an organisation wishing to set up an academy or a free school indicates an interest in a specific locality.



The outcomes of the review of schools would be assessed and schools identified for further analysis and discussion with the governing board. Many schools in East Sussex are church schools, being voluntary controlled or voluntary aided, and therefore the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton would be fully involved in the whole review process.

The options for consideration would be prepared and considered at a meeting with the governing board/s to explore the key issues and agree a course of further action; a personalised programme of support would be drawn up to take developments forward.

By placing the focus on discussion and planning in a pro-active manner there will be better opportunities to explore and develop a range of options, time to build the capacity required to work differently, time to consult and time to implement change.

Where the result of the review and discussions with a governing board necessitate a solution requiring a formal change of school organisation (for example, amalgamation, federation or closure), the local community would be consulted together with other key stakeholders. Where this is the case, consultation will comply with statutory requirements contained in, but not limited to, the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Governance (Federation) Regulations 2007, the Education Act 2011 and the School Organisation Regulations (2013). Legislation in this area is subject to regular review by government.

The following chapters describe the current situation in each planning area. They set out how we expect pupil numbers to change during the plan period and what action the local authority is planning to take to address any shortfalls or surpluses in capacity or organisational change. The information is subject to revision and review as new data (for example, on live births) becomes available or Borough and District housing targets and trajectories are amended.

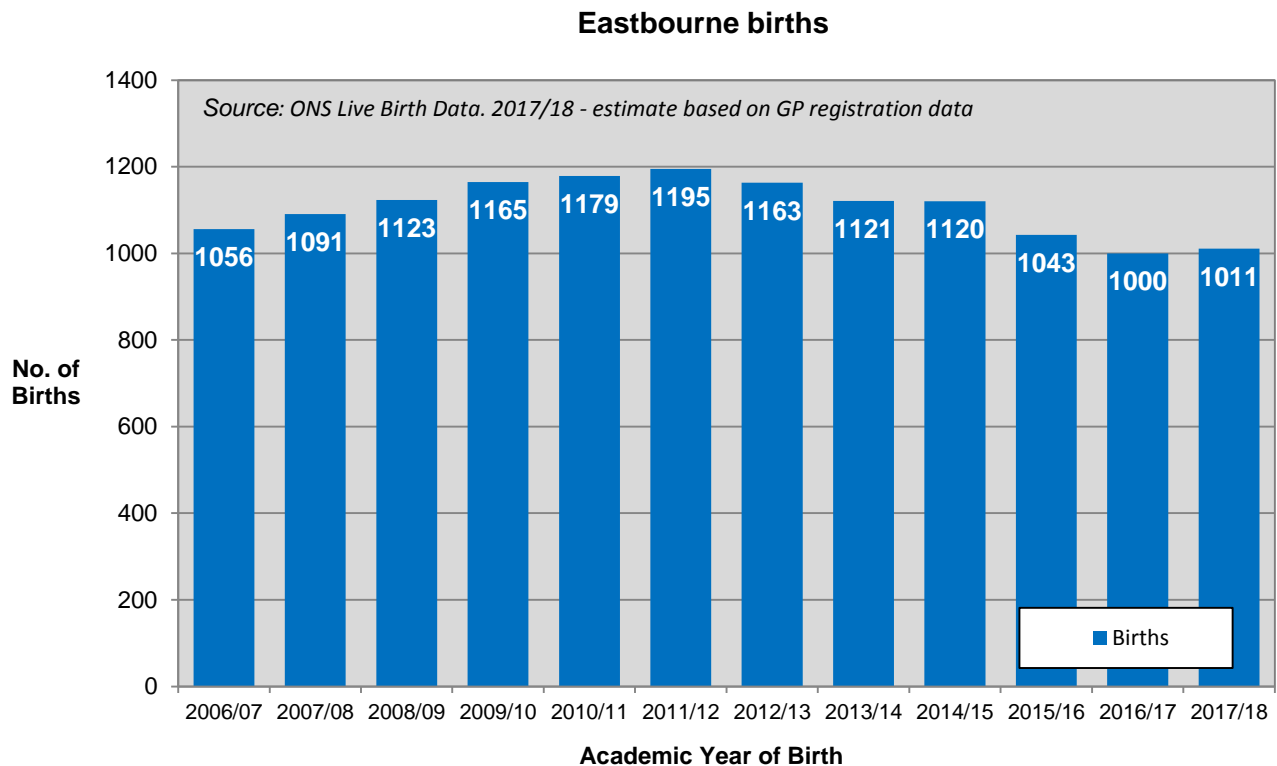
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## 5 Eastbourne Borough

### 5.1 Schools in Eastbourne Borough

In Eastbourne there are 19 primary schools, two all-through schools and four secondary schools. Of the 19 primary schools, six are infant schools and five are junior schools. Four primary schools have nursery provision.

### 5.2 Births in Eastbourne Borough



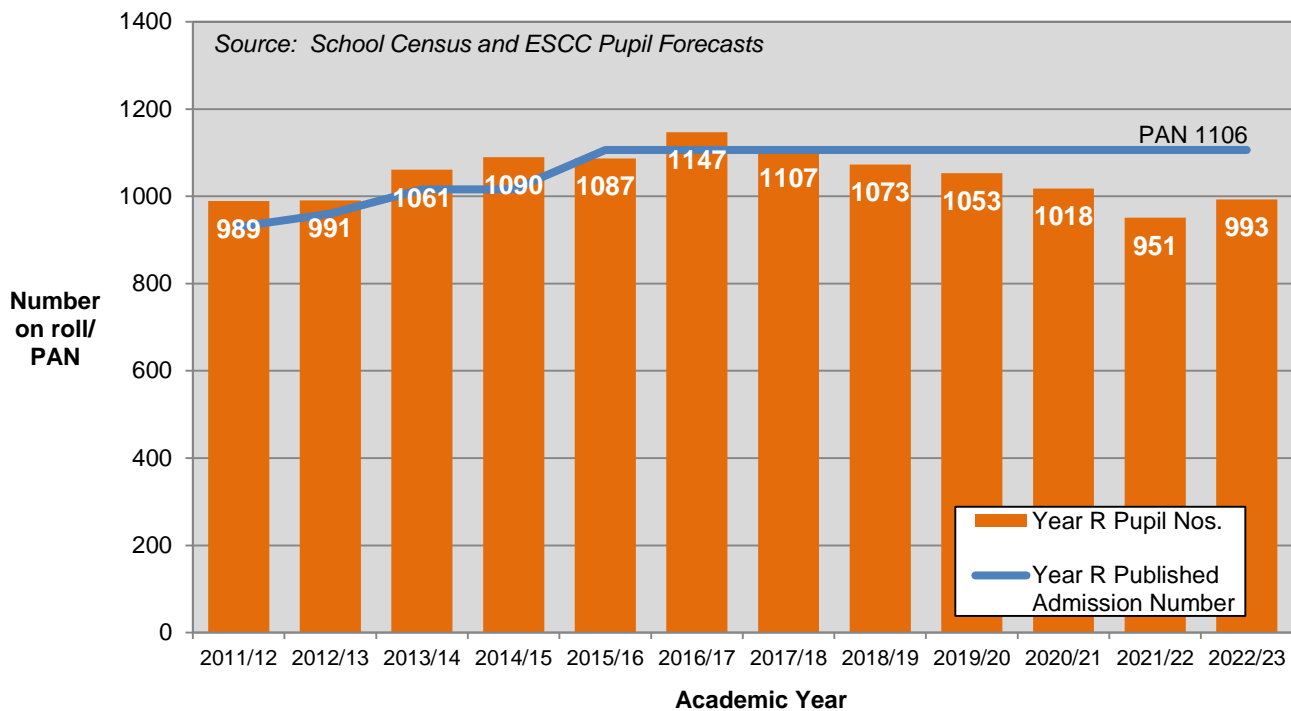
Data from the ONS shows that births in Eastbourne have fallen from a peak of 1,195 in 2011/12 to 1,011 in 2017/18 (a fall of 15%).

### 5.3 Housing plans in Eastbourne Borough

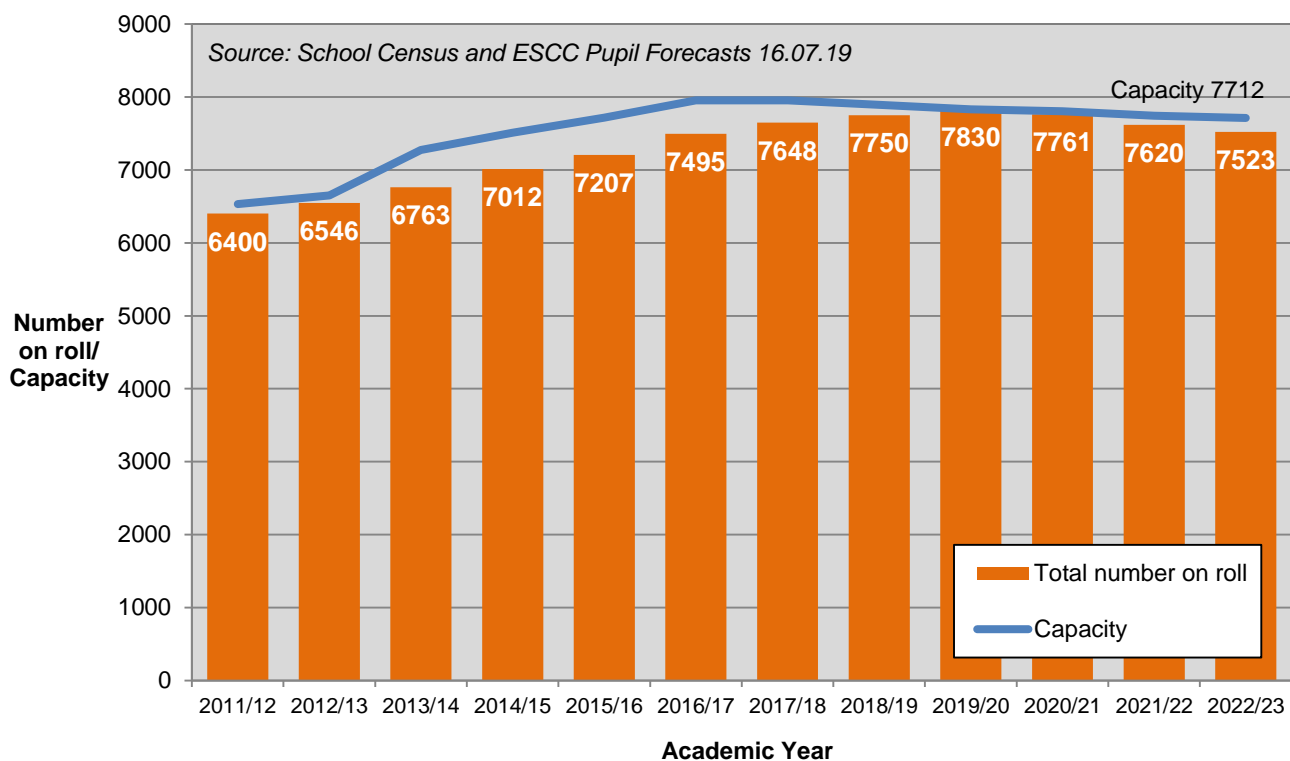
As at January 2019 Eastbourne Borough Council planned for approximately 5,000 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2027, of which an estimated 2,200 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 5.4 Primary places in Eastbourne Borough

**Eastbourne primary Year R numbers**



**Eastbourne total primary numbers**



In line with the falling birth rate in Eastbourne, we anticipate Year R numbers in the town to generally fall away at least until the middle of the next decade. The Year R intake for 2021/22 could be particularly low.

Reflecting the falling Year R intakes, numbers on roll across schools in the town are expected to fall from an expected peak of just over 7,800 in 2019/20 to just over 7,500 in 2022/23, a fall of approximately 300 (4%).

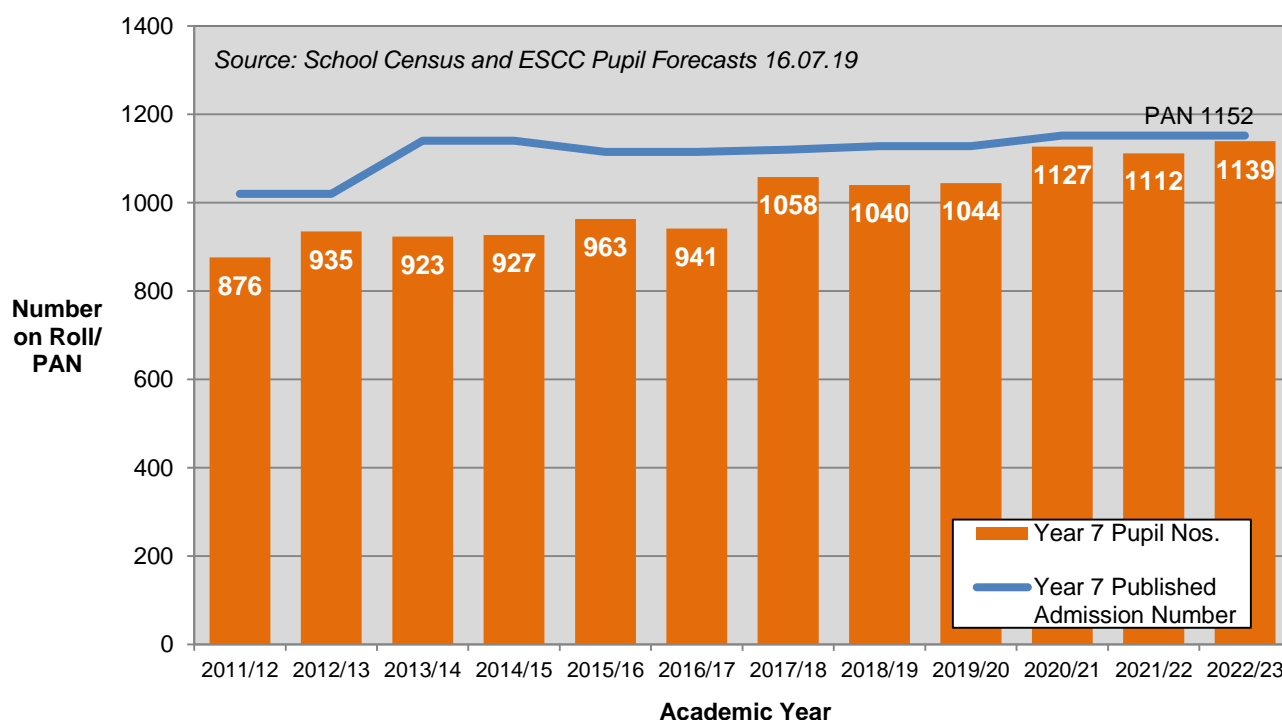
There should be sufficient capacity to meet demand for places in the future. In 2020/21 a bulge Year 3 class at Tollgate Community Junior School will accommodate the larger cohort leaving St Andrew's CE Infant School at the end of the 2019/20 academic year.

Many Eastbourne pupils occupy places in the surrounding schools such as Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School, Hankham Primary School, Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School and Stone Cross School.

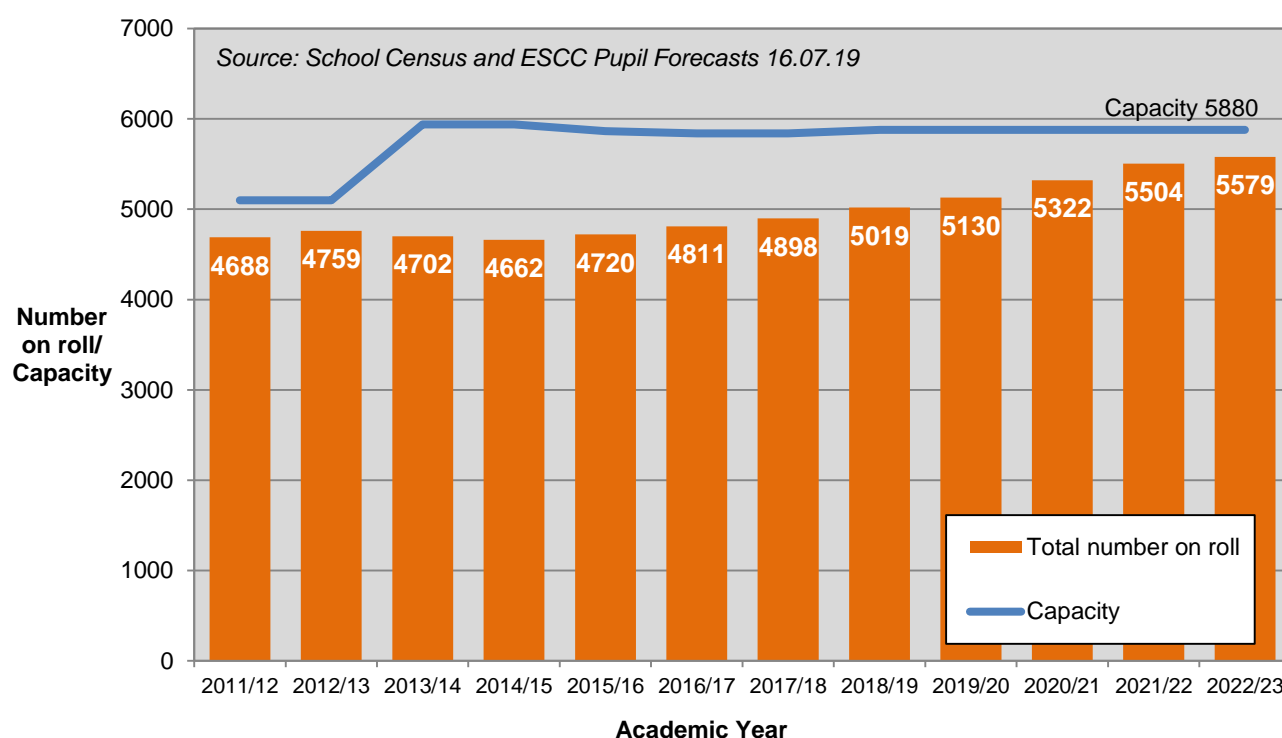
All these schools are full or close to full. High levels of new housing (recent and planned) in Polegate and Stone Cross will put additional pressure on places at these schools. The permanent expansion of Polegate School from two forms of entry to three forms of entry with effect from 2019/20 (see chapter 19) should help to alleviate pressures. Nevertheless, rising in-area numbers at Stone Cross and Hankham in particular could result in some demand from Eastbourne children being redirected by the school admissions system into the town in the medium to longer term.

## 5.5 Secondary places in Eastbourne Borough

**Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers**



## Eastbourne total secondary numbers



Based on the numbers coming through primary schools, intakes into Year 7 are forecast to rise in the coming years. Numbers could be tight from 2020/21 to around 2025/26. Potential shortfalls are predicted for 2023/24 and possibly 2024/25 (outside of the plan period and therefore not currently shown) but could also occur in other years in the first half of the decade.

In line with the larger Year 7 intakes, total numbers on roll across schools in the town have been rising and are expected to reach just under 5,600 by the end of the plan period, a rise of approximately 560 or 11% on 2018/19 figures.

Gildredge House is setting a Year 7 Published Admission Number (PAN) of 84 from 2020/21. In addition to the pupils transferring from its primary phase this will allow the school to admit up to 144 Year 7 pupils. Likewise, Cavendish School is setting a Year 7 PAN of 120 from 2020/21 but will be able to admit up to 180 including the pupils transferring from its primary phase.

We are in regular dialogue with the Eastbourne area schools and will agree strategies for dealing with any shortfalls at the appropriate time as the actual demand becomes clearer.

The Eastbourne area sees outflows of catholic pupils to St Richard's Catholic College in Bexhill (see chapter 12) and some inflows from Bexhill and Hailsham (see chapter 17).

There are also significant inflows from and outflows to Willingdon Community School. Please refer to chapter 19.

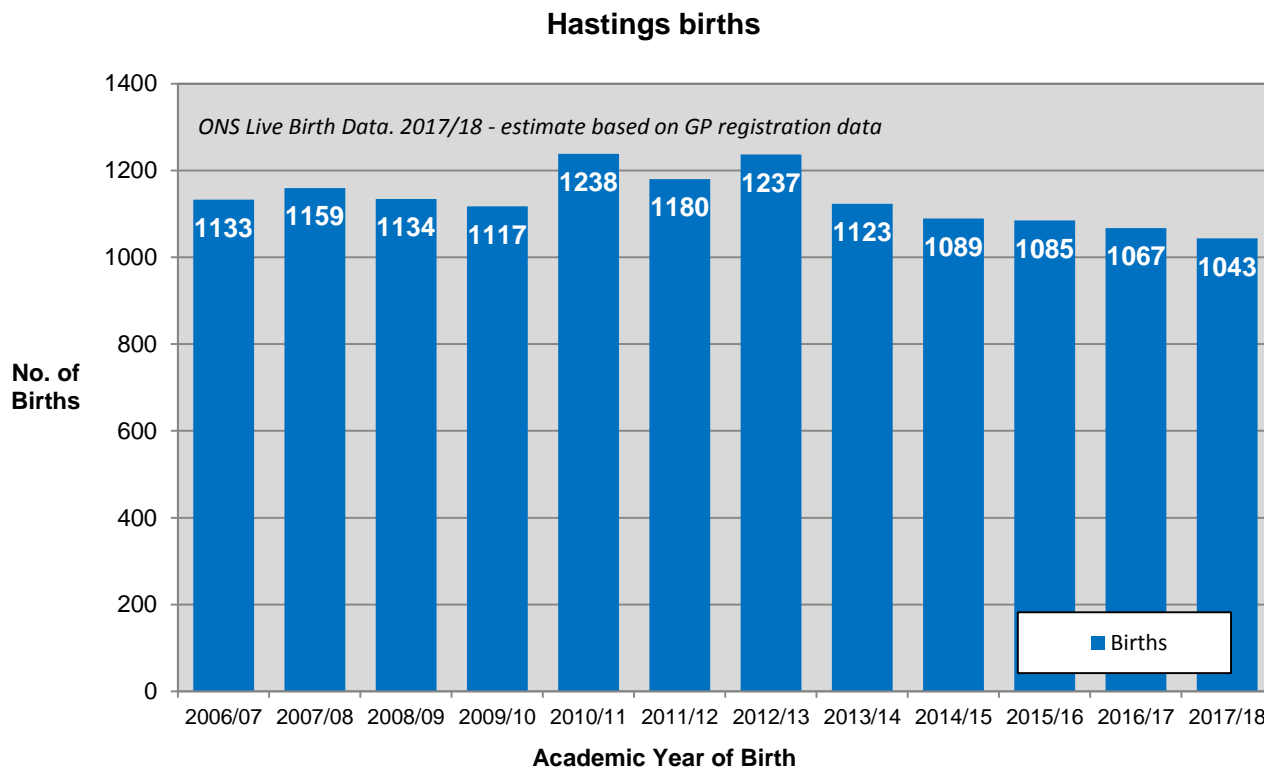
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## 6 Hastings Borough

### 6.1 Schools in Hastings Borough

There are 18 primary schools in Hastings and three secondary schools. Of the 18 primary schools, one is an infant school and one is a junior school. Nine of the primary schools have nursery provision. One secondary school has sixth form provision.

### 6.2 Births in Hastings Borough



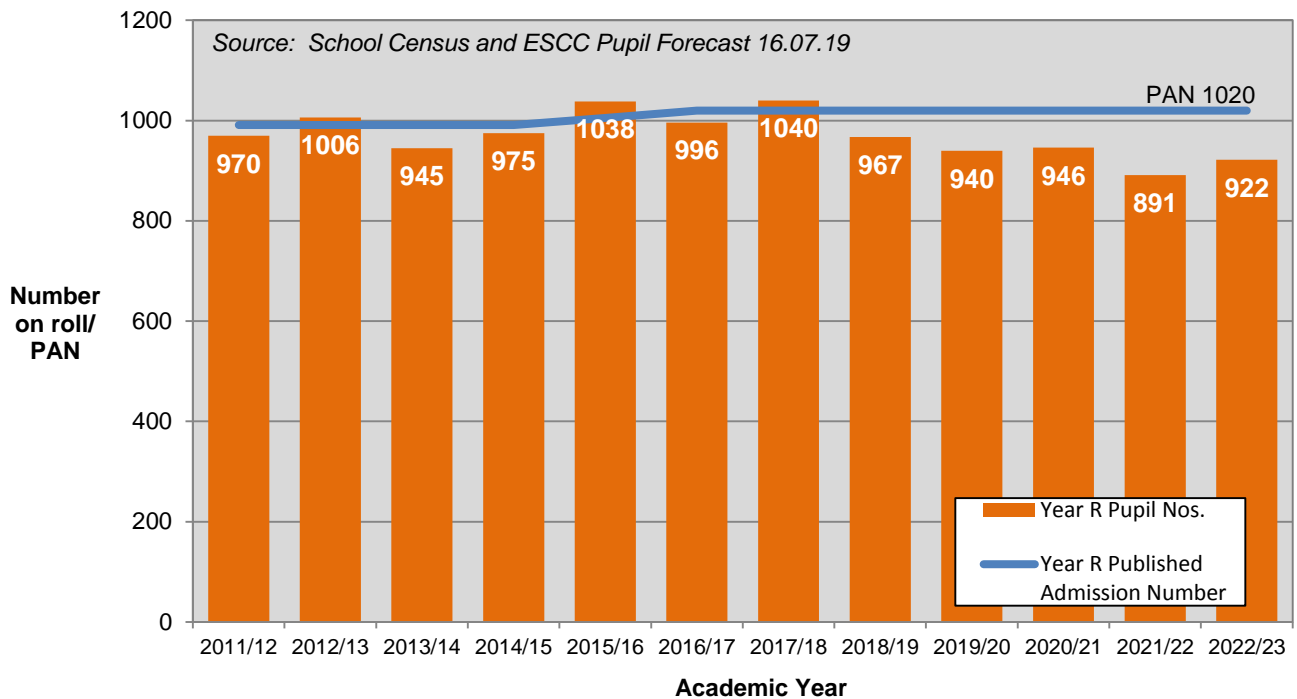
With the exception of 2012/13, data from the ONS shows that births in Hastings have fallen since 2010/11.

### 6.3 Housing plans in Hastings Borough

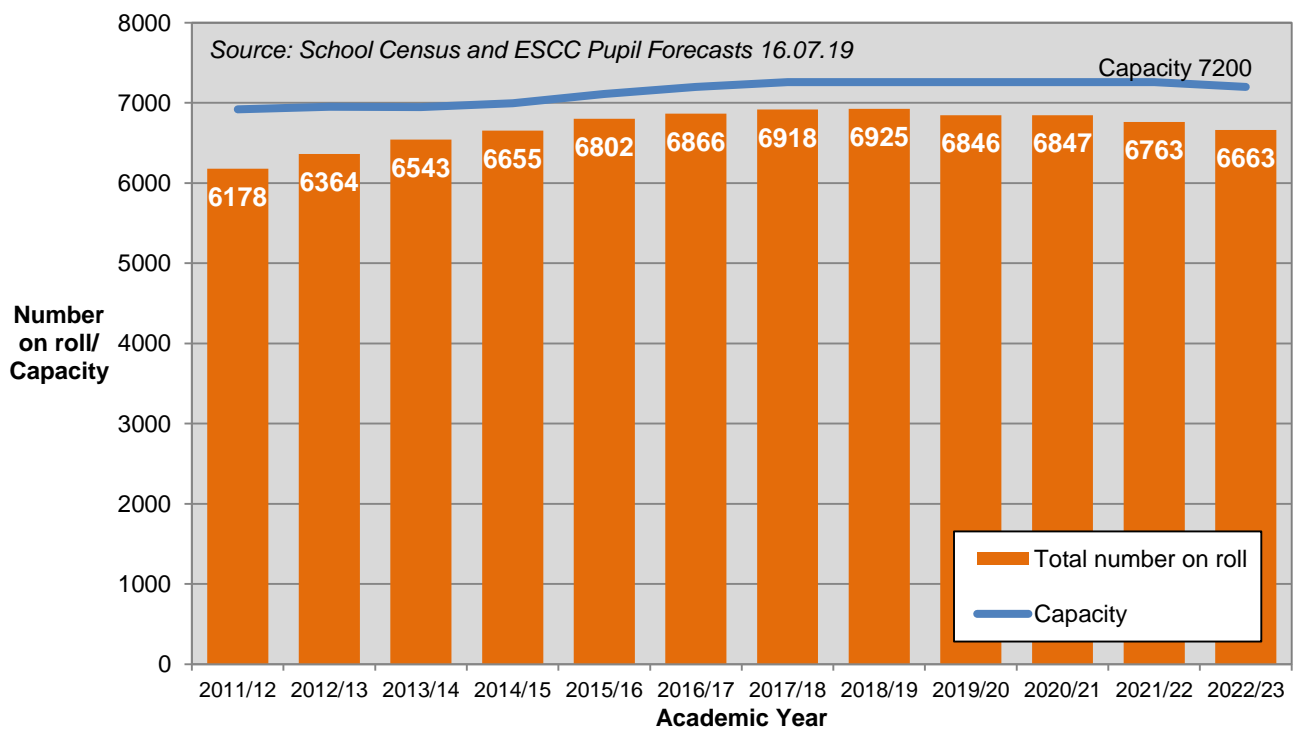
As at January 2019 Hastings Borough Council planned for approximately 3,400 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 2,400 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 6.4 Primary places in Hastings Borough

**Hastings primary Year R numbers**



**Hastings total primary numbers**



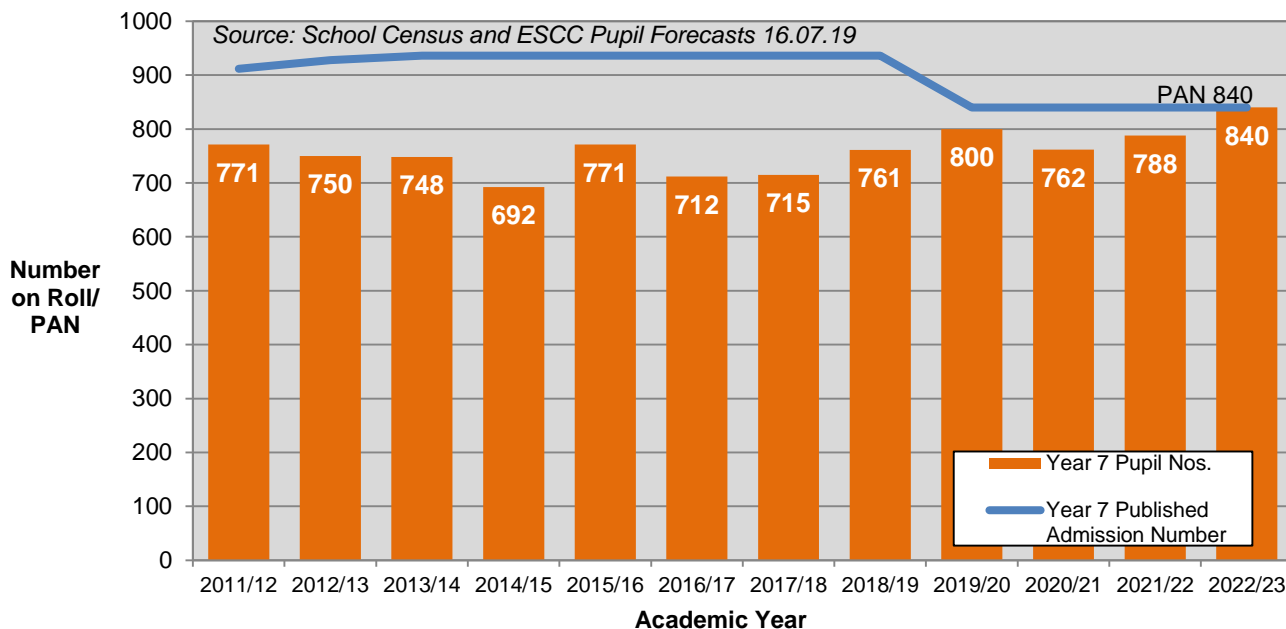
Based on live birth data, GP registrations and demographic projections we can be fairly confident that Year R intake numbers in Hastings will remain well below the current PAN over the next five years.

Numbers on roll in Hastings primary schools peaked at 6,918 in 2017/18. By the end of the plan period numbers are expected to have fallen by over 250 or 4%.

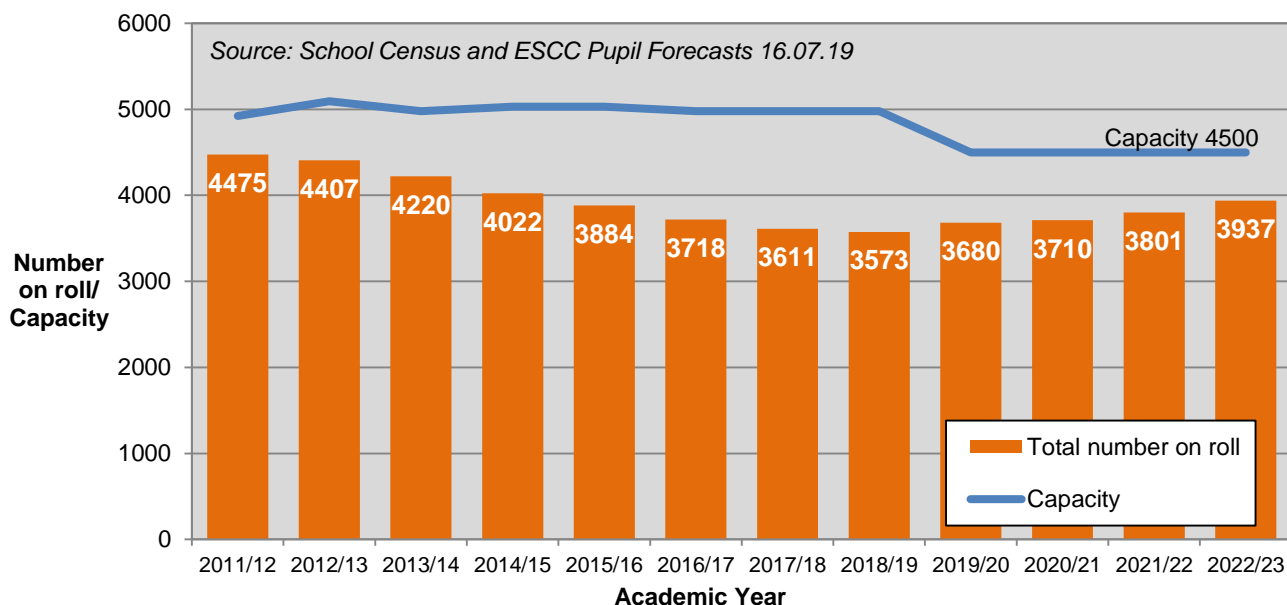
Many Hastings pupils attend surrounding primary schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School, Brede Primary School, Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling Bradshaw CE Primary School, Icklesham CE Primary School, Netherfield CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School and Westfield School. Nearly all these schools are full or close to full. However, going forward lower levels of demand from Hastings may see numbers in some of these surrounding schools falling.

## 6.5 Secondary places in Hastings Borough

**Hastings secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Hastings total secondary numbers**



From September 2019 the merger of the single sex academies, Ark Helenswood and Ark William Parker into one co-educational academy, Ark Alexandra Academy, will leave Hastings with 840 Year 7 places.

Based on the latest projections of new housing completions and cohort survival rates at KS2 in Hastings primary schools, the new PAN of 840 is forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for Year 7 places in the town.



Secondary numbers on roll are expected to rise from a low of 3,573 in 2018/19 to fewer than 3,950 in 2022/23, an increase of over 360 or 10%.

Significant numbers of Hastings pupils seek places in the surrounding schools including: Claverham Community College, Robertsbridge Community College, Rye College, Bexhill Academy and St Richard's Catholic College. The forecasts assume that many Hastings children will continue to take up places in these schools.

The move to a wholly co-educational system in Hastings from September 2019 could prove more attractive to parents and prospective pupils. If this transpires, or if outflows to surrounding schools are lower than predicted, or numbers of children coming through KS2 do not fall as they have been doing, shortfalls in relation to the reduced PAN of 840 could potentially occur in 2022/23. If this happens we will agree a strategy to address any shortfall with the local secondary schools.

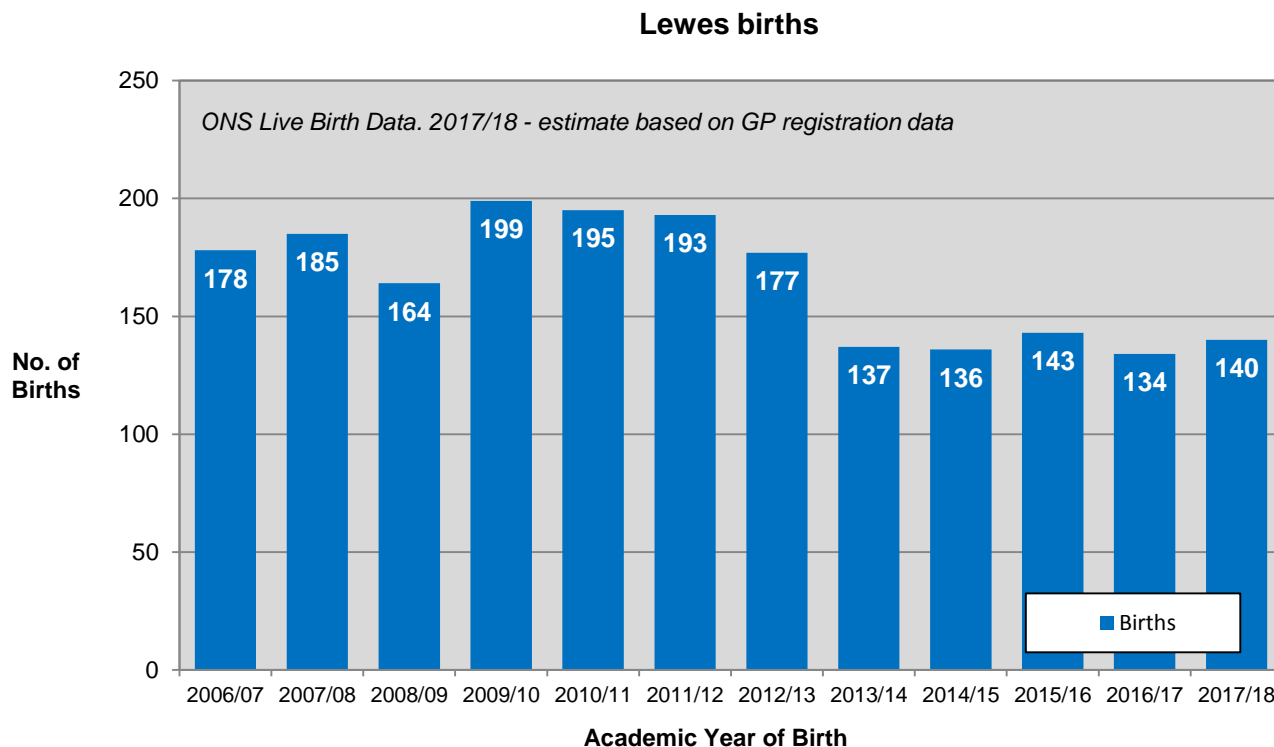
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## 7 Lewes

### 7.1 Schools in Lewes

There are five primary schools in Lewes and one secondary school. Two of the primary schools have nursery provision.

### 7.2 Births in Lewes



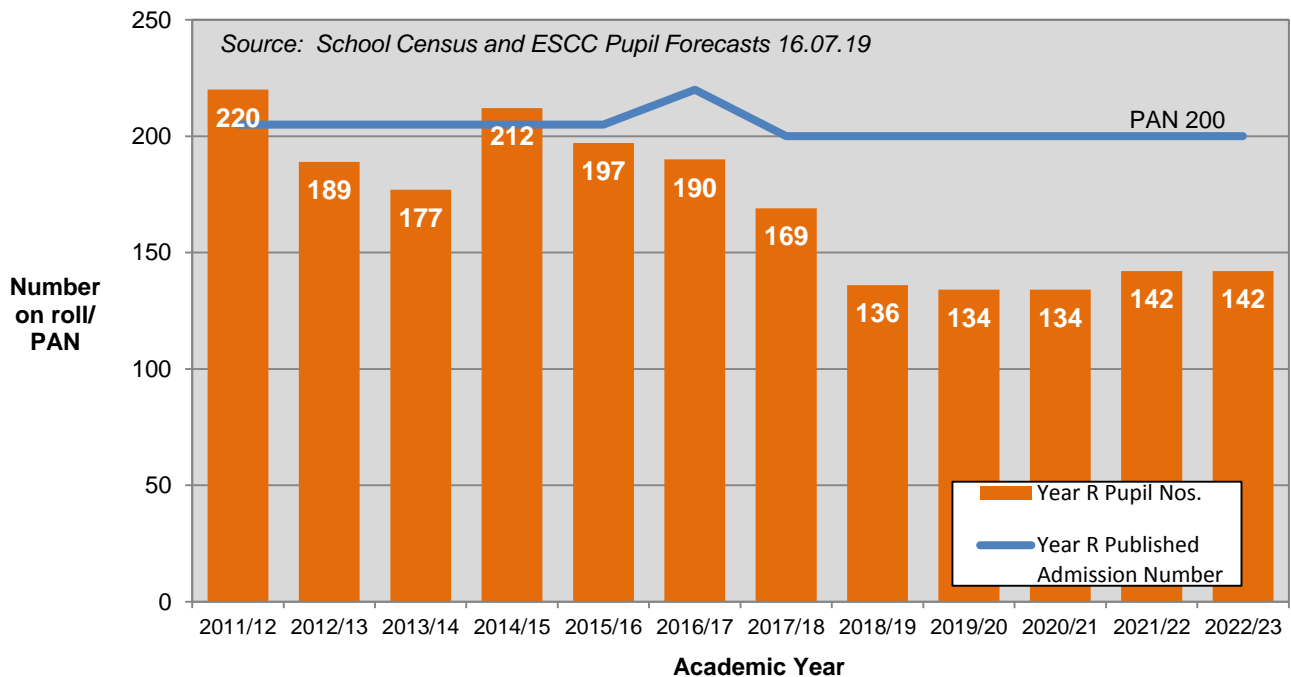
Data from the ONS shows that births in Lewes have been falling since 2009/10. Since 2013/14 births in the town have been particularly low.

### 7.3 Housing plans in Lewes

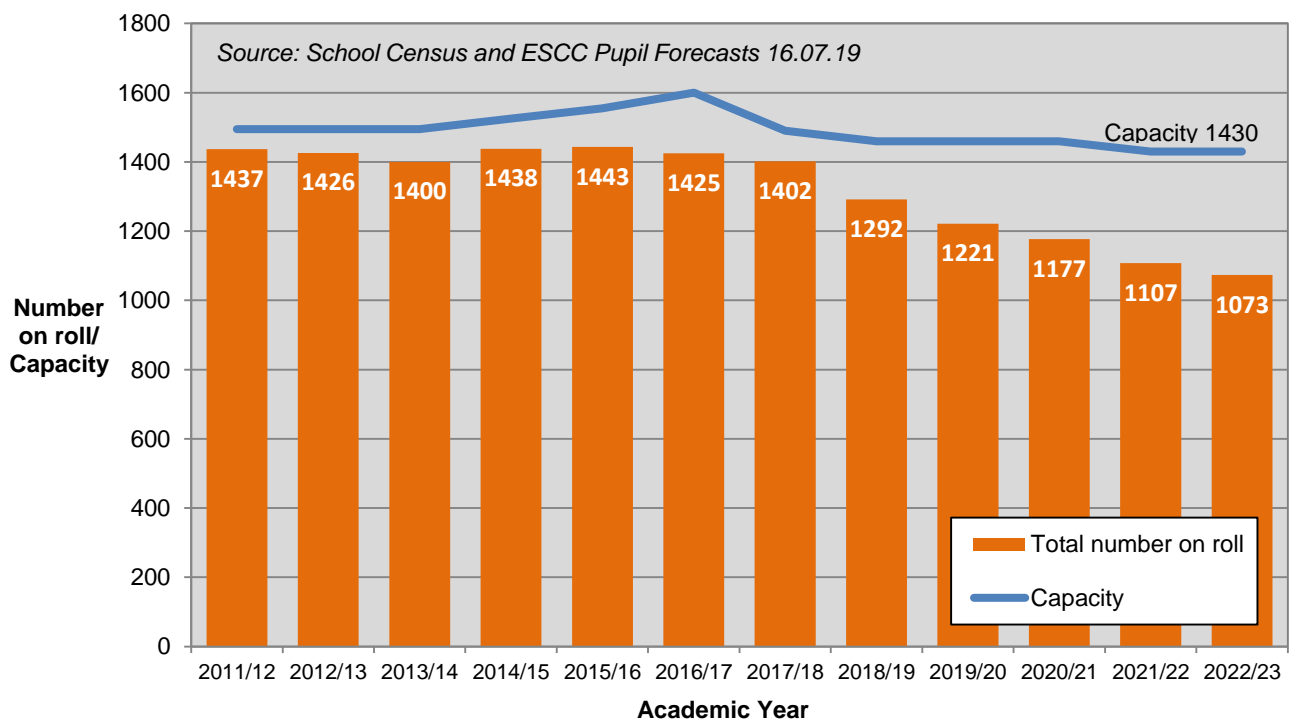
As at January 2019 Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority planned for approximately 1,300 new dwellings in the town over the Lewes District local plan period to 2030, of which an estimated 1,000 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 7.4 Primary places in Lewes

**Lewes primary Year R numbers**



**Lewes total primary numbers**



Based on birth and GP data we expect Year R numbers in Lewes to remain very low until at least 2022/23. This will lead to a rising number of surplus places in the town.

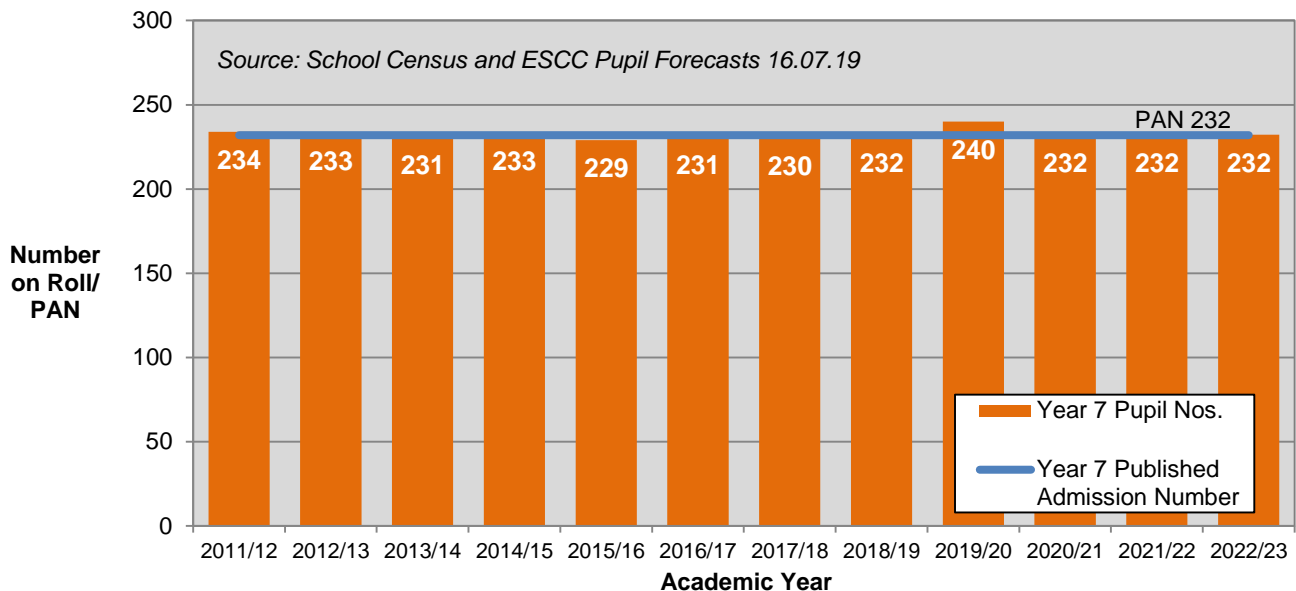
In the longer term, despite 1,000 new homes being planned for the period to 2029/30, the demographic based projections of future births are indicating there will be sufficient Year R places available to meet demand. However, it is possible that, if there is a general upswing in births from the turn of the decade, the added impact of the new housing could lead to Year R numbers in Lewes being significantly higher in the latter half of the next decade.

The local authority has been in dialogue with local headteachers about how to manage the falling pupil numbers in the town, which is beginning to impact on schools. This dialogue will continue into the 2019/20 academic year with the aim of agreeing a co-ordinated strategy for the town.

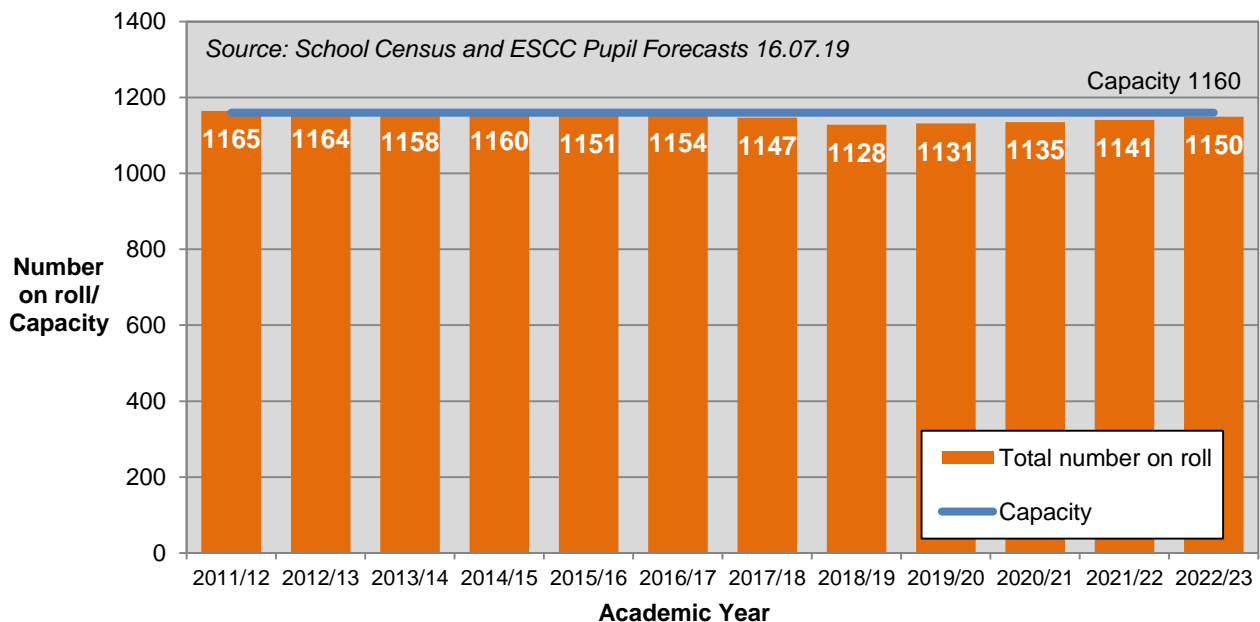
Some children from Lewes take up places in surrounding rural schools, notably Iford and Kingston CE Primary School and Hamsey Community Primary School.

## 7.5 Secondary places in Lewes

**Lewes secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Lewes total secondary numbers**



Priory School is forecast to continue to be full to PAN up to 2022/23. The PAN may be marginally exceeded in 2019/20.

Academic year 2021/22 sees very high in-area numbers, with around 270 in-area children estimated to require a mainstream state-funded school place. However, the school may be able to keep to its PAN of 232 provided outflows from the area to surrounding schools are maintained and the school admissions system is able to restrict demand from out of area, including allocations to children from Brighton and Hove. However, if lower than average in-area children demand places at other schools, then Year 7 numbers at Priory School could be higher than forecast. Longer term

will see significantly smaller cohorts coming through primary schools in Lewes. Brighton and Hove City Council has indicated that there is unlikely to be high enough demand coming out of the city to bridge the gap between the demand from East Sussex children and Priory School's PAN. In consequence much lower Year 7 intakes at Priory School are forecast in the middle and latter parts of the next decade.

Part of Priory's School's admissions area is a joint admissions area with that of Kings Academy Ringmer. In recent years the school has taken around 50 children from out of area. Notably from Ringmer, Chailey, Newhaven and Brighton and Hove, while a similar number have taken up places at other schools, notably Kings Academy Ringmer, Chailey School and out of county Catholic schools.

Although the village of Ditchling is in a joint school admissions area served by Priory School and Chailey School, traditionally children from that village have attended Downlands Community School in Hassocks, as part of long standing admissions agreement with West Sussex County Council.

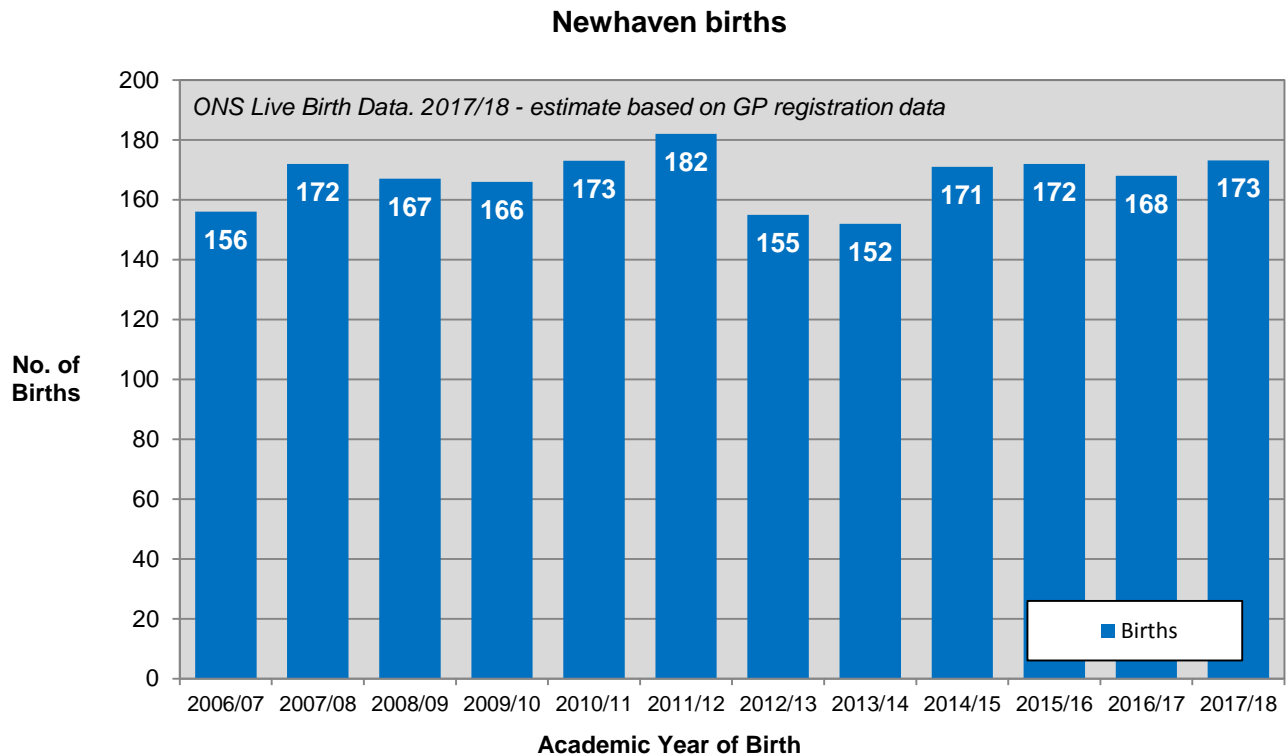
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## 8 Newhaven

### 8.1 Schools in Newhaven

There are four primary schools in Newhaven and one secondary school. Three of the four primary schools have nursery provision. UTC@harbourside, which previously offered places for pupils aged 14-19, closed at the end of the 2018/19 academic year.

### 8.2 Births in Newhaven



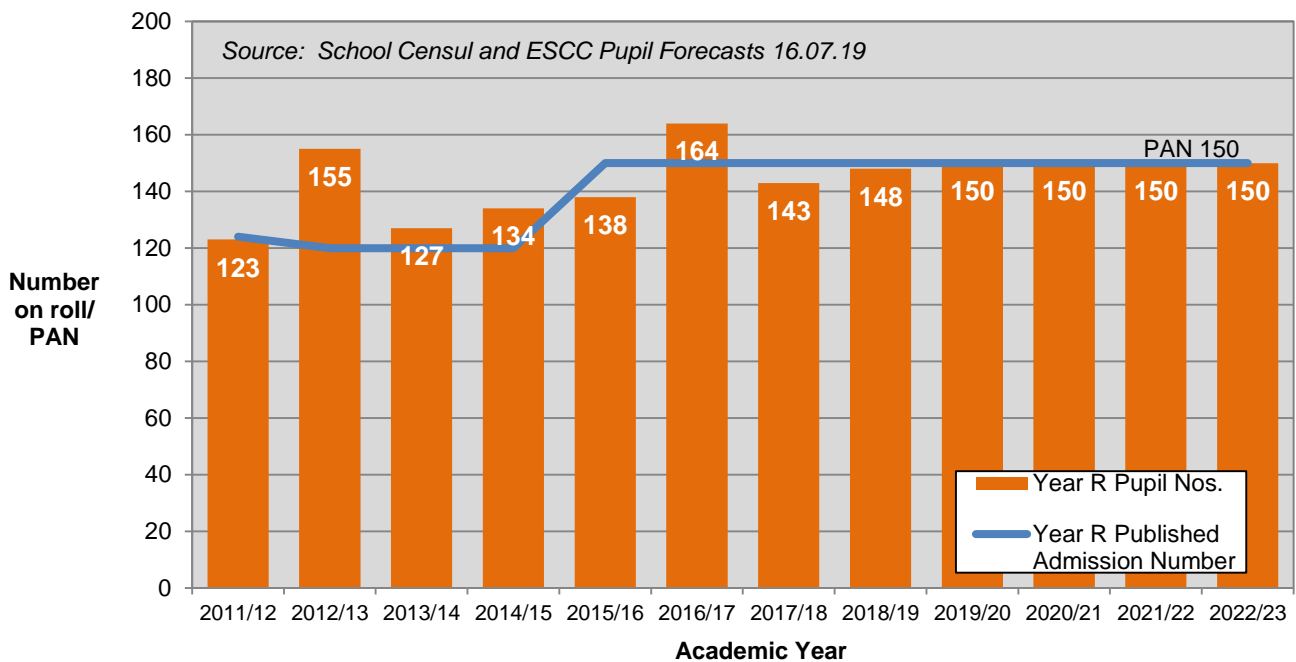
Data from the ONS shows that, after falling in 2012/13 and 2013/14, births in Newhaven have risen again in the last four years.

### 8.3 Housing plans in Newhaven

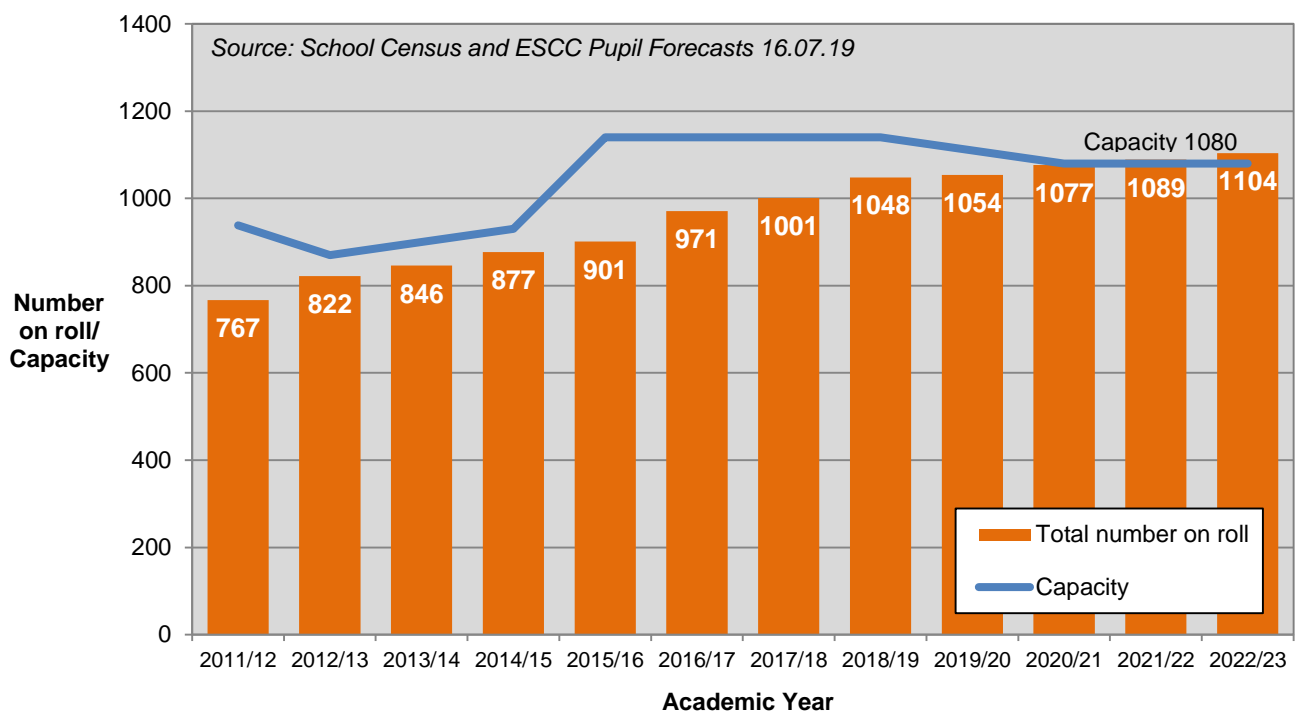
As at January 2019 Lewes District Council planned for approximately 1,800 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2030, of which an estimated 1,500 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 8.4 Primary places in Newhaven

**Newhaven primary Year R numbers**



**Newhaven total primary numbers**



Live birth and GP registration data indicates that in the period to 2022/23 Year R numbers in Newhaven are going to be around 150 and may creep over in some years.

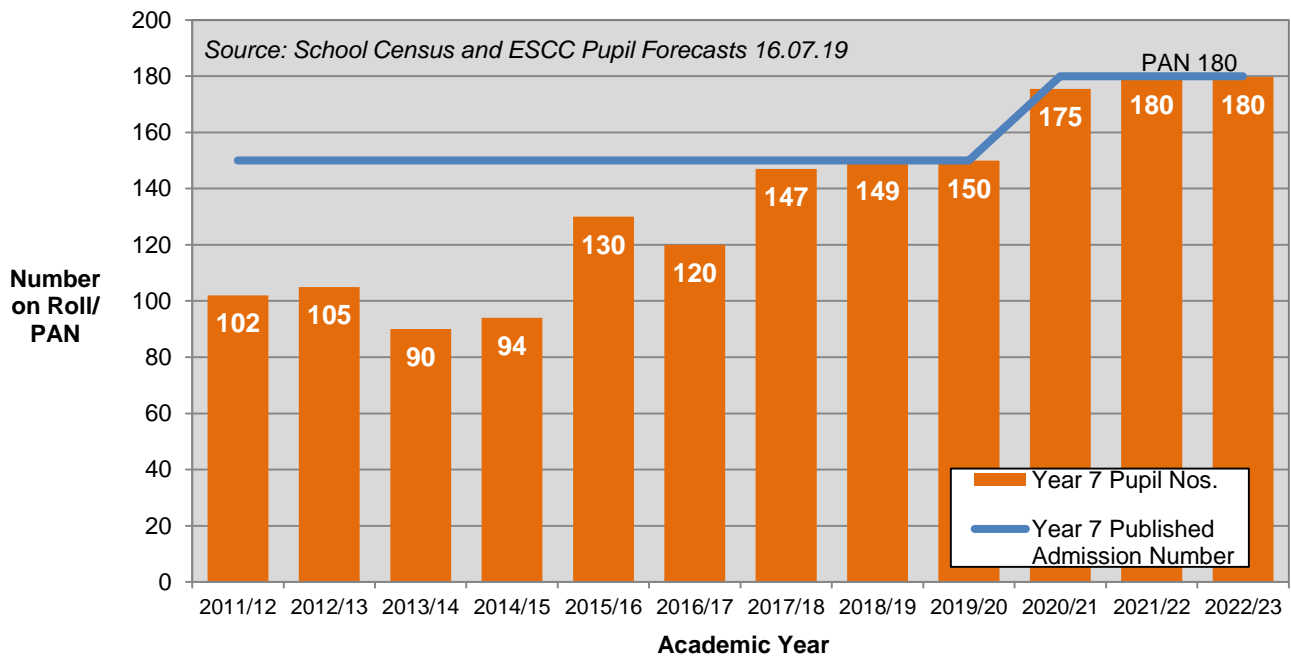
High in-year numbers and additional pupils from new housing will also increase pressure on places in other year groups.

Longer term demographic forecasts, which take account of over 1,500 new homes planned for Newhaven in the period to 2029/30, show pressures increasing.

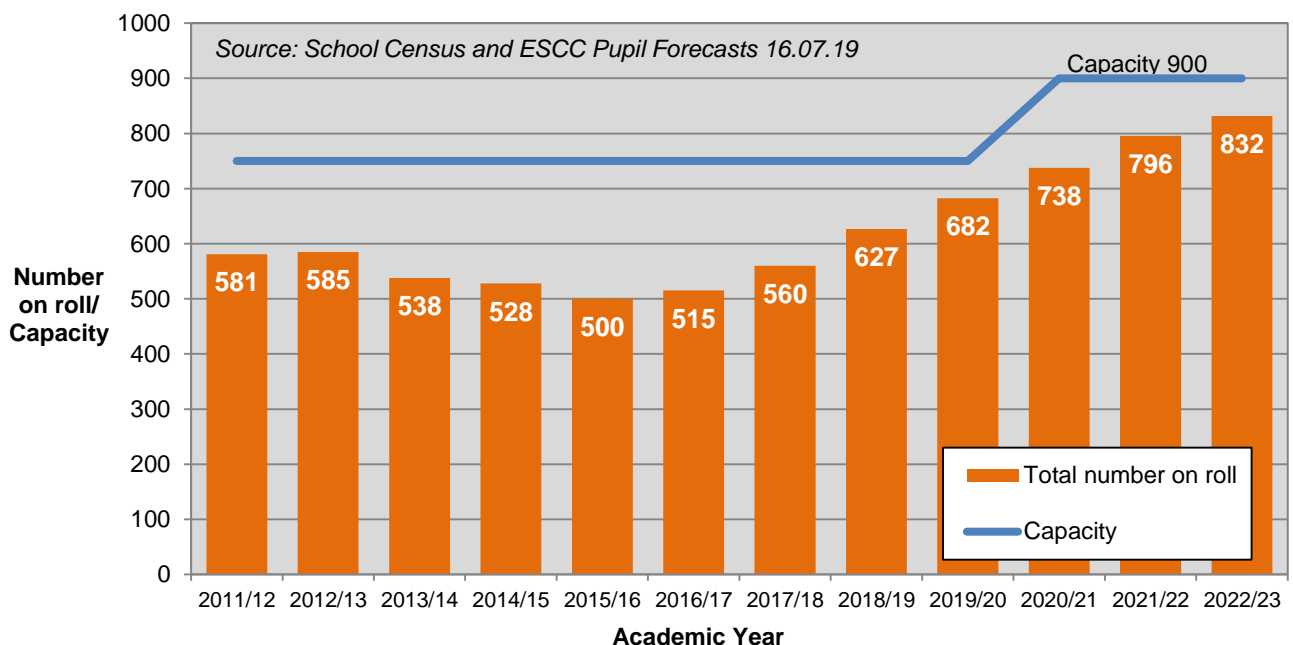
A number of Newhaven pupils attend Iford and Kingston CE Primary School and primary schools in Seaford. If Newhaven schools are to keep to PAN, it may be necessary to utilise spare capacity in Seaford, Iford and Kingston and Peacehaven in future years and this may entail in some cases the school admissions system directing Newhaven children to these schools. The local authority will keep the situation under review in the coming years.

## 8.5 Secondary places in Newhaven

**Newhaven secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Newhaven total secondary numbers**



Numbers coming through Newhaven primary schools are rising and this, together with the significant new homes planned for Newhaven in the period to 2030, is reflected in the forecast Year 7 intakes for 2020/21 onwards.



A build project to expand Seahaven Academy from 750 places to 900 places started in summer 2019 and is due to complete in time for the 2020/21 academic year. As a result, the academy's PAN will increase from 150 to 180 as shown in the charts above.

Seahaven Academy currently has a high number of surplus places, but these are forecast to reduce rapidly with the higher Year 7 intakes coming through from 2020/21.

As Seahaven Academy's school admissions area also includes the neighbouring town of Peacehaven (see chapter 9) it is also useful to look at pressures across the two towns. Based on the new combined PAN of 360 from 2020/21, the latest forecasts point to an overall shortage of places of one form of entry in 2021/22 and up to two forms of entry in 2023/24 (beyond the current plan period). Shortfalls could also emerge in any of the years going forward to 2025/26 as numbers are tight.

Whether shortfalls emerge, and the extent of these shortfalls, will depend on actual levels of outflows from Newhaven to Seaford Head School, Priory School in Lewes and from Peacehaven to schools in Brighton and Hove, notably Longhill High School.

The local authority will continue to work with Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School to agree further strategies beyond the planned expansion of Seahaven Academy, if appropriate.

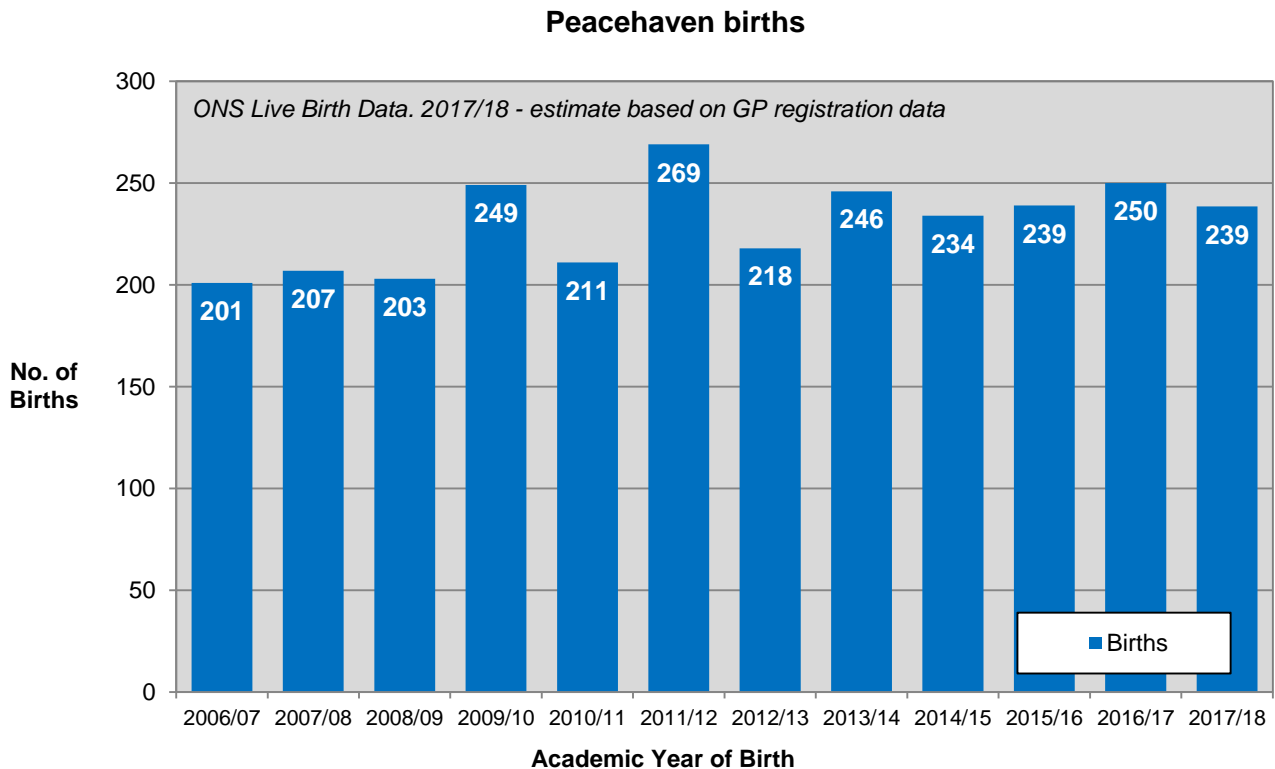
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## 9 Peacehaven

### 9.1 Schools in Peacehaven

There are three primary schools in Peacehaven, all of which have nursery provision. There is one secondary school.

### 9.2 Births in Peacehaven



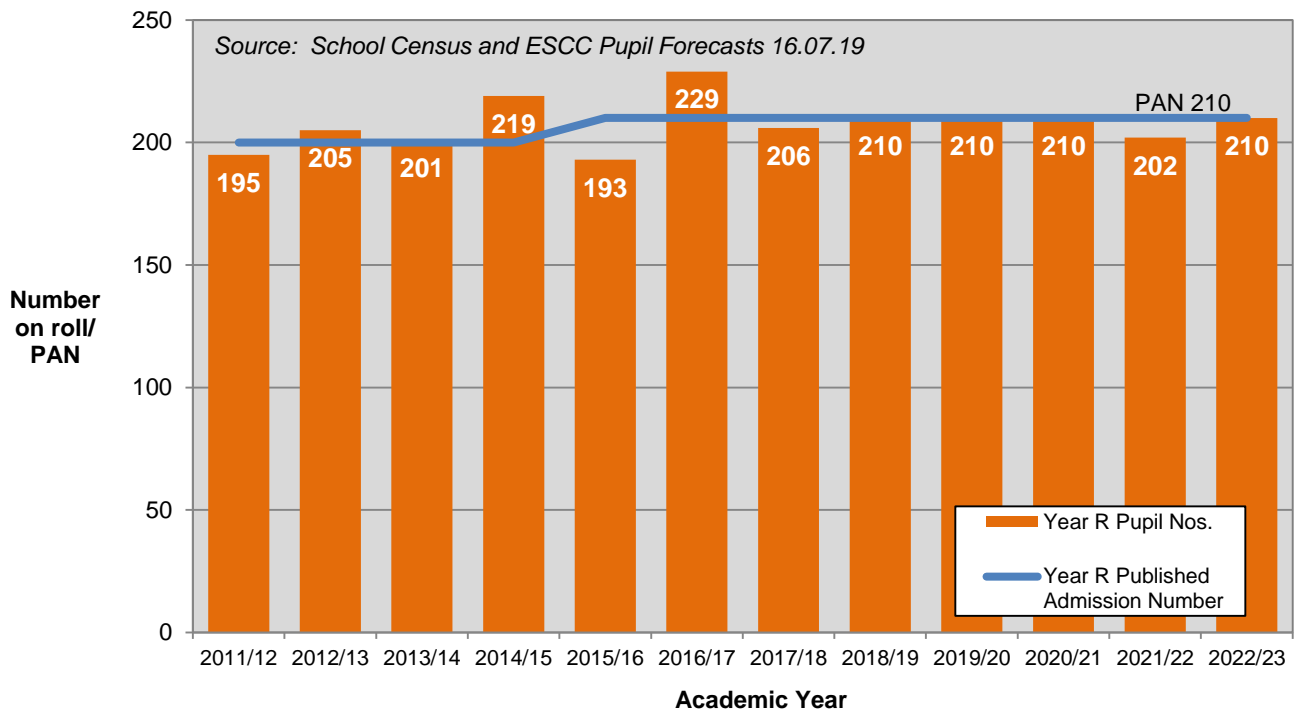
Data from the ONS shows that births in Peacehaven have been fairly consistent in the last five years, ranging from 234 to 250.

### 9.3 Housing plans in Peacehaven

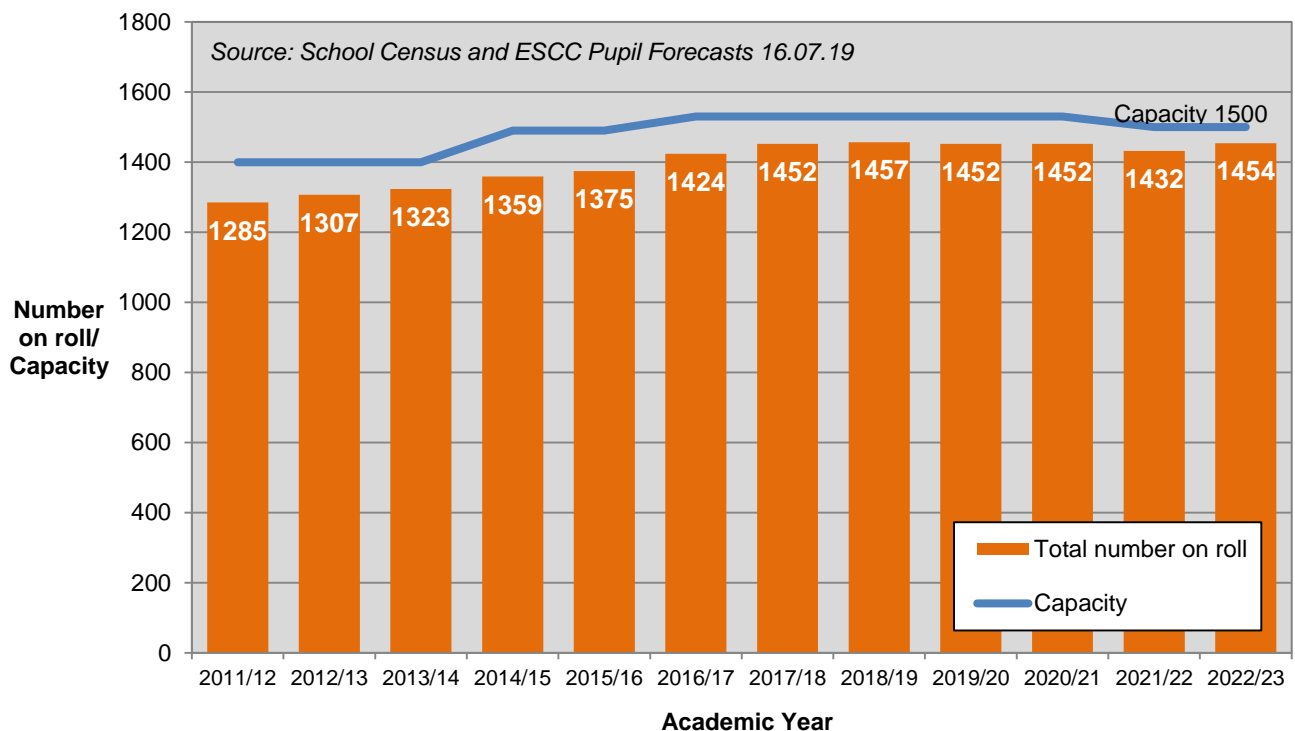
As at January 2019 Lewes District Council planned for approximately 1,400 new dwellings in the Peacehaven and Telscombe area over the local plan period to 2030, of which an estimated 800 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 9.4 Primary places in Peacehaven

**Peacehaven primary Year R numbers**



**Peacehaven total primary numbers**



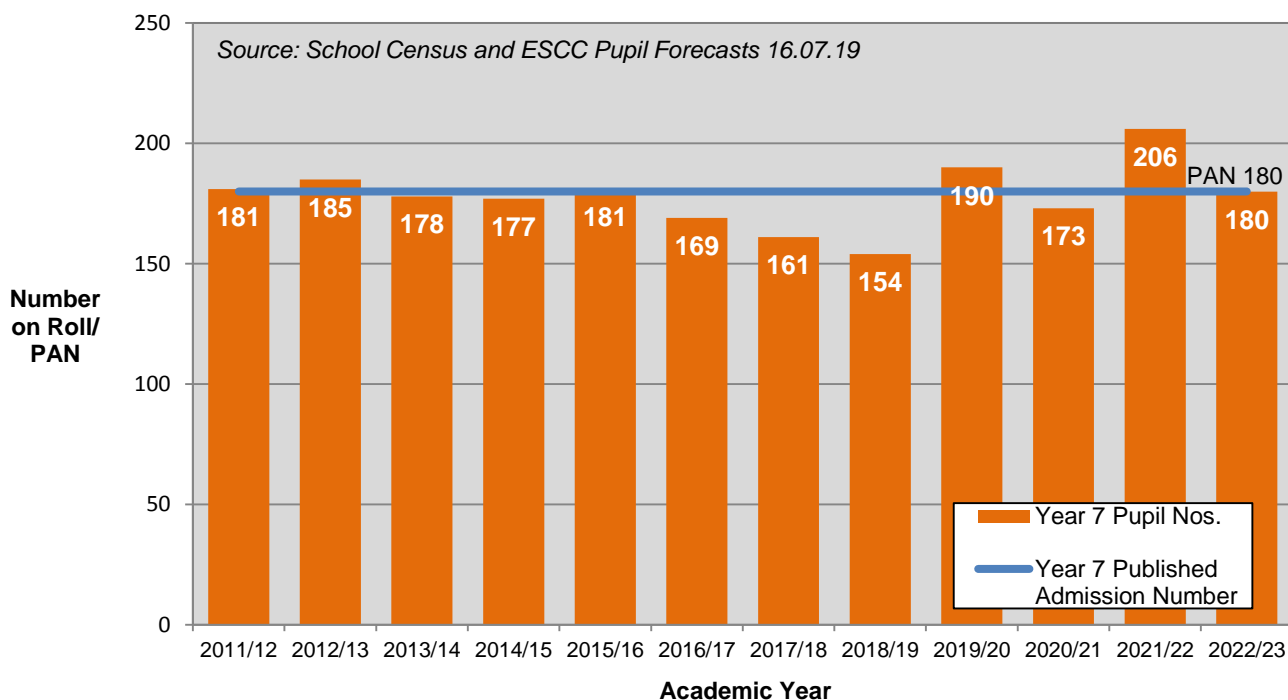
Live birth and GP data and, for the longer term, demographic projections indicate that going forward Year R numbers in Peacehaven should keep within the combined PAN of 210. Academic year 2022/23 could be tight, partly owing to knock-on pressures from Newhaven.

Saltdean Primary School in neighbouring Brighton and Hove is traditionally the school of preference for pupils in the Peacehaven primary school planning area who live in East Saltdean which is on the East Sussex side of the border. Traditionally around 20 to 30 East Sussex children per year group obtain a place at Saltdean Primary School. The school recently expanded by a

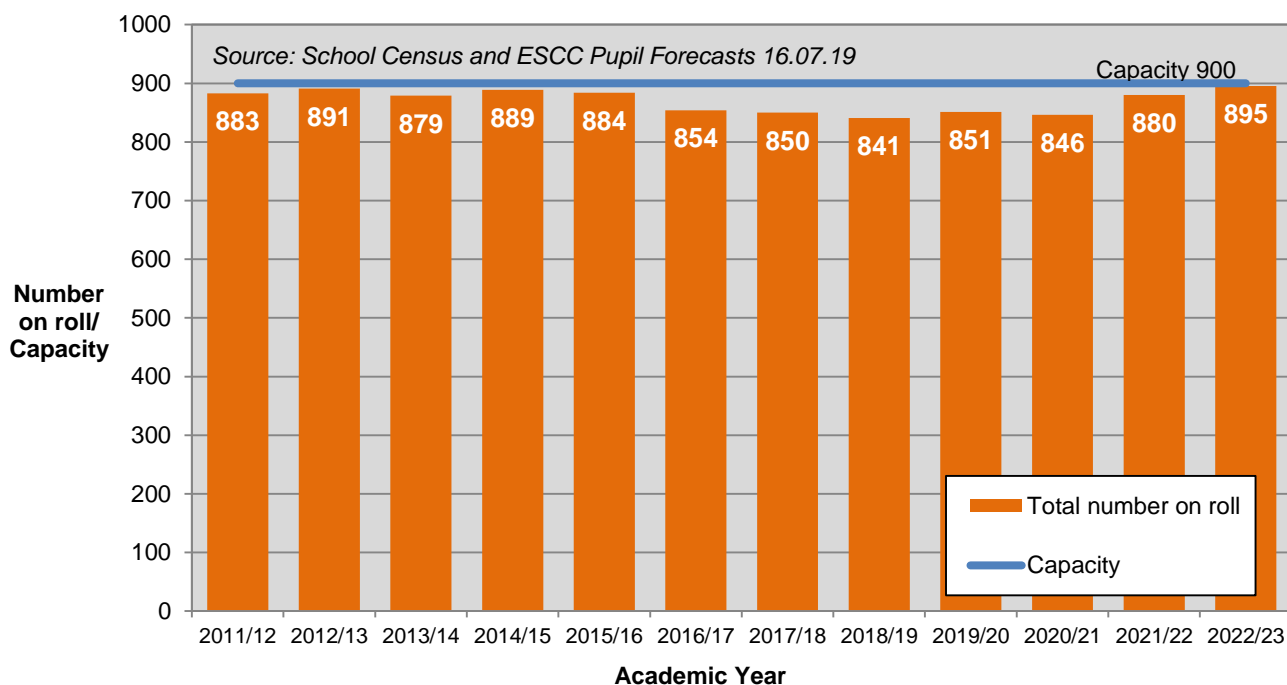
form of entry, meaning that East Sussex children who require a place at the school generally get in. Additionally, a few Peacehaven area children normally attend St Margaret's CE Primary School and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in nearby Rottingdean (again both in Brighton and Hove) and Annecy Catholic Primary School in Seaford.

## 9.5 Secondary places in Peacehaven

**Peacehaven secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Peacehaven total secondary numbers**



Numbers coming through Peacehaven primary schools are rising. In 2019/20 Peacehaven Community School has been forecast at 190 as the school has agreed to admit numbers over its PAN. However, it is possible that numbers could fall back to 180. The chart above shows a further shortfall of Year 7 places likely at the school in 2021/22.

As set out in chapter 8 above, the Seahaven Academy school admissions area also includes Peacehaven. As a consequence it is useful to look at pressures across the two towns. Based on the new combined PAN of 360, the latest forecasts point to an overall shortage of places of one form of entry in 2021/22 and up to two forms of entry in 2023/24 (beyond the plan period). Shortfalls could also emerge in any of the years going forward to 2025/26 as numbers are tight.

Whether shortfalls emerge, and the extent of these shortfalls, will depend on actual levels of outflows from Newhaven to Seaford Head School, Priory School in Lewes and from Peacehaven to schools in Brighton and Hove, notably Longhill High School.

The local authority will continue to work with Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School to agree further strategies beyond the planned expansion of Seahaven Academy, as required.

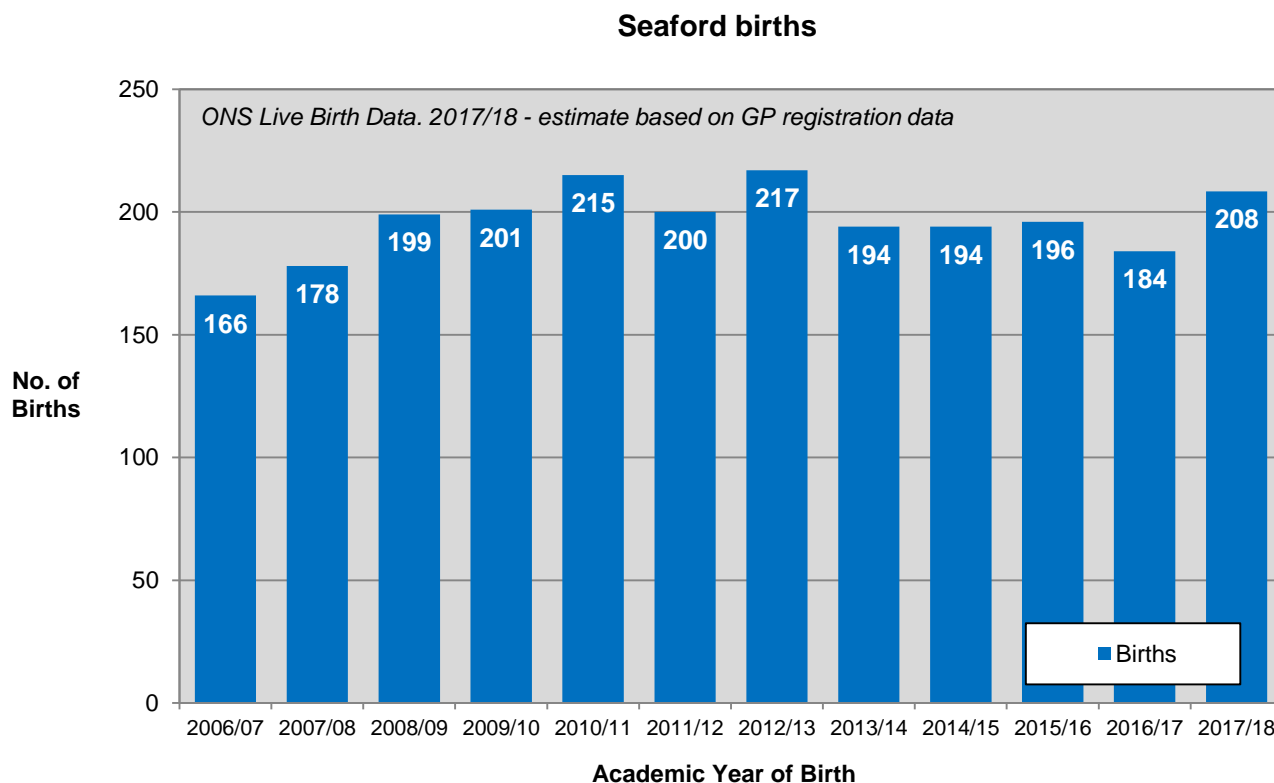
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## 10 Seaford

### 10.1 Schools in Seaford

There are four primary schools in Seaford and one secondary school with a sixth form.

### 10.2 Births in Seaford



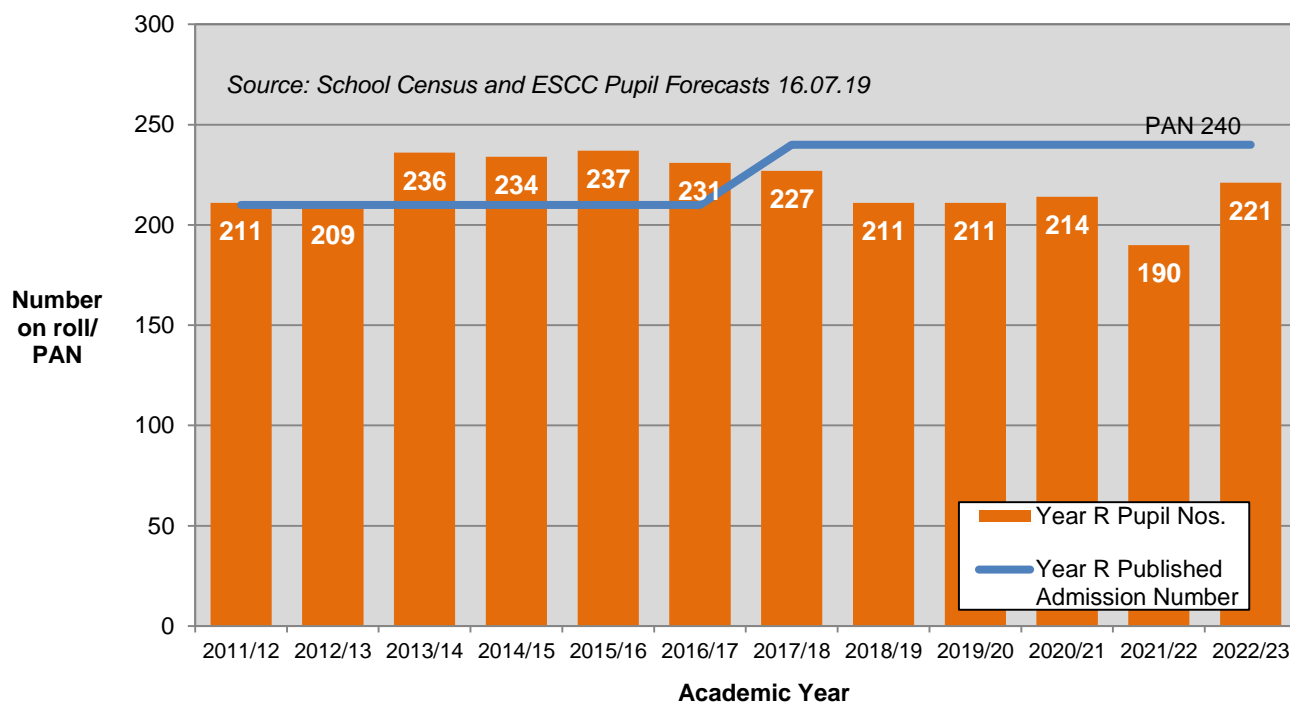
Data from the ONS shows that births in Seaford were fairly static at just fewer than 200 each year between 2013/14 and 2015/16. In 2016/17 they fell to just over 180, but in 2017/18 GP registration data indicates they were back over 200.

### 10.3 Housing plans in Seaford

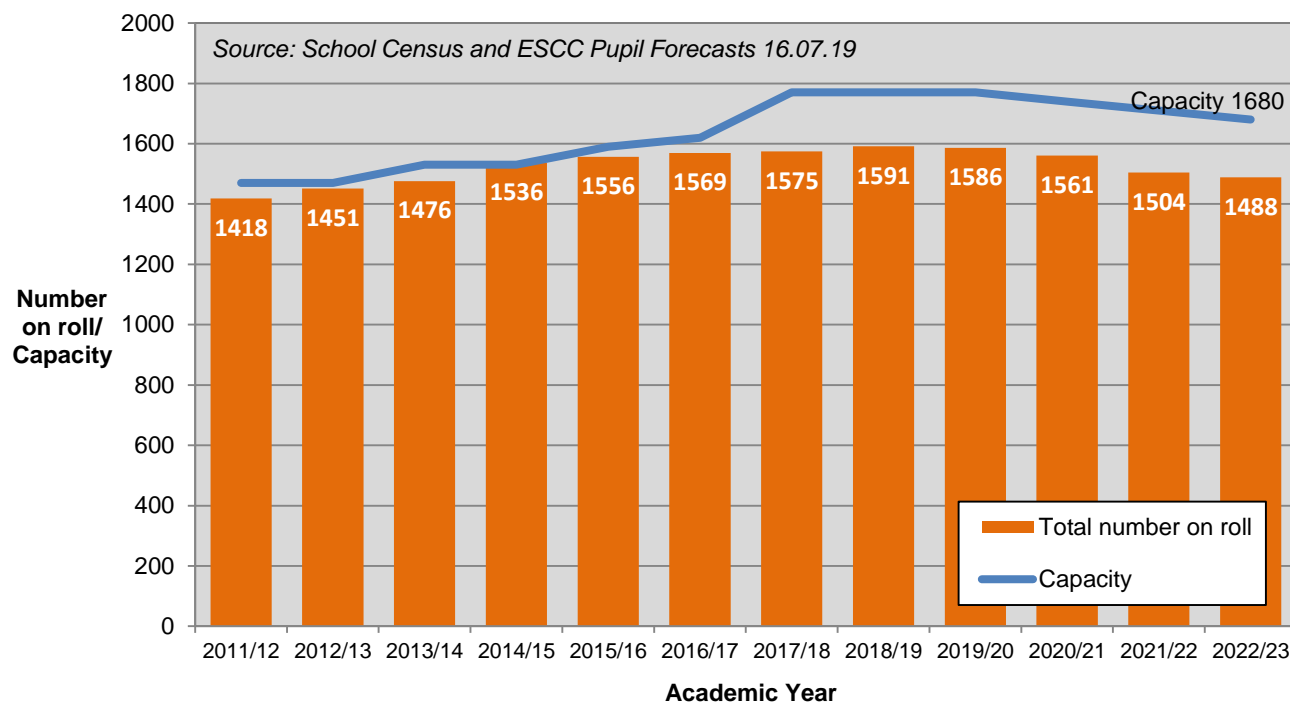
As at January 2019 Lewes District Council planned for approximately 900 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2030, of which an estimated 500 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 10.4 Primary places in Seaford

Seaford primary Year R numbers



Seaford total primary numbers

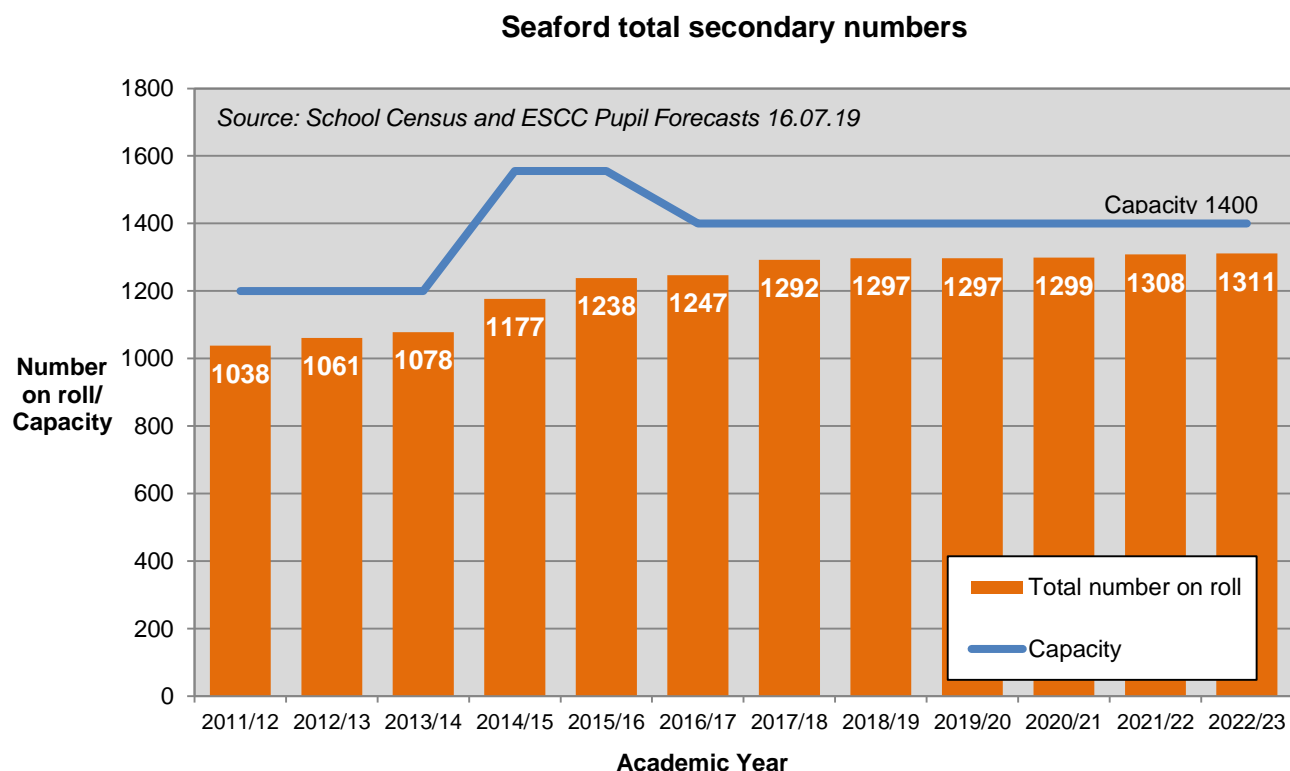
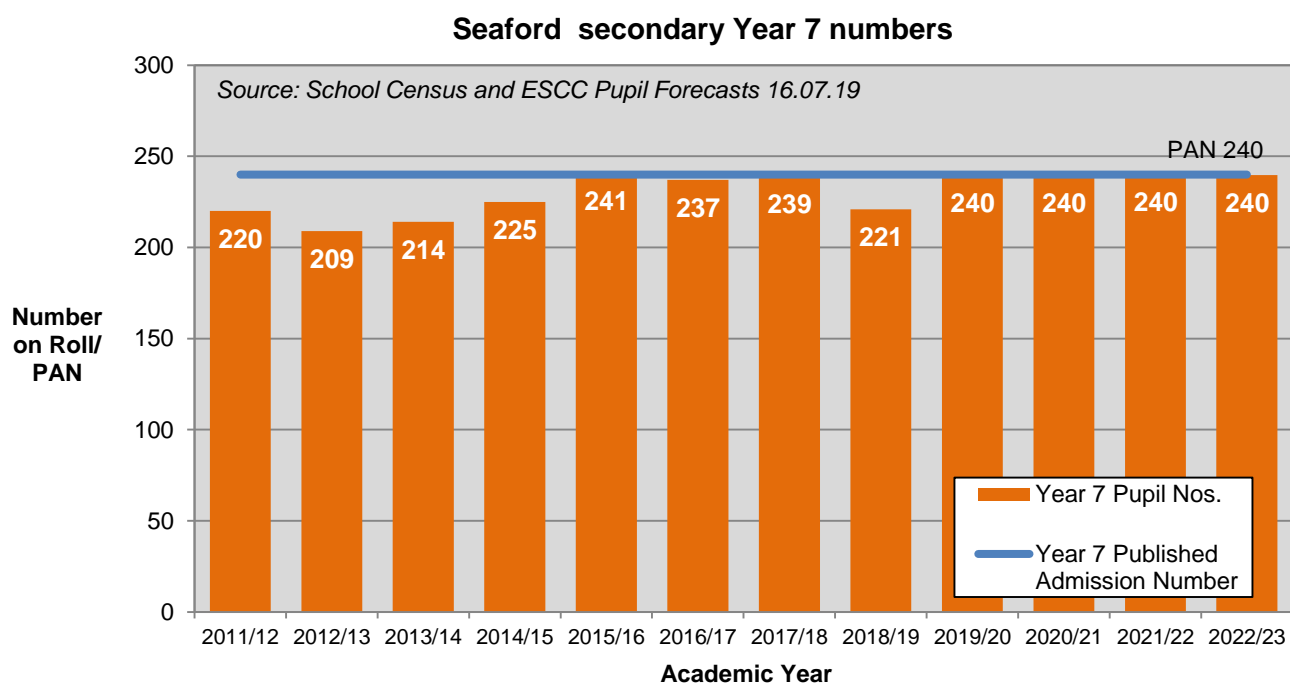


Birth and GP data, together with assumptions on net inflows of pupils from surrounding areas, indicates that Year R numbers will be around 210 to 220 in most years up to 2022/23. The exception is 2021/22 where the live birth figure for 2016/17 and the total of GP registered one year olds as at August 2018, indicates that Year R numbers could be 190 or below.

Longer term, despite the relatively modest levels of new housing planned for the town, demographic projections of future births suggest numbers rising to around 230.

Annecy Catholic Primary School takes a number of its pupils from Newhaven and Peacehaven.

## 10.5 Secondary places in Seaford



It is forecast that future Year 7 intakes to Seaford Head School should keep to its PAN of 240.

Recently the school has taken significant numbers of Year 7 pupils each year from Newhaven and Peacehaven. In order to keep to its PAN of 240 Seaford Head School will require the school admissions system to redirect non-priority out of area applicants to Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School, thereby increasing pupil number pressures in those areas.

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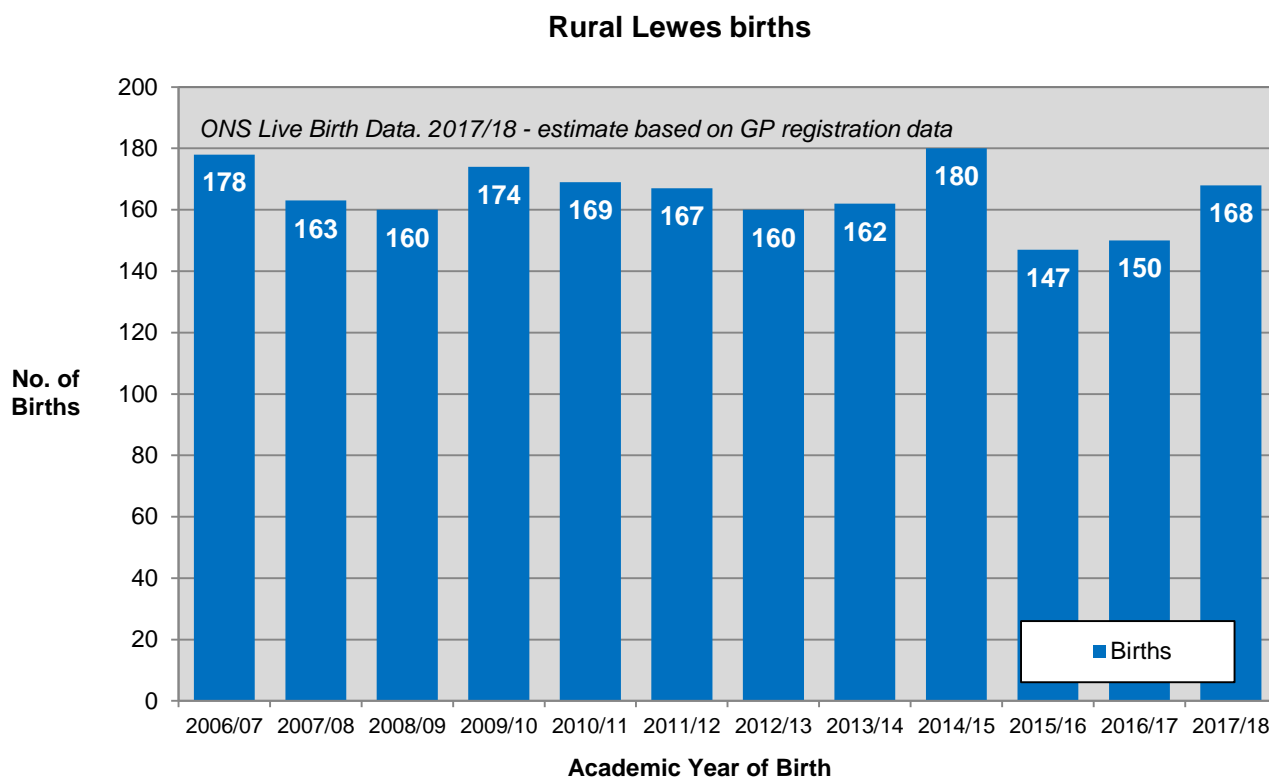


## 11 Rural Lewes

### 11.1 Schools in Rural Lewes

There are ten primary schools in Rural Lewes and two secondary schools. Two of the ten primary schools have nursery provision.

### 11.2 Births in Rural Lewes



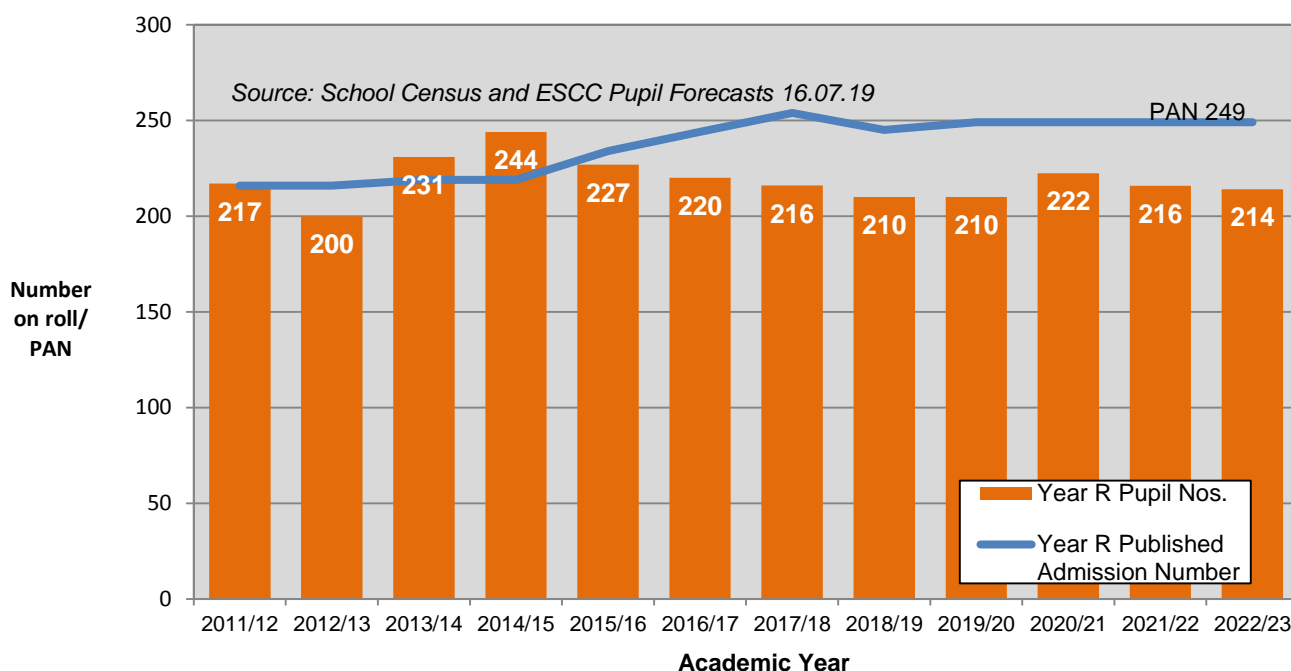
Data from the ONS shows that births in Rural Lewes have fluctuated in recent years, from a low of 147 in 2015/16 to a high of 180 in 2014/15.

### 11.3 Housing plans in Rural Lewes

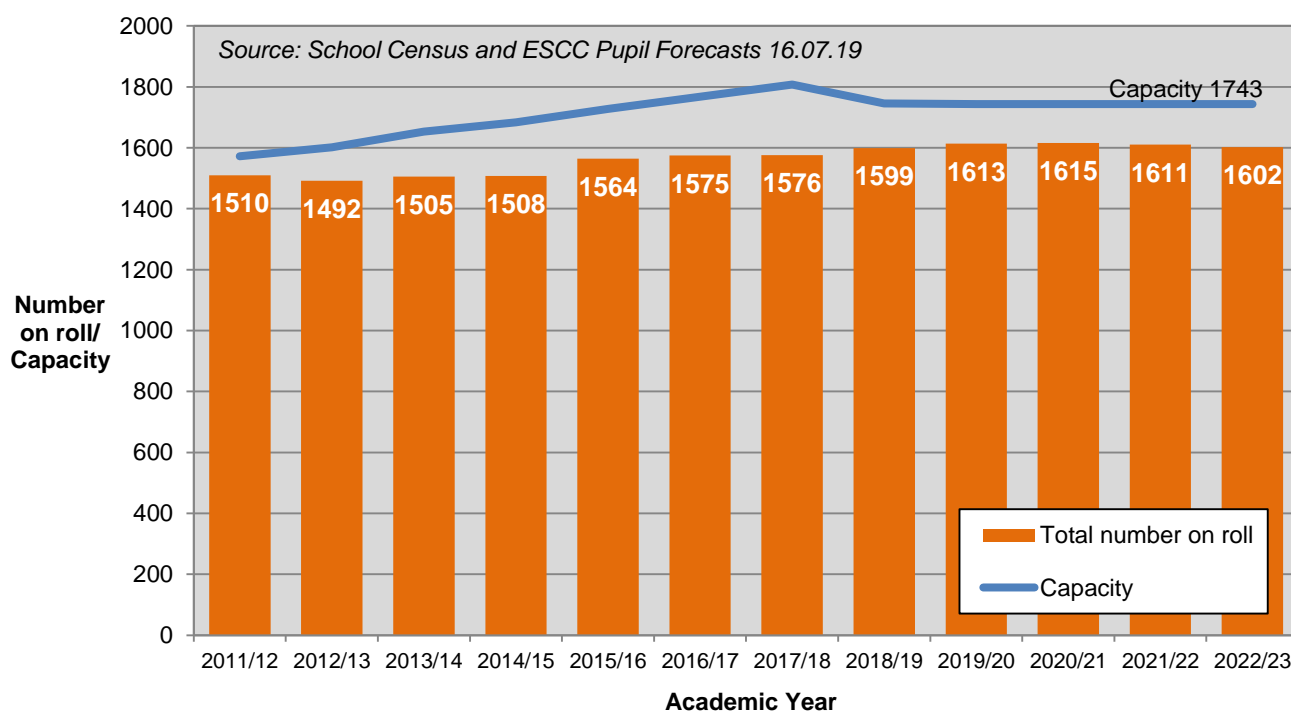
As at January 2019 Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority planned for approximately 1,600 new dwellings across the rural areas of the district over the Lewes District local plan period to 2030, of which an estimated 1,000 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period. Of these outstanding dwelling completions, approximately 300 are in Ringmer Parish and 200 are in Wivelsfield Parish.

## 11.4 Primary places in Rural Lewes

**Rural Lewes primary Year R numbers**



**Rural Lewes total primary numbers**



Intake numbers in individual rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year and normally schools can organise to accommodate these temporary bulges.

Despite its expansion to one form of entry in 2017/18, Wivelsfield Primary School is already close to full. The school experiences significant inflows of children from Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, both in West Sussex. Large scale housing development in and around both these towns is likely to lead to additional demand for places at Wivelsfield Primary School. However, owing to in-area pressures, few West Sussex children are likely to gain admission.

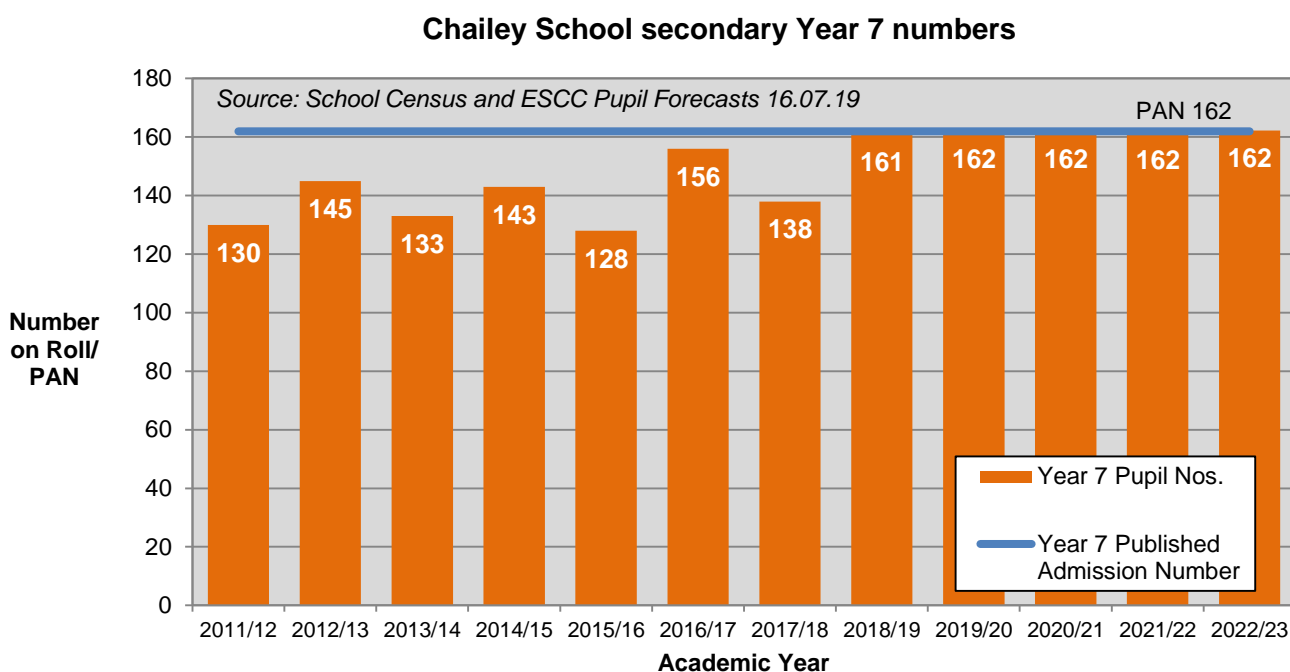
In addition, a substantial amount of the recent and planned housing development in Wivelsfield Parish is on the fringes of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath. Many of the children living in these

developments are expected to seek admission to West Sussex schools and this will be necessary if Wivelsfield Primary School is to keep to its PAN.

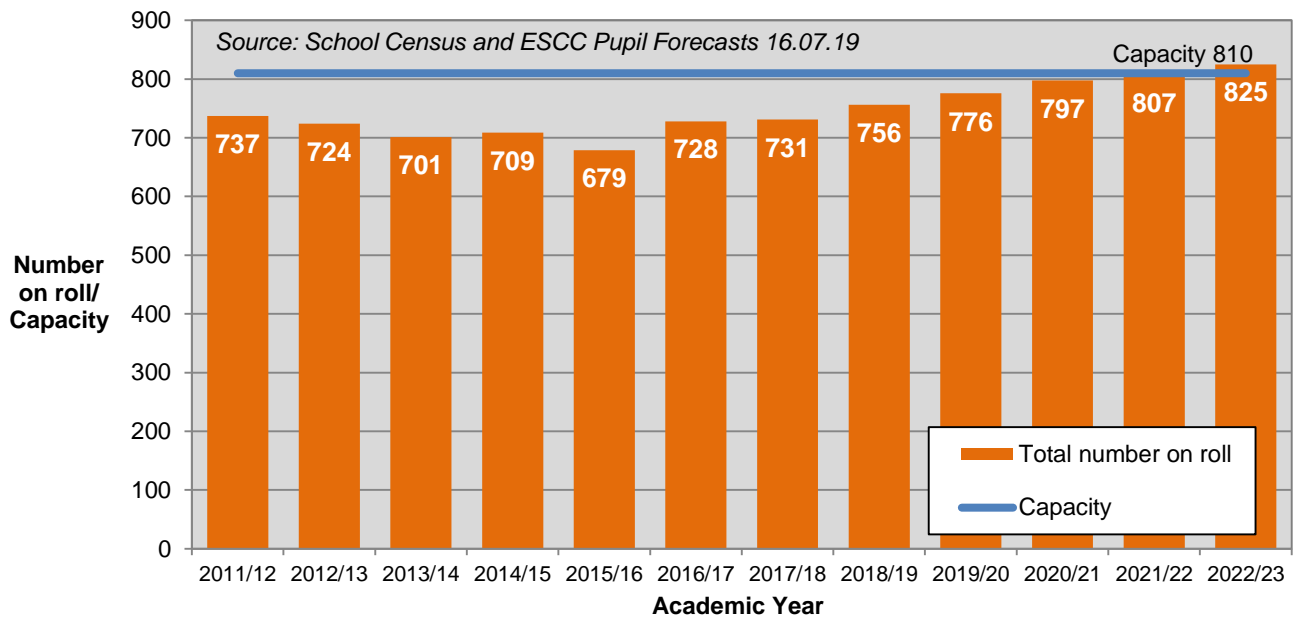
The local authority will seek to ensure that children from planned new housing on the East Sussex fringe of Haywards Heath are included within the school admissions catchment area for the new Hurst Farm Primary School which is planned on the edge of Haywards Heath. The local authority has agreed that a Section 106 contribution from a development in Wivelsfield Parish on the West Sussex border should be made available to help meet the costs of building the new school. However, West Sussex County Council reports that the opening of the new school, originally scheduled for September 2020, may be delayed, perhaps until September 2022.

The local authority is currently consulting on a proposal to close Fletching CE Primary School (see chapter 22) on 31 August 2020. It is also proposed that, for admissions purposes, the Fletching community area would be merged with the Chailey St Peters community area thereby maintaining a local in area school for Fletching children. The local authority would also seek to increase the published admission number at Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School from 20 to 30 if required.

### 11.5 Secondary places in Rural Lewes (Chailey School)



### Chailey School total secondary numbers



Higher than usual inflows from West Sussex mean that Year 7 numbers at Chailey School are likely to be close to PAN in 2019/20. Linked to new housing developments in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill, West Sussex County Council reports increasing pressure on Year 7 places on its side of the border. This could mean demand from West Sussex children for places at Chailey School continuing to be high, particularly in 2021/22.

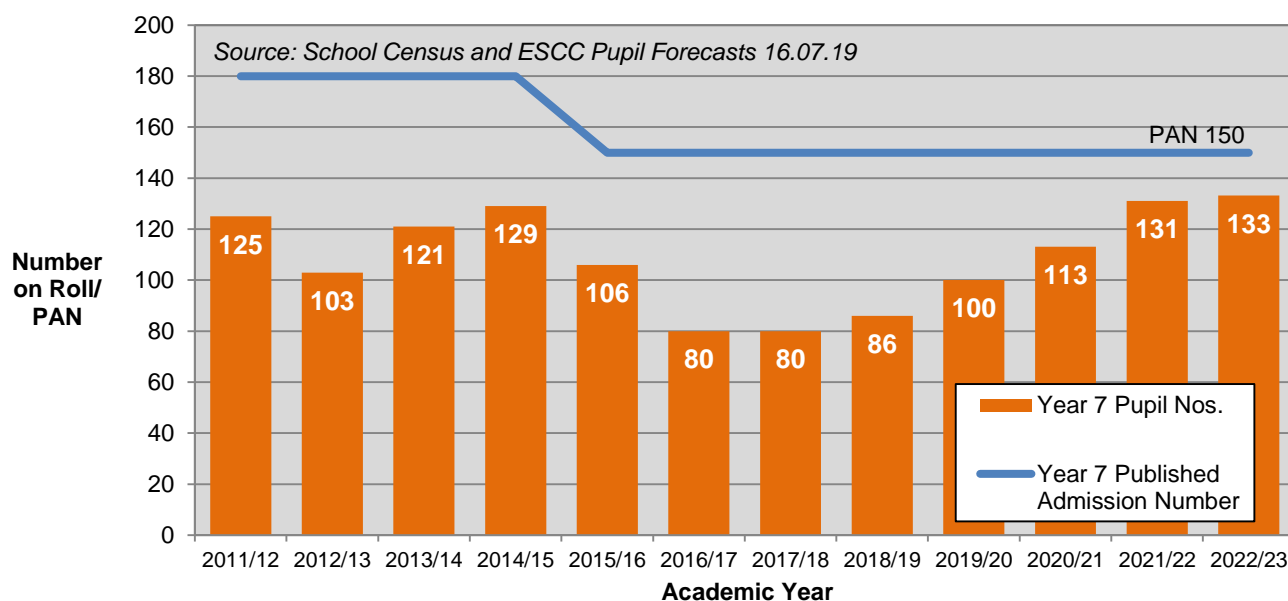
By using the school admissions system to push back out of area demand to other schools, Year 7 numbers at Chailey School should keep to PAN going forward. However, where Year 7 does fill to PAN, it is possible that as these cohorts move through the school, in-year admissions linked to new housebuilding in the area may result in numbers in some year groups going marginally over 162.

Chailey School forms part of the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2) in East Sussex which will see part of school premises rebuilt or refurbished. There is no requirement to expand the school as part of the project.

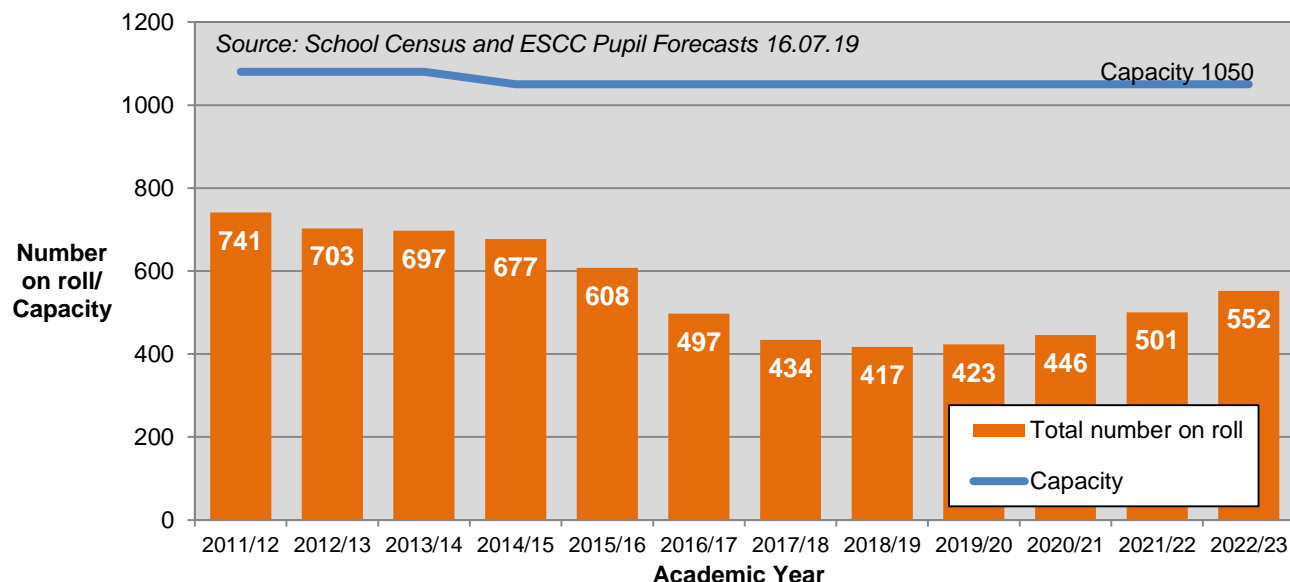
Although the village of Ditchling is in a Priory School/Chailey School Joint Admissions Area, traditionally children from that village have attended Downlands Community School in Hassocks, as part of long standing admissions agreement with West Sussex County Council.

## 11.6 Secondary places in Rural Lewes (Kings Academy Ringmer)

**Kings Academy Ringmer secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Kings Academy Ringmer total secondary numbers**



With the exception of the joint school admissions area with Priory School, Kings Academy Ringmer's community area does not include a town. Traditionally the school has relied on attracting significant numbers of applicants from other areas, notably Lewes and Hailsham. The low in-area pupil population has made it particularly challenging for the school to achieve adequate numbers and it has suffered a decline in popularity in recent years.

Future numbers are difficult to predict because they are dependent on parental preference patterns. Linked to Kings Academy Ringmer's good Ofsted grade in May 2019 and pressures at surrounding schools, notably Priory School and Hailsham Community College, we are predicting that future intakes will lead to a recovery in the school's numbers and result in a reduction in the amount of surplus places. If intakes do not recover as assumed, future numbers could be lower than those shown.

In recent years there has been a net export of pupils from Ringmer to Uckfield College although this position is likely to be reversed in 2019/20 owing to the in-area pressures in Uckfield.

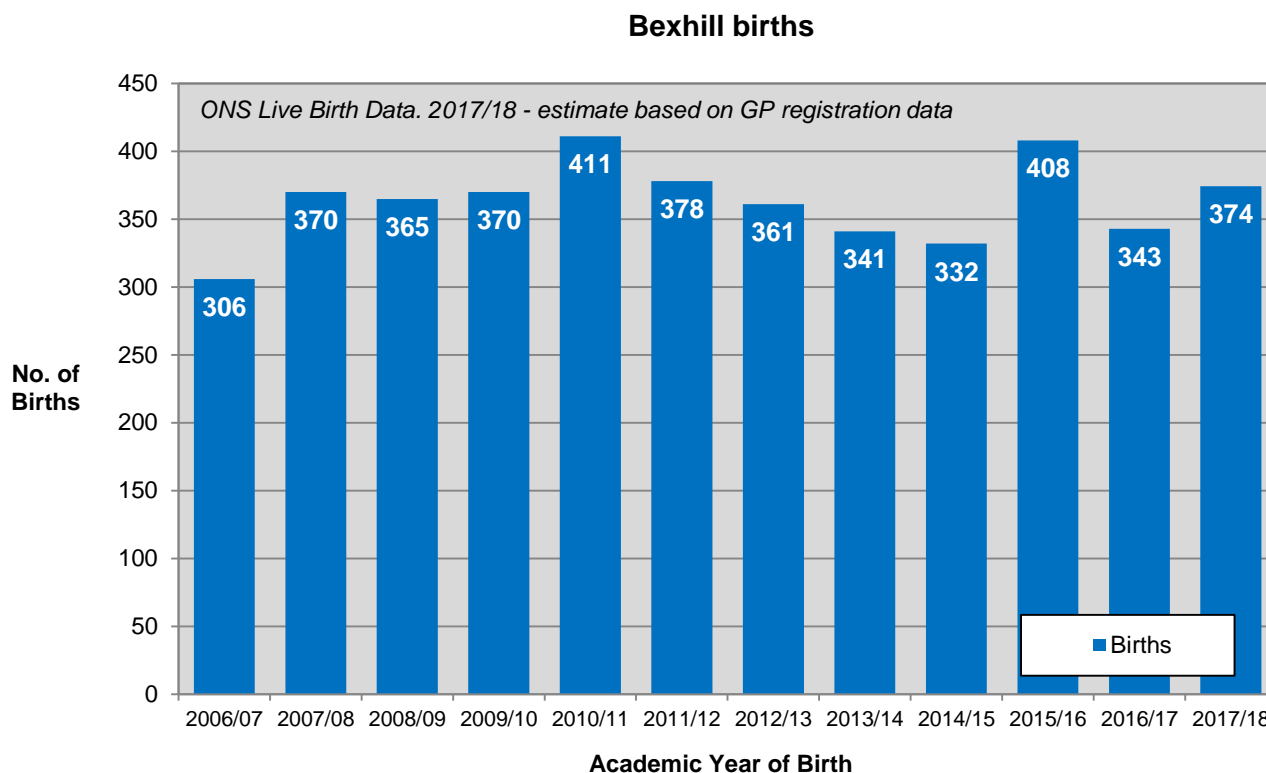
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## 12 Bexhill

### 12.1 Schools in Bexhill

There are eight primary schools in Bexhill and two secondary schools. Two of the primary schools have nursery provision.

### 12.2 Births in Bexhill



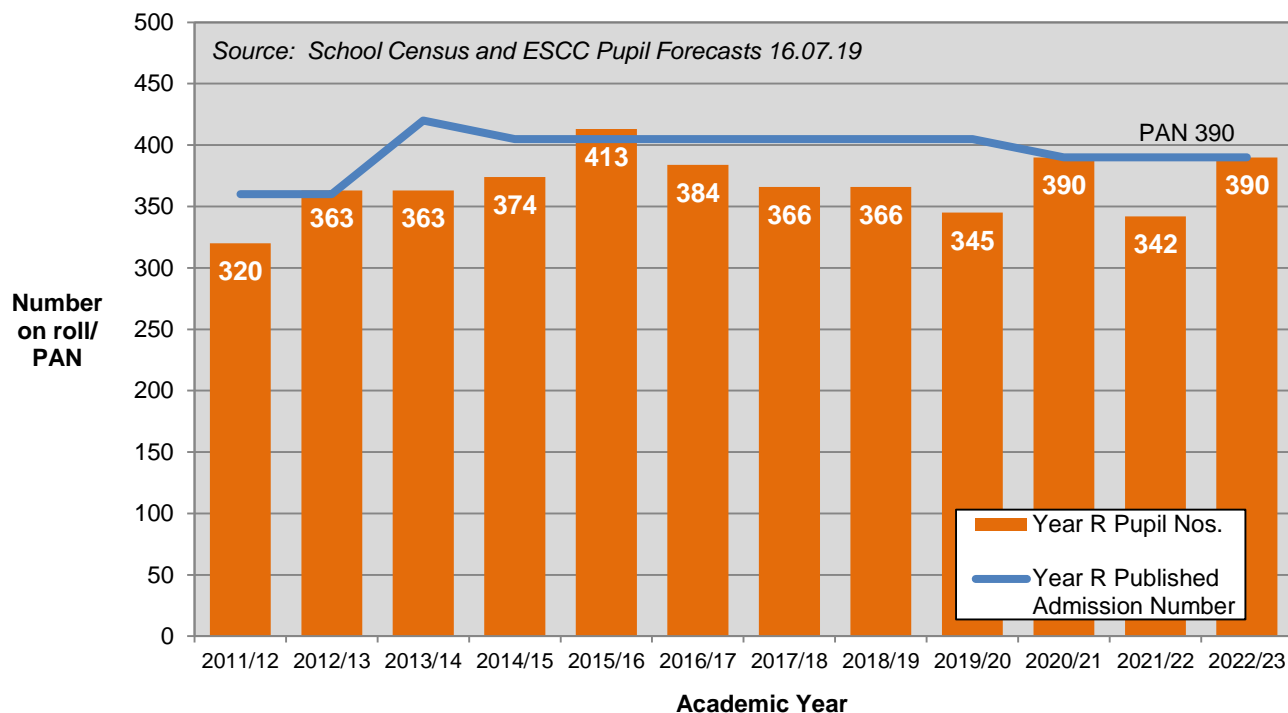
Data from the ONS shows that births in Bexhill continue to fluctuate from year to year.

### 12.3 Housing plans in Bexhill

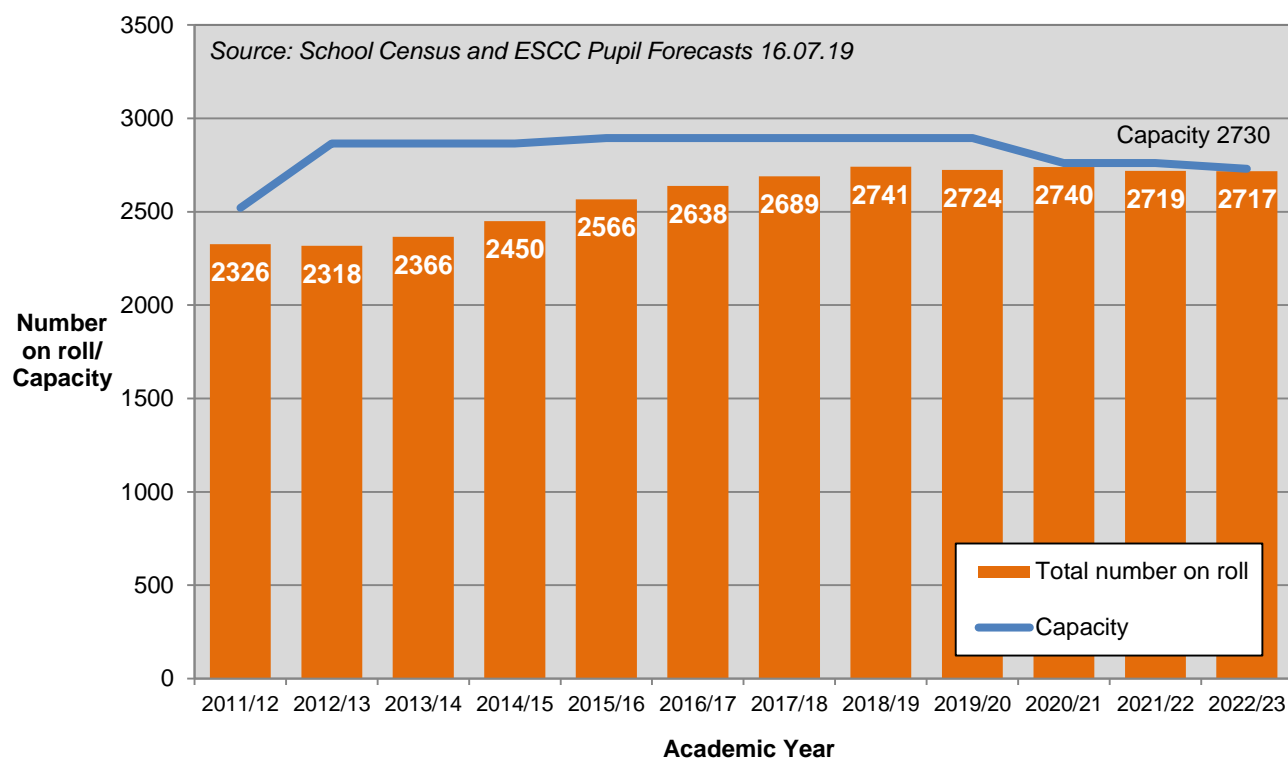
As at January 2019 Rother District Council planned for approximately 3,400 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 2,700 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 12.4 Primary places in Bexhill

**Bexhill primary Year R numbers**



**Bexhill total primary numbers**



Based on high births and GP registrations, Year R intakes to Bexhill schools in 2020/21 could potentially reach 400, although 390 is forecast. Following a lower intake year in 2021/22, Year R numbers in 2022/23 to 2024/25 could be in the region of 390-400.

The PAN at Glenleigh Park Primary Academy reduces from 75 to 60 from 2020/21. For numbers to remain within the new combined PAN for the town of 390, may require the school admissions system restricting inflows from other areas, particularly Hastings.

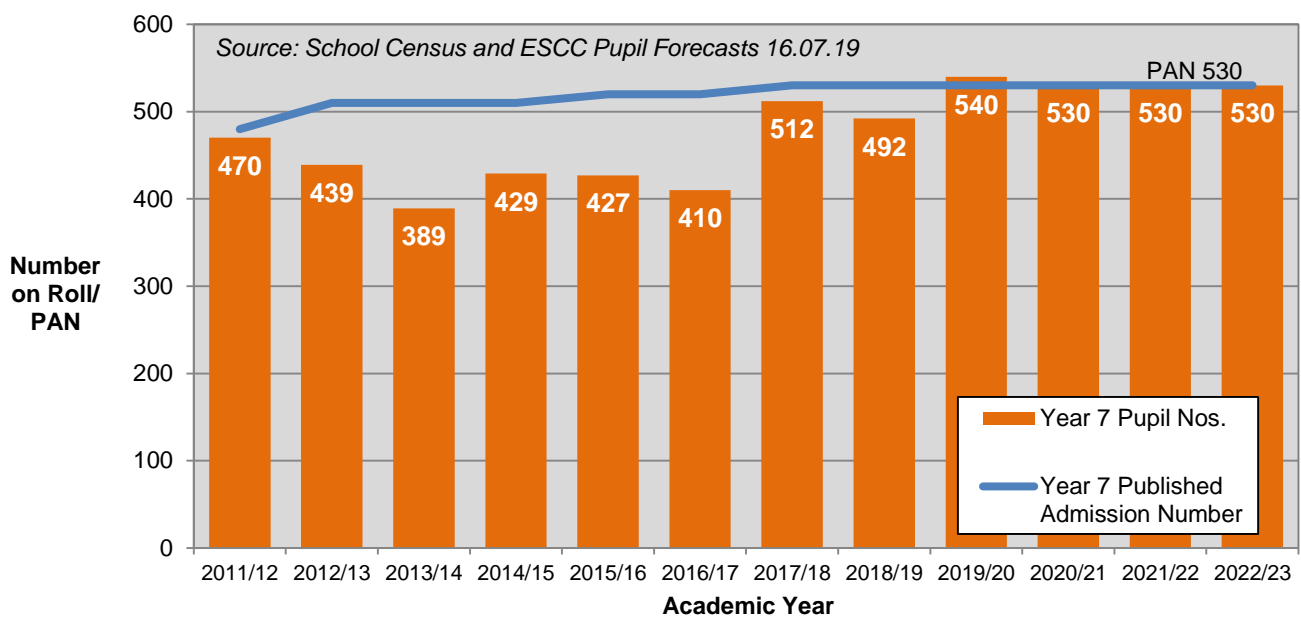
As a result of new housing developments in the town, shortfalls of around one form of entry at Year R are forecast for the second half of the next decade.

The local authority has an option agreement on land for a new school within the development site in the north east of Bexhill and will bring forward proposals to create provision to serve the development at the appropriate time. To a large extent the timing of this will be dependent upon when the school site is transferred to the local authority.

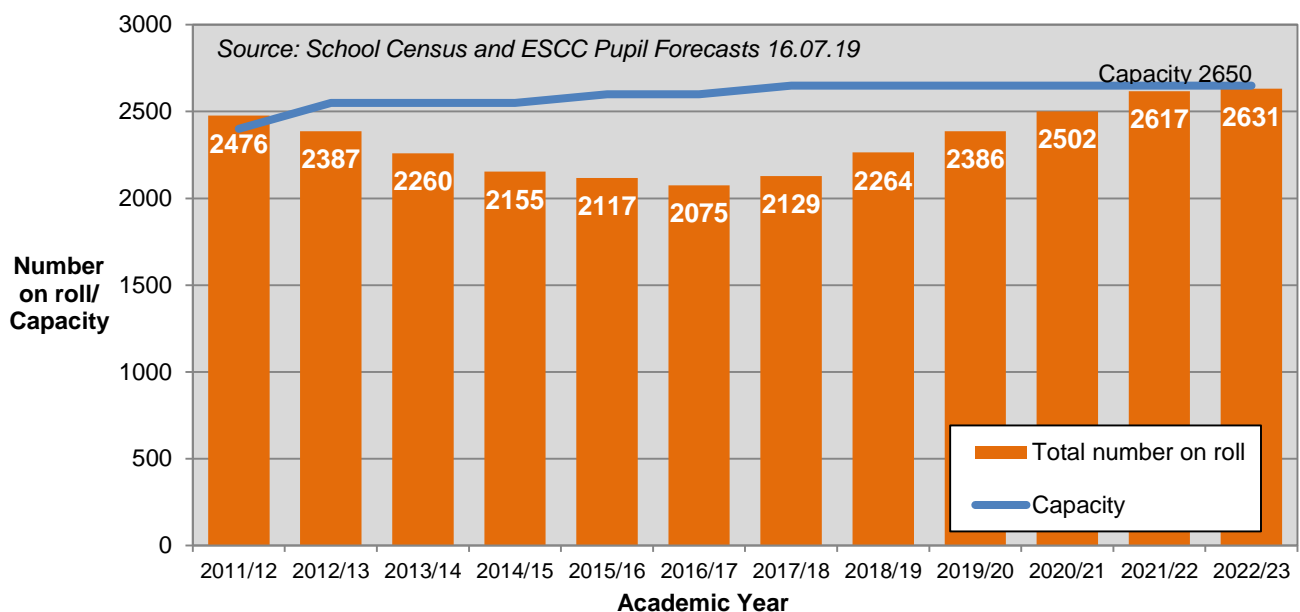
A number of pupils from Bexhill attend Catsfield CE Primary School and Ninfield CE Primary School and both schools are at, or close to, capacity.

## 12.5 Secondary places in Bexhill

**Bexhill secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Bexhill total secondary numbers**



St Richards Catholic College will normally fill to its PAN of 200 and capacity of 1,000. The school has indicated that it will take up to 210 children in 2019/20, and this has often been the case in



recent years. Going forward, the school appears to have sufficient places to meet demand from Catholic children. The school takes significant numbers of pupils from Hastings and Eastbourne.

Bexhill Academy takes significant numbers of pupils from Hastings. It also loses pupils to Claverham Community College and Eastbourne, mainly St Catherine's College.

Year 7 intakes to Bexhill Academy are forecast to rise in the coming years. This, together with demand for places from pupils living in Hastings and the likely pupil yield from the substantial amount of new housing in Bexhill, leads us to forecast that Bexhill Academy could be full to its Year 7 PAN from 2019/20 to 2024/25. Beyond 2025/26 numbers are currently predicted to remain high in most years.

The ability of the school admissions system to redirect excess demand back to Hastings schools means that the combined PAN in Bexhill is not currently forecast to be exceeded.

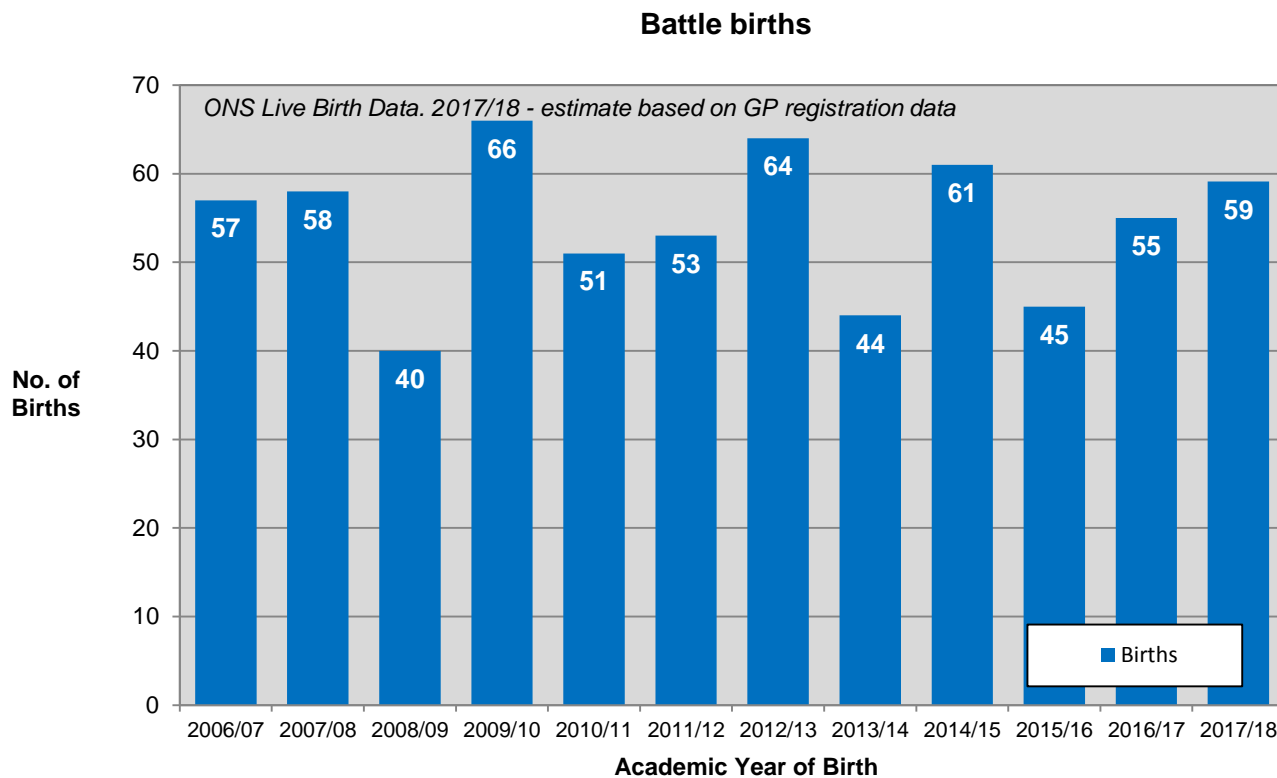
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## 13 Battle

### 13.1 Schools in Battle

There is one primary school in Battle and one secondary school.

### 13.2 Births in Battle



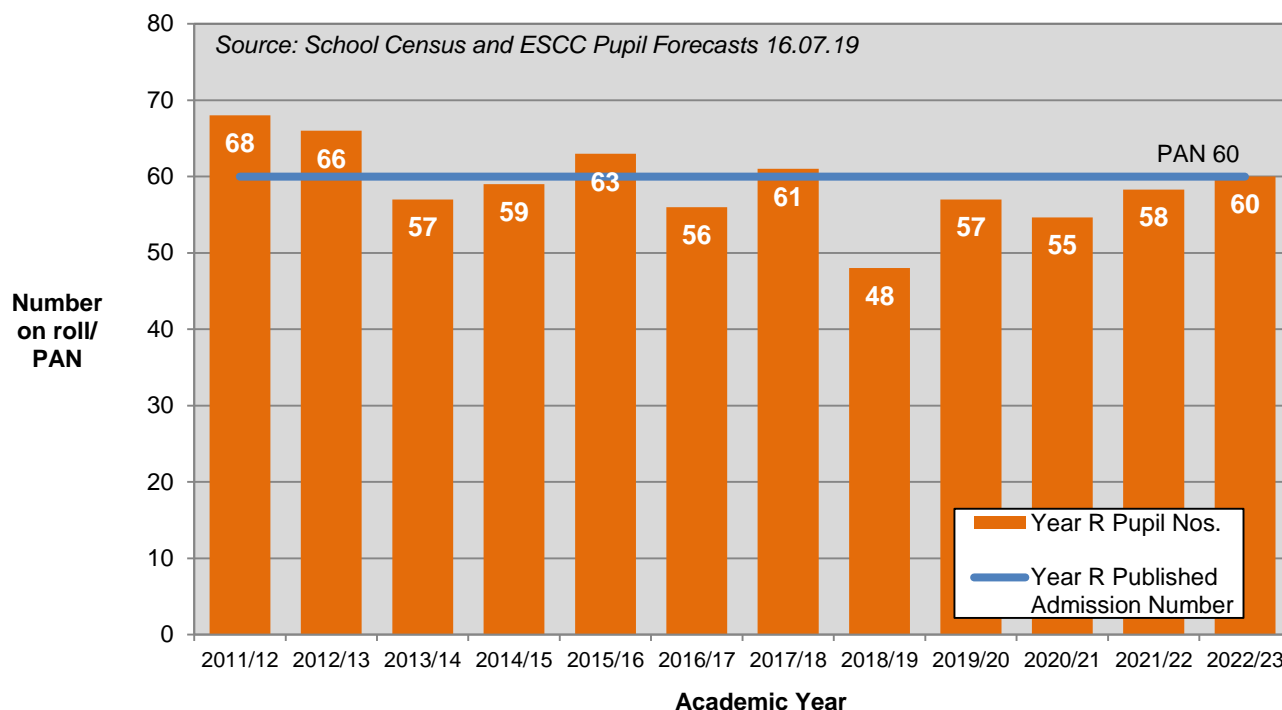
Data from the ONS shows that births in Battle have fluctuated in recent years without showing any real trend.

### 13.3 Housing plans in Battle

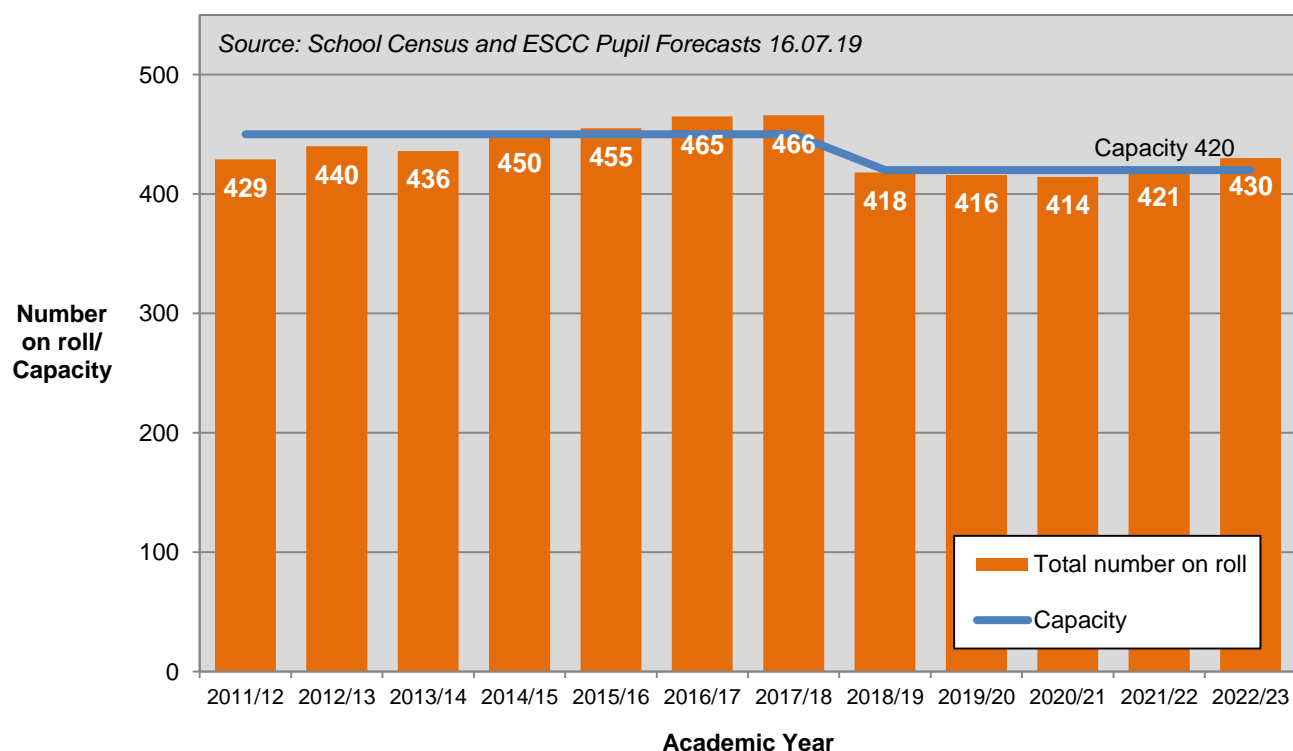
As at January 2019 Rother District Council planned for approximately 500 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, most of which remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 13.4 Primary places in Battle

**Battle primary Year R numbers**



**Battle total primary numbers**

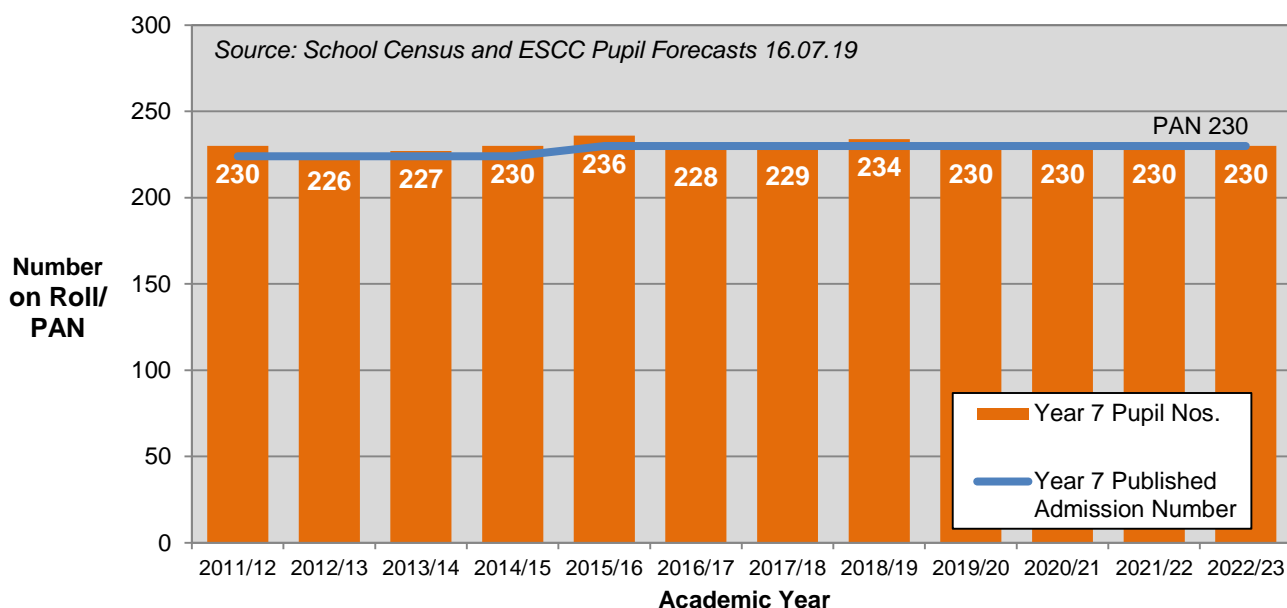


In most years in-area births are below 60 and this coupled with potentially lower numbers of children coming out of Hastings, means that Battle and Langton CE Primary School is likely to keep to its PAN of 60 in the coming years. However, new housing could potentially result in a spike in Year R numbers and pressures in some other year groups in the early to middle part of the next decade, depending on exactly when the housing is built.

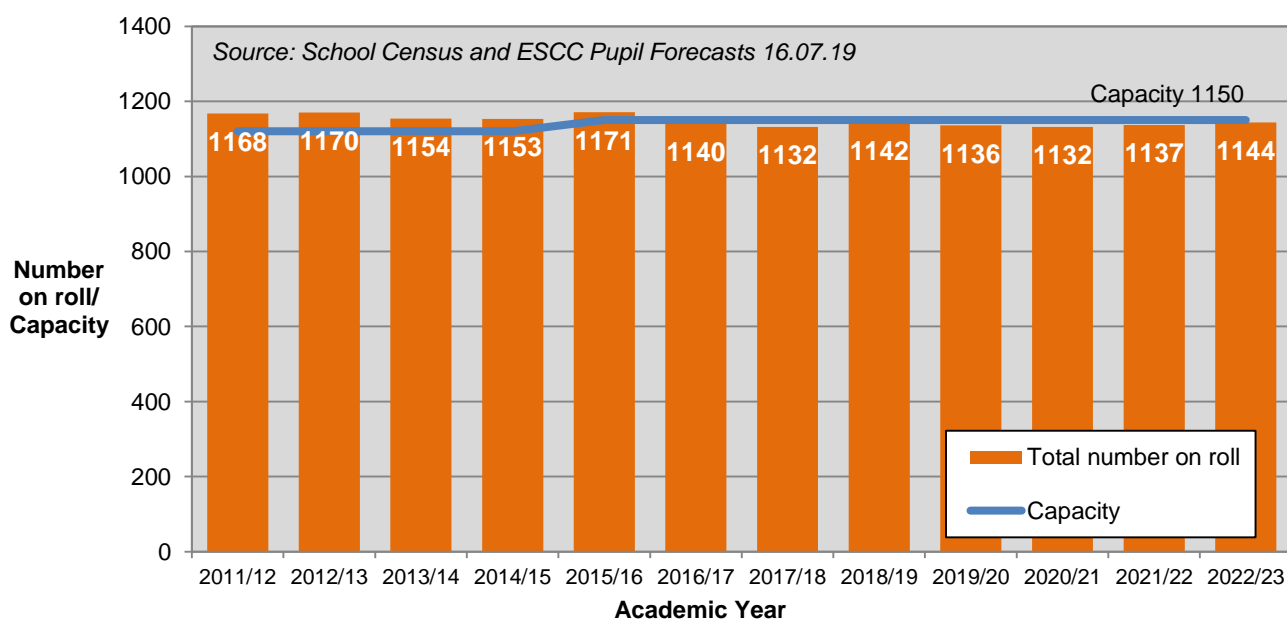
Battle and Langton CE Primary School takes significant numbers of pupils from Hastings. The school admissions system, by redirecting demand back into Hastings schools, should help to alleviate any pressures at Year R.

### 13.5 Secondary places in Battle

**Battle secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Battle total secondary numbers**



Claverham Community College takes significant numbers of pupils from Hastings and Bexhill. The school has sufficient capacity to meet in-area demand, and provided it continues to be popular with out of area children it is likely to continue to be full.

The school forms part of the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2) in East Sussex which will see part of school premises rebuilt or refurbished. There is no requirement to expand the school as part of the project.

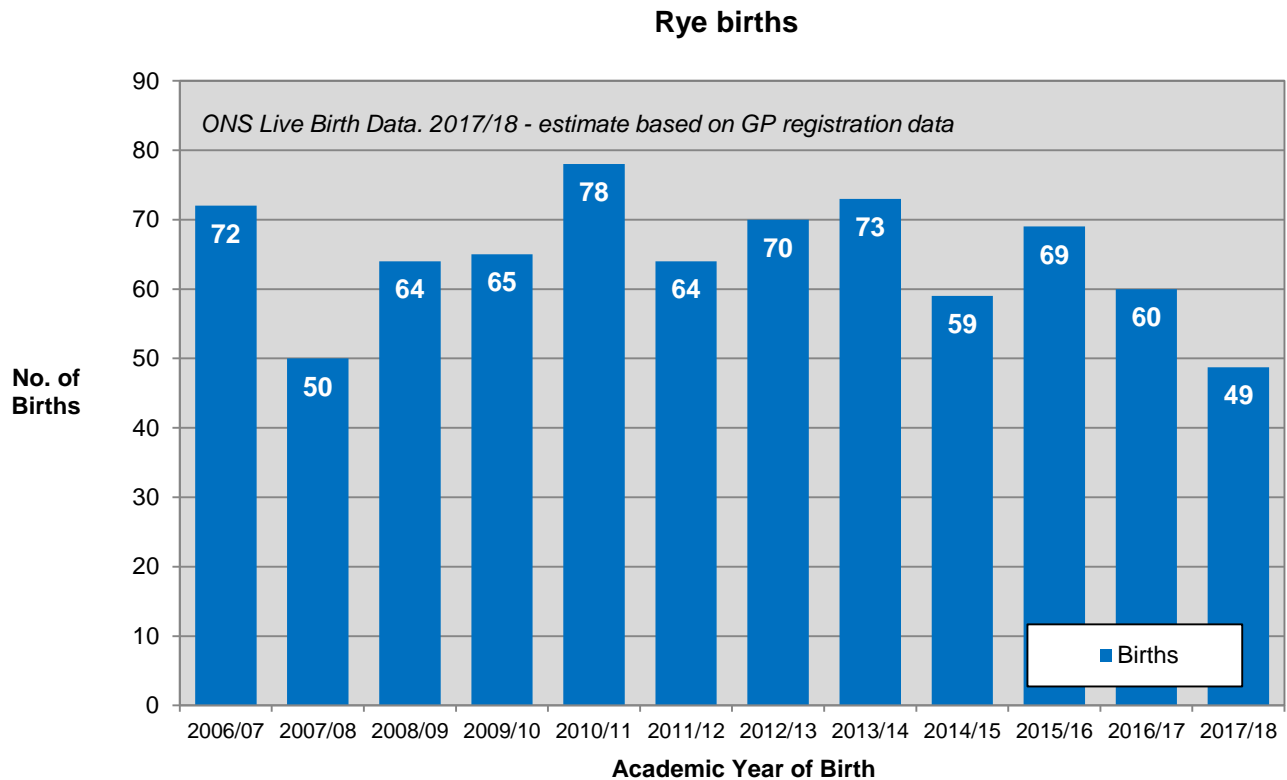
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## 14 Rye

### 14.1 Schools in Rye

There is one primary school in Rye which includes nursery provision, and one secondary school.

### 14.2 Births in Rye



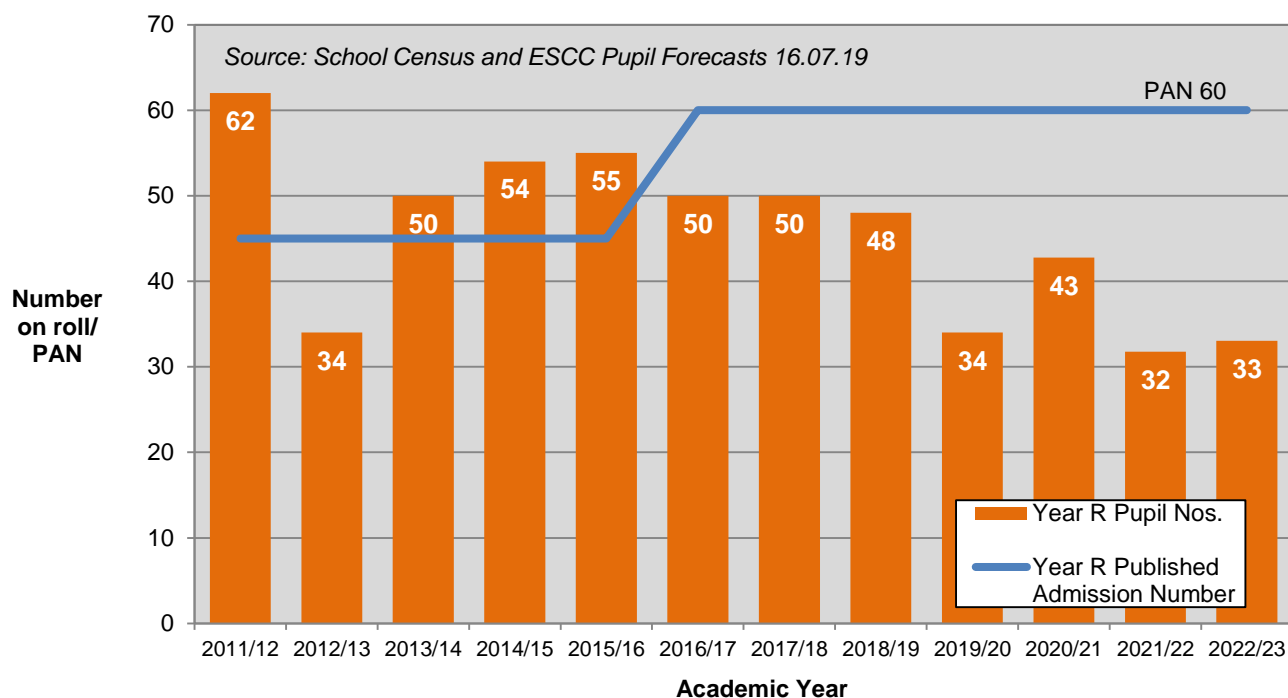
Data from the ONS shows that births in Rye tend to fluctuate from year to year.

### 14.3 Housing plans in Rye

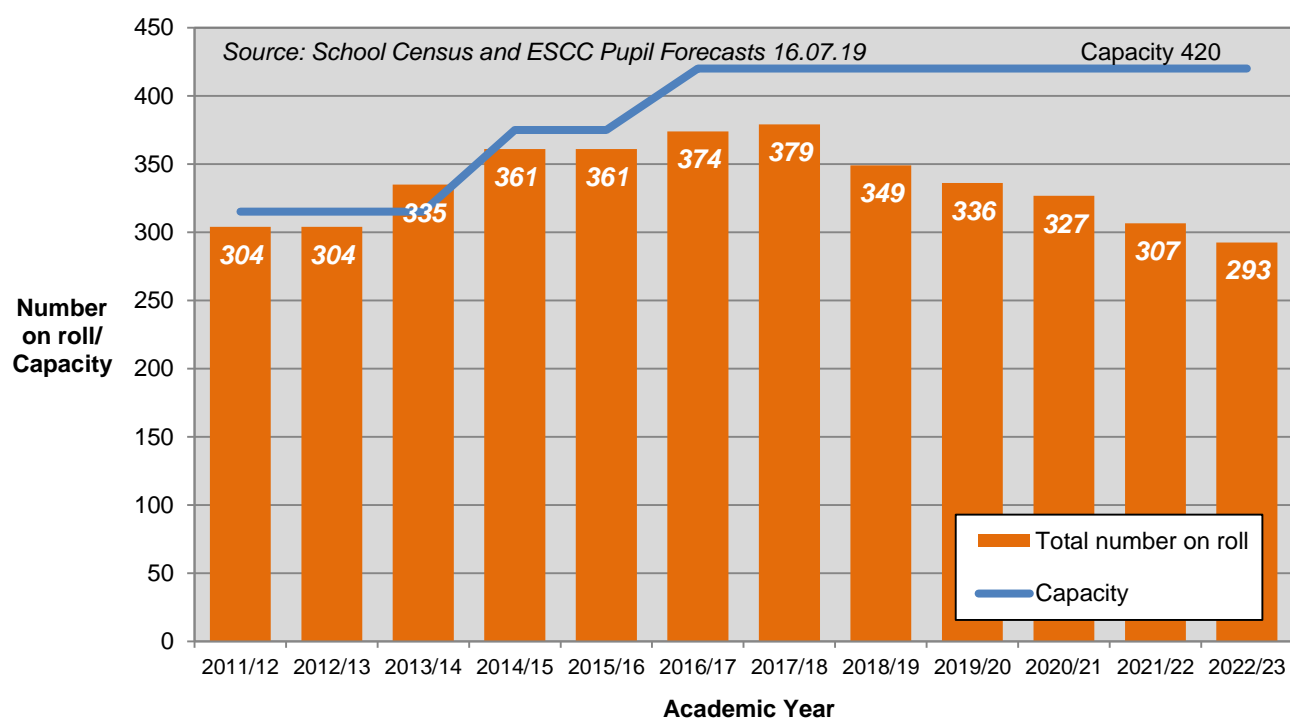
As at January 2019 Rother District Council planned for approximately 400 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 200 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 14.4 Primary places in Rye

**Rye primary Year R numbers**



**Rye total primary numbers**



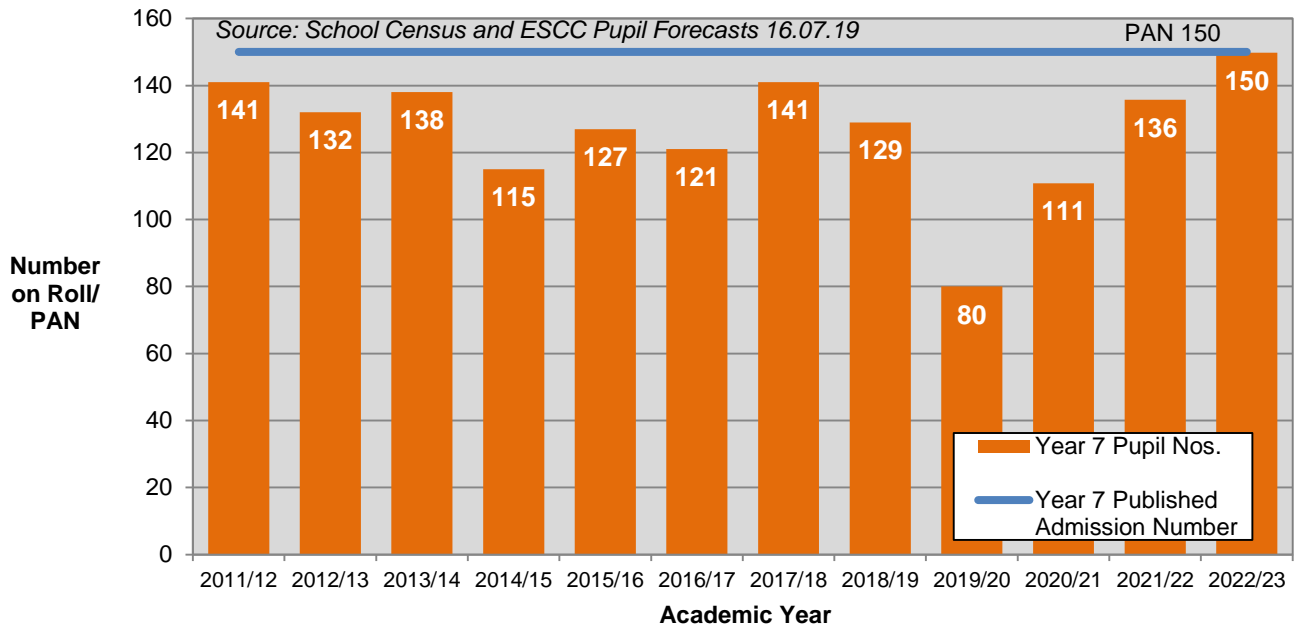
Birth and GP registration data indicates that in the period to 2022/23 the number of 4 year olds in Rye and the surrounding area is generally going to be lower than it has been recently. This is reflected in lower intake forecasts for Rye Community Primary School during the plan period, with some years seeing less than 40 Year R pupils. Our forecasts beyond the plan period include an assumption that pupil numbers will begin to recover in the coming years.

There is movement of pupils between Rye and the surrounding schools, notably St Thomas' CE Primary School Winchelsea, Peasmarsh CE Primary School and St Michael's CE Primary School Playden. If, as is assumed, pupil numbers at Rye Community Primary School begin to recover in

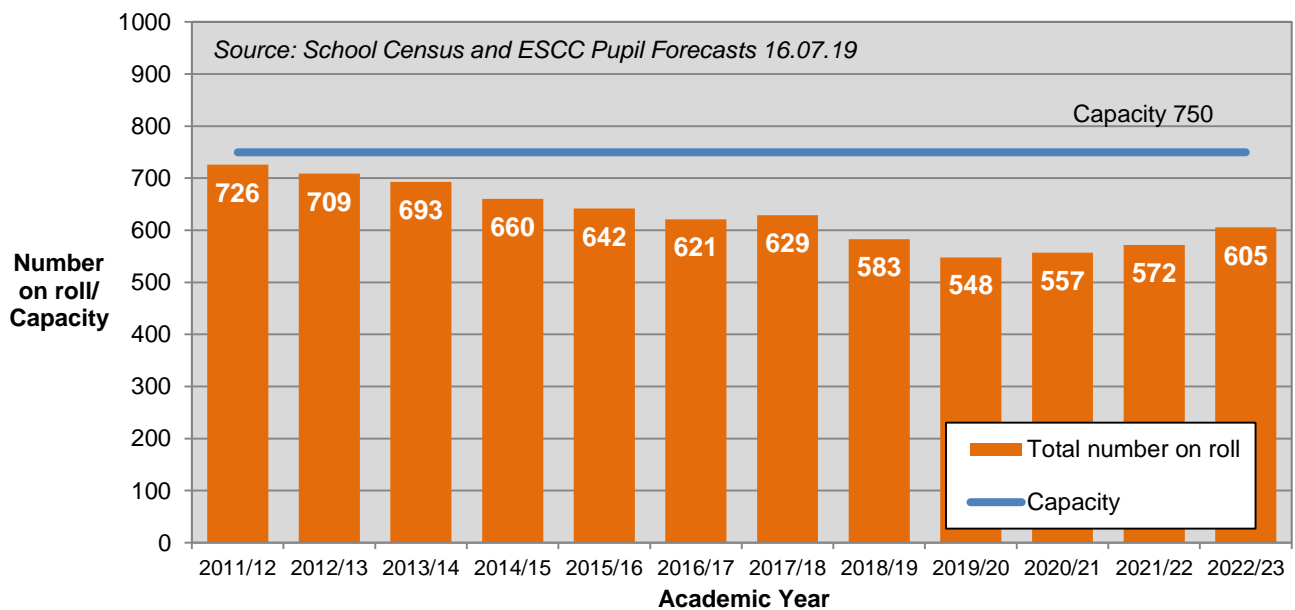
the coming years, this could impact on pupil numbers at some of the surrounding schools, all of which rely on children living in Rye choosing them.

## 14.5 Secondary places in Rye

**Rye secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Rye total secondary numbers**



Rye College traditionally has in-area numbers well below its PAN and has relied on attracting children from out of area and joint admissions areas with other schools. Inflows from Hastings, in particular, had been rising, but in 2019/20 the school has seen a sharp and unanticipated downturn in its Year 7 intake. The school has seen lower numbers coming in from Hastings and Kent and much larger outflows to Kent schools. It is forecast that Year 7 numbers in 2019/20 will only be around 80.

It is assumed that there will be a gradual recovery in numbers, aided by the potential for rising demand from Hastings. Year 7 numbers are forecast to reach the PAN of 150 by 2022/23.

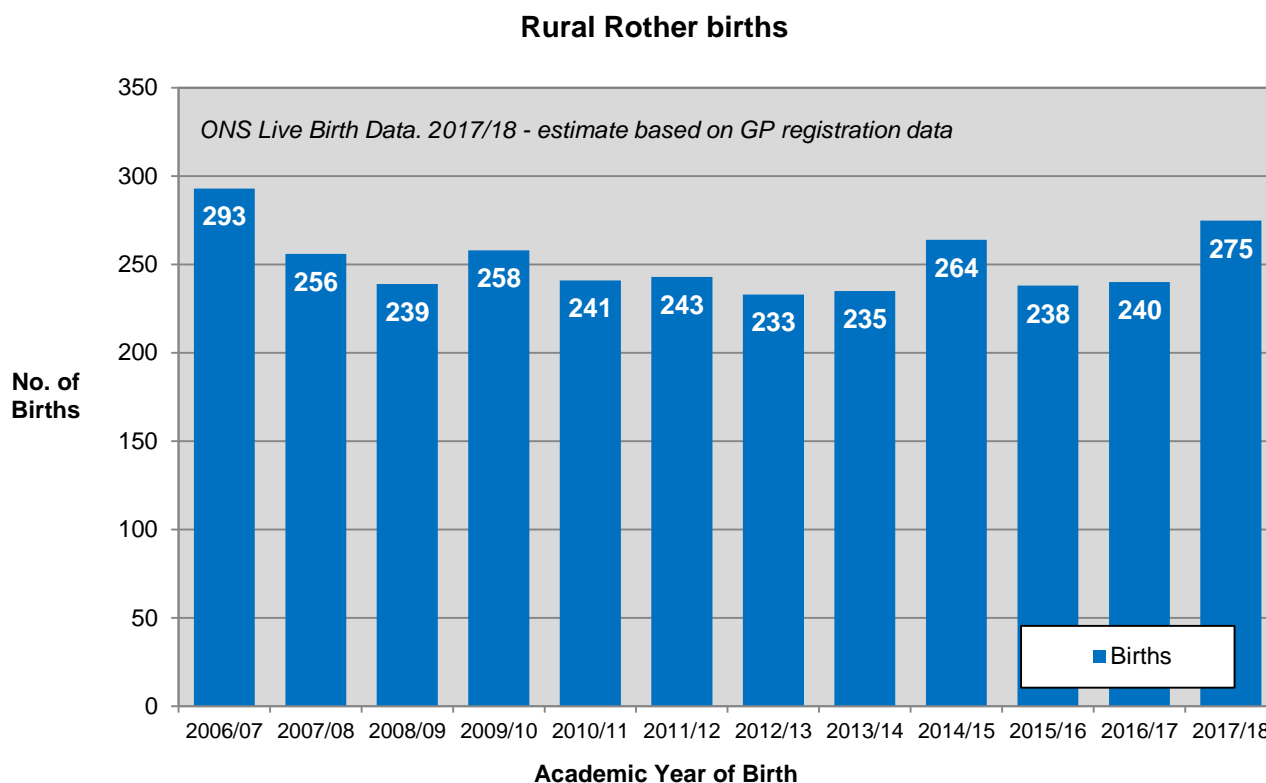
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## 15 Rural Rother

### 15.1 Schools in Rural Rother

There are 22 primary schools in Rural Rother and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

### 15.2 Births in Rural Rother



Data from the ONS shows that births in Rural Rother have tended to be around the 240 mark each year, with the odd spike from time to time.

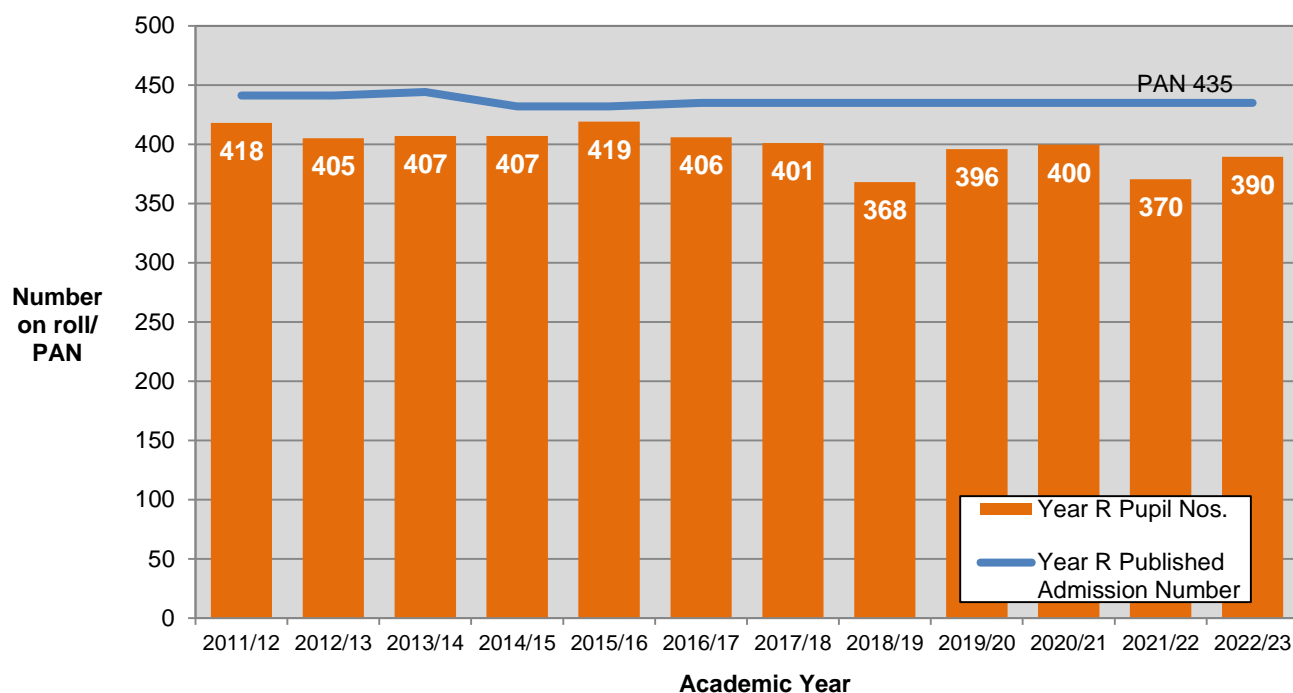
### 15.3 Housing plans in Rural Rother

As at January 2019 Rother District Council planned for approximately 1,900 new dwellings across the rural areas of Rother District over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 1,300 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

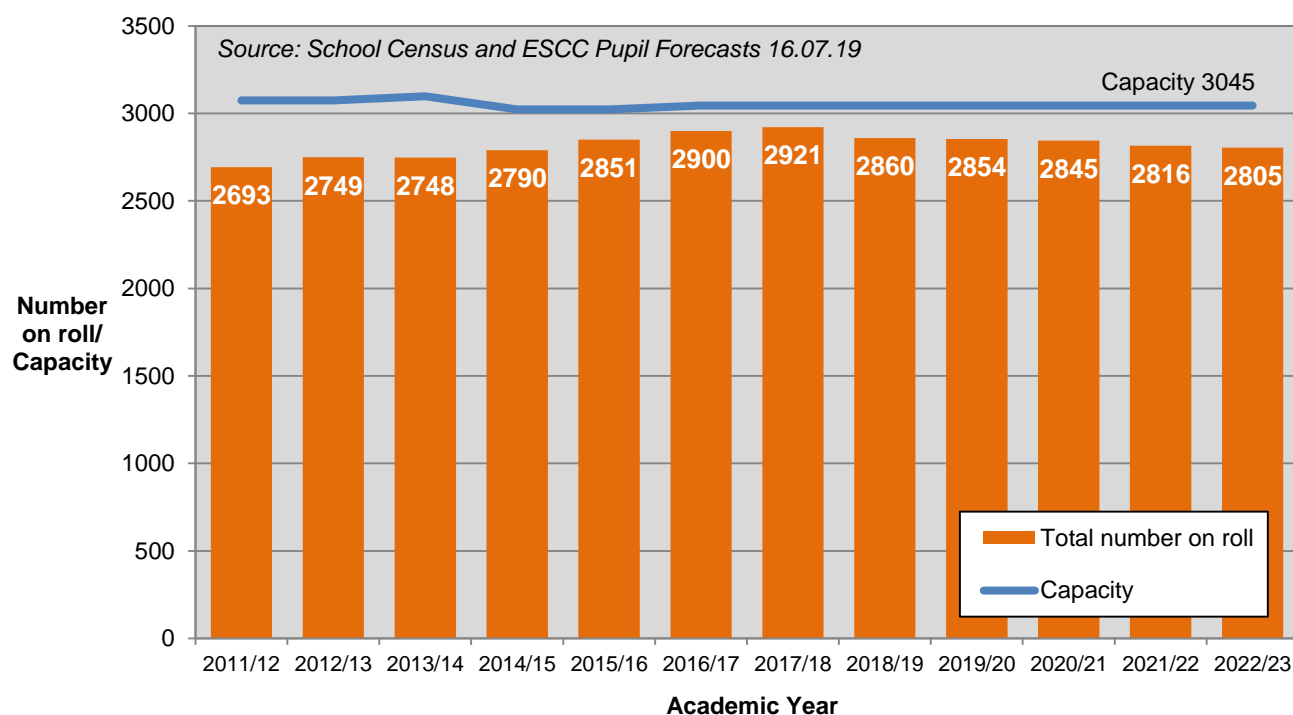


## 15.4 Primary places in Rural Rother

**Rural Rother primary Year R numbers**



**Rural Rother total primary numbers**



Intake numbers to individual rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year and normally schools can organise to accommodate these fluctuations.

All schools in the Rural Rother area are forecast to keep to their PANs for the foreseeable future. Falling outflows from Hastings as a result of lower numbers in the town may result in some surrounding schools not filling as they normally do.

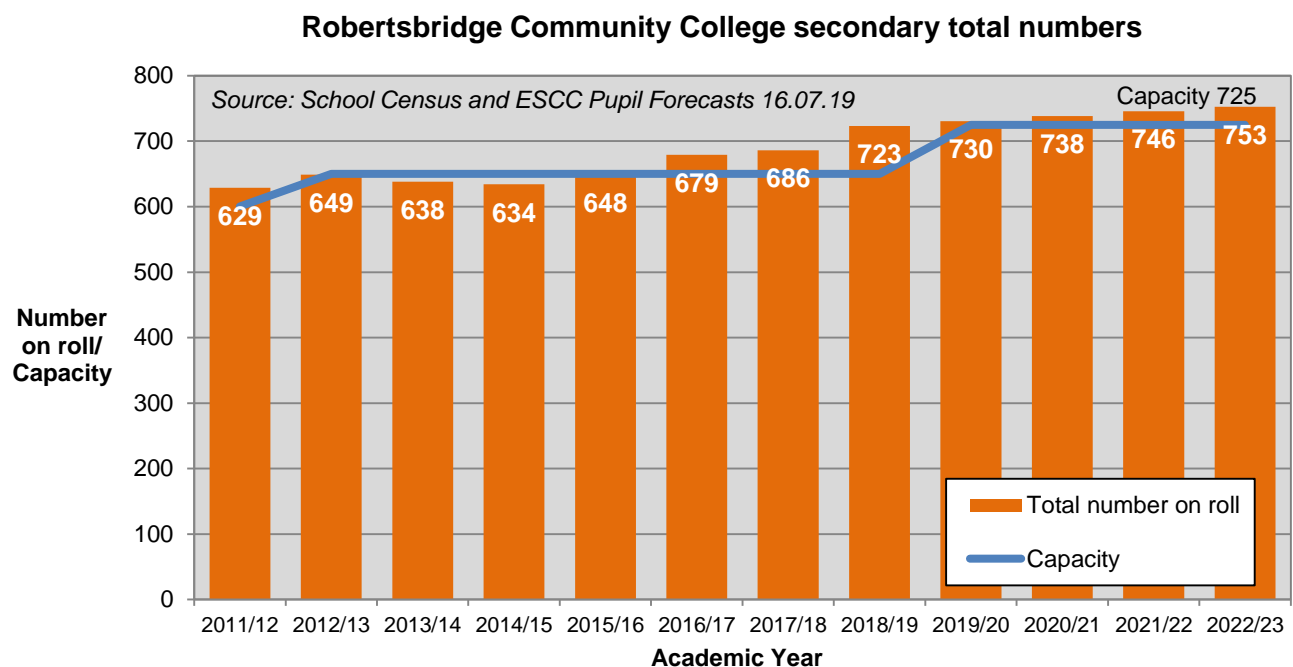
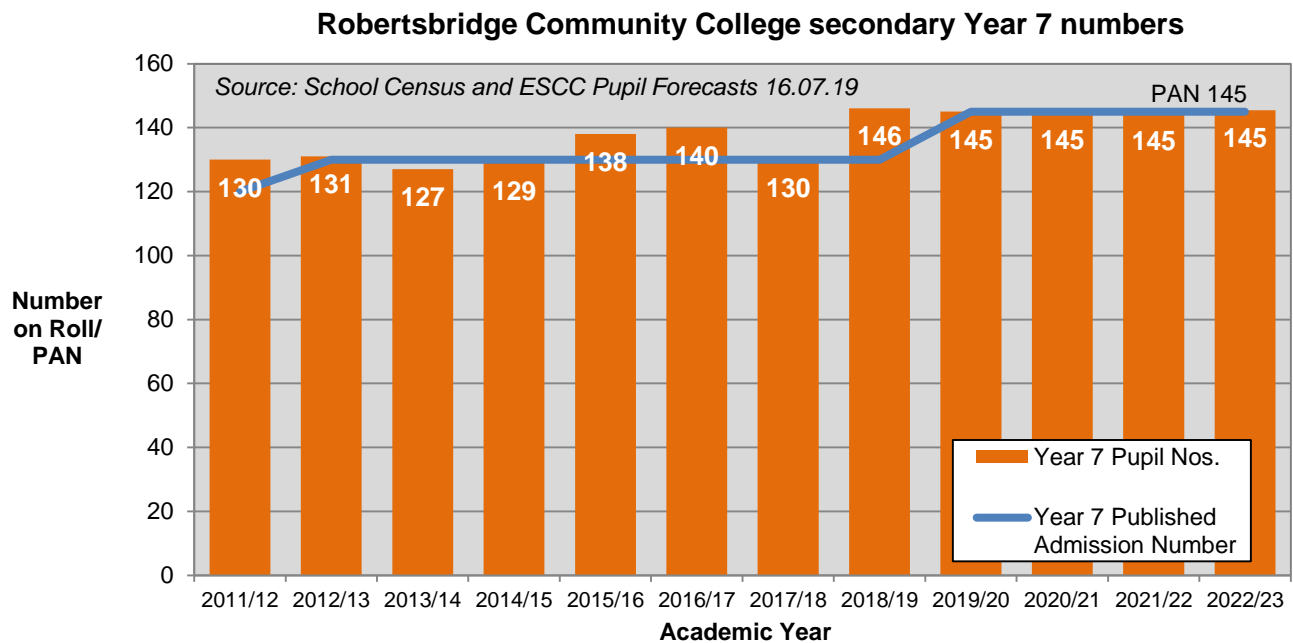
Continued significant net outflows of children to surrounding schools, notably Stonegate CE Primary School, could see Year R numbers at Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School

consistently being in the region of 15 – 20 over the coming years, below its PAN of 30. The local authority will monitor the situation at the two schools.

The following primary schools all take significant numbers of children from Hastings: Brede Primary School, Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling Bradshaw CE Primary School, Icklesham CE Primary School, Netherfield CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School and Westfield School.

Catsfield CE Primary School takes a significant number of pupils from Bexhill.

## 15.5 Secondary places in Rural Rother (Robertsbridge Community College)



Robertsbridge Community College increased its PAN from 130 to 145 with effect from 2019/20. It is predicted that going forward there will be sufficient in-area demand coupled with demand from other areas to fill Year 7 to its new PAN. The school takes significant numbers of pupils from Hastings and the high numbers forecast assume the school will continue to prove popular with pupils from out of area.

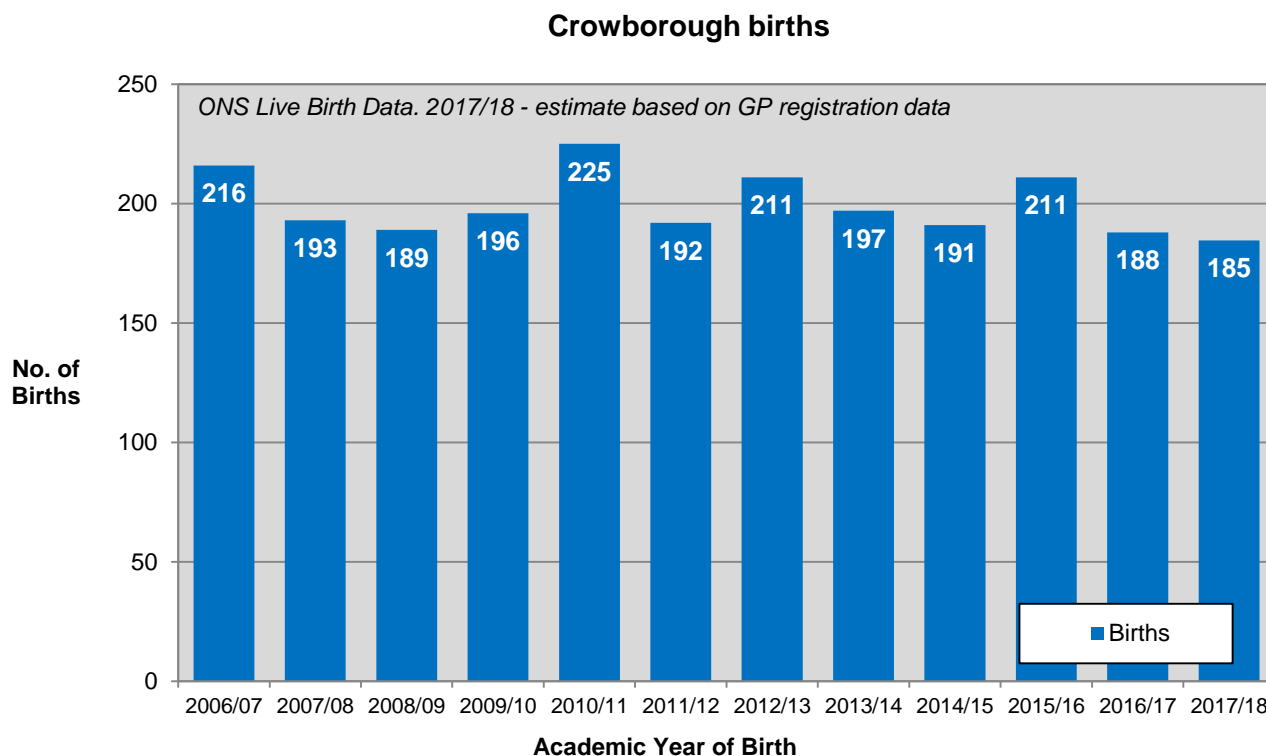
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## 16 Crowborough

### 16.1 Schools in Crowborough

There are five primary schools in Crowborough and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision. The secondary school has a sixth form.

### 16.2 Births in Crowborough



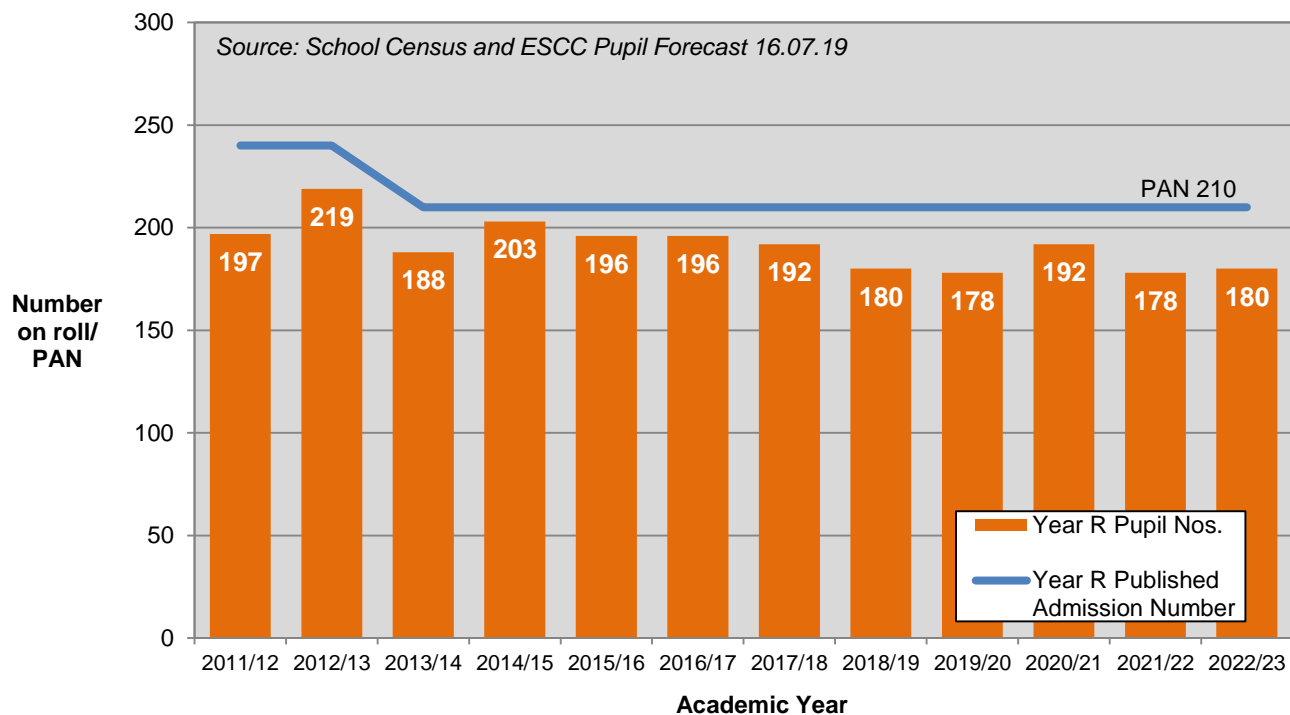
Data from the ONS shows that births in Crowborough have tended to be around the 190 mark each year, with the odd spike from time to time.

### 16.3 Housing plans in Crowborough

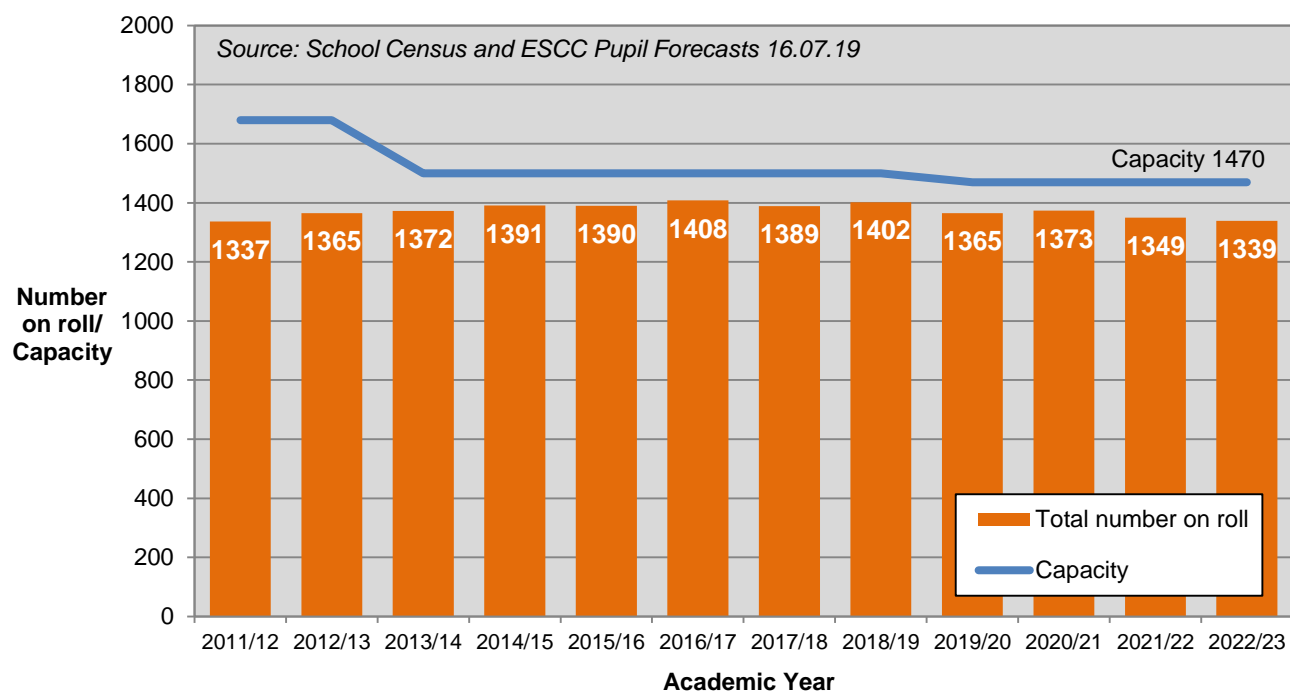
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 900 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 700 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 16.4 Primary places in Crowborough

**Crowborough primary Year R numbers**



**Crowborough total primary numbers**

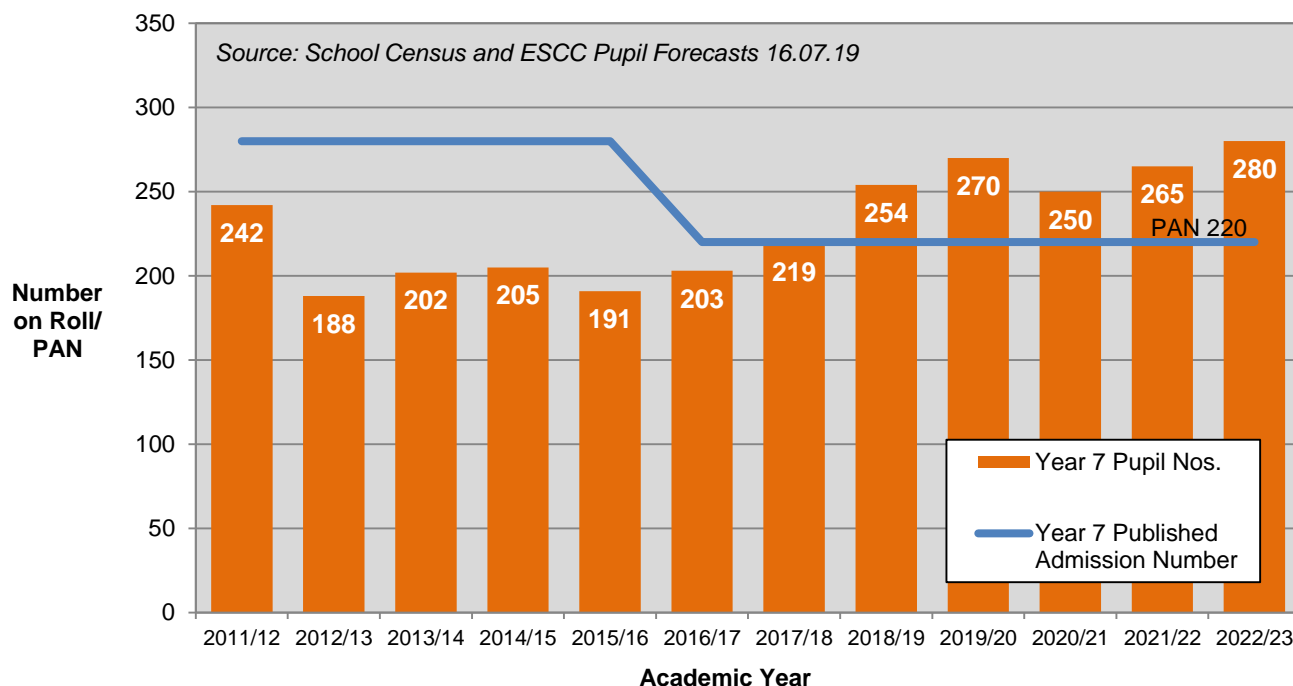


Based on birth and GP registration data, for the foreseeable future, Year R numbers in Crowborough schools should stay comfortably within PAN.

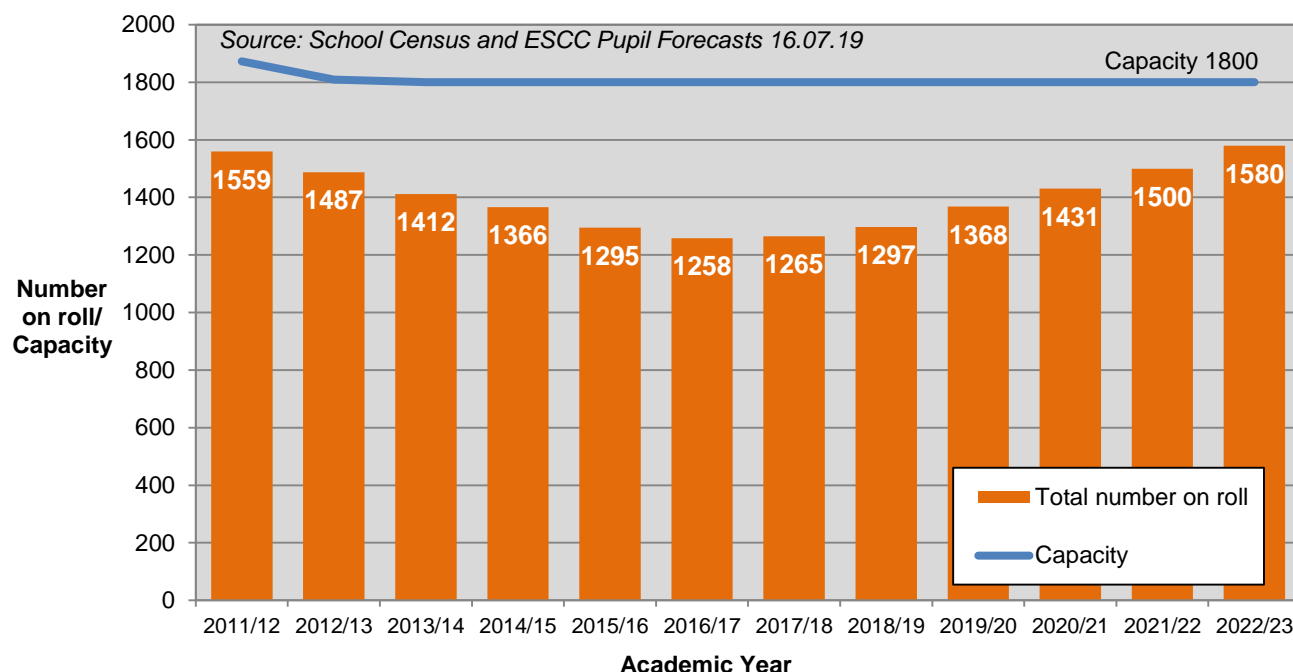
A number of pupils from Crowborough currently attend surrounding schools, most notably Rotherfield Primary School, which is close to capacity.

## 16.5 Secondary places in Crowborough

**Crowborough secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Crowborough total secondary numbers**



Pupil numbers at Beacon Academy are difficult to forecast given the considerable amount of cross-border movement to and from Kent (with the added complication of its grammar school system) and West Sussex. Kent and West Sussex County Councils both report rising pressures on places on their side of the border, in Tunbridge Wells and (to a lesser degree) East Grinstead respectively.

As a consequence, Year 7 numbers at Beacon are forecast to be high in most of the coming years to 2025/26. How high will depend on the ability of the school admissions system to redirect out of area applicants to other schools. In recent years this has proved difficult owing to the fact that unsuccessful Beacon area applicants to Kent grammars have not always expressed a preference

for an East Sussex school, meaning that applicants from Kent have taken preference over them and that the admissions system has not always been able to push excess demand from Kent back to Kent schools.

Kent County Council has indicated that Year 7 numbers on its side of the border may not peak until 2023/24. At the same time, it is planning a further four to six forms of entry in the Tunbridge Wells area to help alleviate these pressures.

Beacon Academy reduced its PAN from 280 to 220 from 2016/17, so this means that Year 7 shortfalls are nominally forecast. The local authority has been working closely with Beacon Academy on the issue of in-area demand for places linked to its PAN. As a result, the academy is planning to re-set its PAN at 250 in future years which should, in most years, be just about sufficient. However, there may be some years, notably 2021/22 and 2022/23 when numbers are likely to exceed the new PAN. If this is the case, we will continue to work with Beacon Academy to ensure there are sufficient places for local children

Many children from the village of Forest Row traditionally receive offers of places at Sackville School in East Grinstead, West Sussex. Rising pressure for places at Sackville School and/or high numbers of pupils coming through Year 6 at Forest Row CE Primary could mean more unsuccessful Sackville School applicants requiring a place at Beacon Academy or at Chailey School. However, numbers coming through Forest Row CE Primary are declining with most of the cohorts leaving Year 6 in future predicted to be under 30.

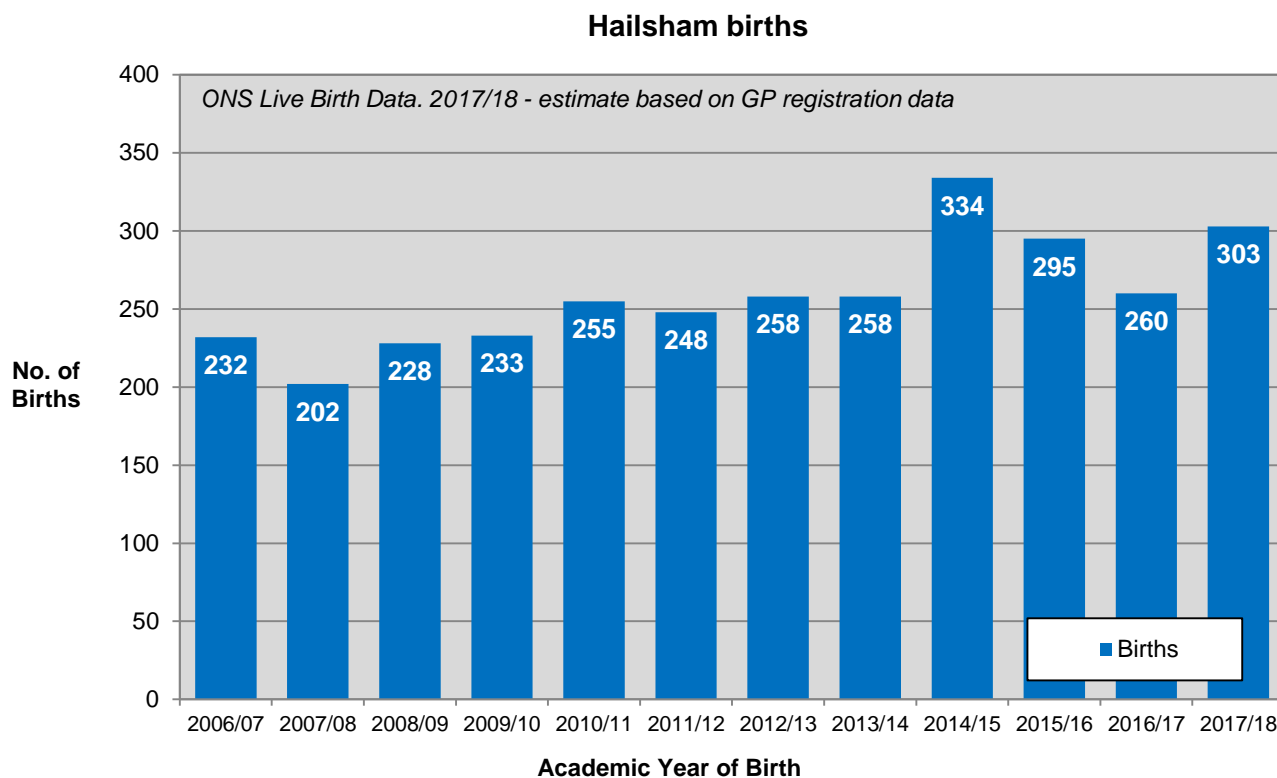
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## 17 Hailsham

### 17.1 Schools in Hailsham

There are six primary schools in Hailsham and one secondary school. Three primary schools have nursery provision and the secondary school has a sixth form.

### 17.2 Births in Hailsham



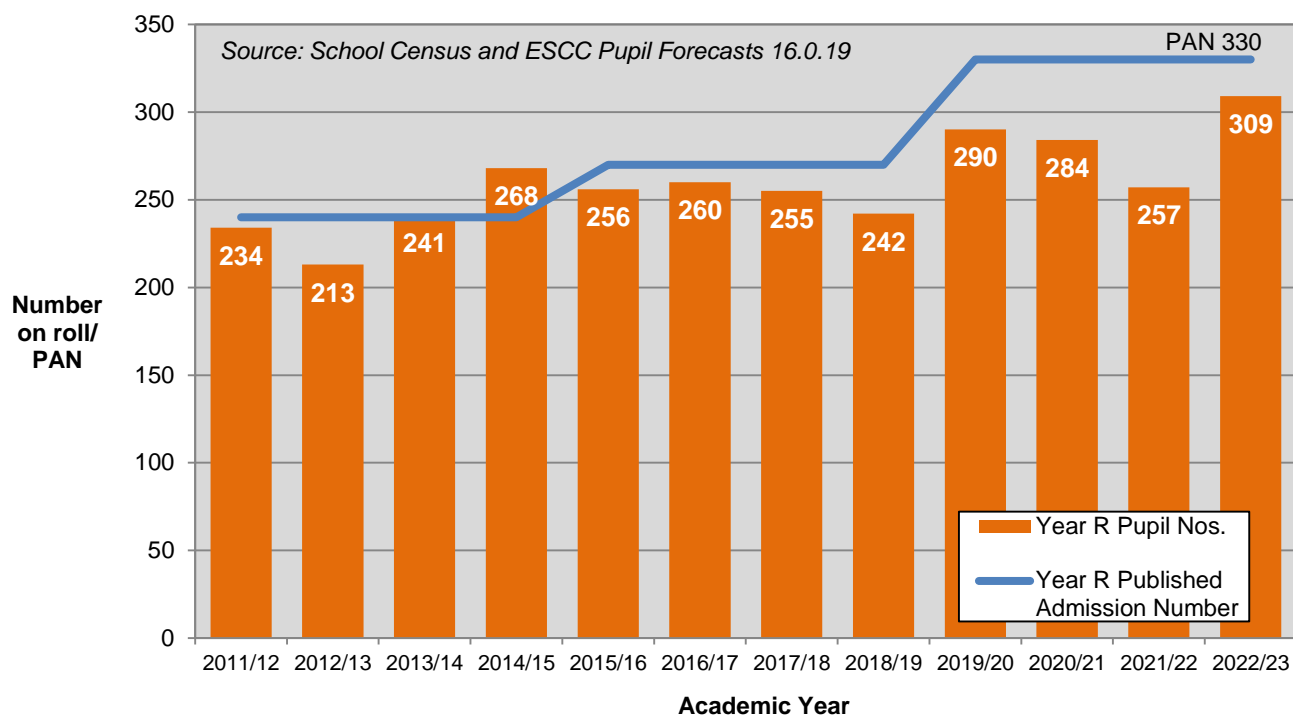
Data from the ONS shows that births in Hailsham rose significantly in 2014/15. Although numbers since then have been lower, there is a general upward trajectory of births linked to recent housebuilding in the town.

### 17.3 Housing plans in Hailsham

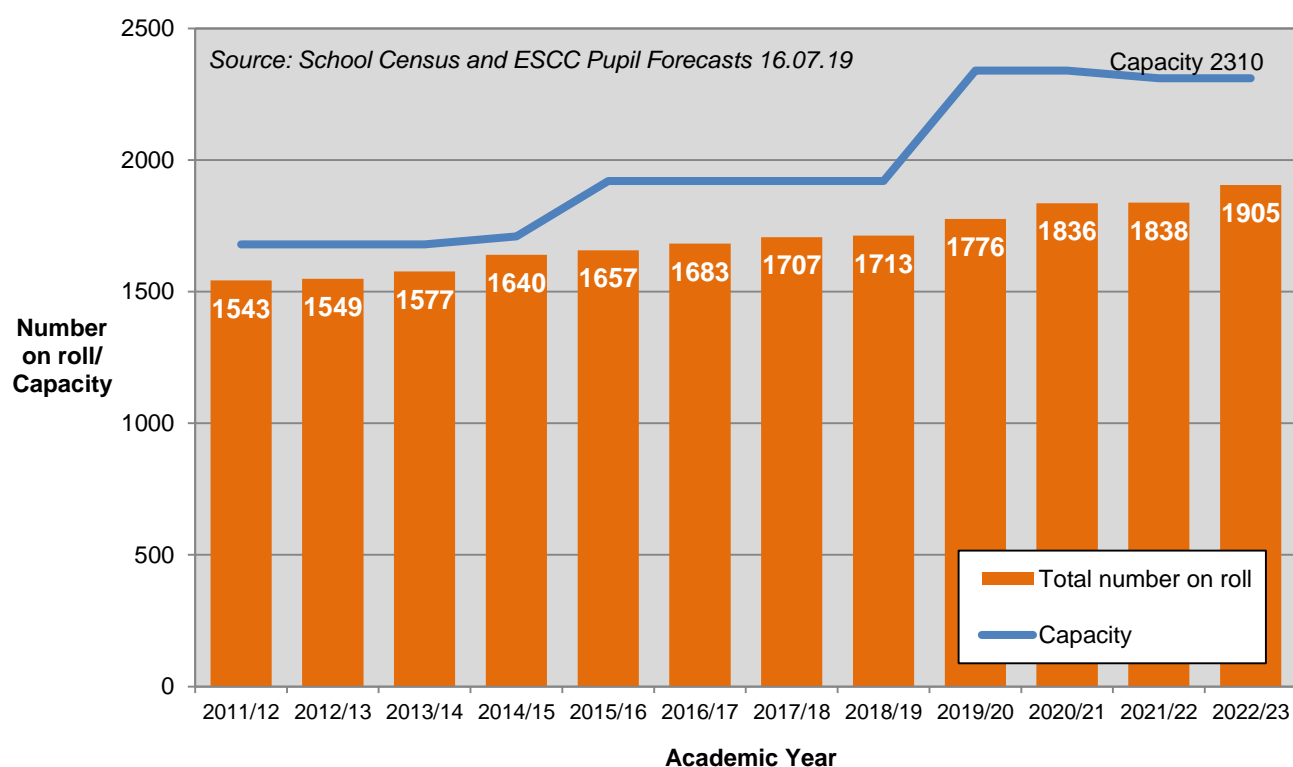
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 5,300 new dwellings in Hailsham and Hellingly over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 4,200 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 17.4 Primary places in Hailsham

**Hailsham primary Year R numbers**



**Hailsham total primary numbers**



Academic year 2019/20 corresponds with a high birth rate five years previously. However, the 2014/15 birth cohort did not grow between the ages of 2 and 4 as expected which resulted in the Year R forecast for Hailsham for 2019/20 being revised down from 310 to 290. Current GP registration data suggests that the 2021/22 intake will also be significantly lower than previously predicted. By contrast, the forecast for 2022/23 has been revised upwards from 296 to 309.



The amount of new housing planned for the town as part of Wealden's Local Plan in the period to 2028 will also boost pupil numbers in Hailsham schools in the future.

Based on the very large volumes of new housing planned for the town, it is predicted that in the second part of the next decade the combined PAN of 330 in the town may be exceeded and further shortfalls of up to three forms of entry may arise.

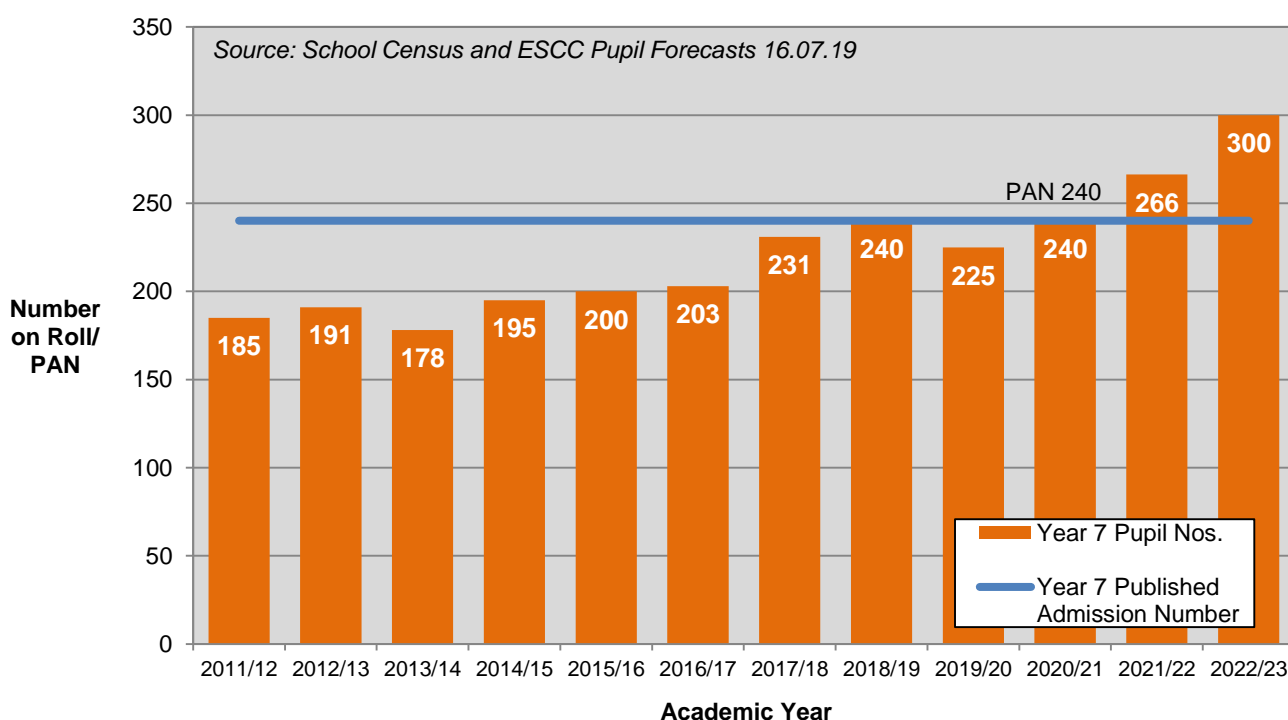
In recent years there has been significant movement of pupils out of Hailsham to surrounding rural schools, notably: Herstmonceux CE Primary School, Park Mead Primary School, Chiddingly Primary School and also schools in Heathfield. Between 2015/16 and 2017/18 over 70 Year R children per annum from Hailsham chose to attend these schools, some of which are several miles away.

In September 2019 Hailsham Community College was re-designated as an all-through school with its primary phase opening on land off Park Road. The new primary phase offers capacity for 420 primary age pupils (two forms of entry) and from September 2020 will include nursery provision for 40 full-time equivalent children aged two to four. Given the location of the facility and the likely magnet effect new schools tend to have, we believe it will, in time, prove very popular to those parents who have been increasingly placing their children in the surrounding schools and beyond.

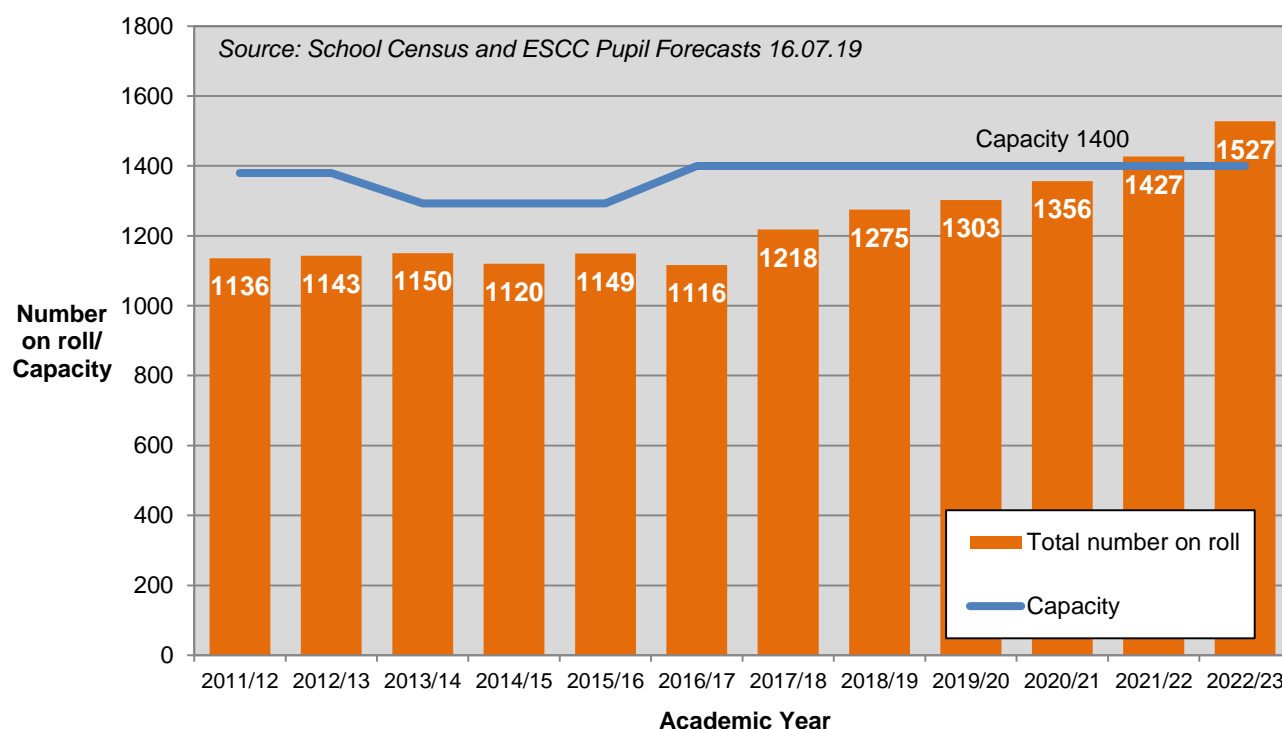
The number of spare places shown for Hailsham primary schools in the chart above is artificially inflated at the moment as both Hailsham Community College Primary Academy and Burfield Academy (which opened in September 2015) are filling from Year R upwards and won't reach capacity for a few years.

## 17.5 Secondary places in Hailsham

**Hailsham secondary Year 7 numbers**



## Hailsham total secondary numbers



The forecast for Hailsham Community College takes account of the substantial amount of new housing planned for the town as part of Wealden's Local Plan in the period to 2028.

As a result of rising numbers coming through primary schools and additional pupils generated by the new housing, the school is likely to experience significant pressures on places in the coming years. Intake numbers could be tight in 2020/21 and a small shortfall, although not forecast, is a possibility. A probable shortfall of up to one form of entry is forecast for 2021/22, followed by a shortfall of two forms of entry for 2022/23. Further shortfalls are forecast beyond the current plan period.

In reality, the exact magnitude of the forecast shortfalls will be heavily dependent on future patterns of parental preference as well as how quickly the new housing is built out and occupied.

A substantial number of pupils from the Hailsham area attend King's Academy Ringmer and Heathfield Community College and the future popularity of these schools with Hailsham children will have a significant bearing on the timing and extent of pressures on places at Hailsham Community College.

The local authority is working with Hailsham Community College on options for expansion of its 11-16 provision and will bring forward proposals at the appropriate time.

With higher numbers moving up through the school, Hailsham Community College may also experience growing pressure on its sixth form capacity.

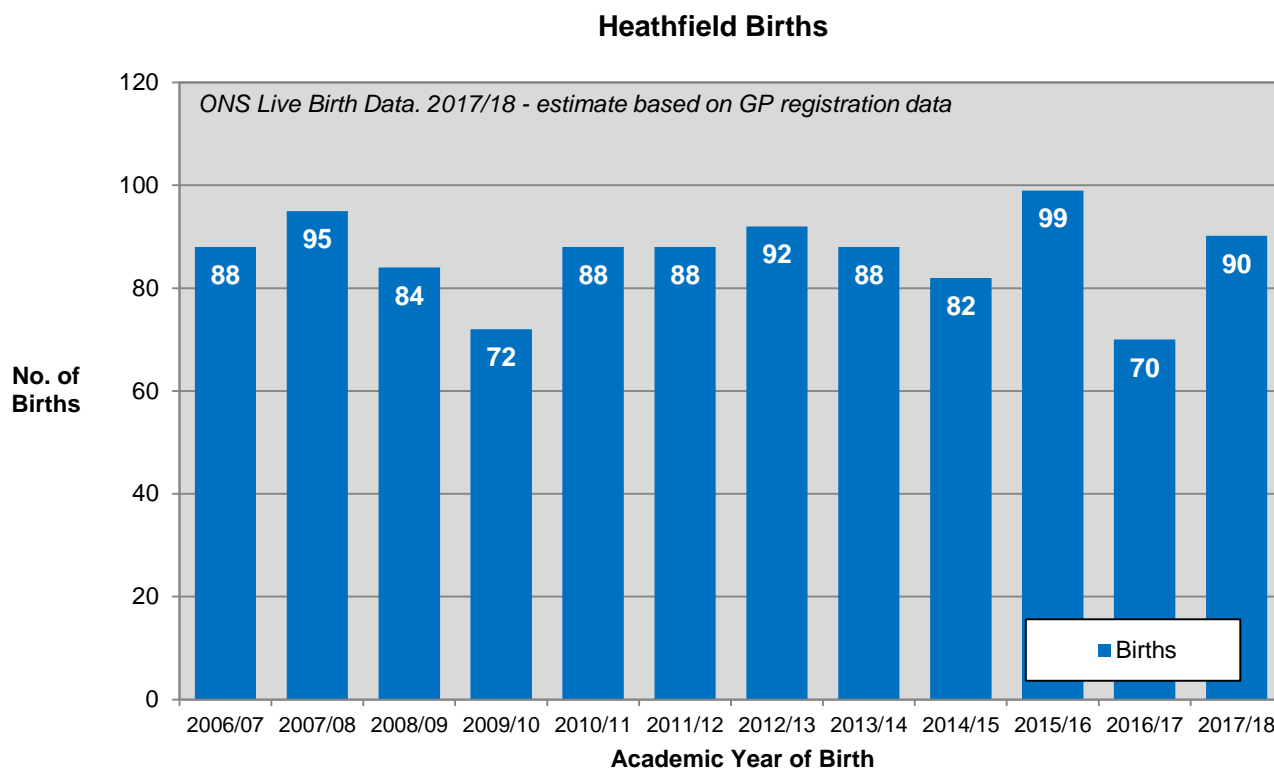
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## 18 Heathfield

### 18.1 Schools in Heathfield

There are three primary schools in Heathfield and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision. The secondary school has a sixth form.

### 18.2 Births in Heathfield



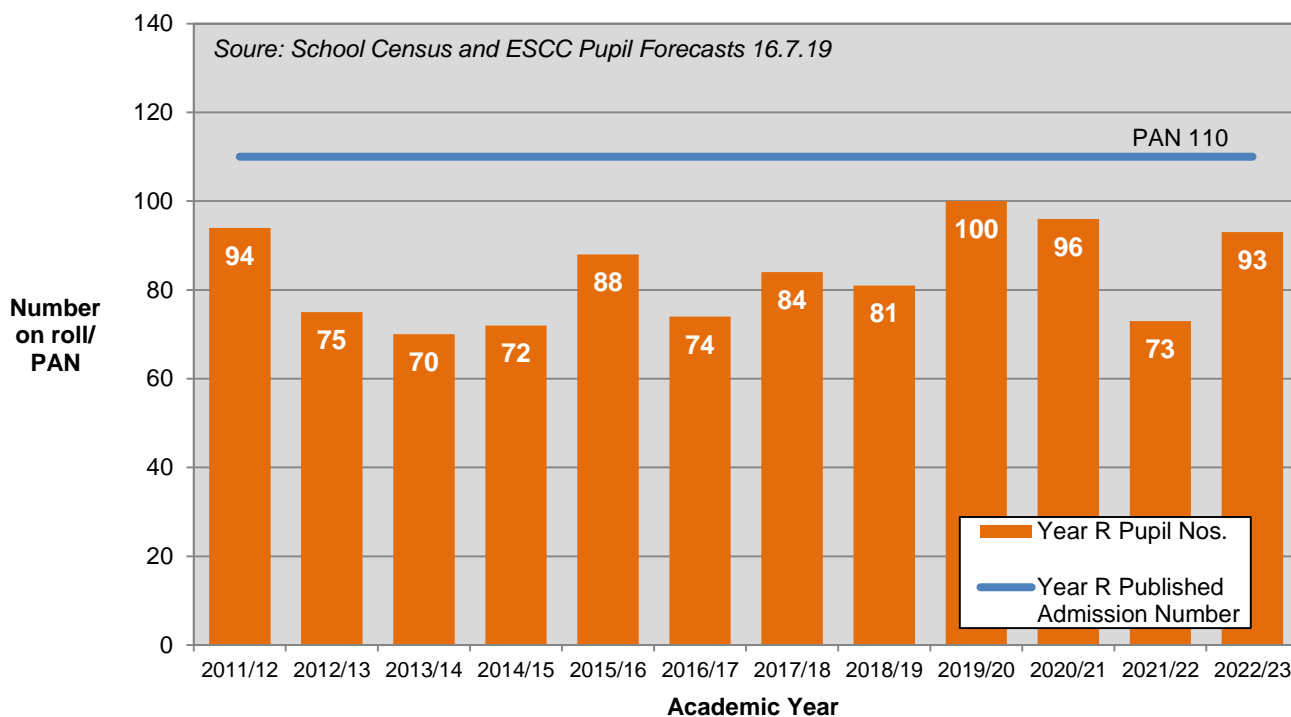
Data from the ONS shows that births in Heathfield tend to fluctuate year-on-year with a high of 99 in 2015/16 and a low of 70 in 2016/17

### 18.3 Housing plans in Heathfield

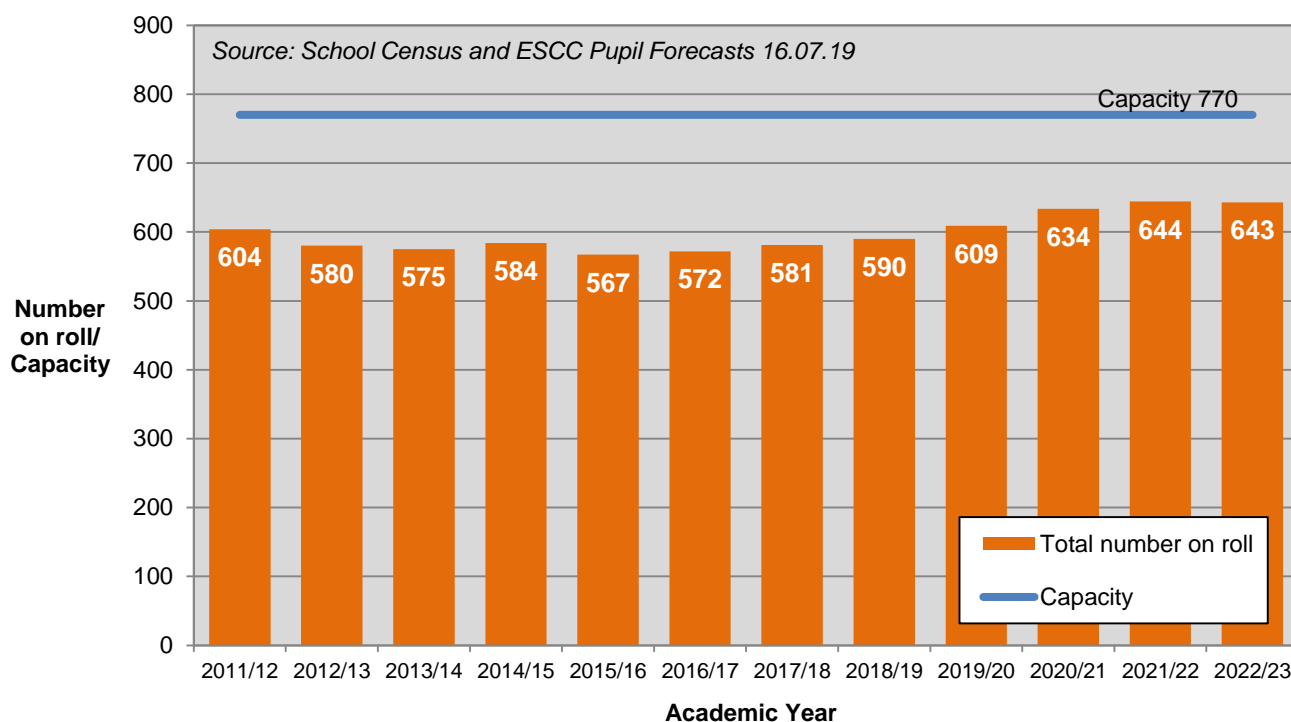
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 700 new dwellings in Heathfield over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 500 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 18.4 Primary places in Heathfield

**Heathfield primary Year R numbers**



**Heathfield total primary numbers**



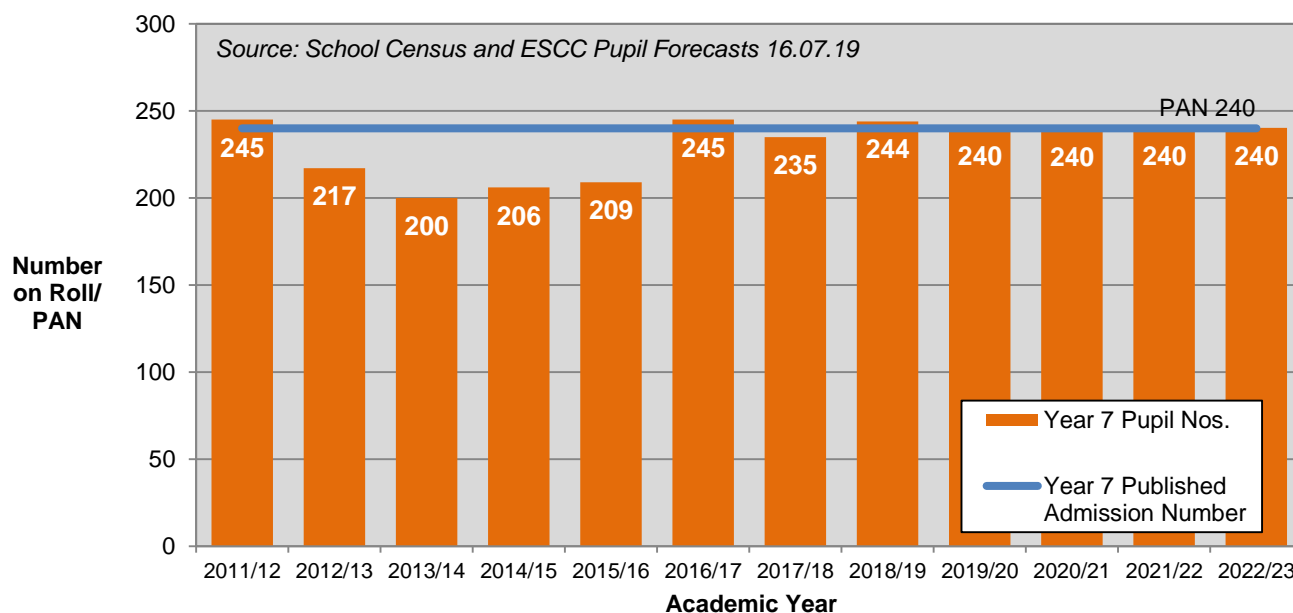
Live birth and GP registration data indicate there will be sufficient Year R places in the town in the foreseeable future.

The local authority is currently consulting on a proposal to close nearby Broad Oak Community Primary School on 31 August 2020 (see chapter 22). If closure is approved this could increase pupil numbers in Heathfield and help to reduce the amount of surplus places in the town.

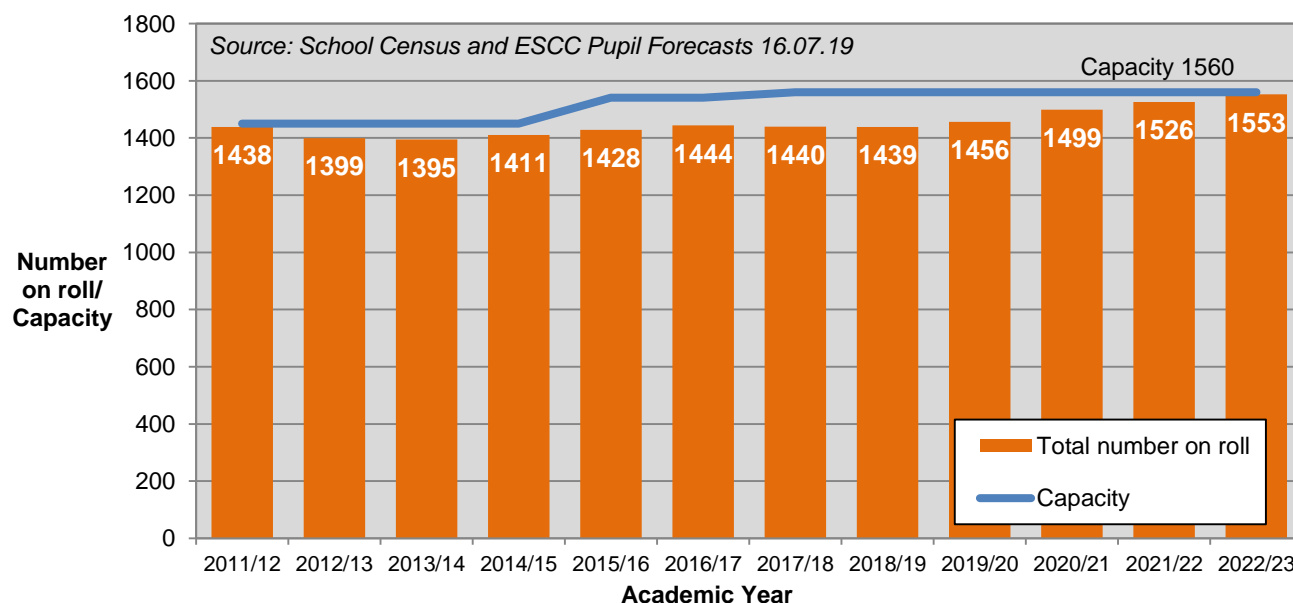
There is movement of pupils between Heathfield and the surrounding schools, notably: Broad Oak Community Primary School, Maynard's Green Community Primary School and Punnetts Town Community Primary School. Recent years have seen increased inflows from the Hailsham area.

## 18.5 Secondary places in Heathfield

**Heathfield secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Heathfield total secondary numbers**



Heathfield Community College takes significant numbers of pupils from the Hailsham area. With these inflows of pupils it is forecast that the school will more or less fill to its PAN of 240 for the foreseeable future.

The potential for the school admissions system to redirect out of area applicants back to Hailsham and other areas means that Heathfield Community College is unlikely to be regularly over-subscribed.

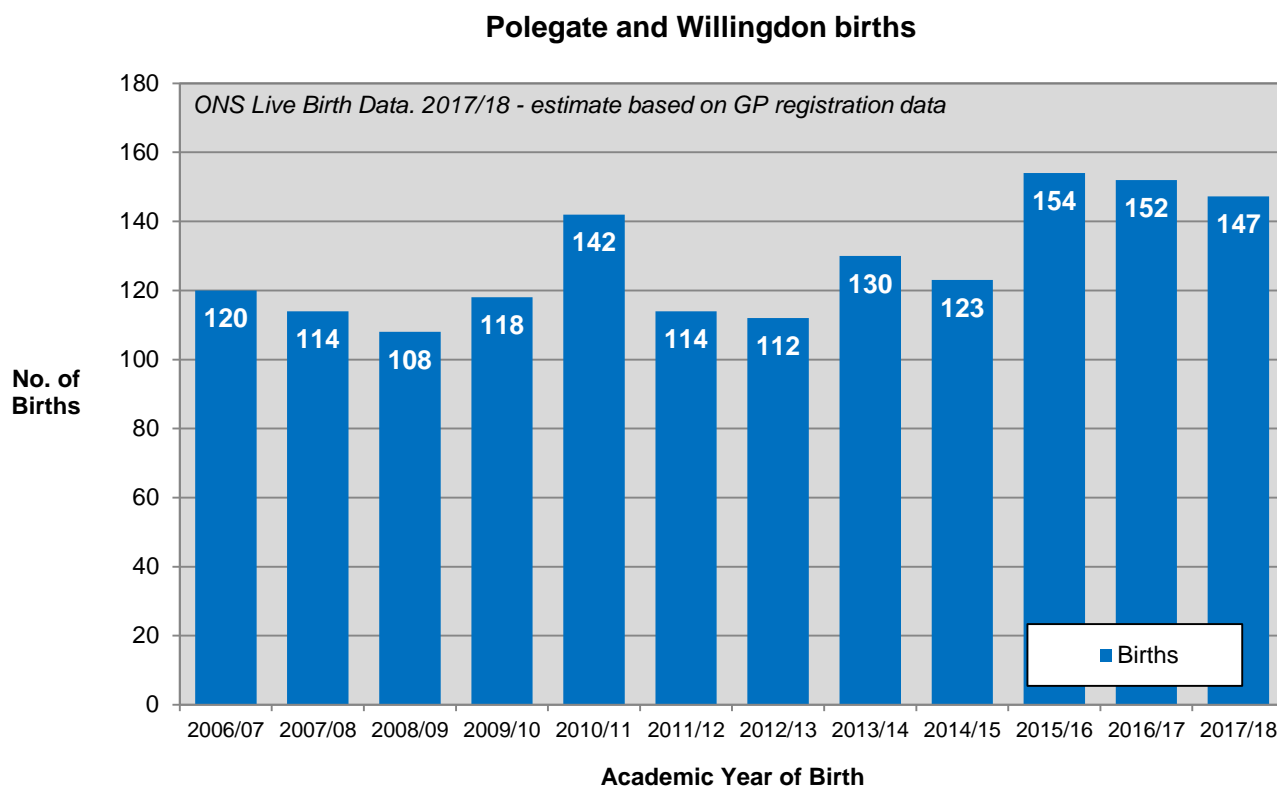
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## 19 Polegate and Willingdon

### 19.1 Schools in Polegate and Willingdon

There are two primary schools in Polegate and Willingdon and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

### 19.2 Births in Polegate and Willingdon



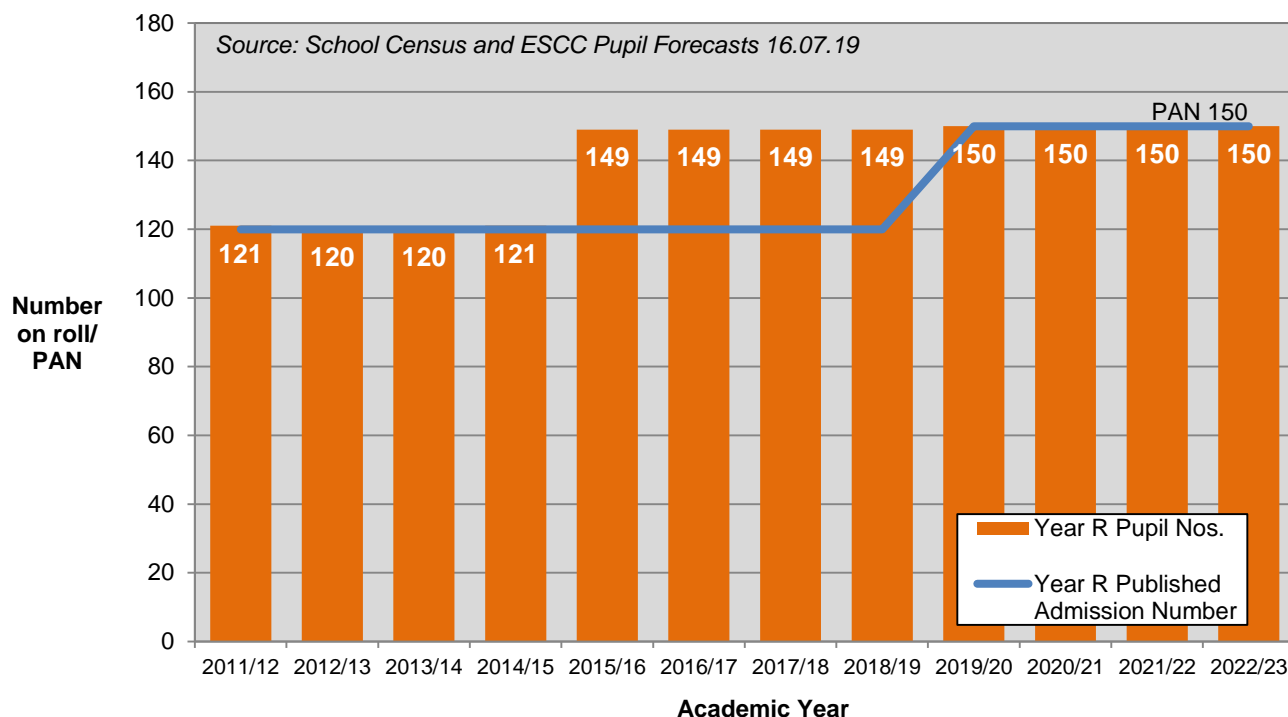
Data from the ONS and GP registrations shows that births in Polegate and Willingdon have been much higher in the last three years in line with recent house building in the area.

### 19.3 Housing plans in Polegate and Willingdon

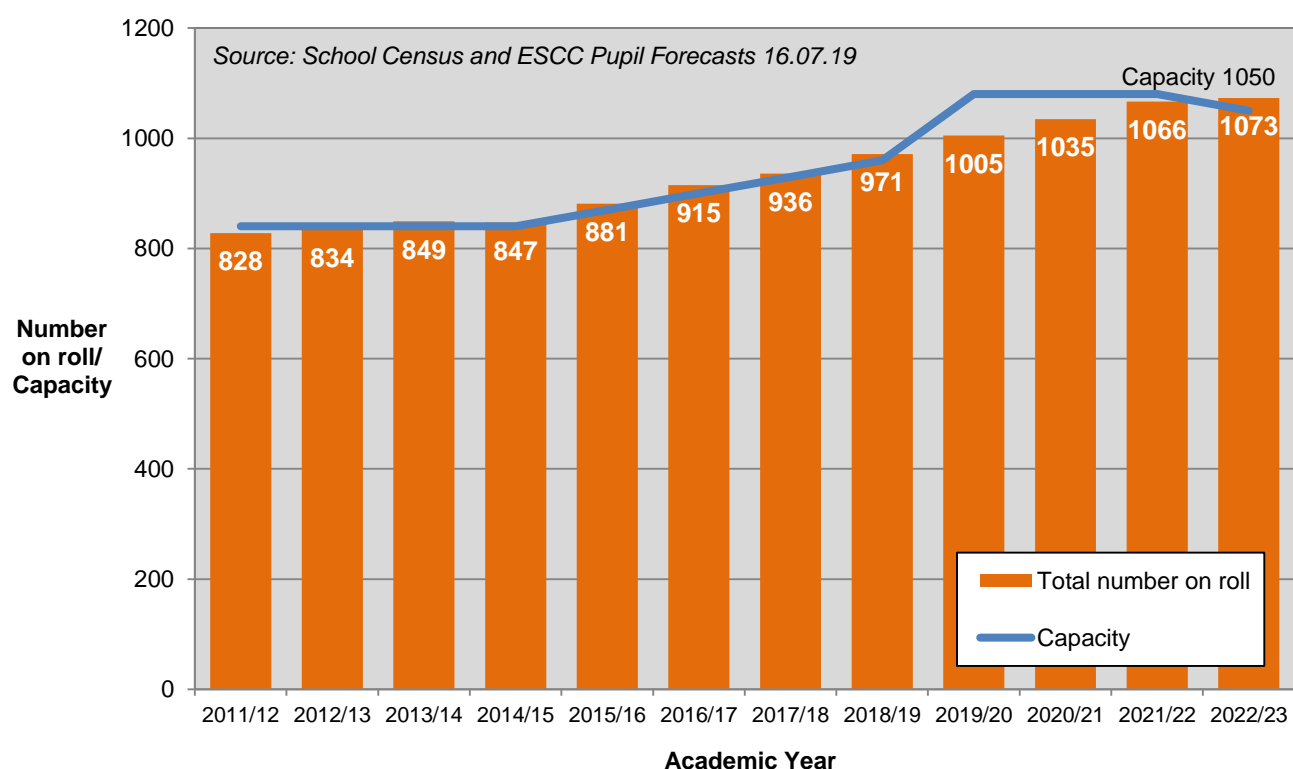
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 1,200 new dwellings in Polegate and Willingdon over the local plan period of which an estimated 700 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 19.4 Primary places in Polegate and Willingdon

**Polegate and Willingdon primary Year R numbers**



**Polegate and Willingdon total primary numbers**



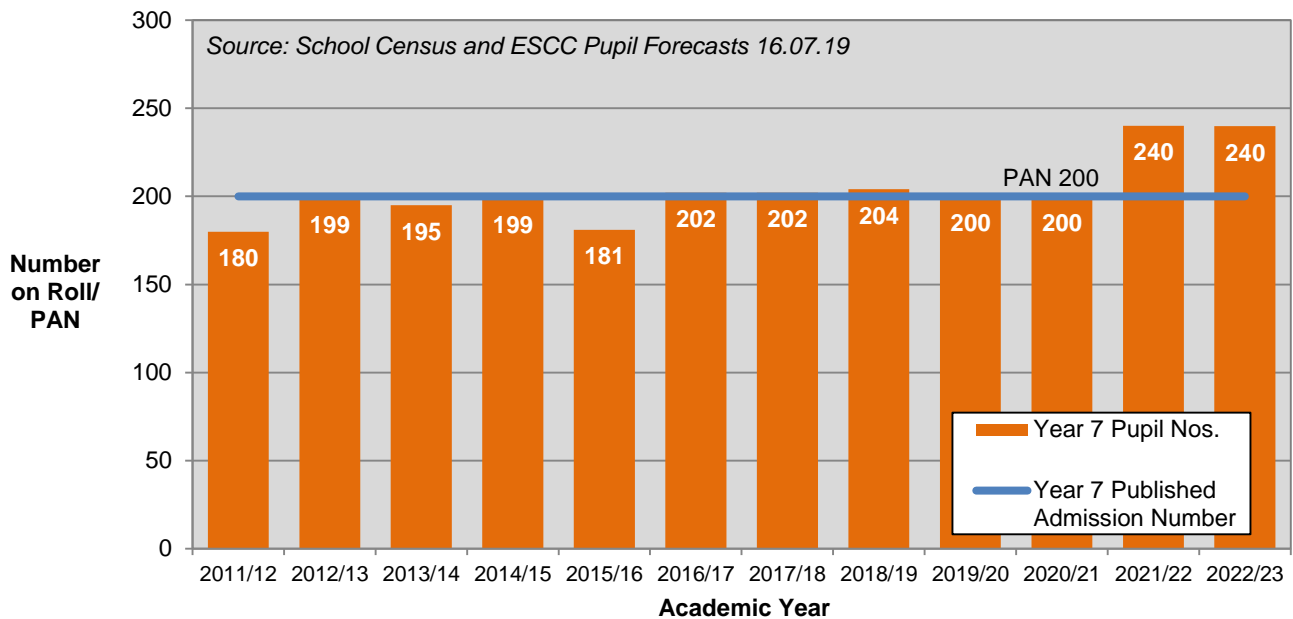
In the last four years high in-area numbers of reception aged children linked to recent housing development has resulted in Year R totals in the region of 150. Birth, GP registration and planned housing development data points to similar Year R numbers going forward.

It is expected that the expansion of Polegate School from two forms of entry to three forms of entry (420 places to 630 places) with effect from September 2019 will provide sufficient capacity to meet the demand for places.

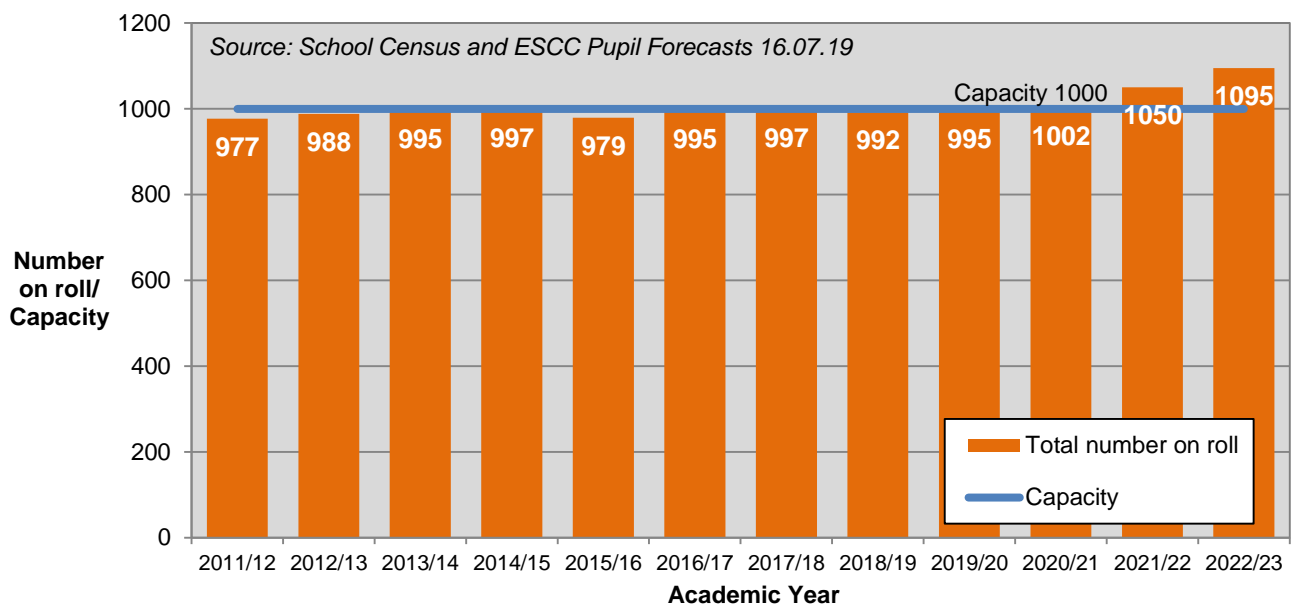
There are significant flows of children to and from Polegate School and Willingdon Primary School and schools in Eastbourne.

## 19.5 Secondary places in Polegate and Willingdon

**Willingdon secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Willingdon total secondary numbers**



Demand for school places at Willingdon Community School is predicted to grow as a result of recent and planned housing developments in the area it serves. Future Year 7 intakes to the school are expected to be significantly above its current PAN of 200 from 2021/22.

Accordingly, the local authority is expanding capacity at the school from 1,000 places to 1,200 places linked to a proposal to increase the PAN from 200 to 240 from the 2021/22 academic year.

The school experiences significant inflows of pupils from and outflows to Eastbourne secondary schools.

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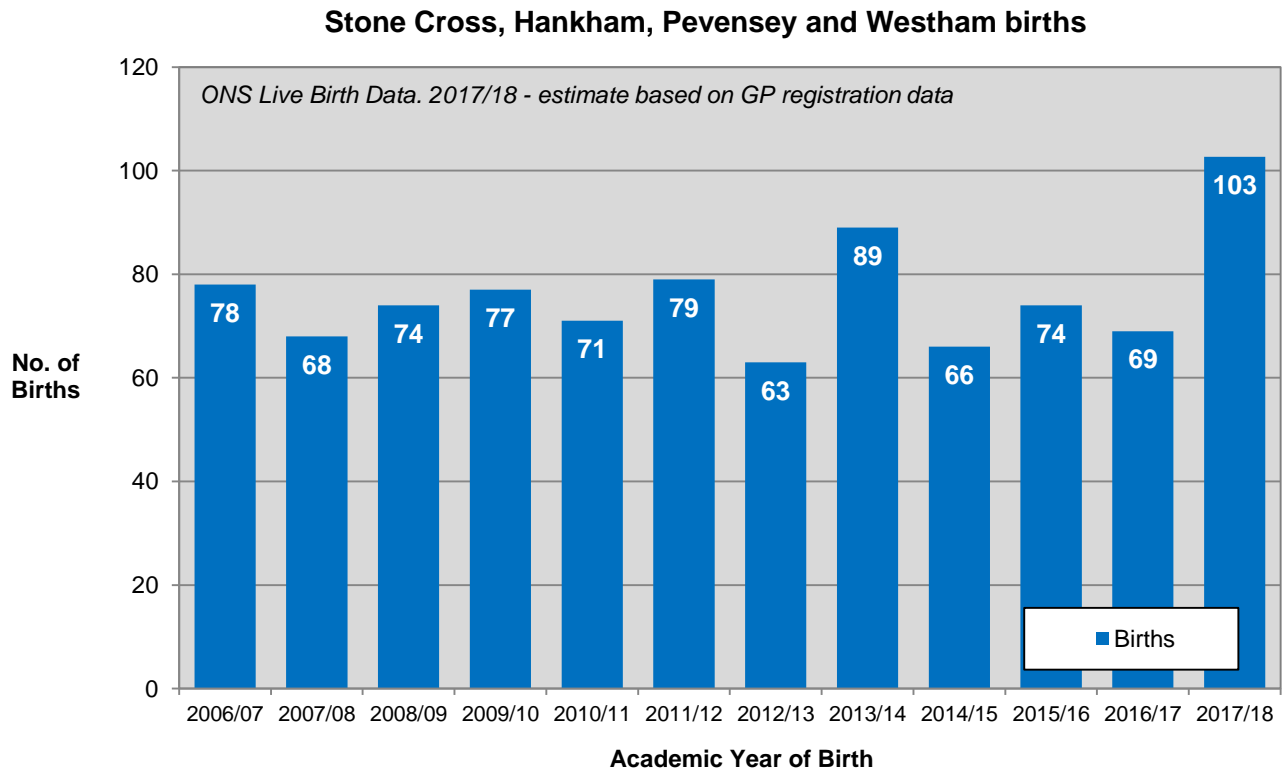


## 20 Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

### 20.1 Schools in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

There are three primary schools in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham.

### 20.2 Births in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham



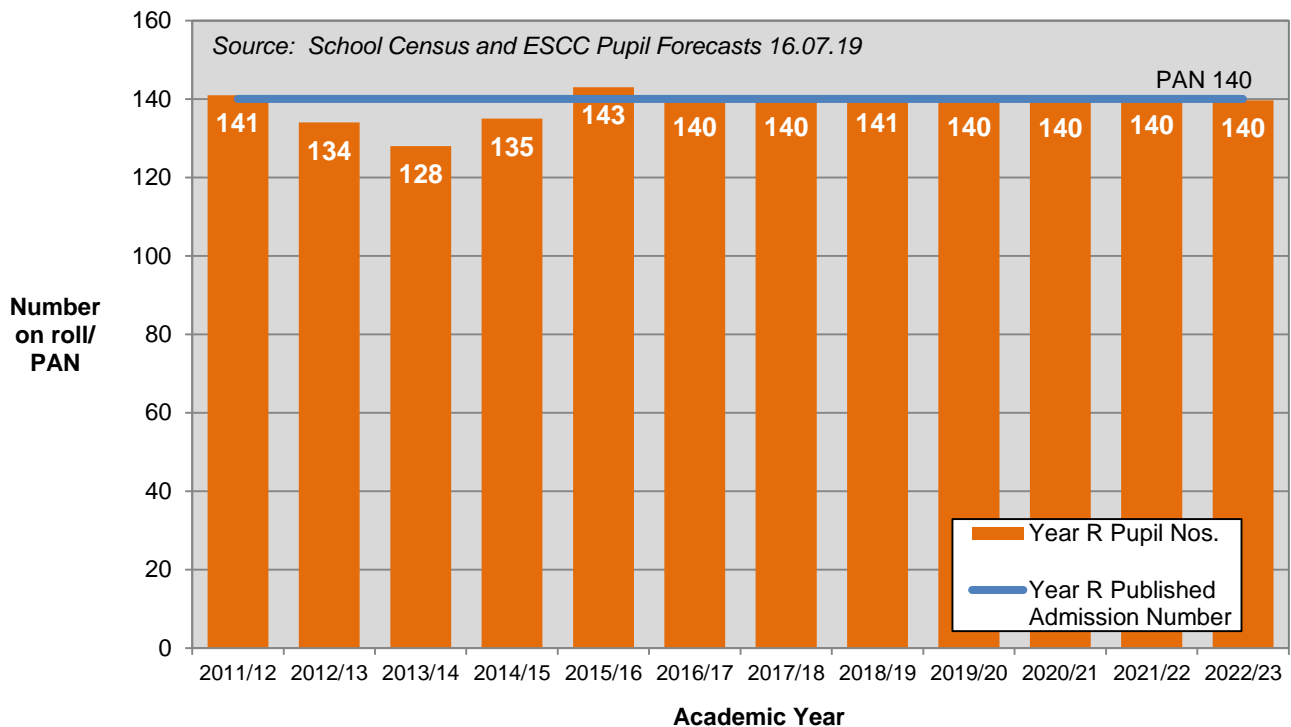
Data from the ONS shows that births in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham tend to fluctuate year-on-year, although in 2017/28 the number of GP registered under-one year olds grew significantly, possibly linked to the volume of new housing in the area.

### 20.3 Housing plans in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

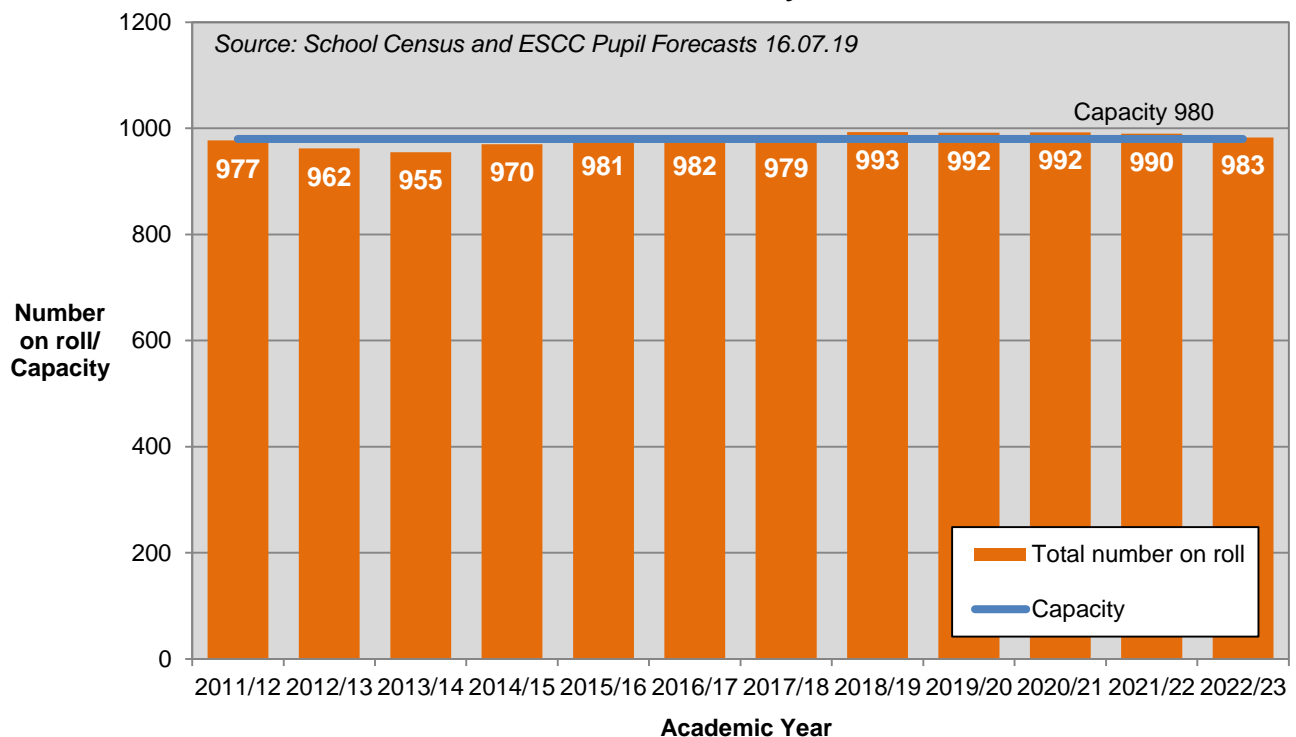
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 1,600 new dwellings in the area over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 1,400 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 20.4 Primary places in Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

**Primary Year R numbers in  
Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham**



**Total primary numbers in  
Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham**



Stone Cross School, Hankham Primary School and Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School are all full. The volume of new housing planned for the area is likely to put pressure on places in the coming years. However, the three schools take significant numbers of children from Eastbourne Borough and the school admissions system should be able to redirect some of this demand back to Eastbourne, where future intake numbers are predicted to decline as a result of falling births. Therefore, there should be sufficient capacity in the three schools to meet local demand in the future.

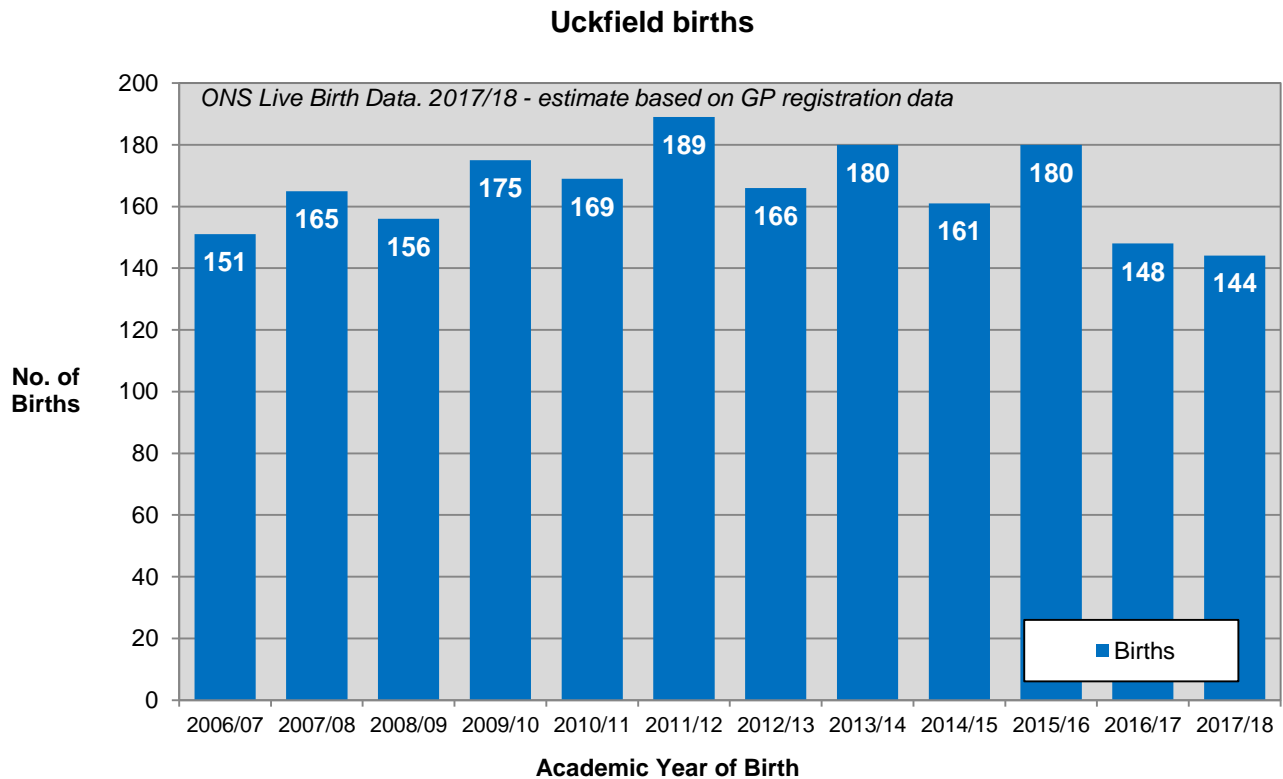
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## 21 Uckfield

### 21.1 Schools in Uckfield

There are five primary schools in Uckfield and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision and the secondary school has a sixth form.

### 21.2 Births in Uckfield



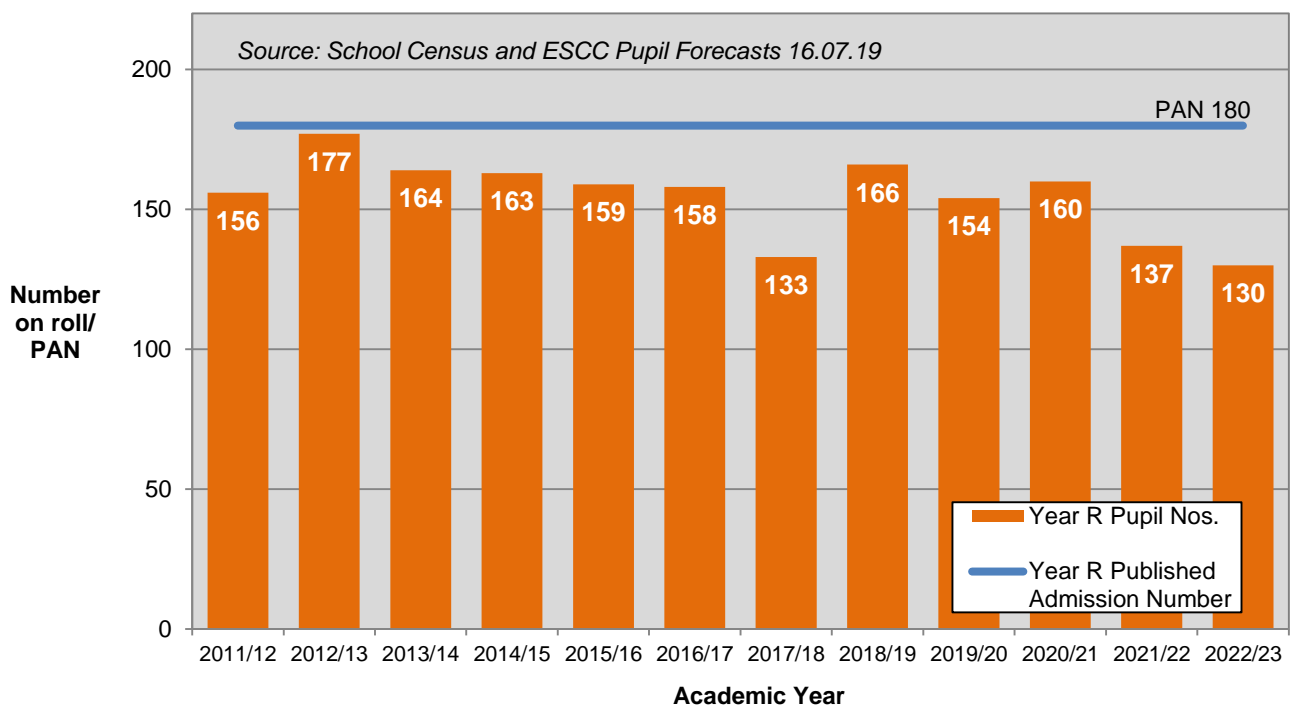
Data from the ONS shows that, in the last two years, births in Uckfield have been much lower than previous years.

### 21.3 Housing plans in Uckfield

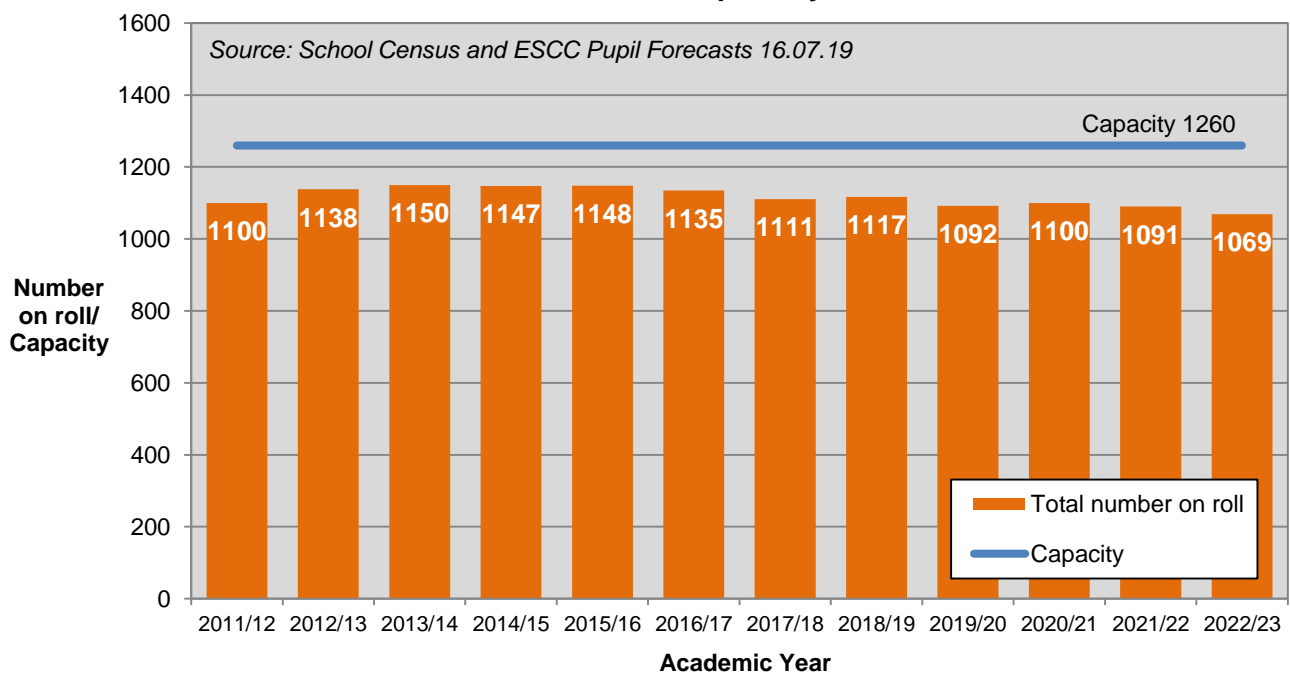
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 1,500 new dwellings in the town over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 1,400 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period.

## 21.4 Primary places in Uckfield

**Uckfield primary Year R numbers**



**Uckfield total primary numbers**

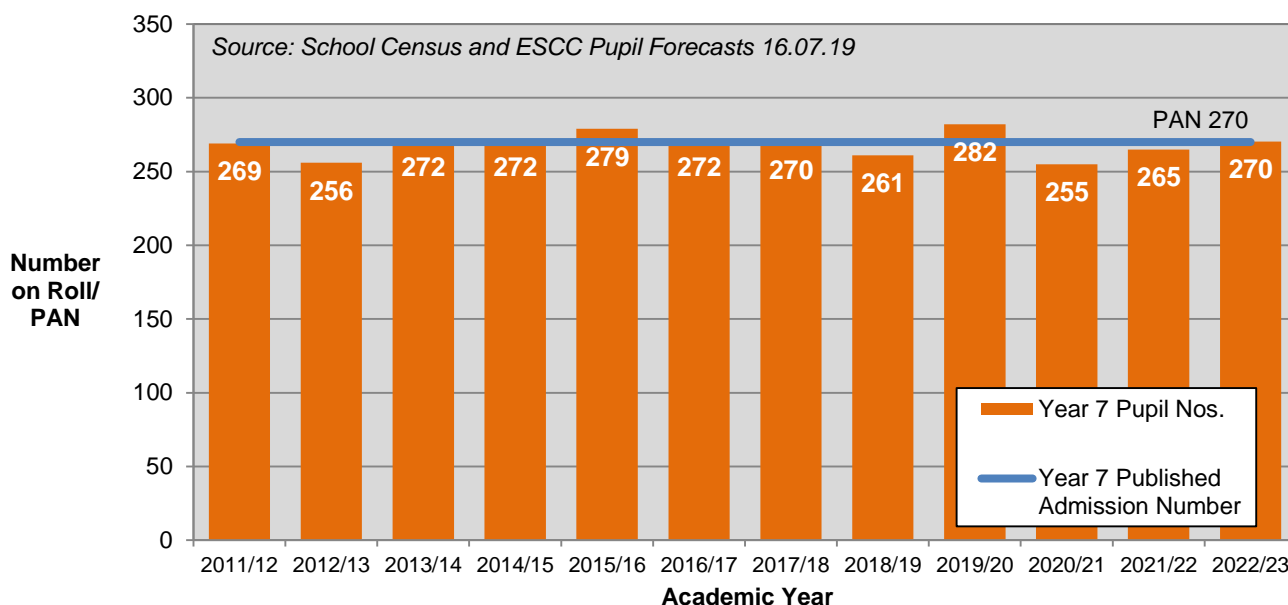


GP registration data and demographic projections of births are currently not suggesting any shortfalls of places for the foreseeable future. However, 1,000 new homes are planned for a site at Ridgewood Farm, and additional places may be required to serve the site. The local authority has an option agreement on land for a new school within the development site and will bring forward proposals to create provision to serve the site at the appropriate time. To a large extent the timing of this will be dependent upon when the school site is transferred to the local authority.

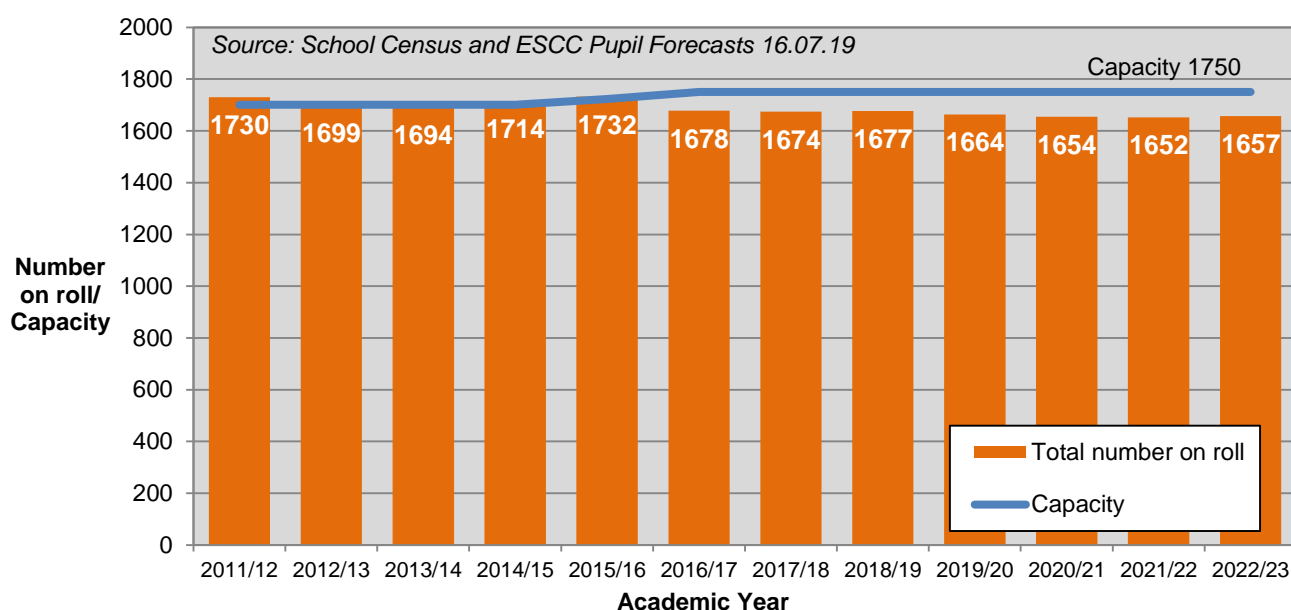
A number of Uckfield pupils attend surrounding schools, notably Bonners CE Primary School, Buxted CE Primary School, Framfield CE Primary School and Little Horsted CE Primary School.

## 21.5 Secondary places in Uckfield

**Uckfield secondary Year 7 numbers**



**Uckfield total secondary numbers**



In the 2019/20 academic year the number of in-area children requiring mainstream state funded school places is very high (over 300). Even with typical outflows of children to other schools and the school admissions system limiting inflows of pupils to Uckfield College, a Year 7 shortfall of around half a form of entry is predicted. The school can accommodate this number.

Going forward, in-area numbers are much lower and in some years the school may not fill to its PAN of 270. The school traditionally takes children from Chailey, Ringmer, Crowborough and Heathfield. Conversely, pupils from Uckfield access schools in these areas as well as St Paul's Catholic College in West Sussex. Actual numbers each year will therefore largely depend on movement of pupils between the areas.

Uckfield College forms part of the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2) in East Sussex which will see large parts of the existing premises re-built. There is no requirement to expand the school as part of the project.

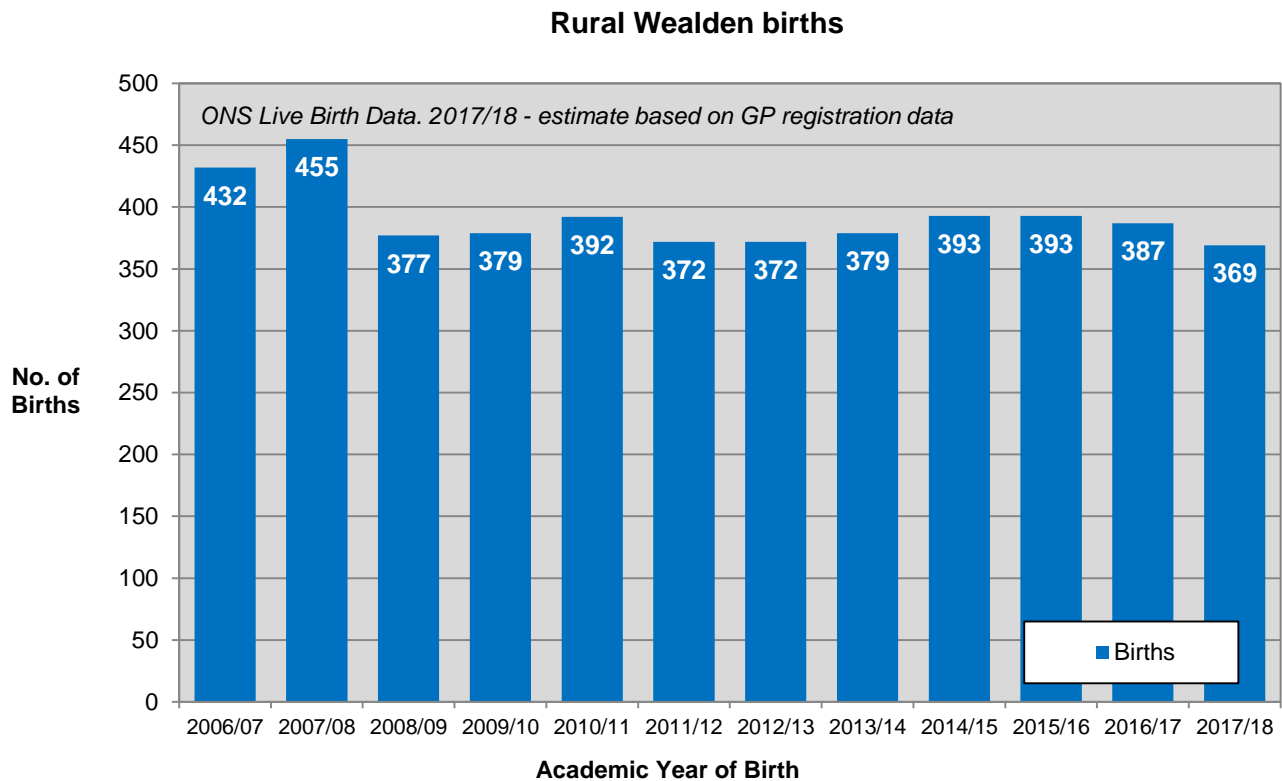
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## 22 Rural Wealden

### 22.1 Schools in Rural Wealden

There are 33 primary schools in Rural Wealden and one secondary school. Three primary schools have nursery provision and the secondary school has a sixth form.

### 22.2 Births in Rural Wealden



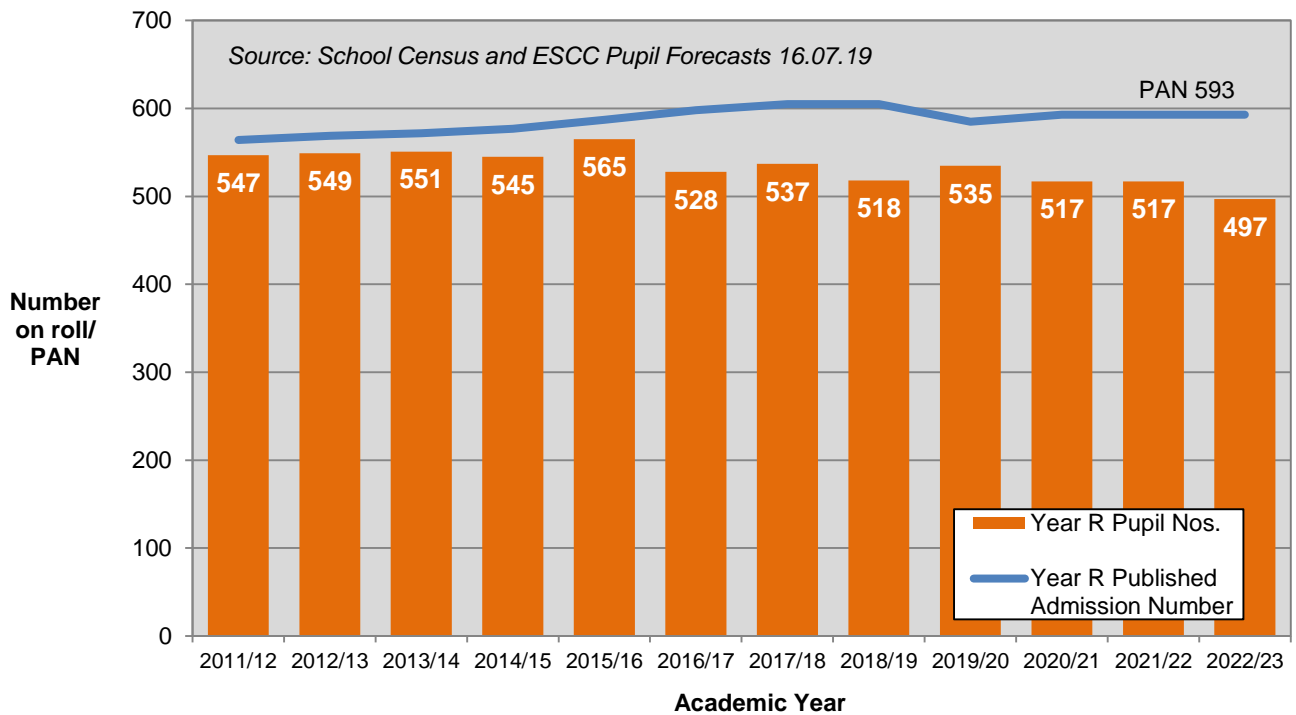
Data from the Office for National Statistics shows that births in Rural Wealden have been fairly steady since 2008/09, but are significantly lower than they were in the mid-2000s.

### 22.3 Housing plans in Rural Wealden

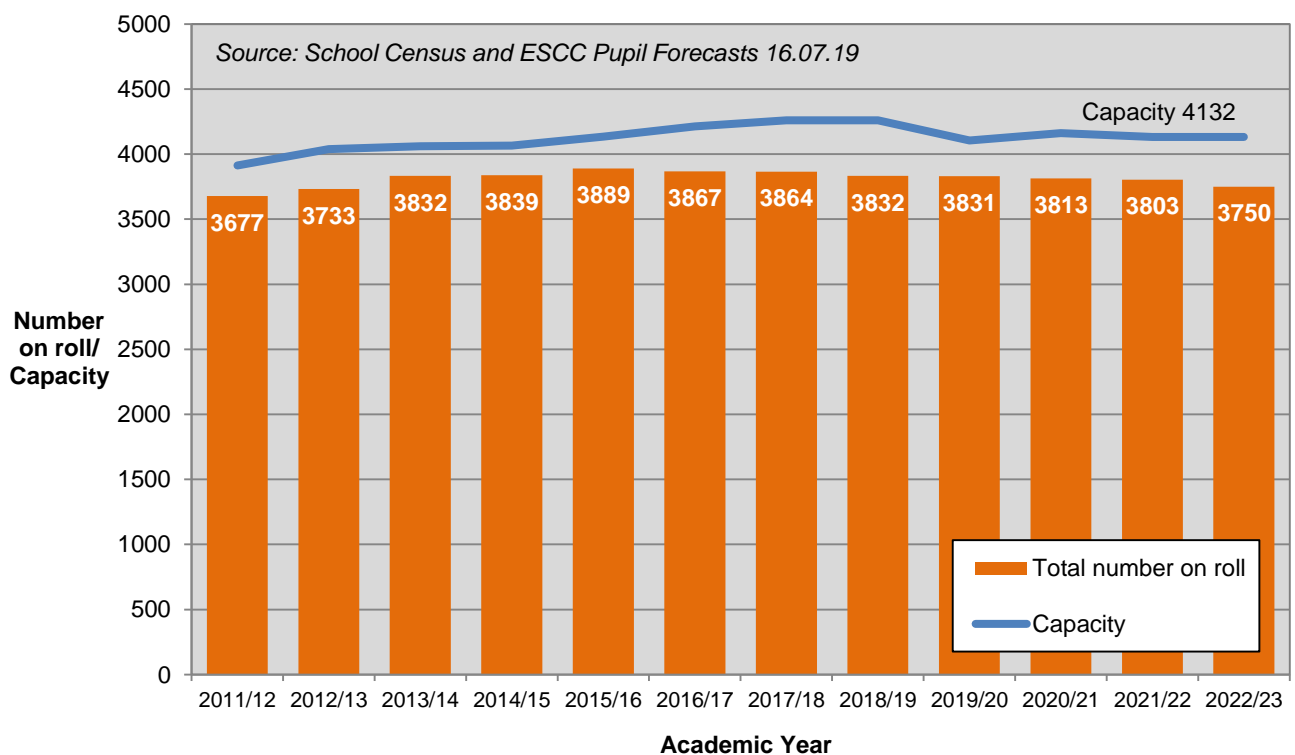
As at January 2019 Wealden District Council planned for approximately 2,900 new dwellings across the rural areas of Wealden District over the local plan period to 2028, of which an estimated 2,300 remain to be built between April 2019 and the end of the local plan period. Of these outstanding completions approximately 700 are in Horam parish.

## 22.4 Primary places in Rural Wealden

**Rural Wealden primary Year R numbers**



**Rural Wealden total primary numbers**



Year R intake numbers in individual rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year and normally schools can organise to accommodate these fluctuations.

In-area numbers requiring a mainstream state funded school place are forecast to sometimes be over the PAN of 30 at Maynards Green Community Primary School. However, as long as recent outflow patterns to other schools are maintained and the school admissions system pushes back

some demand to Heathfield, we do not anticipate the PAN normally being exceeded in the short to medium term. In the second half of the decade the volume of new housing development in Horam Parish could potentially change this picture and a shortfall in places is at least a possibility. The situation will be kept under review.

The local authority is currently consulting on proposals to close two primary schools – Broad Oak Community Primary School and Fletching CE Primary School – on 31 August 2020. Both schools have been undersubscribed in each of the last five years and pupil numbers fall significantly short of their PAN each year.

Pupil numbers at Broad Oak Community Primary School have declined over time. In 2014/15 there were 130 children on roll; by 2018/19 the number had fallen to 81 which meant there were 59 (42%) surplus places.

In 2018/19 Fletching CE Primary School had 71 children on roll and 34 (32%) surplus places.

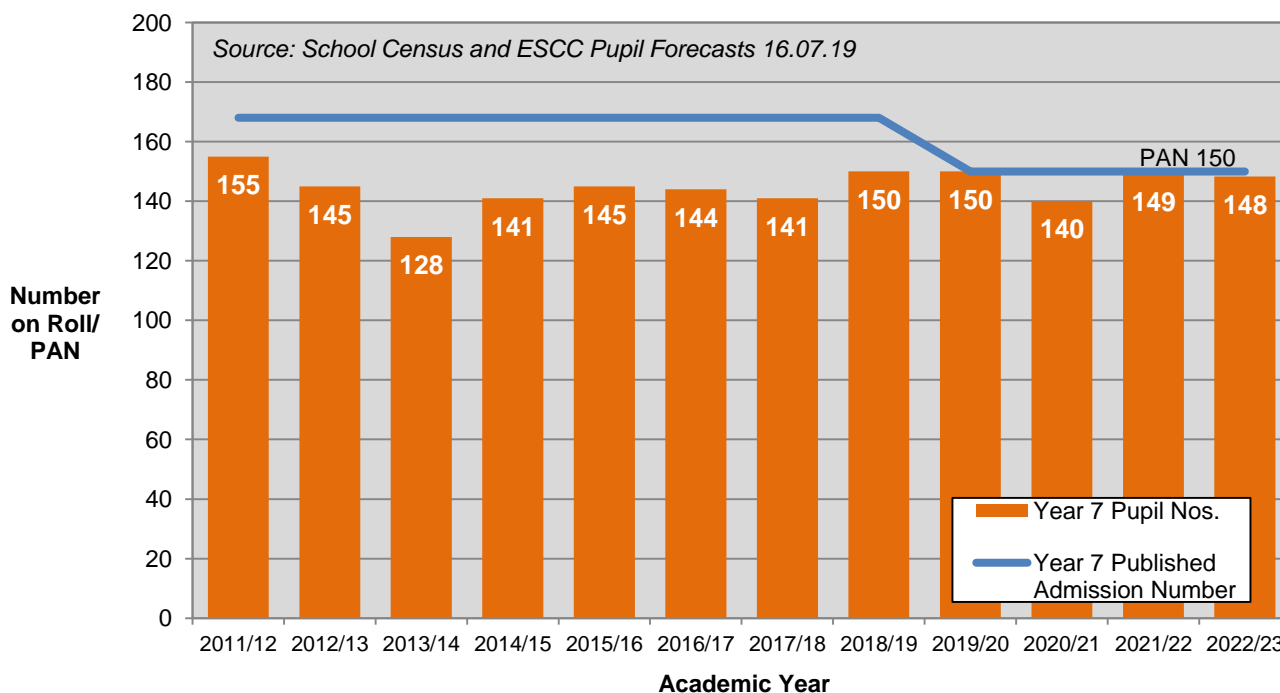
The low pupil numbers mean it is difficult for either school to be financially viable and to regularly have good outcomes for pupils. The nine-year average birth rate in each area is low (8 per annum in Broad Oak and 7 per annum in Fletching) meaning there is little in-area demand for places. Only minimal housing development (50 and 8 homes respectively) is planned in either village over the next ten years so future demand for places would only come from other areas already served by local schools.

Following the consultation period, a decision will be taken in December 2019 on whether to proceed with the statutory process to close the schools.

For more information about the proposals please go to the Consultation Hub on the local authority's website at: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/>

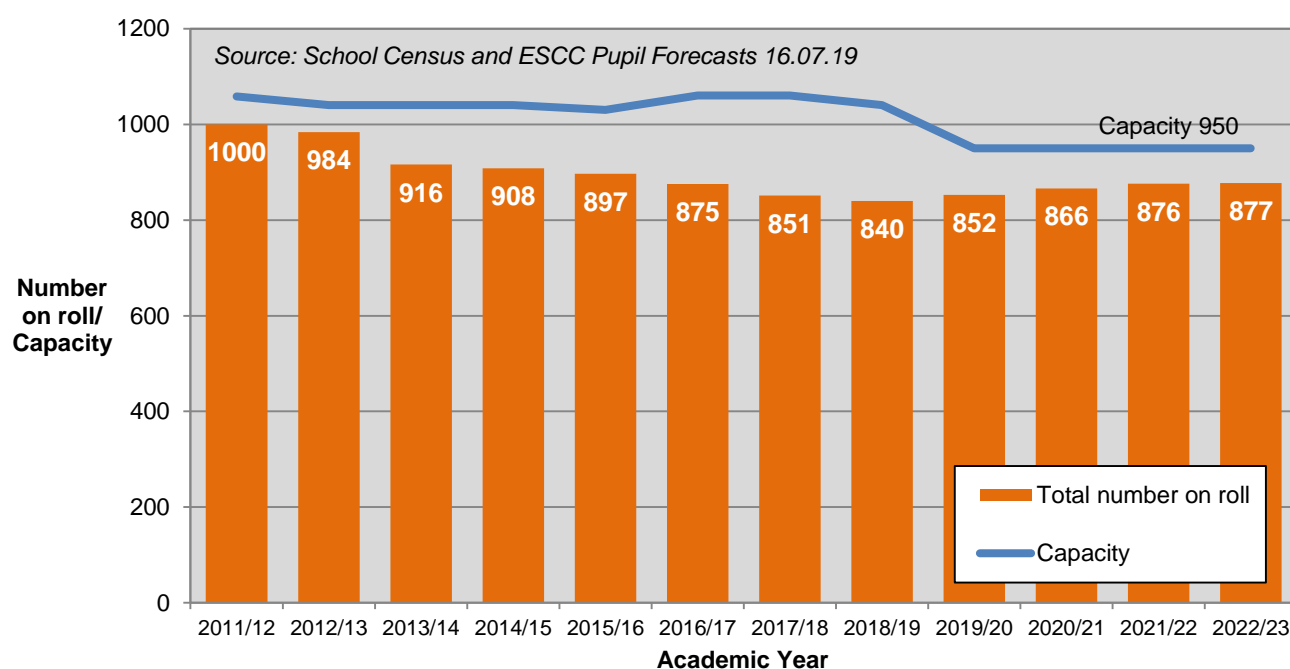
## 22.5 Secondary places in Rural Wealden (Uplands Community College)

**Uplands Community College secondary Year 7 numbers**





## Uplands Community College total secondary numbers



It is difficult to be precise regarding the forecast for Uplands Community College because numbers will to some extent be determined by the demand for and supply of grammar school places on the Kent side of the border. Normally more children from Kent take up places at the school than move in the other direction.

Pressures on the Kent side of the border are reportedly lower than those affecting Beacon Academy (see chapter 16). Nevertheless, the issue reported in relation to Beacon Academy of East Sussex applicants failing to give their local school as a 'fall back' preference is also potentially relevant here.

Inflows from Kent to Uplands Community College for 2019/20, estimated at around 50, are higher than normal and it has been assumed these levels of inflows will continue until the peak pressures in Kent have passed. On this basis, numbers in the region of 140 to 150 are predicted.

The reduced PAN of 150 at Uplands Community College's comes into effect from 2019/20. At this stage no further action is required. The school forms part of the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2) in East Sussex which will see part of the school's accommodation refurbished / replaced with new buildings.

The school is also a net importer of pupils from Robertsbridge and Heathfield.

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## School Planning Areas

## Primary schools

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
<b>Eastbourne Borough</b>			
Bourne Primary School	Primary	3-11	Community
Heron Park Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
Langney Primary School	Primary	3-11	Academy
Motcombe Community School	Infant	4-7	Community
Oakwood Primary Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
Ocklynge Junior School	Junior	7-11	Academy
Parkland Infant School	Infant	4-7	Academy
Parkland Junior School	Junior	7-11	Academy
Pashley Down Infant School	Infant	4-7	Community
Roselands Infant School	Infant	4-7	Community
Shinewater Primary School	Primary	3-11	Academy
St Andrew's Church of England Infant School	Infant	4-7	Voluntary Controlled
St John's Meads Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Stafford Junior School	Junior	7-11	Community
The Haven Voluntary Aided CE/Methodist Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Tollgate Community Junior School	Junior	7-11	Community
West Rise Community Infant School	Infant	4-7	Community
West Rise Junior School	Junior	7-11	Community
<b>Hastings Borough</b>			
All Saints Church of England Junior School	Junior	7-11	Academy
ARK Blacklands Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
ARK Castledown Primary School	Primary	2-11	Academy
ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
Christ Church CE Primary & Nursery Academy	Primary	2-11	Academy
Churchwood Primary Academy	Primary	2-11	Academy
Dudley Infant Academy	Infant	4-7	Academy
Hollington Primary Academy	Primary	2-11	Academy
Ore Village Primary Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
Robsack Wood Primary Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Sandown Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
Silverdale Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
St Leonards Church of England Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Paul's Church of England Primary School	Primary	2-11	Academy
The Baird Primary Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
West St Leonards Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
<b>Lewes</b>			
St Pancras Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
South Malling Church of England Primary School	Primary	3-11	Voluntary Controlled
Southover Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Wallands Community Primary School	Primary	3-11	Community
Western Road Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Foundation

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
<b>Newhaven</b>			
Breakwater Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
Denton Community Primary School	Primary	3-11	Community
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	Primary	2-11	Community
High Cliff Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
<b>Peacehaven</b>			
Meridian Community Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
Peacehaven Heights Primary School	Primary	3-11	Community
Telscombe Cliffs Community Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
<b>Seaford</b>			
Annecy Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Academy
Chyngton School	Primary	4-11	Community
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Seaford Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
<b>Rural Lewes</b>			
Barcombe Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chailey St Peter's Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary School	Primary	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Firle Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Hamsey Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Newick Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Plumpton Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Ringmer Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
Wivelsfield Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
<b>Bexhill</b>			
All Saints Church of England Primary School	Primary	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chantry Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Glenleigh Park Primary Academy	Primary	2-11	Academy
King Offa Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
Little Common School	Primary	4-11	Community
Pebsham Primary Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
<b>Rye</b>			
Rye Community Primary School	Primary	2-11	Academy
<b>Battle</b>			
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Rural Rother</b>			
Beckley Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Brede Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Burwash Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Catsfield Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Crowhurst Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Dallington Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Etchingham Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Guestling Bradshaw Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Hurst Green Church of England Primary School	Primary	2-11	Voluntary Controlled

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Netherfield Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Northiam Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Salehurst Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
St Michael's Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Stonegate Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Ticehurst and Flimwell Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Westfield School	Primary	4-11	Community
<b>Crowborough</b>			
Ashdown Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Jarvis Brook Primary School	Primary	2-11	Academy
Sir Henry Fermor Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Academy
St John's Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Marys Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
<b>Hailsham</b>			
Burfield Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
Grovelands Community Primary School	Primary	2-11	Foundation
Hawkes Farm Primary School	Primary	4-11	Academy
Hellingly Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Phoenix Academy	Primary	3-11	Academy
White House Academy	Primary	4-11	Academy
<b>Heathfield</b>			
All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Cross in Hand Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Parkside Community Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
<b>Polegate / Willingdon</b>			
Polegate School	Primary	2-11	Community
Willingdon Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
<b>Uckfield</b>			
Harlands Primary School	Primary	2-11	Community
Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Manor Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Rocks Park Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
St Philip's Catholic Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
<b>Rural Wealden</b>			
Alfriston School	Primary	4-11	Community
Blackboys Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Bonnors Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Broad Oak Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Buxted Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chiddingly Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Danehill Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
East Hoathly Church of England Primary School	Primary	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Five Ashes Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Fletching Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Framfield Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Frant Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
Groombridge St Thomas' Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Hankham Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
High Hurstwood Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Laughton Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Little Horsted Church of England Primary School	Primary	3-11	Voluntary Aided
Mark Cross Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Mayfield Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Maynards Green Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Ninfield Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Nutley Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Park Mead Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Rotherfield Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
St Mark's Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School	Primary	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Michael's Primary School	Primary	4-11	Community
Stone Cross School	Primary	4-11	Community
Wadhurst Church of England Primary School	Primary	3-11	Voluntary Controlled

### All-through schools

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
The Cavendish School, Eastbourne	All through	2-16	Academy
Gildredge House, Eastbourne	All through	4-18	Free School
Hailsham Community College	All through	2-18	Academy

### Secondary schools

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
<b>Eastbourne Borough</b>			
Causeway School	Secondary	11-16	Community
Ratton School	Secondary	11-16	Academy
St Catherine's College	Secondary	11-16	Academy
The Eastbourne Academy	Secondary	11-16	Academy
<b>Hastings Borough</b>			
ARK Alexandra Academy	Secondary	11-18	Academy
The Hastings Academy	Secondary	11-16	Academy
The St Leonards Academy	Secondary	11-16	Academy
<b>Lewes</b>			
Priory School	Secondary	11-16	Foundation
<b>Newhaven</b>			
Seahaven Academy	Secondary	11-16	Academy
<b>Peacehaven</b>			
Peacehaven Community School	Secondary	11-16	Academy
<b>Seaford</b>			
Seaford Head School	Secondary	11-18	Academy
<b>Rural Lewes</b>			
Chailey School	Secondary	11-16	Community
Kings Academy Ringmer	Secondary	11-16	Academy

School name	Type	Age range	Status as at 1 September 2019
<b>Bexhill</b>			
Bexhill Academy	Secondary	11-16	Academy
St Richard's Catholic College	Secondary	11-16	Voluntary Aided
<b>Rye</b>			
Rye College	Secondary	11-16	Academy
<b>Battle</b>			
Claverham Community College	Secondary	11-16	Community
<b>Rural Rother</b>			
Robertsbridge Community College	Secondary	11-16	Community
<b>Crowborough</b>			
Beacon Academy	Secondary	11-18	Academy
<b>Heathfield</b>			
Heathfield Community College	Secondary	11-18	Community
<b>Polegate / Willingdon</b>			
Willingdon Community School	Secondary	11-16	Community
<b>Uckfield</b>			
Uckfield Community Technology College	Secondary	11-18	Community
<b>Rural Wealden</b>			
Uplands Community College	Secondary	11-18	Community

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Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **7 October 2019**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **School age range change - at Stonegate Church of England Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate Church of England Primary School to enable the governing body to provide early years provision on the school site.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Lead Member is recommended to:**

- 1) Authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate Church of England Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1 September 2020;**
  - 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**
- 

## **1 Background**

1.1 The governing board of the school wishes to lower its age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to accommodate families who wish to access early years provision on the school site.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, a twelve place nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that the school supports the local area by offering high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage. The aim is to build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 The governing board consulted between 7 June and 5 July 2019 on a proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1 September 2020. The governing board consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties. As part of the consultation the school also conducted a needs survey.

2.2 By the close of the consultation period six responses had been received, all in support of the proposal. Each respondent provided further comment on the proposal and this can be viewed in **Appendix 1**. A further 16 people responded to the needs survey, indicating a requirement for early years and wraparound childcare provision at the school.

2.3 The proposal to lower the school age-range from 4-11 to 2-11 at Stonegate Church of England Primary School is supported by the Diocese of Chichester.

2.4 The governing board has undertaken thorough financial modelling to ensure the proposal is cost neutral and will not impact on the school budget.

2.5 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. In view of the positive feedback received during the consultation period it is proposed that a statutory notice is now published with regard to the proposal in accordance with the regulations.

2.6 It is intended to publish the statutory notice in the Sussex Express on Friday 22 November 2019. The notice would also be posted on all entrances to the school on the same day. In addition, the notice and full proposal would be posted on the Council's website. A four week period of representation would follow, giving interested parties a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Council has a duty to determine each proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. We anticipate that a decision would be taken at the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability meeting on 30 January 2020.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 In conclusion, we believe the proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate Church of England Primary school will help to build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children.

3.2 The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Stonegate Church of England Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11. The proposal to take effect on 1 September 2020;
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Jane Spice, Early Years Funding Manager  
Tel. No. 01323 747425  
Email: jane.spice@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBER  
Councillor John Barnes (Rother North West)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS  
None

LIST OF APPENDICES  
Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation responses



## Summary of consultation responses received by the school

Response 1	"I feel certain a provision for children from 2 years would be welcomed in Stonegate. This would make it easier for many parents rather than travelling to nurseries in other villages and help fill the gap left by the closure of Stonegate pre-school some years ago."
Response 2	"I think the school is a great asset to the village of Stonegate and if the village is to thrive it needs new blood in the sense of new families, with children, moving to it. The excellent reputation the school has can only help with families wanting to move here and with the increased age range and the various clubs; the school is doing its bit to help working families raise their children in a safe and pleasant environment."
Response 3	"Excellent idea and will be great for the community."
Response 4	"A necessity for our local primary school in order to maintain numbers. Our village is in need of a nursery since we lost Stonegate pre-school and this would provide excellent on site facilities too. The wrap around care is a fantastic idea to support working families. We fully support the proposal."
Response 5	"I had children at Stonegate School from 2004 to 2010. I think it is a marvellous idea to incorporate nursery provision at the school. It will be fit-for-purpose unlike the hotchpotch at the Village Hall. Not a fan of breakfast club as I believe the start of the day should be family orientated. I like after-school clubs that provide that extra interest and life skills that the curriculum does not accommodate."
Response 6	"There would appear to be plenty of childcare facilities in the area right now, where the service is offered on a full time basis not just term time. Having wrap around care however would be very good. To be able to provide breakfast club and after school care would be a great asset to the school."

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