



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, 27 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2.00 PM

REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 12 December 2022 (*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 Duty 2023 - 2024 (*Pages 5 - 54*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services.
5. Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex 2024-25 (*Pages 55 - 94*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services.
6. Household Support Fund Round 4 (*Pages 95 - 98*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services.
7. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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17 February 2023

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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 12 December 2022 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

18. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 28 NOVEMBER 2022

18.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022.

19. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

19.1 There were none.

20. URGENT ITEMS

20.1 There were none.

21. REPORTS

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

22. PROPOSAL TO LOWER SCHOOL AGE RANGE AT WIVELSFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

22.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding school age range change.

DECISION

22.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to authorise the change of age range at Wivelsfield Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 with effect from 1 September 2023.

REASON

22.3 The local authority and governing board of Wivelsfield Primary School have identified a gap in nursery provision in Wivelsfield since the closure of the former voluntary run pre-school in July 2020. The governing board wishes to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to support families in the local area and offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date of meeting:	27 February 2023
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title:	East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Duty 2023
Purpose:	To approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Duty 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Duty report 2023.

1 Background

1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Duty report (Appendix 1) (formerly known as the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment) is a statutory document. It outlines how the local authority plans to secure sufficient childcare places as far as is reasonably practicable, for parents who are working, studying, or training for employment. The report covers childcare for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The publication of this reports meets the local authority's statutory duty under sections 6 and 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 (as amended) (" the Act").

1.2 The Act 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 school run sector to create a strong, sustainable, and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

1.3 Local Authorities are required to secure fully funded places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks, and up to 52 weeks for every eligible child in their area, until they reach compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday). Although this is a legal duty, attendance by children from birth to age five at any early education or childcare setting is voluntary. It is not compulsory for a child to attend education provision until the term after their fifth birthday.

1.4 The Local Authority is required to report annually to elected members and publish information for families to show how it is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes providing specific information about:

- the 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

2 Childcare Sufficiency Duty Report 2023

2.1 The 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; and
- planning how to support the childcare market to address any shortfall.

2.2 To assess the supply and demand for childcare places, the local authority compares current known capacity with predicted demand. This takes account of factors such as births, housing growth and patterns of inward and outward migration

2.3 Since April 2021, demand for funded early years childcare places has returned to pre Covid-19 levels. Take up in the number of funded places for two-year-olds in East Sussex remains consistent. East Sussex has seen a rise in the total number of children accessing a funded three- or four-year-old place, 1% above the national average of 92%. Since April 2022 we have also seen an increase of 3% in the number of families accessing the 30 hours extended offer, reflecting the increasing number of parents and carers returning to work.

2.4 Despite these encouraging figures, we have seen a number of early years providers take the difficult decision to close for viability reasons. The Local Authority is working with the childcare market to fill any gaps in provision caused by these closures.

3. Actions to date

3.1 The table below lists the key actions taken by the local authority since the Childcare Sufficiency Duty report (January 2022) was published last year, to provide sufficient childcare places to meet parental demand as far as is reasonably practicable.

Date	Communication/Action
Actions from January 2022 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued dialogue with all childcare providers • Continued support for families to find/access a funded childcare place • Collation of Headcount Data to continue to feed into updating current capacity/demand reporting • Assess impact of changes to East Sussex EY workforce – on-going • Parental consultation – Summer 2022 • Provider consultation/Focus Groups – Spring 2023

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority has a duty to publish a Childcare Sufficiency Duty report annually. The document supports the Local Authority's statutory obligation of on-going assessment of childcare provision for children aged 0-14 years old (and up to 18 years old for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability) in East Sussex.

4.2 Accordingly, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability is recommended to approve the publication of the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Duty report for 2023.

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Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None



East Sussex County Council

Childcare Sufficiency Duty 2023

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Key findings.....	7
3.	Childcare sufficiency - areas for development	11
4.	Support for Parents and Carers	13
5.	Population Statistics in East Sussex	14
6.	Projected housing growth	21
7.	Sufficiency of childcare places	23
8.	Consultation with parents and carers.....	28
9.	Demand for childcare	32
10.	Quality of provision and workforce development in East Sussex	34
11.	Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	38
12.	Looked After Children.....	41
13.	Childcare for children over five	42
	Appendix 1 - Index of maps and data tables.....	47

1. Introduction

The Childcare Sufficiency Duty (previously known as the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment) is a statutory document. It outlines how East Sussex County Council (the local authority) plans to secure enough childcare places as far as is reasonably practicable, for parents and carers who are working, studying, or training for employment. The report covers childcare for children from birth to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The publication of this sufficiency document meets the local authority's statutory duty under sections 6 and 7 of the [Childcare Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk). It is also in line with local authority statutory guidance.

The 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

It is placed within the context of post coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has had a significant impact on families resulting in a changed demand for childcare. The scale of the impact may take some time to be fully understood.

To assess the supply and demand for childcare places, the local authority compares current known capacity with predicted demand. This takes account of factors such as births, housing growth and patterns of inward and outward migration.

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 school run sector. This is to create a strong, sustainable, and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of families and supports children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

The local authority is required to report annually to elected members and publish information for families to show how it is meeting its sufficiency duty. This includes providing specific information about:

- The supply and demand for early education and childcare places
- Affordability, accessibility and quality of early education and childcare places
- Details of how any gaps in provision will be addressed

Whilst local authorities are required by law to ensure there are sufficient childcare places, attendance by children from birth to age five at any early education or childcare setting is voluntary. It is not compulsory for a child to attend education provision until the term after their fifth birthday.

Childcare places are funded either by government entitlements or by parents.

The Childcare Act 2006 requires the following actions and measures which identify the strategic role local authorities' play. Local authorities should support (though not directly provide) the following:

- Early education places for two-, three- and four-year-olds supporting eligibility, flexibility, and quality
- Distributing government funding that supports early education places
- Securing sufficient childcare so far as is reasonably practicable in a free market
- Providing information to parents and carers
- Providing information, support and training to early education and childcare providers.

Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks, and up to 52 weeks for every eligible child in their area.

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

Figure 1: Eligibility Criteria for Funded two-, three- and four-year-olds

Eligibility	Offer	Criteria
All three- and four-year-olds	15 hours a week x minimum 38 weeks a year. 570 hours a year	Universal offer open to all age eligible children resident in East Sussex. No financial criteria to be met
Some eligible three- and four-year-olds	Extended Entitlement. 30 hours a week x minimum 38 weeks a year. 1,140 hours a year	For working family's resident in East Sussex where both parents are working, or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family
Some eligible two-year-olds	15 hours a week x minimum 38 weeks a year. 570 hours a year	For family's resident in East Sussex on either low income or a range of benefits, including Universal Credit

30 Hour Extended Entitlement for some eligible three- and four-year-olds - additional criteria:

- Parent/carers must each expect to earn at least £152 per week. This is equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage for persons aged 23 and over
- If parent/carers are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave they may still be eligible. If they are unable to work due to a disability or having caring responsibilities, they may also be eligible
- If either parent/carer earns more than £100,000, they will not be able to receive 30 hours free childcare but will still receive 15 hours per week over a minimum 38 weeks a year
- Foster carers may also apply (subject to approval from the child's social worker) if they meet the above financial criteria

Funded places for eligible two-year-olds - additional criteria:

- Looked after children, those that have left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order are also eligible. Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) can also apply for a funded place for a two-year-old

For non-European Economic Area (EEA) citizens who cannot claim benefits, some families with an age eligible child may get free childcare if they are receiving support under the Immigration and Asylum Act and have either:

- Claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as ‘part 6’)
- Been refused asylum in the UK (known as ‘section 4’)

Families may also receive free childcare for a two-year-old they care for if their household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and they have:

- Leave to remain with ‘no recourse to public funds’ on family or private life grounds, or
- The right to live in the UK because they are the main carer of a British citizen (known as a ‘Zambrano Carer’)

Families can check with the local authority if they are unsure if they qualify for free childcare.¹

Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of funded, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours, or additional activities. Families can, therefore, expect to pay for any meals offered by the provider alongside the fully funded entitlement, as well as paying for consumables e.g., nappies, or additional activities.

¹ Statutory Guidance for local authorities updated by the Department for Education January 2021

2. Key findings

Some of the key findings of the East Sussex Sufficiency Duty 2023 are summarised below. More information on each of the key areas is provided in later sections of this document.

2.1. East Sussex is growing and changing

The population of East Sussex is projected to increase by 68,800 to 627,700 between 2020 and 2035. Forecasts project that there will be a small rise in the working age population (18-64) of 3.7% to 317,659 people in 2035².

2.2. Sufficiency of provision

East Sussex has 461 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate more than one type of childcare. Schools may have a breakfast and, or after school club as well as a nursery or a pre-school offering a holiday club. East Sussex has sufficient early years places in most areas, but we are forecasting shortfalls in some rural areas.

2.3. Quality of childcare in East Sussex is high

The quality of early education and childcare in East Sussex is high. The percentage of early years providers in East Sussex judged to be good or outstanding at the end of September 2022 was 98.7%. The national average figure was 89%.

The East Sussex figure for children attaining a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the EYFS profile assessment at the end of the foundation stage is 69% which is 3.8% above the national average. The average point score is 31.6 which is 0.6 above the national average. This is the first year that data has been submitted under the new statutory framework, so no comparisons with previous years' data can be made.

² (Source: East Sussex in Figures (ESIF) published in June 2022)

2.4. The cost of childcare remains just above national averages

The average hourly charge by providers for day-care in East Sussex is £5.72 per hour. The national average hourly charge according to The Family and Childcare Trust Childcare is £5.41 for children aged three and four³.

2.5. Cost of childcare places

Data on the cost of childcare is currently gathered annually in December each year by the Family Childcare Trust. Figures 2, 3 and 4 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), in England and in Southeast⁴.

Figure 2: Average cost of 25 hours of childcare for children 0-5

Cost of 25 hours a week childcare	Nursery under two	Two and over	Childminder under two	Two and over
England	£140.68	£135.28	£124.83	£122.33
Southeast	£147.06	£143.10	£124.43	£122.60

Figure 3: Average cost of 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5

Cost of 50 hours a week childcare	Nursery under two	Two and over	Childminder under two	Two and over
England	£273.57	£265.38	£237.58	£236.01
Southeast	£289.06	£283.12	£241.55	£239.37

³ [Childcare Survey 2022 | Family and Childcare Trust](#)

⁴ Family Childcare Trust: Childcare Survey 2022

Figure 4: Average cost of 25 or 50 hours of childcare for children aged three to five accessing funded hours including the free entitlements

	Cost of 25 hours a week childcare, including universal entitlement for three- and four-year-olds (paying for 10 hours)	50 hours a week, including extended entitlement (paying for 20 hours)
England	£54.10	£105.76
Southeast	£55.56	£112.71

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

2.6. The childcare picture in East Sussex

In the South East there has been a higher than national decline in the numbers of childminders since 2015. In August 2021 there was a 9% decrease in numbers compared to 3% in England. In the year August 2021 to August 2022 East Sussex saw a drop of 8% in the number of registered childminders offering childcare places.

2.7. How COVID-19 impacted on childcare in East Sussex

Providers across the sector are still feeling the economic impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Early Years Improvement and Funding teams in the local authority have kept in regular and targeted communication with all childcare provision to offer advice and support, and this communication remains ongoing.

The biggest issue facing the sector currently is recruitment and retention. Since the autumn of 2021 the sector has seen an increase in the number of qualified practitioners, especially at Level 3 leave the profession. This is a nationwide

problem and East Sussex Early Years teams are steadfastly working with all providers and the Department for Education (DfE) to address this issue. The lack of staff has been given as a reason for the closure of a number of settings across the county.

In total, five settings and twenty-eight childminders closed between August 2021 and August 2022. In the same period, seven new providers, including childminders, opened.

Since January 2022 we have seen an average increase of 10% in the number of families accessing the 30 hours extended offer reflecting the increasing number of parents and carers returning to work.

3. Childcare sufficiency - areas for development

To ensure the supply of high-quality early years and childcare provision, the local authority will take the following actions in three key areas:

3.1. Data and sufficiency

- Propose to undertake regular capacity audits through the online provider portal as well as an annual data refresh. This will help to identify any sufficiency issues
- Encourage Early Years Hubs to work together in partnership to better understand local availability to meet parental demand
- Track areas of new housing development and community growth to target new early years places. Align the development of new early years places with school place planning priorities where applicable
- Continue to track 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 two-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 educating children at home
- Help parent/carers (particularly vulnerable families) to understand the benefits of high-quality childcare and early learning for their children

3.3. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

- Improve the quality of existing web-based information. Extend the number of topics available for providers to access, including SEND, behaviour, funding, universal childcare support and increase usage of social media.

- Ensure all information is up to date and accessible via the Local Offer website
- 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. Review through inclusion groups and implementing on-line SEND Coordinator (SENDCo) training that can be accessed by all early years' providers and not just the setting SENDCo
- Continually review and update current training offers to providers with a specific SEND focus. Most training is offered at no cost to childcare settings

4. Support for Parents and Carers

4.1. Affordability

For childcare to be sustainable, providers need to generate income to ensure they are meeting operating costs. At the same time, childcare needs to be affordable to parents and carers.

The local authority does not determine the business models of childcare providers, market forces influence the sector. Local authorities do have a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient affordable childcare for families who need it and will identify any gaps in the market.

Legislation states that local authorities cannot intervene in how providers operate their 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. Parents and carers in East Sussex can find further information on the [local authority's help with childcare costs webpage](#)

5. Population Statistics in East Sussex

5.1. Population

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 Census, the population of East Sussex was 545,850, and increase of 3.6% since 2011. It is estimated that there are 102,170 children aged 0 to 17 in East Sussex (2021 Census).

Over the last decade the population in East Sussex in the 0 to 17 age group has decreased by 2.2%.

Figure 5: Population Increase (all ages) in the last decade 2011 to 2021⁵

Area	2011	2021	Percentage change 2011-2021
England	53,012,456	56,4901,045	9.3%
East Sussex	526,671	545,852	3.6%
Eastbourne	99,412	101,685	2.8%
Hastings	90,254	91,006	0.9%
Lewes	97,502	99,912	2.4%
Rother	90,558	93,111	2.8%
Wealden	148,195	160,146	8.1%

It is projected that the population in the county will increase by 11.4% by 2035. The 0 to 17 population will increase by 1%.

⁵ 2021 Census data

The table in Figure 6 below shows the breakdown of numbers of children aged 0 to 17 and disabled children aged 10 to 17 using the disability projections output for 2021.

Figure 6: Total population 0 to 17 and 11 to 17 and Projected number of children with overall disability in 2021⁶

Area	Total population aged 0-17	Total population aged 11-17	Projected number of children with overall disability aged 10-17
East Sussex	106,891	44,308	1,985
Eastbourne	19,982	7,980	412
Hastings	19,115	7,413	394
Lewes	18,949	8,629	341
Rother	16,347	6,945	337
Wealden	31,483	13,342	501

In the latest published Department for Work and Pensions Family Resources Survey 2020 to 2021, (22 March 2022), 9% of children and young people were identified as disabled. In East Sussex, this figure for 10 to 17 year olds is 2.3%.

East Sussex is largely rural in character, although around three quarters of the population live in urban areas (Source: 2021 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, Peacehaven and Lewes.

⁶ East Sussex in Figures (ESiF) East Sussex County Council Census 2021 Data

In the urban areas of Eastbourne and Hastings there are 106 funded providers, in the more rural areas of Lewes, Rother and Wealden there are 209 funded providers.

5.2. Districts and Boroughs

East Sussex comprises five borough and district council areas: Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother, and Wealden. Parts of the county are within the South Downs National Park.

Figure 7: Map of the five borough and district council areas in East Sussex

East Sussex: Main settlements and transport connections in 2017

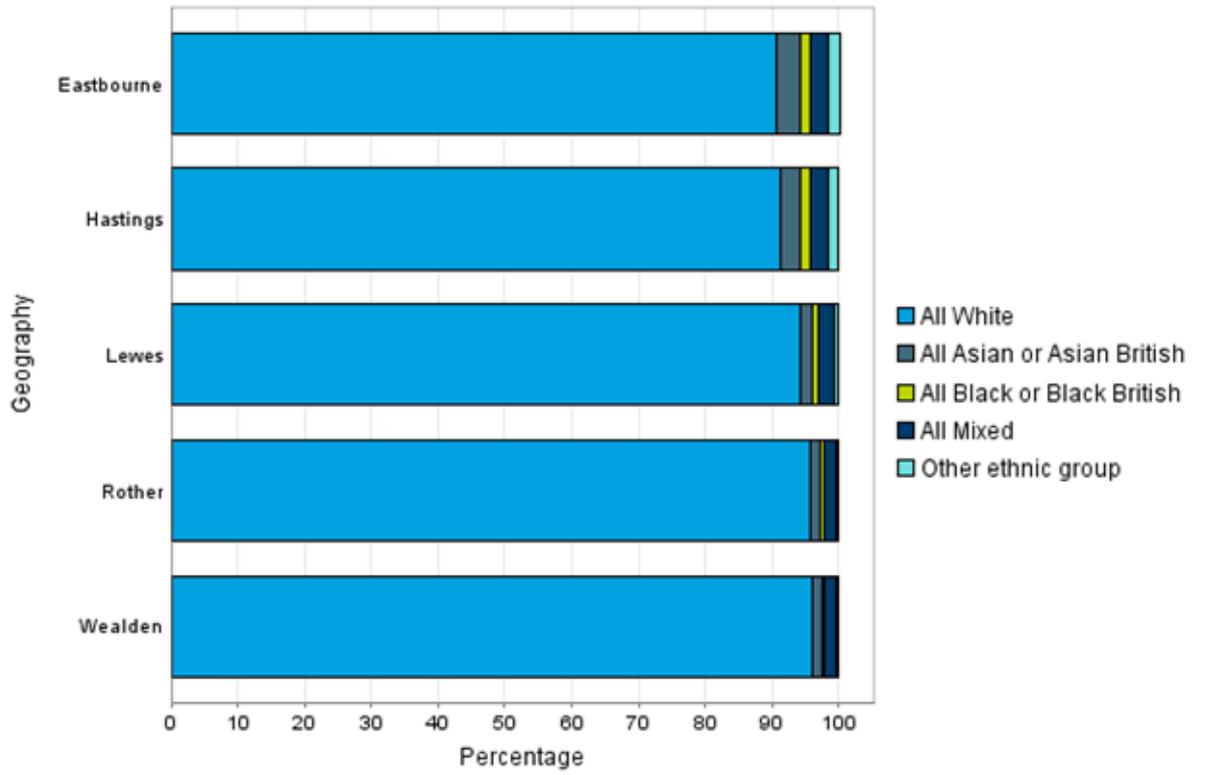


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5.3. Ethnicity

Around 512,440 residents (93.9%) of East Sussex identified their ethnic group as white in the 2021 Census, the second highest proportion in the South East after the Isle of Wight. The second most common high-level ethnic group was "Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups", comprising 2.3% of the population (12,310 people).

Figure 8: Ethnic group in 2011 - 2021 by District⁷



⁷ Source: ESiF-: Ethnic group in 2011 -2021 by Districts

5.4. Languages

There are over 100 languages spoken in East Sussex. For around 4,606 (7%) of school children (5-16) in the county English is not their first language. Polish is the most spoken language other than English across schools in East Sussex.

Figure 9: Number of Languages Spoken in Schools in East Sussex⁸

Language	Number of Pupils	Percentage
English	63,377	93%
Polish	610	0.9%
Arabic	266	0.3%
Portuguese	243	0.3%
Romanian	226	0.3%
Believed to be English	211	0.3%
Russian	197	0.3%
Turkish	172	0.2%
Malayalam	167	0.2%
Kurdish	143	0.2%
Other than English	143	0.2%
Bengali	137	0.2%
Spanish	126	0.1%
Ukrainian	126	0.1%
Information not obtained	104	0.1%
Others	1,735	3.3%

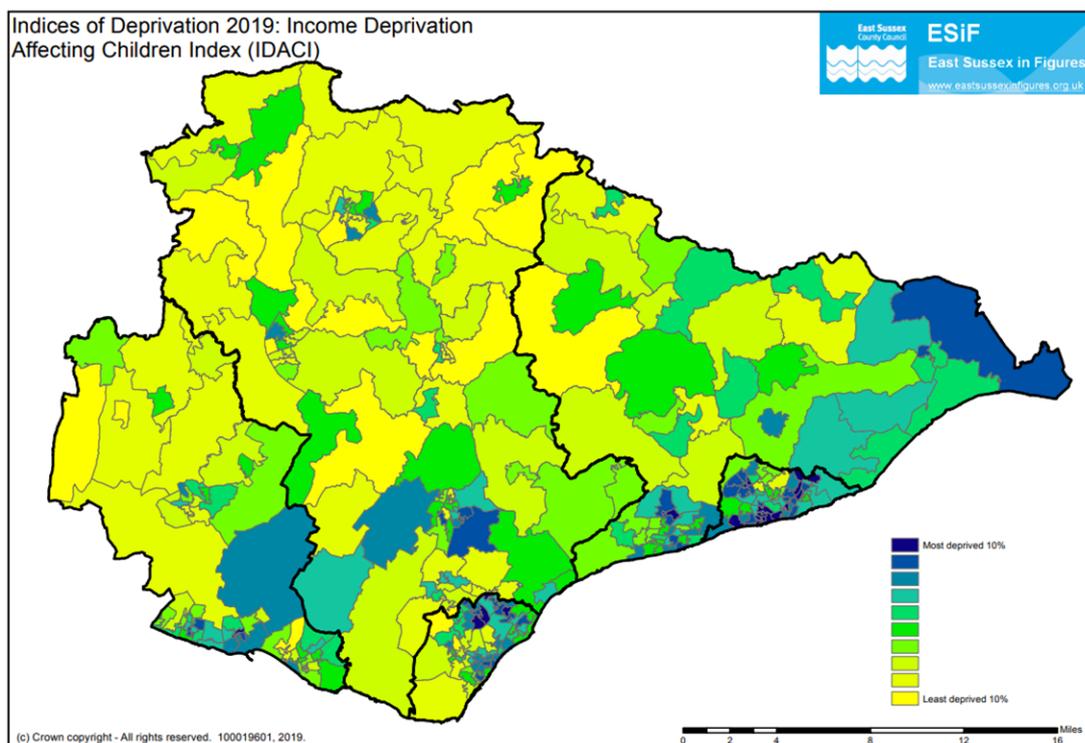
5.5. Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England. The map below

⁸ Data from May 2022 School's Census - Source CS - Field used = 'Descriptor'

(Figure 11) shows the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. IDACI is a data subset of the Income Deprivation Domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD). This data measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The small areas used are known as Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), and there are 32,844 in England. The measures rank every LSOA in England from one (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). The 10% highest rank are in the least deprived decile (yellow).

Figure 10: National deprivation rank in neighbourhoods LSOAs in East Sussex



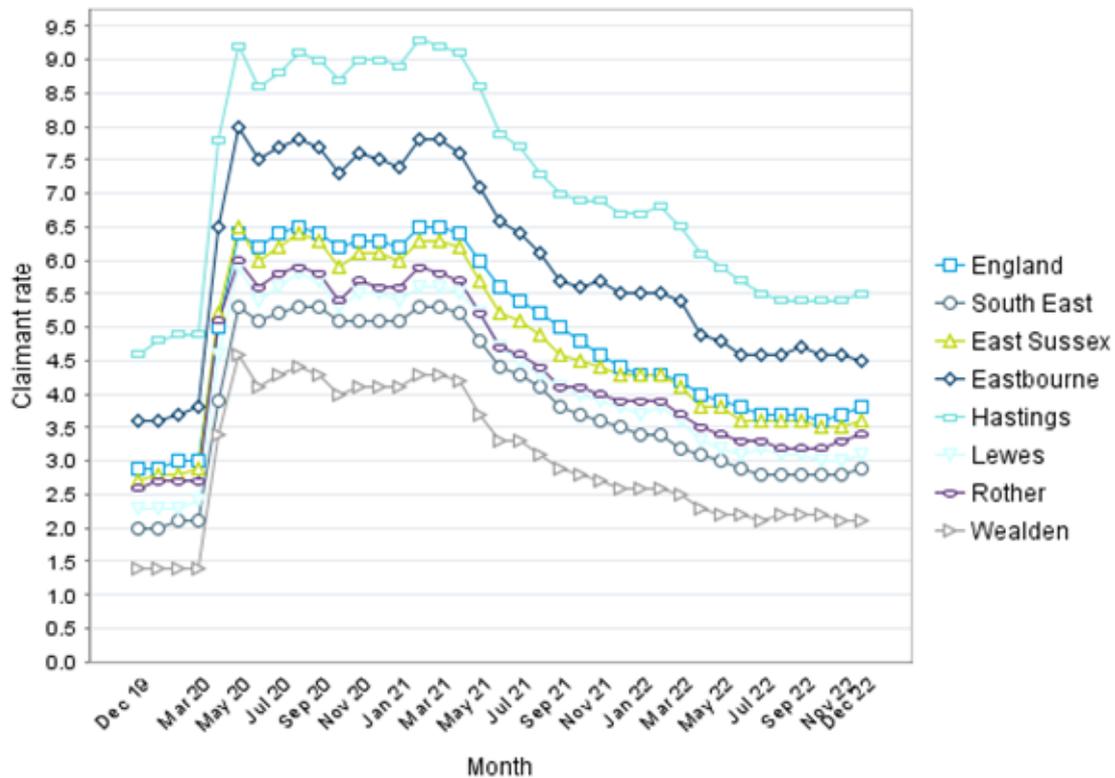
In East Sussex there are 329 LSOAs, 22 are in the most deprived 10% nationally. 16 of these are in Hastings, four in Eastbourne, and two in Rother. 21 LSOAs are in the least deprived 10%, 13 are in Wealden, six in Lewes, and two in Eastbourne.

5.6. Unemployment

There were 11,385 people in East Sussex (November 2022) receiving benefits because they are unemployed and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or on

Universal Credit (UC) searching for work. The number is 1.9% higher than in October 2022 but 23.8% lower than in November 2021.

Figure 11: Claimant Count including JSA and Universal Credit, 2019-2022 - districts (post 2019)



25 wards have rates at or above the England rate (3.7%), with the highest rates in Central St Leonards (9%), Castle (4.8%) and Gensing (7.8%) in Hastings, and Devonshire (7.7%) in Eastbourne. 60 wards now have rates below what the East Sussex rate was in March 2020 (2.9%), and rates have fallen significantly in all wards over the past year.

The sectors most severely affected by the Covid pandemic are very significant in the East Sussex economy: Wholesale, retail and motors, Accommodation and Food service, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. These sectors have seen significantly better performance now they are able to operate normally but are seeing the effects of labour shortages. Supply issues are due to the combined effects of the war in Ukraine and Brexit. Increasing inflation due to rises in energy and other costs is also impacting.

Health and Social care; and Wholesale and Retail and Motors are the most important sectors in terms of the number of people employed. The fastest growing sectors are Construction, Business administration and support services, Transport and Storage. However, Health and care, Information and Communication have seen significant decline over the last five years.

While pay rates in East Sussex are rising at a similar rate to national wages, median monthly earnings in August 2022, at £1,947 in the county, remain considerably lower than national average (UK=£2,111).

Higher employment has impacted on the number of families accessing the Extended 30 Hours entitlement as this offer is only open to families in work. Take up of the Extended Offer has increased by 3% over the last year.

6. Projected housing growth

Local Plans produced by local planning authorities, including the South Downs National Park Authority, show the level and distribution of planned housing growth across the county, see Fig13.

Figure 12: Number of new dwellings to be built by area⁹

Adopted Local Plans (adoption date)	Number of dwellings over plan period
Lewes and the South Downs National Park Authority: Joint Core Strategy (June 2016)	6,900 (2010 to 2030) 345 per annum (p.a.)
Hastings: The Hastings Planning Strategy (February 2014)	3,400 (2011 to 2028) 200 p.a.
Eastbourne: Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013)	5,022 (2006 to 2027) 239 p.a.
Rother: Core Strategy (September 2014)	5,700 (2011 to 2028) 335 p.a.
Wealden: Core Strategy (February 2013)	14,228 (2006 to 2027) 450 p.a.

⁹ East Sussex State of the County Report - 2021

Planning authorities are starting to review their Local Plans, which could lead to higher levels of housing development in future years. In some areas of the county, notably Hailsham, Bexhill and Uckfield, new housing may attract the need for childcare provision which may exceed current levels of supply and require new or expanded provision to meet demand for places.

The local authority works closely with the local planning authorities in East Sussex to ensure there are the right numbers of childcare places in the right locations at the right time to meet demand.

7. Sufficiency of childcare places

East Sussex has 461 childcare providers across the county. Several providers operate more than one type of childcare. Schools may have a breakfast and, or after school club as well as a nursery or a pre-school offering a holiday club.

Figure 13: Number of providers by type in East Sussex¹⁰

Childcare Provider Type	September 2022
Childminder and Childcare - Domestic	136
Maintained/Academy Nursery	18
Independent School Nursery	7
Nursery	163
Crèche	3
Nanny	10
Out of School Clubs	85
Standalone Holiday Play Scheme	39

7.1. Funded early education places

Not all childcare providers offer funded early education places. The table below shows the number of childcare providers by borough or district offering funded early education places in the PVI sector, in local authority-maintained schools and in non-maintained schools, including academies.

¹⁰ East Sussex Synergy FIS Portal- September 2022

Figure 14 (a): Number of Nursery Provision & Childminders by Sector in Each District¹¹

District	Nursery Private	Nursery Voluntary	Childminder
Eastbourne	24	0	23
Hastings	25	2	14
Lewes	19	7	29
Rother	15	14	8
Wealden	31	21	26
Totals	114	44	100

Figure 14 (b): Number of Schools by Sector in Each District¹²

District	Non-Maintained (including Academies)	Maintained	Independent
Eastbourne	5	2	2
Hastings	8	1	0
Lewes	4	6	0
Rother	4	5	4
Wealden	3	8	5
Totals	24	22	1

¹¹ East Sussex Synergy FIS Portal- October 2022

¹² East Sussex Synergy FIS Portal- October 2022

The number and distribution of funded childcare places offered by childcare providers varies between districts. Most places are located within urban areas. For families living in rural areas the choice of type of provision is more limited.

Figure 15 (a): Number of full time equivalent (FTE) places available by borough/district¹³

Districts	(FTE Places) 2022 to 2023
East Sussex	10,420
Eastbourne	2,276
Hastings	1,728
Lewes	1,867
Rother	1,643
Wealden	2,906

Figure 15 (b): Demand for full time equivalent (FTE) places by borough/district¹⁴

Districts	Demand for FTE Places by District 2022 to 2023 Onwards
East Sussex	8,715
Eastbourne	1,819
Hastings	1,520
Lewes	1,574
Rother	1,340
Wealden	2,462

¹³ Early years forecasting model results - September 2022

¹⁴ Early years forecasting model results -September 2022

7.2. Take up of funding streams¹⁵

Take up of the 15-hour universal entitlement for three- and four-year-olds is strong across all areas of the county with an increase of 5% since 2021, from 88% to 93%. This is above the national average of 92%.

Figure 16 shows the number of three- and four-year-olds accessing their universal 15 hour offer by borough or district.

Figure 16: Number of three- and four-year-olds accessing a funded place in April 2022¹⁶

District	Number of children accessing a Universal 15 hour offer place in April 2022
East Sussex	7,715
Eastbourne	1,503
Hastings	1,499
Lewes	1,292
Rother	1,169
Wealden	2,252

In East Sussex, the number of children taking up the extended 30-hour entitlement for the summer claim period in 2022 was 43% of the total number of three- and four-year-olds accessing a funded early education place. This equates to a 3% increase on the same period in 2021. Nationally in 2022 348,100 children registered for the extended 30-hour entitlement. This is 29% of the total number of children, 1,200,000 registered for the universal 15-hour entitlement, a six percent increase from 2021.

¹⁵ DfE Local Authority Interactive Tool - October 2022

¹⁶ East Sussex Headcount data - April 2022

Analysis of the supply of and demand for places for eligible funded two-year-olds shows that take-up is lower than for the universal three- and four-year-old entitlement. Only 40% of the two-year-old population meet the DfE eligibility criteria to access a funded place. In East Sussex 1,159 children accessed a funded two-year-old place in April 2022. This equates to 23% of the total estimated 2-year-old population. 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 two-year-olds. Local childcare offers which do not meet parental preferences and the use of informal childcare instead of the more formal options such as a nursery, all contribute to the impact on the pattern of take-up. Figure 17 shows the number of eligible two-year-olds accessing a funded early education place by district.

Figure 17: Number of eligible funded two-year-olds accessing a funded place in April 2022¹⁷

District	Number of funded two-year-olds accessing the 15-hour offer - April 2022
East Sussex	1,159
Eastbourne	244
Hastings	335
Lewes	151
Rother	196
Wealden	233

¹⁷ East Sussex Headcount data - April 2022

8. Consultation with parents and carers

Consultation with parents and carers is an important part of establishing the demand for childcare. The most recent Childcare Sufficiency Duty Parental Survey was undertaken in 2022. It ran from 20 September to 10 October 2022 and was available on the East Sussex County Council [Consultation Hub](#). The survey was advertised to parent/carers and early years providers in East Sussex via social media and via direct email communication.

By the close of the consultation period, 754 responses had been received. The responses can be broken down as follows:

- 92% of respondents were female
- 60% of respondents were a couple parent or carer household
- 93% of those that responded had children four years old or under
- 77% of those that responded had school age children (Reception to age 14, or 18 if disabled)
- 15% of respondents had children with a special educational need and or disability
- 48% of those that responded worked more than 30 hours a week and 40% worked part-time (29 hours a week or less). 3% of respondents indicated they were unemployed and looking for work and 3% indicated they were not looking for work. 1% of respondents were in education or training and 1% indicated being long term sick/disabled. 4% indicated other

Respondents told us:

- 41% of respondents wanted childcare all year round
- 75% of respondents wanted childcare on Monday to Fridays only
- 4% of respondents wanted childcare on Saturdays and 3% wanted childcare on Sundays
- The majority of respondents (39%) wanted between 20-30 hours of childcare a week

- 61% of respondents were willing to use more than one provider
- 41% of respondents needed childcare through the school holidays
- 27% of respondents with school aged children used a breakfast club and 47% used after school provision
- 51% of respondents looking for early years provision found it difficult to afford the childcare they wanted. 28% of families using before and after school care found affordability an issue. When accessing school holiday provision, 44% of parent/carers found affordability difficult
- 32% of respondents used the government's Tax-Free Childcare benefit
- 87% of respondents were aware that funding was available to help with childcare costs
- 34% of respondents were happy with the funded sessions offered. 52% of respondents were happy with where they could access funded hours. 43% stated they were happy with the choice of childcare available. 61% of respondents said childcare provision was within the right location
- 65% of respondents were happy with the quality of childcare provision on offer
- 28% of respondents found it difficult to access information on childcare provision in their area
- In the last 12 months 20% of respondents to the survey stated they had been unable to access childcare when needed

The information provided by those that responded will be used to inform where there are gaps in provision within the county. This information will be shared with current providers and new providers moving into East Sussex to help meet the needs of families.

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 weekdays. This service helps parents (particularly vulnerable families) to understand and access the benefits of high-quality childcare and early learning for their children.

For the period 1 September 2021 to 31 July 2022, the Customer Relations Team responded to 1,082 enquiries. The enquiry data shows that childcare and Early Years Funding enquiries were the third most common enquiry. The most common enquiry was about applying for two-year-old and 30 hours funding.

Direct enquiries to the Customer Relations Team have decreased steadily in recent years as the web content offer has developed. In May 2021 the number of calls to the team was 37. This reduced to 32 in May 2022.

Following COVID-19, and increased homeworking, more people are now using the local authority's website to answer their questions on help with the cost of childcare. People also use the linked directory East Sussex Community Information Service website to find childcare. When customers do contact the Customer Relations Team, those 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.

The Customer Relations team uses social media to promote the Early Years Education Entitlement, 30 hours funded childcare and tax-free childcare. The Facebook page reach was 67,000, meaning that content from or about the page was displayed 67,000 times on a person's screen. It had 3,818 likes and 4,207 followers¹⁸.

In the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 July 2022 the number of 'entrances' where visitors entered our website through our 'Help with childcare costs' page about funded childcare was 2,611. The bounce rate, where a user enters the site and leaves instantly without spending any time in the site, was 27.8%¹⁹.

¹⁸ East Sussex social media management platform - Hootsuite

¹⁹ East Sussex customer management system - Fresh Desk and Google Analytics

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.

9. Demand for childcare

Data taken from the local authority’s early years forecasting model, updated in October 2022, indicates that across the county there is sufficient capacity within the sector in most areas to meet demand for 0 to five childcare places.

Countywide, GP data is showing that the number of children aged under five is starting to flatten out. Pressures on the early years sector may start to increase in the next few years as birth rates start to rise although the economic and societal recovery post-COVID-19 may partly counteract the rise in numbers. For instance, take up of the 30 hours extended offer has already recovered to record levels.

Figure 18: Shows the towns or areas in East Sussex that potentially have significant FTE shortfalls to 2025/26 of early year places:

Town	Capacity	Solution to sufficiency gaps
Ditchling	Shortfall of places from 2022/23 to 2024/25 due to closure of a private setting in the area. A significant amount of current demand may be coming from out of area.	New providers investigating opening new provision.
Newick	Shortfall of places from 2022/23.	Look at capacity of existing provision and support opening new provision.
Wivelsfield	Shortfall of places from 2022/23.	Approval given for Wivelsfield Primary School to lower its age range and offer early years places from September 2023.
Bexhill	Shortfall of places from around 2025/26 due to proposed new housing development.	Look at capacity of existing provision and support opening new provision.
Hankham and Stone Cross	Shortfall of places from 2022/23.	Look at capacity of existing provision and support opening new provision. Capacity can be found at Polegate/Willingdon, Pevensey and Westham and north and east Eastbourne
Frant	Shortfall of places from around 2024/25. A substantial amount of demand coming from out of	New providers investigating opening new provision

	area and potential new housing developments.	
Ninfield	Shortfall of places from around 2025/26. Shortfall dependent on new housing with planning approval being built within timescales.	Look at capacity of existing provision and support opening new provision.

Figure 19: Shows the towns or areas in East Sussex where settings are potentially forecast to be full

<p>Seaford Barcombe Hamsey *Plumpton *Chailey Battle from around 2024/25 Brede Staplecross Stonegate *Hailsham *Heathfield Uckfield (alleviated by additional places 2022/23) Maresfield Chiddingly East Hoathly from around 2024/25 Five Ashes Herstmonceux Mark Cross Mayfield Punnetts Town Hartfield from around 2025/26</p> <p>*Areas of potential concern over the next two to three years where there is a genuine prospect of a shortage of places to meet local demand. These areas will be monitored to look at capacity of existing provision and support opening new provision.</p>

10. Quality of provision and workforce development in East Sussex

“High quality pre-schooling relates to better intellectual and social and behavioural development for children” (taken from The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education (EPPE) Project). Findings from Pre-school to end of Key Stage 1 Inspections, undertaken by Ofsted, measure the quality of early provision. 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.

Current inspection outcomes of registered early years and childcare providers in East Sussex show that the quality of provision across East Sussex is higher than the national average. By the end of September 2022 Ofsted judged 98.7% of registered early years providers in East Sussex as good or outstanding.

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.

All registered early years providers and childminders in East Sussex are offered a package of support by a team of Early Years Support and Intervention Officers within the local authority. 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 until their first inspection all new early years providers have achieved good or outstanding at their first Ofsted inspection. All early years providers and childminders are invited to take part in this support on a rolling basis dependent on their last Ofsted inspection. Schools that have lowered their age range to take pre-school children are now included in this support if they wish to participate.

The East Sussex figure for children attaining a Good Level of Development (GLD) in the EYFS profile assessment at the end of the foundation stage is 69% which is 3.8% above the national average. The average point score is 31.6 which is 0.6 above the

national average. This is the first year that data has been submitted under the new statutory framework, so no comparisons with previous years' data can be made.

The local authority has a statutory duty in relation to provision of childcare training. The training programme delivered by the local authority's Early Years Team aims to improve outcomes for children through the development of a skilled workforce. The training is available to practitioners working in any registered provision, as well as prospective childminders. The private and voluntary sector get subsidised courses.

Bespoke training is also provided fully funded to whole teams in settings where a package of support is in place or as a traded service. Feedback from providers evidence that training is needed and valued. Providers who have received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted grade to improve practice receive priority access to training.

Recruitment of qualified and experienced practitioners remains a challenge for providers across the county. This reflects a national issue. The local authority provides a recruitment website that providers can use to support the appointment and development of their workforce.

The Early Years Team have established Early Years Hubs for Excellence. This is part of our approach to enable the wide variety of providers in East Sussex - private, voluntary, childminders, independent, maintained, and non-maintained - to work together to deliver sustained improvements. Currently there are 15 Early Years Hubs which are linked to school Education Improvement Partnerships (EIPs). The Early Years Hubs meet within their EIP group to create an action plan that meets the needs of the local EIP group and informs the training and support that the hubs offer to their members.

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 Elkkan 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 the two partnerships via the Early Years Hubs for Excellence.

The local authority has completed 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 to research how to improve their practice in early communication to support quality childcare. The project won an award at the Nursery World awards in 2019 in the new category of Working with Babies and Toddlers. A new project working with two-year-olds was postponed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but on-line training has been sourced in the interim and as preparation for the project, in-house training has been developed as a result of the Baby Room project. Three sessions have run successfully as online events.

The Integrated Progress Review is now embedded amongst our health visitors and early years practitioners; this allows for swifter intervention and support to children identified through the review process.

'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- or no cost. The aim of the project is to help solve the problem of children reaching their first school experience with low literacy levels, language skills, or a lack of life experiences. Nearly 7,000 families have signed up to the scheme since its launch in 2019. All primary schools and early years settings received resource packs to encourage working with parents to develop home learning activities. In 2020 the release of a short film celebrated the success of the project a year on from its launch.

The use of 'notifications' and an 'events' tab allows direct communication with families. A Facebook page dedicated to the project means ideas can be shared with schools, settings, and families. '50 Things to do before you're 5' has been incorporated into other projects within East Sussex to encourage schools and settings to see it as a universal offer for all families.

A new project to revive the use of poetry and rhyme to support oracy was launched in early 2022. This has been bought from Make Believe Arts and is called Poetry Baskets. Settings have access to poems and rhymes through a website. They have been tasked with using one per month from a pre-selected list which has been linked to an activity from '50 Things to do before you're 5'.

Another project that has been in the planning stages during the COVID-19 pandemic is about to be launched. This will work with 22 settings to carry out research into best practice in working with two-year-olds. Practitioners will research an area of practice that they would like to know more about or improve. This is led by the officers who delivered the Nursery World Award winning 'Interaction with babies' research project in 2019.

11. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity for children with 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.

All childcare settings have to follow the SEND Code of Practice with the requirements of the EYFS. Information on childcare is available to all parents and carers online. Extra information is available to parents and carers of children with SEND via the East Sussex Local Offer. Other services also offer support to parents and carers to gain access to the funded early years entitlement offer. The [East Sussex Local Offer pages](#) list a wide range of activities and clubs for young people with a disability or additional needs.

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. Teams within the local authority work in partnership to ensure providers have access to advice and guidance to support the inclusion of all children.

There is a statutory duty for all local authorities to provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund. This stream of funding has been operating in East Sussex since 2010. This funding is available to early years providers to meet the individual needs of children with special educational needs who are in receipt of three- and four-year-old early years education funding. If appropriate funding can be allocated to children prior to their being age eligible to access early education funding. In the summer 2022 funding period, 147 children were in receipt of this funding stream, attending 75 different early years' providers.

For children with more complex needs additional funding support is provided via a combination of funding streams including the 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.

Although there is no statutory duty to provide additional funding for children who are in receipt of 2-year-old early years education funding, support within East Sussex is not age dependent so provision is made for this age group too. Requests for additional funding can be made if a child has an identified need that requires additional support. The number of awards made by the summer 2022 funding period was 22.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is given to early years providers to support children with SEND. Its purpose is to remove 'barriers' which prevent children from accessing their funded early education entitlement. To attract DAF, children must be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and the three- and four-year-old early years education entitlement. This annual payment of £800 goes to the provider nominated by the parent or carer. In the summer 2022 funding period the local authority made a DAF payment to 27 children.

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) enables childcare providers offering funded places for three- and four-year-olds to apply for extra funding to support children from families on certain benefits.

Families who meet the following criteria can claim EYPP. In receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support allowance
- Support under part 6 of the immigration and asylum act
- Guaranteed element of the state pension credit
- Child tax credit and earn no more than £16,190 (provided not also entitled to Working Tax Credit)
- Working Tax Credit four-week run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit)
- Universal Credit - and earn no more than £7,400.

Or the child is:

- looked after by the local authority
- adopted from care
- left care through adoption, residence order or special guardianship

The amount of funding available is up to £302 per year, per eligible child. EYPP payments were made to 1,173 children during the summer 2022 funding period. This equated to 13% of the total number of three- and four-year-olds claiming early years education funding during this period.

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.

12. Looked After Children

Looked after children are less likely than their peers to access early education.

In East Sussex 72% of looked after children eligible to access a funded place with childcare providers did so during the 2022 summer funding period. This compares with 93% of non-looked after children.

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.

Some foster carers are also entitled to claim the extended 30-hour entitlement. In East Sussex, less than five children were funded under these criteria within the summer 2022 funding period.

13. Childcare for children over five

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 can be run by the school or by the PVI sector.

Many schools provide extra-curricular after school activities such as sports clubs, gardening clubs and film clubs. Although these may not be classed as childcare, they still provide a safe learning environment for children whilst parents or carers are at work or studying. These types of clubs may not operate throughout the school year and may vary from term to term and are often only an hour in duration.

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 taking part in organised sports and physical activities at the ages of five, seven and 11 were almost one and a half times more likely to reach a higher-than expected level in their Key Stage 2 (KS2) maths test at age 11. Among disadvantaged children, those who attended after school clubs also fared better than their peers who did not take part in such groups. They achieved, on average, a 2-point higher total score in their KS2 assessments in English, Maths and Science at the end of primary school²⁰.

Dependent upon specific criteria, not all wraparound provision is Ofsted registered and there is no legal need to inform local authorities of operation. A provider who only offers two hours a day or provides two activities or less is not required to register with Ofsted. A setting may choose to join the voluntary part of the childcare register to allow parents to claim childcare vouchers. Providers do not

²⁰ UCL: Institute of Education-Out of school activities improve children's educational attainment, study reveals. 20 April 2016

have to meet specified child to adult ratios if they only care for children over the age of eight.

It is 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. Figure 20 shows the number of known providers offering wrap around care during term time and holiday care in East Sussex.

Figure 20: Number of Ofsted registered providers offering care during term time and holidays²¹

District or Borough	Number of breakfast clubs	Number of after school clubs
Eastbourne	10	14
Hastings	14	7
Lewes	9	17
Rother	9	10
Wealden	12	12

29% of schools in the primary phase run their own breakfast club on site. 33% 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 and film clubs. Figure 22 shows the number of known holiday clubs and play schemes run across the county.

²¹ Extract from Synergy FIS Provider Portal - September 2022

Figure 21: Number of holiday clubs and play schemes across East Sussex²²

	Number of holiday clubs / play schemes
Total in PVI Sector	39
Total in Maintained Sector	0

Currently, no holiday clubs or play schemes are run by schools in the maintained sector in East Sussex.

Fig.22: Link to the Location of after school clubs September 2022

[After School Clubs - East Sussex | Tableau Public](#)

For the majority of families there is enough holiday childcare for 4-7-year-olds and 8-11-year-olds 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.

From 2016 parents had 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. To date East Sussex has not received any request under this policy.

The demand for childcare lowers for young people of secondary school age (11 years and over) as many parents and carers feel their children are independent enough not to need 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.

²² Extract from Synergy FIS Provider Portal - September 2022

Figure 23 shows the current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex.

Figure 23: Current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex²³

	Breakfast club session (average cost)	After school club session (average cost)	Holiday play scheme session (average cost)
Maintained Sector	£3.60	£6.75	n/a
PVI Sector	£4.20	£11.10	£33 per day £165 per week

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme

- 13.1.** HAF is a DfE-funded initiative and has been running in East Sussex since April 2021. The programme has helped to develop a range of out-of-school provision on offer county wide. The programme’s aims were to provide free enriching activities and healthy food for Free-School-Meal (FSM) eligible children and young people during the Easter, summer, and Christmas school holidays. The programme was initially funded for a year (2021), but the DfE has since confirmed that funding will continue through to 2024.
- 13.2.** During the first year of the HAF programme in East Sussex more than 5,000 eligible young people attended funded provision. More than 35,000 funded sessions took place. The programme funded 97 external partners. Sessions were delivered across more than 150 sites. Whilst these were focused in six key target areas with the highest levels of FSM (Hastings, Eastbourne, Bexhill, Hailsham, Newhaven and Peacehaven), there was a geographical spread of provision in all parts of East Sussex.
- 13.3.** HAF grants were paid to established organisations running out of school activities and to a number of new providers during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays. The programme has continued to gain momentum in 2022.

²³ Synergy Report: FIS Out of School Club Report (July 2021)

13.4. 50 providers, including five new organisations, were funded over the Easter holidays 2022. They ran more than 7,000 individual sessions, operating across 76 sites, for over 1,800 individual attendees.

13.5. 74 providers, including a further 14 new organisations, were funded over the summer holidays 2022. In total more than 26,000 sessions took place across 141 sites, for more than 4,000 individual attendees.

Figure 24:

[Location of all HAF providers across the county - July 2022](#)

Appendix 1 - Index of maps and data tables

Figure	Description	Page Number
1	Eligibility Criteria for Funded 2, 3-and 4-year-olds	5
2	Average cost of 25 hours of childcare for children 0-5	8
3	Average cost of 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5	8
4	Average cost of 25 or 50 hours of childcare for children 0-5	9
5	Population Increase (all ages) in the last decade 2011 to 2021	14
6	Total population 0-17 and 10-17 and Projected number of children with overall disability in 2021	15
7	Map of the five borough and district council areas in East Sussex	16
8	Ethnic group in 2011 - 2021 by District	17
9	Number of Languages Spoken in Schools in East Sussex	18
10	National deprivation rank in neighbourhoods LSOAs in East Sussex	19
11	Claimant Count including JSA and Universal Credit, 2019-2022 - District (post 2019)	20
12	Number of new dwellings to be built by area	21
13	Number of providers by type in East Sussex	23
14 (a)	Number of Nursery Provision & Childminders by Sector in Each District	24
14 (b)	Number of Schools by sector in Each District	24
15 (a)	Number of full time equivalent (FTE) places available by borough / district	25
15 (b)	Number of full time equivalent (FTE) places demanded by borough / district	25
16	Number of 3- & 4-year-olds accessing a funded place in April 2022	26
17	Number of eligible funded 2-year-olds accessing a funded place in April 2022	27

18	Shows the towns or areas in East Sussex that potentially have significant FTE shortfalls to 2025/26 of early year places	32
19	Shows the towns/areas that are forecast to potentially have no spare capacity	33
20	Number of Ofsted registered providers offering care during term time and holidays	43
21	Number of holiday clubs and play schemes across East Sussex	44
22	Link to Location of after school clubs September 2022	44
23	Current average cost of out of school care in East Sussex	45
24	Link not Location of all HAF providers across the county - July 2022	46

Report to:	Lead Member for Education, Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date of meeting:	27 February 2023
By:	Director of Children’s Services
Title:	Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex 2024-25
Purpose:	To determine the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools in East Sussex for the 2024-25 academic year (and the proposed co-ordinated schemes of admission for the same year), as required by the School Admissions Code 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Determine the attached admission arrangements for 2024-25 including the changes to give priority children of staff and to alter the community areas for Polegate and Willingdon Primary Schools and Willingdon Community School as set out in Appendix 1**
- 2) Agree the PAN increase for Robertsbridge Community College and PAN decrease for Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, and the PANs for other schools as set out in Appendix 2**
- 3) Agree the adoption of the co-ordinated schemes of admission as set out in Appendices 3, 4 and 5.**

1 Background

1.1 East Sussex County Council (“the Council”) is the Admission Authority responsible for the admission arrangements for Community Schools and Voluntary Controlled (VC) Schools within the East Sussex area. The School Admissions Code 2021 (“the Code”) states that admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements annually. Provided the relevant admission authority is not proposing any changes to their admission arrangements, there is a duty to consult only every seven years. However, the Council consults on an annual basis for the avoidance of doubt.

1.2 The Published Admission Number (PAN) for a school is the number of places available in each ‘relevant age group’ which a school has agreed with the admission authority it can provide. The ‘relevant age group’ is the age group in which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school.

1.3 Consultation on the proposed admission arrangements (as set out in Appendix 1) was carried out between 1 November 2022 and 15 January 2023 to satisfy the requirement to consult for at least six weeks and to end the consultation period by 31 January 2023 as set out in the Code. Schools were alerted to the consultation and asked to publicise it to parents by circulating the link to the relevant page on the Council’s website.

1.4 35 responses to the consultation were received via the consultation hub during this period. The results and comments are attached as appendix 6.

2 Admission arrangements for the year 2024-25

2.1 The Lead Member is advised that the consultation included three changes to the admission arrangements for Community and VC schools in East Sussex for admissions in 2024-25. These changes are set out in separate subsections:

Priority for children of staff:

2.2 During the consultation process for admission arrangements in East Sussex for 2023-24, several schools requested that priority be given to children of staff members, as a result of which the headteachers and governing bodies of Community and VC schools were asked to give their views on whether this priority should be introduced and if so, what the parameters should be.

2.3 The response to this was overwhelmingly that there should be priority for children of staff, where it is permitted by the Code. Of the options for what level of priority these children should be given, the highest number opted for children of staff to be placed after in area siblings, but before other children living in the area, which would make them priority 3.

2.4 This suggestion was adopted as part of the proposed admission arrangements for 2024-25, so it was included in the consultation described above. Of the 35 responses to this consultation, 22 were in favour of prioritising children of staff, while 13 were against. A full summary of the consultation responses is set out in Appendix 6 below.

Change to the community area for Willingdon and Polegate Primary Schools and Willingdon Community School (see Appendix 7- Map showing the proposed changes)

2.5 A new estate is being built on the former sites of Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm, which falls outside the Eastbourne borough boundary but is only accessible from within Eastbourne borough. Accordingly, it is proposed that the boundary between the community areas for Willingdon and Polegate Primary Schools, and the Eastbourne borough primary schools, be moved so that children living on this estate fall within the Eastbourne primary schools area.

2.6 It is proposed to move the boundary for Willingdon Community School to the same location.

2.7 It is also proposed that siblings of any children who are already living on the estate and have secured places at Polegate or either of the Willingdon schools prior to the introduction of this arrangement in September 2024 be treated as in-area siblings for the school their sibling attends.

2.8 There were 31 responses to the consultation around the area changes- for the primary change 29 agreed and two were against, while for the secondary change 28 agreed and three were against.

3 Changes to PAN

3.1 The governing bodies of two schools requested PAN changes as set out in Appendix 2:

- Robertsbridge Community College- increase from 145 to 160
- Iford and Kingston CE Primary School- decrease from 30 to 20

Robertsbridge Community College

3.2 The headteacher and governing body of Robertsbridge Community College have requested a PAN increase from the current figure of 145 to 160, to make the organisational structure more efficient.

3.3 There is no in area demand for this and the leadership at the College have been advised that there will be no resources available to support this increase. They understand that they will have to accommodate the larger numbers within the existing buildings and that there will be no capital funding to provide additional space as pupil numbers grow. However the proposed PAN reflects the outcome of the net capacity calculation conducted by the DfE as a pilot for its new methodology, and the leadership have indicated that they wish to adopt it.

3.4 There were 30 responses to this question in the consultation: 30 agreed and 3 were against.

Iford and Kingston CE Primary School

3.5 The headteacher and governing body of Iford and Kingston CE Primary School have requested a reduction in PAN from the current figure of 30 to 20 to reflect the falling numbers of primary school aged children in the local area.

3.6 Forecasts show that a PAN of 20 will be sufficient to meet in area demand for the foreseeable future however, the accommodation at the school will remain sufficient to

accommodate a PAN of 30, so school can return to admitting this number of children without additional accommodation should the demand arise.

3.7 There were 29 responses to this question in the consultation: 26 agreed and 4 were against.

4 Co-ordinated schemes for admissions

4.1 The co-ordinated scheme for secondary admissions in 2024-25 (Appendix 3) is essentially unchanged from 2023-24 as the changes are only to dates to reflect the new academic year.

4.2 The same applies to the co-ordinated scheme for primary and junior admissions in 2024-25 (Appendix 4).

4.3 The co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions to Community and VC schools in East Sussex in 2023-24 (Appendix 5) is likewise essentially unchanged from 2022-23.

4.4 There were 31 responses to this question in the consultation- 26 agreed with the proposed schemes and five were against. The only comment on the co-ordinated schemes received in response to the consultation disagreed with the secondary scheme as the closing date was too early in the year. As the closing date of 31 October each year is a legal requirement, this cannot be amended as a local arrangement.

5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Lead Member is recommended to:

- Determine the attached admission arrangements for 2024-25 including the changes to give priority children of staff and to alter the community areas for Polegate and Willingdon Primary Schools and Willingdon Community School as set out in Appendix 1
- Agree the PAN increase for Robertsbridge Community College and PAN decrease for Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, and the PANs for other schools as set out in Appendix 2
- Agree the adoption of the co-ordinated schemes of admission as set out in Appendices 3, 4 and 5.

5.2 The determined admission arrangements for Community and VC schools in 2024-25 will be published on the East Sussex County Council website by 15 March 2023 as required under current legislation. Any objection to these arrangements can then be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator until 15 May 2023. The final arrangements will be published in the composite prospectus online (and available in hard copy on demand) by 12 September 2023 as required by the School Admissions Code 2021.

ALISON JEFFERY
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Appendix 1- Proposed Admissions criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools in East Sussex

1. Looked after children and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after. An explanation of who falls into this criterion can be found in the ‘Explanation of words and phrases’ set out here: [Apply for a school place 2023 to 2024 | East Sussex County Council](#)

2. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see priority 4) at the time of admission and who live at the same address, within the predefined community area*

The definition of ‘sibling’ can be found in the ‘Explanation of words and phrases’ set out here: [Apply for a school place 2023 to 2024 | East Sussex County Council](#)

Details of the current pre-defined community areas for each school can be found here:

[Find my community area \(secondary\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

[Find my community area \(primary and junior\) | East Sussex County Council](#)

3. Children of staff members contracted to work at the school in question where:

- a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
- b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

An explanation of who falls into this priority can be found below in the definitions section.

4. Children wishing to transfer between a linked infant and junior school.

Linked infant and junior schools are:

- Motcombe Community School - Ocklynge Junior School
- Parkland Infant School - Parkland Junior School
- Pashley Down Infant School - Ocklynge Junior School
- Roselands Infant School - Stafford Junior School
- St Andrew’s CE Infant School - Tollgate Community Junior School
- West Rise Community Infant School - West Rise Junior
- Dudley Infant Academy- All Saints CE Junior Academy

5. Other children living within a pre-defined community area

Each home address within the county falls within a community area although living within the community area does not guarantee a place. Details of the pre-defined community area for each school can be found here:

6. Children who will have a brother or sister (sibling) at the school (or linked infant or junior school-see priority 3) at the time of admission who live at the same address, outside the predefined community area.*

The definition of 'sibling' can be found in the 'Explanation of words and phrases' set out here: [Apply for a school place 2023 to 2024 | East Sussex County Council](#)

7. Other children living outside the pre-defined community area.

Tiebreaker

▫ In the event of oversubscription within any category, place allocation will be decided by prioritising applications on the basis of home to school distance measured in a straight line (as the crow flies). For split site schools, we will measure to the site where the child will attend for the majority of lessons at the point of entry.

▫ In the event that applicants cannot be prioritised using the tie-breaker above because the distance measurements are the same, the Authority will use random allocation to decide which children will be offered the remaining places. This will be done electronically using the Authority's admissions software.

****Children who have a sibling who joined Willingdon Primary School or Polegate School prior to 1 September 2018 and still live within the previous priority area serving the schools will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

****Children living in the priority areas for Denton Primary School and for Harbour Primary School, whose sibling joined one of these school before 1 September 2022 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

****Children living in the Brodricklands and Hamlands Farm estates whose siblings joined Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School or Willingdon Community School prior to 1 September 2024 will continue to be considered under priority 2 for the school their sibling attends.***

Definitions

Twins and children from multiple births (all community and voluntary controlled schools).

Where the admission of both twins or all siblings from a multiple birth would cause the school to rise above its Planned Admission Number, both twins or all of the siblings will be admitted.

Where the admission of the additional child or children from multiple births to an infant class would result in the class size rising above 30, the additional child/children would be exceptions to the Infant Class Size legislation throughout the infant phase or until the number in the class reduced to 30.

Children of staff definition:

A member of staff will be considered to be a child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- their mother or father;*
- any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, a special guardian or person named in a child arrangement order;*
- any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer.*

For applications made as part of a normal intake, the length of employment will be considered as at the closing date for applications. For in year applications and for the purpose of maintaining a waiting list, the length of employment will be considered as at the date the application is received.

To be considered under this category, applicants must indicate this in the reasons section of the application and supply an official letter/email from the headteacher/Chair of Governors of the school in question verifying that the parent with care qualifies under a) or b).

Applications for admission out of year group

Arrangements for requesting a delayed reception start can be found here:

[Admissions for summer-born children | East Sussex County Council](#)

Arrangements for requesting admission out of year group at other points in a child's education can be found here:

[Apply for a school place 2023 to 2024 | East Sussex County Council](#)

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Appendix 2- Proposed Admission numbers

The tables below show the schools and the proposed published admission numbers (PANs) where the County Council is the admission authority (any proposed changes shown in bold). School shown in italics are their own admission authority (A = Academy, T = Trust, F = Free School, VA = Voluntary Aided (Church)), and their admission numbers are included for reference only, and may be subject to change.

1. Eastbourne area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>The Cavendish School (A)</i>	120
<i>The Eastbourne Academy (A)</i>	180
<i>Gildredge House (F)</i>	84
<i>Ratton School (A)</i>	243
<i>St Catherine's College (A)</i>	208
<i>The Turing School (A)</i>	189
Willingdon Community School	210

2. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Ark Alexandra Academy (A)</i>	360
<i>The Hastings Academy (A)</i>	180
<i>The St Leonards Academy (A)</i>	300

3. Other areas of the County

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Beacon Academy (A)</i>	250
<i>Bexhill Academy (A)</i>	300
Chailey School	174
Claverham Community College	230
<i>Hailsham Community College Academy Trust (A)</i>	300
Heathfield Community College	240
<i>King's Academy Ringmer (A)</i>	150
<i>Peacehaven Community School (A)</i>	180
<i>Priory School (T)</i>	232
Robertsbridge Community College	160 (from 145)
<i>Rye College (A)</i>	150
<i>St Richard's Catholic College (VA)</i>	200
<i>Seaford Head School (A)</i>	232 (decision pending)
<i>Seahaven Academy (A)</i>	180
Uckfield College	270
<i>Uplands Community College (A)</i>	150

Primary, Junior and Infant Schools – proposed admissions numbers for the 2024/25 school year.

1. Bexhill area

School	Admission number 2024/25
All Saints Church of England Primary School	30
Chantry Community Primary School	30
<i>Glenleigh Park Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>King Offa Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
Little Common School	90
<i>Pebsham Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School (VA)</i>	60

2. Crowborough area

School	Admission number 2024/25
Ashdown Primary School	60
<i>Jarvis Brook School (A)</i>	30
<i>St John's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Mary's Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary Academy (A)</i>	60

3. Eastbourne area (including Polegate and Willingdon)

School	Admission number 2024/25
Bourne Primary School	60
<i>The Cavendish School (A)</i>	60
<i>Gildredge House (F)</i>	56
<i>Heron Park Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Langney Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
Motcombe Community School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
<i>Oakwood Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Ocklynge Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	210
<i>Parkland Infant School (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	60
<i>Parkland Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	60
Pashley Down Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
Polegate School	90
<i>Roselands Infant School (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	90
<i>Shinewater Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
St Andrews Church of England Infant School (4-7)	90
<i>St Johns Meads Church of England Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	60
<i>Stafford Junior School (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	90
<i>The Haven Voluntary Aided CE/Methodist Primary School Primary School (VA)</i>	60
Tollgate Community Junior School (for pupils aged 7-11)	90
West Rise Community Infant School (for pupils aged 4-7)	90
West Rise Junior School (for pupils aged 7-11)	90
Willingdon Primary School	60

4. Hailsham

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Burfield Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>Grovelands Community School (T)</i>	90
<i>Hailsham Community College Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Hawkes Farm Academy (A)</i>	60
Hellingly Community Primary School	30
<i>Phoenix Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>White House Academy(A)</i>	30

5. Hastings/St Leonards area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>All Saints CE Junior Academy (A) (for pupils aged 7-11)</i>	60
<i>Ark Blacklands Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
<i>Ark Castledown Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>The Baird Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Churchwood Community Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
<i>Dudley Infant Academy (A) (for pupils aged 4-7)</i>	60
Hollington Primary Academy (A)	30 (from 60)
<i>Ore Village Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Robsack Wood Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Leonards CE Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>St Mary Star of the Sea Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>St Paul's Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
Sandown Primary School	60
<i>Silverdale Primary Academy (A)</i>	90
<i>West St Leonards Primary Academy (A)</i>	60

6. Heathfield

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>All Saints and St Richard's CE Primary School (VA)</i>	20
Cross-In-Hand Church of England Primary School	60
Parkside Community Primary School	30

7. Lewes area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>St Pancras Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	20
South Malling Church of England Primary School	30
Southover Church of England Primary School	45

Wallands Community Primary School	30
<i>Western Road Community Primary School (T)</i>	30

8. Newhaven area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Breakwater Academy (A)</i>	30
Denton Community Primary School	30
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	60
<i>High Cliff Academy (A)</i>	30

9. Peacehaven/Telscombe Cliffs area

School	Admission number 2024/25
Meridian Primary School	60
<i>Peacehaven Heights Primary Academy (A)</i>	60
<i>Telscombe Cliffs Community Primary Academy (A)</i>	90

10. Rye area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Rye Community Primary School (A)</i>	30 (from 45)

11. Seaford area

School	Admission number 2024/25
<i>Annecy Catholic Primary School (A)</i>	30
<i>Chyngton School (A)</i>	60
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	90
Seaford Primary School	60

12. Uckfield area

School	Admission number 2024/25
Harlands Primary School	30
<i>Holy Cross CE Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Little Horsted CE Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Manor Primary School	60
Rocks Park Primary School	30
<i>St Philip's Catholic Primary School (VA)</i>	30

13. Rural Primary Schools

School	Admission number 2024/25
Alfriston School	15
Barcombe Church of England Primary School	20
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	60
Beckley Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Blackboys Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	20
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	15

Bonnors Church of England Primary School	15
Brede Primary School	20
Burwash Church of England Primary School	25
Buxted Church of England Primary School	30
Catsfield Church of England Primary School	15
Chailey St Peter's Church of England Primary School	20
Chiddingly Primary School	15
Crowhurst Church of England Primary School	15
Dallington Church of England Primary School	15
Danehill Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	24
East Hoathly Church of England Primary School	15
Etchingam Church of England Primary School	15
Firle Church of England Primary School	15
Five Ashes Church of England Primary School	10
Fletching Church of England Primary School	15
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	30
<i>Framfield Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Frant Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Groombridge St Thomas Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
<i>Guestling-Bradshaw Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	30
Hamsey Community Primary School	15
Hankham Primary School	20
Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School	30
High Hurstwood Church of England Primary School	15
<i>Hurst Green Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	20
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	15
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	20 (from 30)
Laughton Community Primary School	15
<i>Mark Cross Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
Mayfield Church of England Primary School	30
Maynards Green Community Primary School	30
Netherfield Church of England Primary School	20
Newick Church of England Primary School	30
Ninfield Church of England Primary School	20
<i>Northiam Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	15
Nutley Church of England Primary School	15
Park Mead Primary School	15
Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	15
Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School	60
Plumpton Primary School	20
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	15
Ringmer Primary and Nursery School	45
Rotherfield Primary School	30
<i>St Mark's Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
<i>St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School (VA)</i>	15
St Michaels Church of England Primary School (Playden)	15
St Michaels Primary School (Withyham)	15

<i>St Thomas' Church of England Primary School (Winchelsea) (VA)</i>	20
Salehurst Church of England Primary School	30
<i>Sedlescombe Church of England Primary Academy (A)</i>	30
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	15
Stone Cross School	60
Stonegate Church of England Primary School	15
Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School	30
Wadhurst Church of England Primary School	45
Westfield School	30
Wivelsfield Primary School	30

Appendix 3

Proposed Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for the normal year of entry for secondary schools

Contents

Introduction	1
Secondary scheme 2024/25	1
Key dates.....	1
Applications made in the main round	2
Applications received after 31 October 2023 but by 31 January 2024	3
Changes of preference	3
No application form received by 31 January 2024	4
Applications received on or after 1 March 2024	4
Appeals	4
Waiting lists.....	5
Applications for children to be educated out of chronological year group.....	5

Introduction

Local Authorities (LAs) are required each year to draw up a scheme for co-ordinating the normal admissions round to primary and secondary schools. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all parents receive a single offer of a school place on national offer day. If the prescribed date (1 March or 16 April) falls on a weekend or bank holiday, offers are sent on the next working day.

The scheme proposed by the County Council will be the subject of consultation with all maintained schools in the county and neighbouring local authorities. This co-ordinated scheme applies only to admissions to year 7 at the start of term 1. The County Council has delegated responsibility for admission to year 12 of community schools with sixth forms to the relevant governing bodies and each school displays its own admission procedures and external published admission numbers (PANs) for this year group on its website, together with any requirements for entry to particular courses.

Secondary scheme 2024/25

Key dates

September 2023: Admissions information made available

31 October 2023: Closing date for applications

1 December 2023: Exchange of preference data between local authorities

8 January 2024: Admission authorities in East Sussex to advise LA of ranked order

9 February 2024: Finalise allocations

26 February 2024: Allocations confirmed to secondary schools

1 March 2024: Decisions conveyed to parents by email

9 April 2024 (to be confirmed): Closing date for appeals

April to June 2024: 'On time' appeals heard

Applications made in the main round

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally, but where more than one school can be offered, the highest possible preference school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the County Council ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admission authority (c/o the school/academy). A supplementary information form on its own is not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.
2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2023.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to any three maintained schools stated in order of preference. The form should be completed and submitted to the County Council by the closing date of 31 October 2023.
4. By 1 December 2023, East Sussex will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.
5. By 8 January 2024, East Sussex schools that are their own admissions authorities will consider their applications, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the County Council with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 19 January 2024, other local authorities will advise the County Council of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. The County Council will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 9 February 2024, the County Council will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received up to 31 January will be included in this process.

Where a child is:

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form, that school will be allocated

- Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking preference school
 - Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.
8. In the period 10 February to 25 February 2024, decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
 9. From this point on secondary schools will be able to see their allocations in SAM. Primary schools will be able to view destination schools for their year 6 leavers in SAM with effect from 1 March 2024.
 10. On Wednesday 1 March 2024 allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where the application has been made on a paper form. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s) and advising parents of the right of appeal.

Applications received after 31 October 2023 but by 31 January 2024

1. If an application form is received after 31 October 2023, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after the closing date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 31 January 2024.
2. If an application is received after 31 October 2023 but before 31 January 2024, together with proof of a change of address* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the LA, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a decision on 1 March 2024. For applications received on or after 1 February 2024, we will aim to send a decision letter within 20 school days.

Changes of preference

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 31 October 2023. After 31 October 2023, we will not allow preferences to be changed without good reason. The County Council will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant change of circumstances (such as a house move*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 1 March 2024 provided the request was received by 31 January 2024. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

* In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

No application form received by 31 January 2024

No secondary transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

Applications received on or after 1 March 2024

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application form will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own admission authority' school, the County Council will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the County Council within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the County Council can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the County Council will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admissions authority the County Council will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to process late applications within 20 school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.
2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31st August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed as in-year applications.

Appeals

1. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written appeal. The appeal must be against any refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal will not be arranged.
2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least ten school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within thirty school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The LA must be advised of the outcome of all appeals.

Waiting lists

1. The LA will operate waiting lists for community and voluntary controlled schools so that it is clear as to which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria. The LA must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated from the waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the LA to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the LA or not.
2. Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2024 for Year 7 admissions.

Applications for children to be educated out of chronological year group

The School Admissions Code 2021 specifies that parents applying for a school place have a right to request that their child be educated outside their chronological age group. It further specifies that the admission authority for the school in question should make a decision as to whether to agree this 'on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned'. The admission authority is required to take into account various factors including the views of the Headteacher.

The County Council, having sought all relevant advice, will work on the assumption that it is in the best interests of children to continue to be educated out of year group if that has been the case for the child hitherto, where they have been in a school which follows the National Curriculum, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate.

Where parents submit applications for their children to be educated out of year group where this has not happened before, or where they have come from provision that does not follow the National Curriculum (e.g. private provision or overseas) the County Council will make a decision in the best interests of the child in consultation with the Headteacher of the relevant school as in the case of summer-born children applying at reception entry (see primary scheme).

These arrangements will apply to schools where the County Council is the admission authority- schools in the co-ordinated scheme which are their own admission authority are encouraged to work in the same way but the decision is for each admission authority to make in these cases.

The County Council will continue to advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and continue to require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex (although admission should not be held up if the parent refuses to sign- in this case it would need to be clearly documented that the parent had been advised of the risks but had refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer).

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Appendix 4

Proposed Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for reception and year 3 (of junior schools) entry September 2024/25

Contents

Introduction	1
Primary scheme 2024/25	1
Key dates.....	1
Applications made in the main round	2
Applications received after 15 January 2024 but by 15 March 2024.....	3
Changes of preference	3
No application form received	4
Applications received on or after 16 March 2024.....	4
Appeals	4
Waiting lists.....	5
Admission of summer born children to Reception classes.....	5

Introduction

Local Authorities (LAs) are required each year to draw up a scheme for co-ordinating the normal admissions round to primary and secondary schools. The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all parents receive a single offer of a school place on the national allocation date. If the prescribed date falls on a weekend or bank holiday, offers are sent on the next working day.

The scheme proposed by the County Council will be the subject of consultation with all maintained schools in the county and neighbouring local authorities.

The co-ordinated schemes apply only to admissions to Reception, and year 3 of junior schools at the start of term 1.

Primary scheme 2024/25

Key dates

September 2023: Admissions information made available

15 January 2024: Closing date for applications

26 January 2024: Preferences for each school established

9 February 2024: Exchange of preference data between local authorities

15 March 2024: Admission authorities in East Sussex advise LA of ranked order

28 March 2024: Finalise allocations

16 April 2024: Allocations confirmed to primary schools

16 April 2024: Decisions conveyed to parents by email

10 May 2024: (to be confirmed): Closing date for appeals

June to July 2024: Appeals heard

Applications made in the main round

1. The co-ordinated scheme is based on all preferences expressed by parents being treated equally, but where more than one school can be offered, the highest possible preference school named by the parent will be allocated. It will be for individual admission authorities to prioritise all preferences expressed for their schools against the published admissions criteria, which they have consulted on and determined. Individual academies can agree that the County Council ranks applicants on the academy's behalf. This would be a traded service. The only valid preferences are those stated on the LA common application form which is available online or in hard copy. Other admission authorities in East Sussex must not use any other application form. A separate, supplementary information form can only be used where additional information is required to determine admission within their published criteria. This form will be obtainable from and returnable to that admissions authority (voluntary aided (VA) schools). A supplementary information form on its own is not a valid application. Applicants living outside East Sussex must use the common application form that is supplied by their home local authority.
2. The process will begin with the information on admission arrangements and methods of application being made available early in September 2023.
3. The LA application form enables parents to name up to any three maintained schools stated in order of preference. It should be completed and submitted to the LA by the closing date of 15 January 2024.
4. By 26 January 2024 East Sussex County Council ("the County Council") will exchange preference data with any local authority where an application has been received.
5. By 9 February 2024 East Sussex schools that are their own admission authorities will consider all applications for their school, apply their published admissions criteria and provide the County Council with a list of those applicants ranked accordingly.
6. By 15 March 2024 other local authorities will advise the County Council of decisions reached on applications for their schools from East Sussex residents. The County Council will apply its published admissions criteria to those schools where it is the admissions authority and determine the outcome of each preference expressed.
7. By 28 March 2024, the County Council will match the ranked lists against the parental preferences to ensure only one place is allocated per child. Qualifying late applications received before 15 March will be included in this process.

Where a child is:

- Eligible for a place at only one school given on the application form that school will be allocated

- Eligible for two or three schools, a place will be allocated at the highest-ranking preference school
 - Not eligible for a place at any of the named schools and the child lives in East Sussex, a place will be allocated at the nearest school to the home with a space.
8. In the period 2 April 2024 to 15 April 2024 decision notifications will be prepared. The LA where the child lives will be responsible for sending these to parents.
 9. On 16 April 2024 lists will be prepared of children allocated places at each primary school in East Sussex, and these will be sent to the schools in question.
 10. 16 April 2024 - allocation decisions will be notified to parents by email. Letters will only be sent where specifically requested, or where the application has been made on a paper form. Where a preference is not being met, the notification email will signpost parents to the County Council website where information can be found explaining to parents how places have been allocated at their preferred school(s) and advising parents of the right of appeal.

Applications received after 15 January 2024 but by 15 March 2024

1. If an application form is received after 15 January 2024, it will still be passed to the relevant admissions authority with a note that it has been received after that date. It will be for the admissions authority to decide how it wishes to respond to the application. This will continue up until 15 March 2024.
2. If an application is received after 15 January 2024 but before 15 March 2024, together with proof of a change of address* since the closing date, or proof of another good reason why it was not possible for the family to apply on time, it will be treated as on time in respect of community and voluntary controlled schools. If there is no proof, or the reason is not considered valid by the County Council, the application will be treated as late. There is no separate right of appeal against the decision as to whether the application is treated as on time or late.
3. Applicants whose forms are received between these dates will be sent a decision on 16 April 2024. For applications received after 15 March 2024, we will aim to send a decision email within 20 school days.

Changes of preference

1. Parents may change their preferences at any stage up to the closing date of 15 January 2024. After 15 January 2024, we will not allow preferences to be changed without an exceptional reason. The LA will judge each case on its merits but will only usually accept a change of preference where there has been a significant change of circumstances (such as a house move*) thus making the original preferences no longer practical. Parents will be required to put their reasons for changing their preferences in writing, and in all cases, supporting evidence will be required. If the change of preference is agreed, a decision will be sent on 16 April 2024 provided the request was received by 15 March 2024. Such applicants will be advised that they have the right of appeal if the revised preference cannot be met.

* In the case of house moves, proof of ownership or tenancy on an East Sussex property (such as exchange of contracts or signed tenancy agreement of one year) is required if an address is to be used for the purpose of allocating a school place. If an applicant cannot provide evidence, the application cannot be accepted.

2. There is no right of appeal where the LA does not accept the change of preference.

No application form received

1. No Reception or junior transfer places will be allocated unless a completed application form has been received.

Applications received on or after 16 March 2024

1. Only preferences stated on the LA application form will be valid. If the preference is for an 'own admission authority' school, the County Council will pass details to the school for a decision. The school must then advise the County Council within fourteen days as to whether a place can be allocated so the County Council can formally advise the parent of the decision. Where the preference is for a community or voluntary controlled school, the County Council will determine the outcome. If there are no places available at one of the preferred schools a place will be allocated at the nearest school with a place available (if the identified school is its own admission authority the County Council will ask the school whether a place can be allocated). We will aim to process late applications within 20 school days. Any refused preference will carry the right of appeal.
2. Where the preference is for a school in a neighbouring authority, the details will be passed to that authority for a decision to be made. Any authority refusing an application should advise the LA of the decision so the LA can consider allocating an alternative school.
3. The Co-ordinated Scheme will end on 31 August each year. Applications received after this date will be processed as in year applications.

Appeals

1. Parents must be allowed at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and submit their written appeal. The appeal must be against any refused preference, thus if a parent puts on the appeal form a school which did not feature as a preference on the original application form an appeal hearing will not be arranged.
2. Parents submitting an appeal will be entitled to at least 10 school days' notice of the date of the appeal. Papers relevant to the appeal will be sent seven working days before the hearing. Appeals must be heard within forty school days of the deadline for lodging appeals. Appeals for late applications will be included with those being heard for the same admission round wherever possible. If this is not possible, they must be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.
3. The County Council must be advised of the outcome of all appeals to other admission authorities.

Waiting lists

1. The County Council will operate waiting lists for all community and voluntary controlled primary, infant and junior schools so that it is clear which child will be offered any place which becomes vacant. Such waiting lists will be operational after the closing date for appeals to be lodged. The waiting list must reflect the admissions criteria. The County Council must be notified by admissions authorities of any places that are subsequently allocated from the waiting list. Until co-ordination ends, it remains for the County Council to offer places to parents when places become available and are allocated from the waiting list whether the admissions authority is the County Council or not.
2. Waiting lists will operate until the end of Term 2, 2024.

Admission of summer born children to Reception classes.

Parents of summer born children who are due to start in reception can request that their child starts on a part-time basis or joins Reception later during the school year.

However, parents can also request that their child starts in Reception in the September following their fifth birthday (i.e. when they would normally be starting Year 1). Parents making such a request should do so during the normal admission round.

The County Council will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the child's academic, social and emotional development together with the Headteacher and parent's views. If the request is refused but the child is offered a place in the school (but not the preferred year group) the parent would not have the right of appeal.

If the request is agreed, parents will need to be clear that this does not mean the child will remain in the year below their chronological age group for all of their school career, particularly on transfer to secondary school.

The County Council will base its decision-making on the assumption that it is in the best interests of summer born children (i.e. those born between 1 April and 31 August) to be admitted to Reception at compulsory school age where their parents request it, unless there are clear reasons why this is inappropriate (e.g. safeguarding or the pupil has an EHCP or is undergoing statutory assessment).

Parents are, however, required to make a case for this so that it can be demonstrated that the County Council has considered the rationale behind the request and made the decision in the child's best interests. Parents also need to be clear that own admission authority schools in East Sussex will not necessarily work on the same assumption, although they are encouraged to do so by the County Council.

The County Council will, however, advise all parents whose request for admission out of year group is agreed of the potential difficulties this could cause later on, and will require parents to agree that they have understood this and take responsibility for this decision before the child is admitted to school in East Sussex by signing a disclaimer to this effect. Should the parent refuse to sign, admission will not be held up if the child is already compulsory school age, but it will be

clearly documented that the parent has been advised of the risks but has refused or otherwise failed to sign the disclaimer.

Appendix 5

Proposed East Sussex County Council Co-ordinated scheme for in-year admissions in 2023/24

Contents

Introduction	1
In-year admissions scheme 2023/24	2
Application process	2
Notifying parents of the outcome of their applications	2
Refusing an application to a school where places exist in the child's year group.	3
Admission to school outside the child's normal age group.....	3
School offered	3
Appeals	4
Waiting lists.....	4

Introduction

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires that Local Authorities co-ordinate in-year admissions to schools for which they are the admission authority (Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools). Own Admission Authority (OAA) schools and Academies may opt in to the scheme.

In-year admissions are those relating to children whose parents are seeking admission outside the normal timescale, which means after the first day of the first term of reception, year 3 (of a junior school) or year 7.

Admissions to years 12 and 13 of those community schools with sixth forms are not co-ordinated by the Local Authority and do not form part of this scheme.

OAA schools and Academies may also require Supplementary Information forms to be completed to enable applications to be ranked in order of admission priorities, but an application will be valid even if this is not done.

OAA schools and Academies opting into the scheme may additionally request in year management of applications and waiting lists as a traded service via the webshop.

Fee-paying schools will not be included in this scheme.

Applications are received throughout the year and therefore no timetable applies to this scheme. Decision outcomes will be issued to parents within ten school days, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This scheme will be administered by the Admissions and Transport Service of East Sussex County Council.

In-year admissions scheme 2023/24

Application process

1. Parents/carers may name up to three preferences on the application and all preferences expressed by parents will be treated equally. This means that each preference will be measured against the published oversubscription criteria only, without reference to the order stated by the parent. Only one school place will be offered, and this will be the highest possible preference expressed by the parent that can be agreed.
2. Details of current applications will be shared with schools electronically via SAM and schools are asked to confirm within two school days whether a place is available in the relevant year group. If the Admissions and Transport Service already has this information it will offer/refuse the place ahead of this timescale unless by prior agreement with the school.
3. OAA schools or Academies are then asked to confirm within a further three school days whether the available place is able to be offered to the applicant.
4. In order to make a valid application for a school participating in the scheme, parents/carers must complete an in-year application via the parent portal or the form supplied by East Sussex County Council. The East Sussex in year application form is available in paper form on request or applications can be made online through the East Sussex Council website.
5. OAA schools or Academies may require additional information in order to apply their oversubscription criteria and will provide a supplementary information form on the school's website. Where the parent/carer fails to complete the supplementary form, the admission authority will rank the application according to the information given on the application form only. Where the parent/carer completes the supplementary form but fails to complete the LA application form, this will not constitute a valid application.
6. Completed supplementary information forms will be returned to the individual schools, and not the Admissions and Transport Service.

Notifying parents of the outcome of their applications

1. The Admissions and Transport Service will notify parents/carers of the outcome of their applications, where the County Council is the admission authority.
2. OAA schools and Academies must notify all applicants of the outcome of their application within fifteen school days, giving reasons and appeal rights in writing if the application is unsuccessful.
3. If it is not possible to offer a place at any of the preferred schools, the Admissions and Transport Service will notify the parents of this and suggest the child remain in their current provision, if feasible, or offer the nearest available school place if not, assuming the child lives in East Sussex. Where the child qualifies for inclusion in the Fair Access Protocol, this will be invoked to place the child in a suitable school.

Refusing an application to a school where places exist in the child's year group

1. An admission authority may only refuse an application in a year group where places exist if the child's behaviour is challenging as defined in the Code, and the preferred school has a disproportionate number of challenging pupils already on roll. The County Council will only do this in exceptional circumstances and parents will still have the right of appeal.
2. Any such cases will be referred for placement via the Fair Access Protocol, where the child is unplaced. The protocol may place the child in the preferred school even though a place has initially been refused.
3. This provision cannot be used in the normal year of entry, so that it is not possible to refuse a place (if there is one available) in reception, year 3 (of a junior school) or year 7 at any point during the school year.

Admission to school outside the child's normal age group

1. In England and Wales, children are entitled to attend school from the September following their fourth birthday. However, formal education is not compulsory until the child is five. The vast majority of children start in reception as soon as they are entitled to and remain with the same age group until they leave school at the age of sixteen, or eighteen if they continue in the sixth form provision.
2. It is recognised that this arrangement will not suit every child and there is flexibility within every admission authority's arrangements to allow children to be admitted to the year below their chronological age, or, more exceptionally, to the year above.
3. Parents who believe it to be in their child's best interests to be placed out of year group, are asked to complete a request form available on request from the Admissions and to enable the County Council to reach a decision on whether or not the child should be offered a place out of year group.
4. For schools where the County Council is the admission authority, this will normally be agreed where the child has applied to move from another school in England and Wales which follows the National Curriculum and has been educated out of year group up until the point of applying for an East Sussex school.
5. Where this is not the case, the County Council may need more information to enable a decision to be reached.
6. If an admission authority offers a place at the preferred school, but not in the preferred year group, there is no right of appeal against this decision.

School offered

1. Where a place is offered, schools should return a notification of the start date via SAM to confirm that the place has been accepted.
2. If the place is not accepted within ten school days, schools must contact the parent/carer to establish whether or not the place is still required. If the parent/carer declines, or cannot be contacted, the current school should be contacted to establish whether the child is still on roll.

3. If the child is still on roll and the parent no longer requires the place, a SAM notification should be issued to this effect.
4. If the child is not still on roll, a CME referral must be made if efforts to contact the family are unsuccessful. A SAM notification should be issued to advise and the place held for the child until the CME procedure is completed.

Appeals

1. Parents/carers will be informed of their statutory right of appeal when they receive the outcome of their applications. Parents can appeal for any preference expressed but not allocated, even if it was a lower preference than the one offered.
2. Parents will be allowed at least 20 school days from the date of the notification to submit an appeal via East Sussex County Council's School Appeals Team.
3. Links to the East Sussex County Council's School Appeals online process will be included in the notification. Appeal details for OAA schools and academies will be available on the individual school or Academy's website.

Waiting lists

1. Waiting lists for all East Sussex schools where the County Council is the admission authority will be held by the County Council.
2. OAA schools and academies will be responsible for maintaining their own waiting list in accordance with their published oversubscription criteria.
3. The County Council requires parents/carers to renew their waiting list application after every two terms (at Christmas, Easter and for the new academic year). Parents/carers not doing so are assumed no longer to require the place.

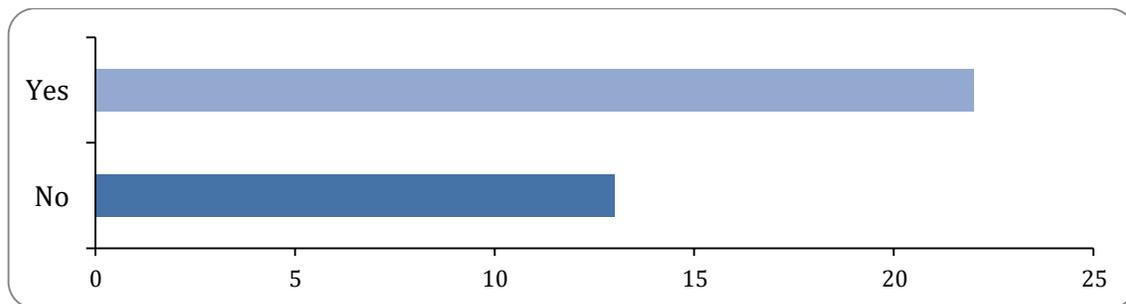
Survey results- Admission arrangements for East Sussex Schools 2024-25

Responses to survey

1: Do you agree with the proposal to add priority for children of staff at the school in question as set out in the proposed admissions criteria?

Agree with children of staff priority yes/no

There were 35 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	22	62.86%
No	13	37.14%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments on priority for children of staff

There were 13 responses to this part of the question.

Yes (6):

- Staff retention and recruitment is a huge issue. Allowing children of staff to attend the school where they work may help with this. School staff often are not available before and after school for their own children. Being on site would be a big benefit
- Yes as I work in a school and won't be able to get to work and drop my child off elsewhere
- Staff working in schools need to be in work early and leave later than the end of the school day which makes childcare around the school day difficult, expensive and stressful. If this added stress is removed at the beginning and end of the day it will enable staff to concentrate on their jobs without this worry. This should

Appendix 6

apply for primary school age children as older children are more able to travel and attend free after school extra curricular clubs.

- Staff will be able to reduce childcare costs by allowing their child to access Breakfast Clubs & after school activities. They will be on hand to take the child/ children home.
- This would be helpful for staff particularly those who haven't got additional help for school drop offs and may help with having staff in at the start of the day. I also think this will not take as much of the places as others may think!
- As a teacher myself, I understand the difficulty in having my children at a different school.

No (7):

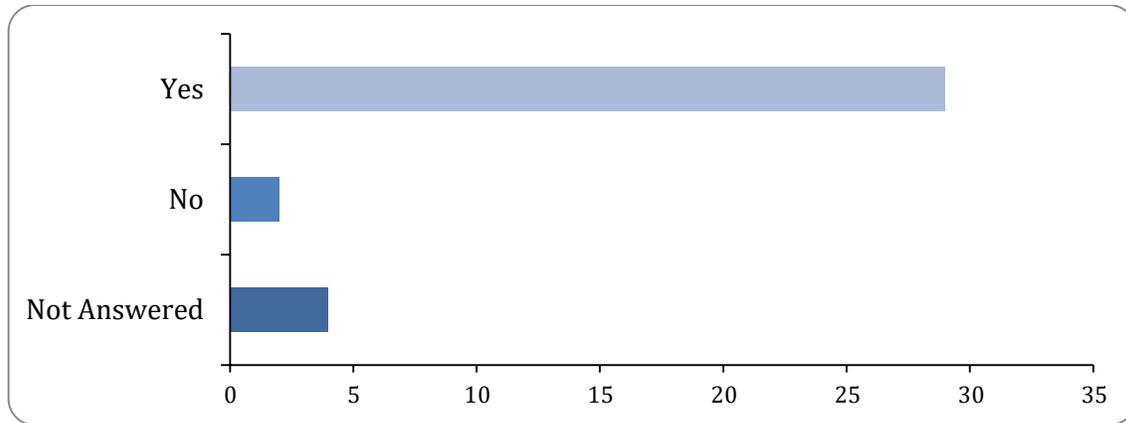
- What happens when staff leave or are off sick?
- Staff could change schools. Will affect recruitment to more challenging schools or those with lower results. Not fair on families who live in the local area. As any staff, not just key or teaching staff, could mean a parent who lives outside the area can apply for a support or office staff job just to get their child a place at the school.
- Parents do not get priority in a school if they work in a different area so why should it be any different for teachers ? Schools are quick enough to reap the rewards for breakfast and after school. Clubs for children who's parents have to travel for work etc so why shouldn't they make use of these facilities too
- Although I am sympathetic to difficulties faced by teachers and school staff, I would be very concerned about this limiting the number of places available to children who live in the schools community area.
- Does this apply to those who are guardians of a child under kinship placement, foster care or special guardianship orders? What happens when the member of staff leaves and moves miles away? What happened to having local schools for local children? Maybe if the local schools were not absolutely awful, people might actually want to send their kid there.
- These children would be at an unfair advantage over local children
- Local children should have priority over children of staff

5: Do you agree with the proposed change to the community area served by Polegate School and Willingdon Primary School?

Agree change to primary area yes/no

There were 31 responses to this part of the question.

Appendix 6



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	29	82.86%
No	2	5.71%
Not Answered	4	11.43%

Comments on proposed change to Polegate and Willingdon primary area

There were 3 responses to this part of the question:

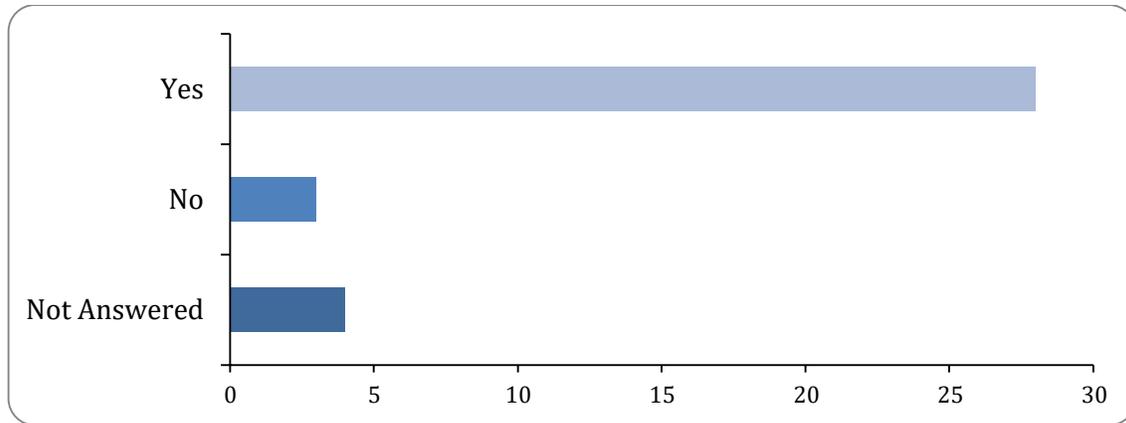
- Just makes sense!
- This will allow children to attend schools nearest to them. If not changed Willingdon schools will be overwhelmed.
- I think it makes sense if pupils will be passing others in the Eastbourne catchment.

6: Do you agree with the proposed change to the community area served by Willingdon Community School?

Agree change to secondary area yes/no

There were 31 responses to this part of the question.

Appendix 6



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	28	80.00%
No	3	8.57%
Not Answered	4	11.43%

Comments on proposed change to Willingdon Community School area:

There were 2 responses to this part of the question:

- As long as my son get Willingdon from Stone Cross !!
- As above The reasoning is the same.

7: If you have any other comments on the proposed criteria, please add them here:

comments:

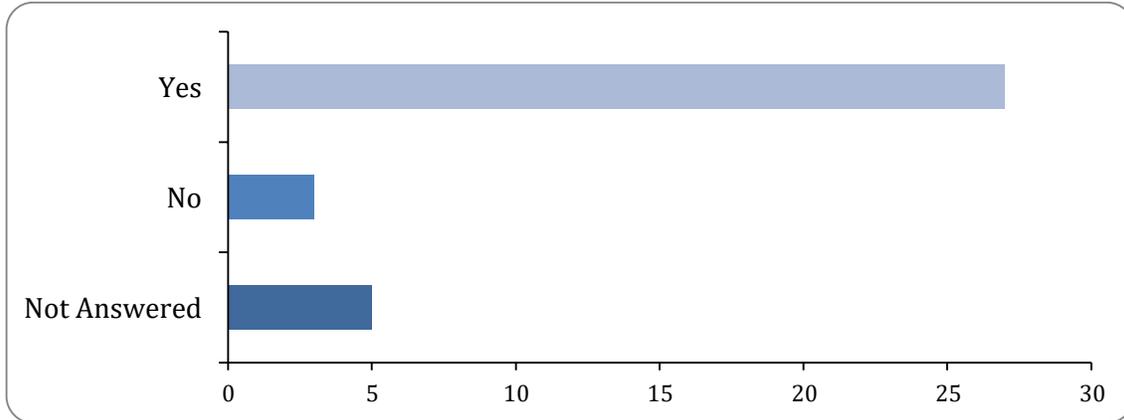
There were 2 responses to this part of the question:

- Maybe if schools in Hastings and Rother were actually good schools (with Calverham being the ONLY exception) then people would want to send their child there and not try and get in to where a parent works!
- When the 880 houses that have planning permission in mornings mill and hindsland are built I dare say this will have to be reviewed again as the secondary and 2 primary schools would not cope!

8: Do you agree with the proposal to increase the PAN for Robertsbridge Community College?

Agree Robertsbridge PAN yes/no

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

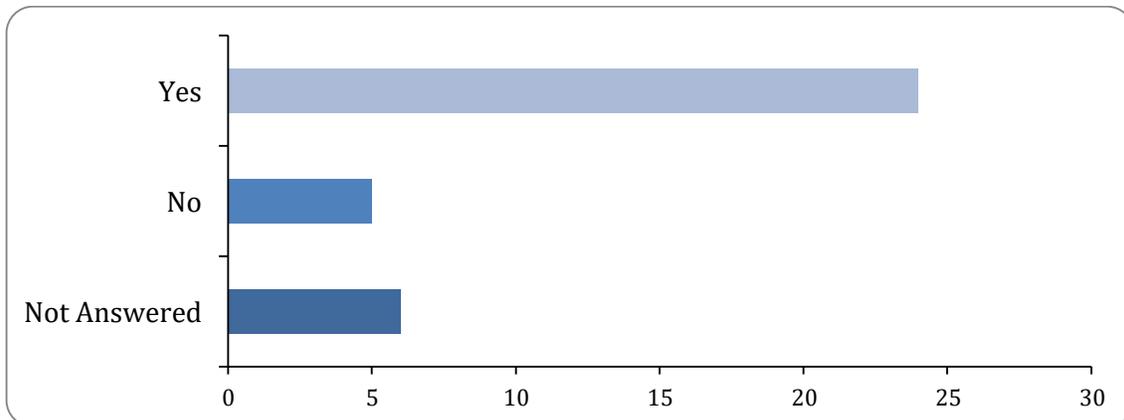


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	27	77.14%
No	3	8.57%
Not Answered	5	14.29%

9: Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN of Iford and Kingston CE Primary School?

Agree Iford & Kingston PAN yes/no

There were 29 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	24	68.57%
No	5	14.29%
Not Answered	6	17.14%

10: Do you have any other comments on the proposed PANs for East Sussex schools?

Comments on proposed PANS:

There were 2 responses to this part of the question:

- Not applicable to me
- Robertsbridge is a small community secondary school, it's infrastructure, building and facilities cannot cope with the children they already have let alone adding more into it

11: Do you agree with the proposed co-ordinated schemes for admissions?

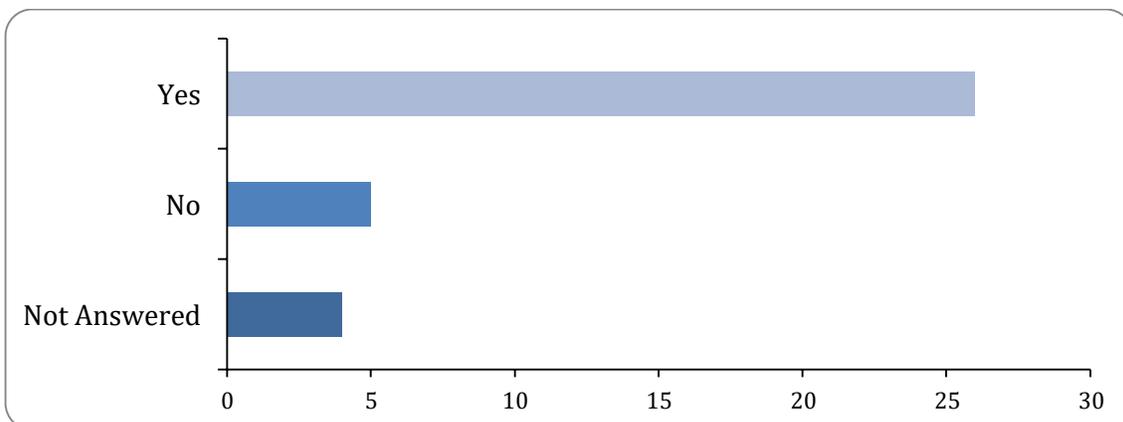
Comments on proposed co-ordinated schemes for admission:

There was 1 response to this part of the question:

- No I do not The secondary applications have to be in far too quickly after the start of the academic year! These should be increased inline with primary applications

Agree co-ordinated schemes yes/no

There were 31 responses to this part of the question.



Appendix 6

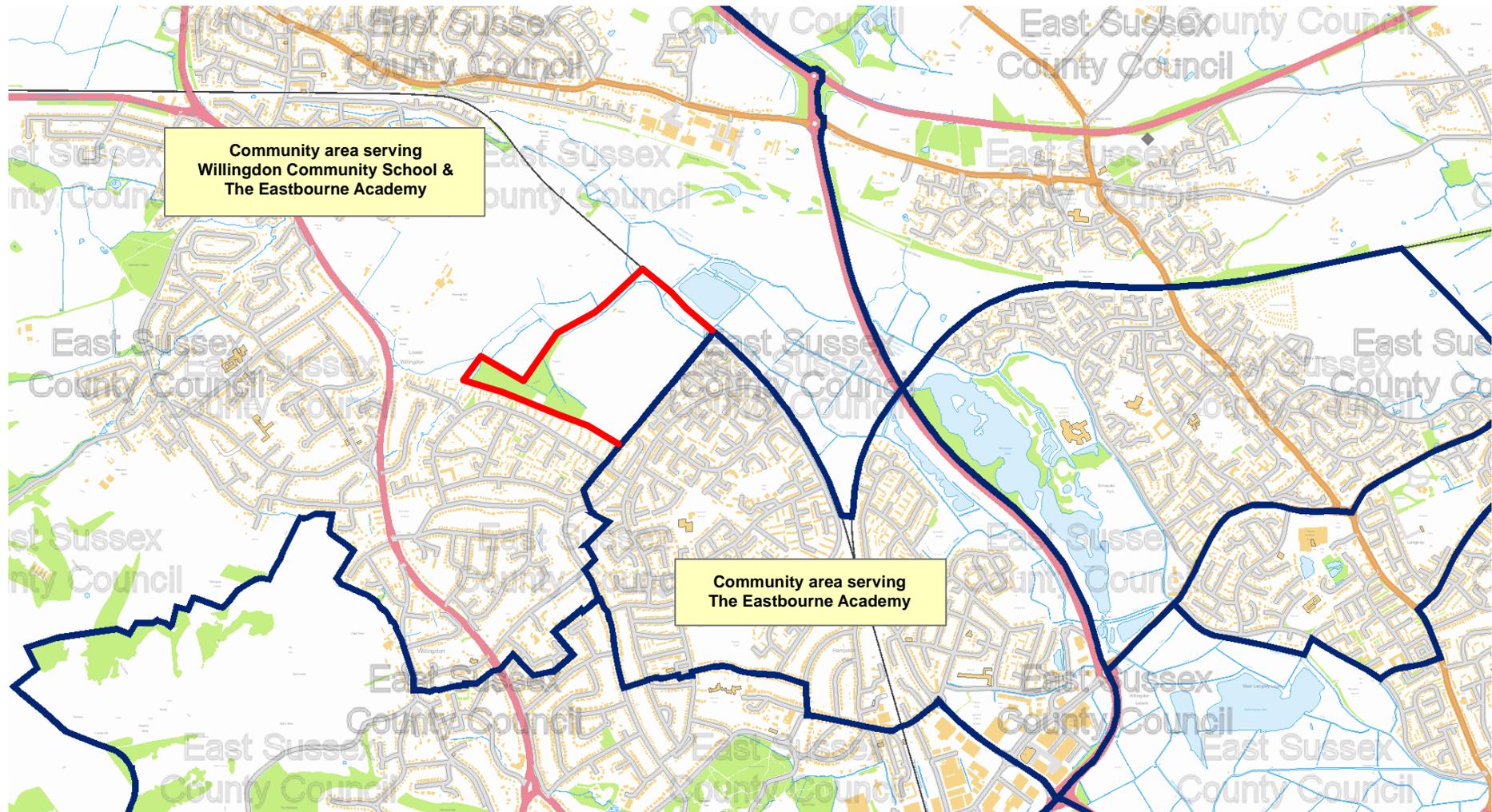
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	26	74.29%
No	5	14.29%
Not Answered	4	11.43%

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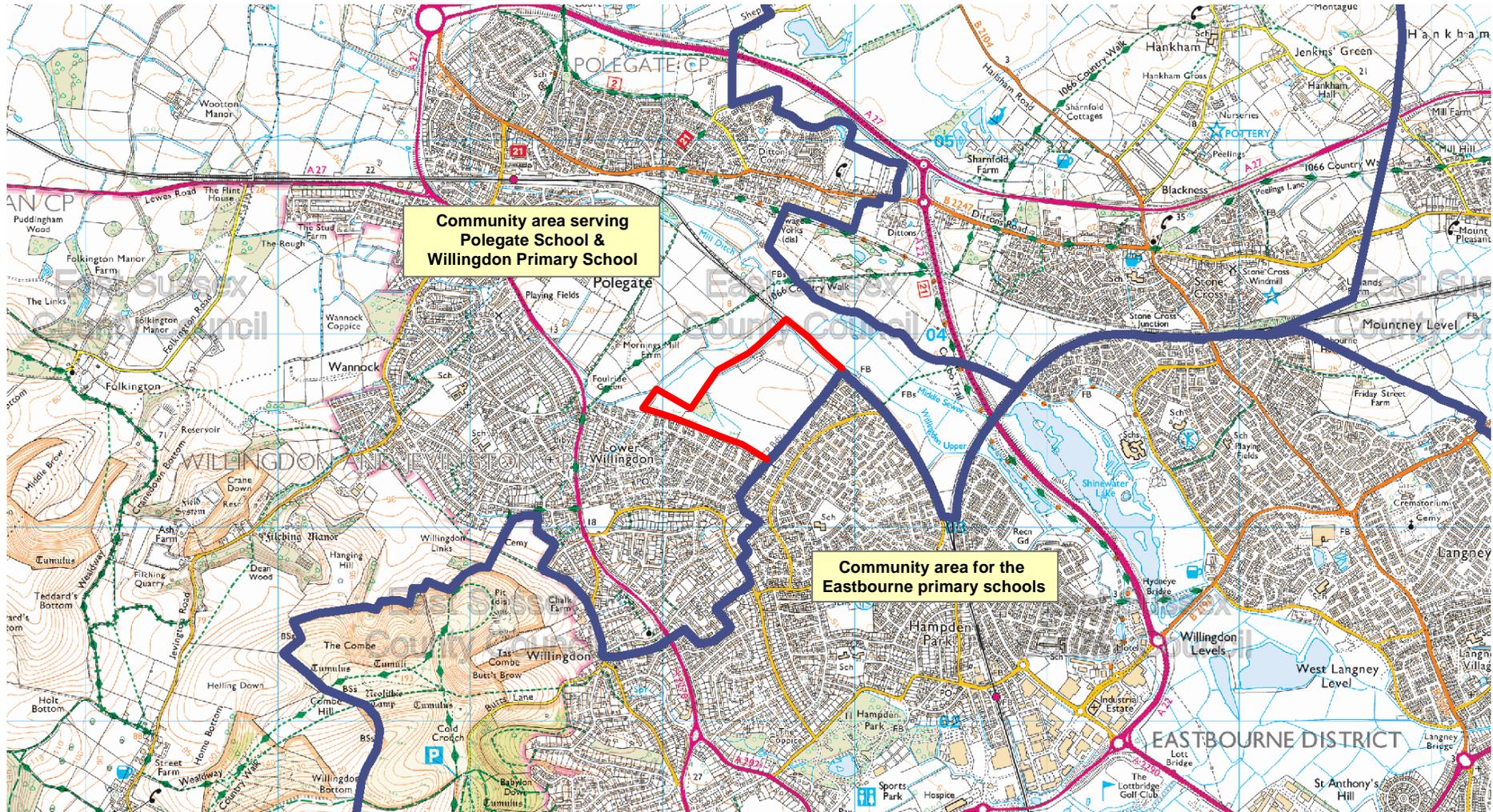
Appendix 7

Proposed East Sussex school admission arrangements for 2024/25 academic year

The map below shows the current pre-defined community area for The Eastbourne Academy and for the joint community area for Willingdon Community School and The Eastbourne Academy. Should the proposal be adopted, the area outlined in red will transfer from the joint area solely into the area served by The Eastbourne Academy.



The map below shows the current pre-defined community area for the Eastbourne primary schools and the joint community area for Polegate School and Willingdon Primary School. Should the proposal be adopted, the area outlined in red will transfer from the joint Polegate/Willingdon area into the area served by the Eastbourne primaries.



Report to:	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date of meeting:	27 February 2023
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title:	Household Support Fund
Purpose:	To note the proposed Children's Services use of a proportion of the latest extension of the Household Support Fund ("the Fund") and agree the development of a scheme to distribute grant funding as set out in the report

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the proposed use of £2,052,500 of the Household Support Fund, to provide support to households with children between 1 April – 30 September 2023; and**
 - 2) Delegate to the Director of Children's Services authority to implement the scheme.**
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1 Background

1.1 On 17 November 2022 Government announced in the Autumn Statement that the Household Support Fund ("HSF") would be extended for a fourth time to support those most in need. The extension will run from 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

1.2 Contextually the grant arrives just as the last round of funding will finish on 31 March 2023. The grant follows previous similar schemes which commenced in December 2020: the Winter Covid Fund Support Grant, the Covid Local Support Fund Grant and the Household Support Fund (1 October – 31 March 2022, 1 April – 30 September 2022, and 1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023).

1.3 As of yet the Department for Work and Pensions ("DWP") has not set out how the scheme should be allocated. Over the last three iterations of the HSF, the amount of funding to Local Authorities (LAs) has remained the same, but the criteria have changed slightly.

1.4 The Council and LAs across the country are urging the DWP to publish guidance on the funding allocation and criteria, to date this has not yet been published.

1.5 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is expecting to be allocated £7,793,567 for the new extension period. This figure is based on the £3,896,783 previously received for a 6-month period (1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023) doubled to cover the new 12-month extension period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024).

1.6 Until the time that Government announces the criteria for the HSF extension, we will work to the anticipated funding allocation in 1.5 and the criteria from the previous round.

2 Supporting information

2.1 While it is helpful that Government has announced that the new extension covers the entire financial year (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024), the proposals being brought forward at this stage are for the first six months of the financial year (1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023), with a review taking place in August 2023. Proposals for the remaining six months (1 October 2023 – 31 March 2024) will be brought forward for decision in September 2023.

2.2 It is proposed that the HSF is distributed to households in need in several ways as set out in the table below:

Allocations Table - 6 Month Plan (1 April – 30 September 2023)

Partner	Amount (£)	Note
FSM eligible pupils 19,500 (2-19 yrs) Hugg food vouchers	1,852,500	£30 for 2-week Easter holiday £15 for May half-term £50 for summer holidays Total of £95 (48% of total funding)
Children's Services Teams	200,000	
Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners	700,000	
Warmer Homes	50,000	
Districts and Boroughs	844,500	
Foodbanks and Food Partnerships	250,000	
Total	3,897,000	

2.3 The portion of the HSF that Children's Services will manage is £2,052,500. The proposal is to provide food vouchers to eligible free school meal pupils of £30 for the 2-week Easter holiday, £15 for the May half-term, and £50 for the summer holiday period. There are approximately 19,500 pupils eligible for free school meals. £200,000 will also be distributed via Children's Services teams directly to vulnerable families in need.

2.4 Distributing the grant to the same partners that ESCC worked with last time ensures continuity in the allocation of support to the full range of beneficiary groups. Utilising voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners to implement the scheme adds considerable value in terms of local community knowledge and an ability to engage with residents who may not be comfortable with statutory services.

2.5 The DWP has indicated that it is reasonable for a Local Authority to plan for HSF 4 using the draft guidance and the previous allocations as a guide. However, once DWP issues the final guidance and local authority allocations if agreed, this report provides delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services to make the following amendments in line with DWP's final guidance and local authority allocations, namely:

- beneficiary groups, eligible spend, or monitoring
- any other changes to HSF 4 that are required to ensure ESCC's adherence to DWP's final guidance and local authority allocations.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The scheme provides a further opportunity to extend the support to households with children, households with pensioners, households with a disabled person and other vulnerable households within East Sussex who are experiencing financial challenges.

3.2 The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the proposed use of £2,052,500 of the HSF, to provide support to households with children between 1 April – 30 September 2023; and
- 2) Delegate to the Director of Children's Services authority to implement the scheme.

ALISON JEFFERY

Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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