



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, 9 DECEMBER 2024 AT 10.00 AM

REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 4 November 2024 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
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. School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028 (*Pages 7 - 140*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
5. Proposed amalgamation of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School (*Pages 141 - 144*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
6. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

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29 November 2024

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NOTE: *As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website. The live broadcast is accessible at:*
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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 4 November 2024 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillors Denis and Geary spoke on item 4 (see minute 32)

28. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 7 OCTOBER 2024

28.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2024.

29. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

29.1 There were none.

30. URGENT ITEMS

30.1 There were none.

31. REPORTS

31.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

32. FUTURE OPERATION OF BUZZ ACTIVE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROVISION IN EAST SUSSEX

32.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services together with exempt information in a later agenda item.

DECISIONS

32.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- 1) Approve the proposal to seek an alternative provider to operate Buzz Active;
- 2) Agree that, provided a suitable alternative provider can be identified, Buzz Active will be transferred through either a sale or transfer of entity;
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to determine the most suitable third party to take over Buzz Active, agree the terms of any sale or transfer and to authorise the Council entering into such legal agreements as are necessary to give effect to the sale or transfer of Buzz Active; and
- 4) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to carry out all other actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the report.

REASONS

32.3 Given the financial pressures the Council is facing, it is necessary for departments to review all of their expenditure, especially spending on non-statutory services. The Buzz Active service, whilst non-statutory, makes a positive contribution to the residents of East Sussex and the Council has therefore explored ways to ensure the continuation of this valuable service in the future. It is considered that the best way to secure the ongoing provision of these outdoor activities is to explore different delivery models; and therefore the Council will seek an alternative provider to operate Buzz Active in the future.

32.4 Following feedback at the 'test the market' event in September, the route likely to be most effective in achieving this is considered to be through a sale or transfer of entity and provided a suitable alternative provider can be identified, this is the route the Council will take. This will enable the service to continue to grow and adapt appropriately to support the local community and wider county in the provision of outdoor adventure and water sport activities outside of the Council.

32.5 Delegation of authority to the Director of Children's Services to determine the most suitable third party to take over Buzz Active, agree the terms of any sale or transfer and to authorise the Council entering into such legal agreements as are necessary to give effect to the sale or transfer of Buzz Active will facilitate this process.

33. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

33.1 It was RESOLVED to exclude the public and press for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

34. FUTURE OPERATION OF BUZZ ACTIVE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROVISION IN EAST SUSSEX - EXEMPT INFORMATION

34.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided exempt information in support of an earlier item on the agenda.

DECISIONS

34.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to note the exempt information in the report which relates to an earlier item on the agenda.

REASON

34.3 The report contained exempt information in relation to an earlier item on the agenda.

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

Date: 9 December 2024

By: Director of Children's Services

Title of report: School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028

Purpose of report: To approve the School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028 for publication.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028 for publication.

1. Background

1.1 East Sussex County Council (the Local Authority) has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand across East Sussex. In support of this duty, the Local Authority publishes a School Organisation Plan (the plan) annually. The plan sets out the projected demand for primary, secondary, and special school places in the future and where the Local Authority thinks it will need to commission additional places or reorganise existing provision to maintain a sustainable network of schools with the right number of places in the right locations to serve local need.

1.2 The current plan, covering the period 2023 to 2027, was approved for publication by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (the Lead Member) on 14 November 2023. A new draft plan covering the period 2024 to 2028 has been produced using the most recent set of pupil forecasts which take account of factors such as the latest information on births, GP registrations, parental preferences, housing developments and migration patterns. The draft plan can be viewed in Appendix 1.

2. East Sussex context

2.1 The draft plan describes how births in the county peaked at 5,500 in the academic year 2010/11. Since then, births have fallen to below 4,300 in 2022/23. The fall in countywide births is reflected in falling primary reception (Year R) intake numbers, at least until 2027/28. The Local Authority's latest pupil forecasts are showing numbers recovering beyond this point, however, intake forecasts beyond 2027/28 are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data. Looking at previous cycles of births and Year R intakes, it is possible that there may not be a recovery in Year R numbers until near the end of the decade and high Year R numbers across the county generally until the 2030s.

2.2 Earlier high numbers in primary schools have been reflected in rising secondary Year 7 school intakes. Year 7 numbers peaked in 2022/23, with total numbers on roll in secondary schools predicted to peak around 2026/27.

2.3 In 2023/24, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 3,989. There were also 482 young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who need continued support to transition to adulthood. Over the next four years, the Local Authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow, by around 34%, to approximately 5,400. To meet this growing need, the Local Authority is continuing its strategy of increasing the number of places available in special schools and specialist facilities alongside developing inclusion in mainstream schools. This includes a proposed project to reorganise and expand Grove Park School to create additional places. The Local Authority is currently in the detailed design and planning phase of this project. In addition, the Local Authority plans to create additional specialist facility places through new and expanded facilities in primary and secondary schools and is currently seeking expressions of interest from schools for this.

2.4 The Local Authority has also identified a need for more specialist provision for post-16 learners and is working with special schools, Further Education (FE) Colleges and other post-16 providers to explore how this can best be delivered.

Stakeholder consultation

2.5 The Local Authority consulted on the draft plan with schools, academy trusts, the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in Term 1 of the current academic year. Seven responses were received - from a headteacher, four chairs of governors, an academy trust and the Catholic Diocese. The comments and the Local Authority's responses are available in the Cabinet room and Members' room.

3. Conclusions and reasons for recommendation

3.1 In conclusion, the draft School Organisation Plan for the period 2024 to 2028 sets out how the Local Authority seeks to ensure there are sufficient primary, secondary and special school places in the right locations to meet demand in accordance with its statutory duty.

3.2 Accordingly, the Lead Member is recommended to approve the School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028 for publication.

CAROLYN FAIR
Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None



East Sussex County Council School Organisation Plan 2024 to 2028

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Executive Summary

This School Organisation Plan covers the period 2024 to 2028. It is a 4-year rolling plan updated every year. The plan sets out how East Sussex County Council (the local authority) will meet its statutory duty to provide enough primary, secondary and special educational needs places in the right locations to meet demand.

The document contains information on:

- the current pattern of school provision across the county
- forecasts of future school numbers
- our plans to meet the need for more places in areas of growth
- our plans to address the over-supply of places in areas with falling rolls.

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

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

Over the plan period there will continue to be growing demand for special educational needs provision linked to the rising number of children and young people with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). At the same time there will be areas with a declining demand for mainstream school places as a result of the falling birth rate in the county. Some schools will face challenges associated with falling rolls. This can create budget pressures and impact on decisions of school leadership and organisation.

The local authority works closely with:

- school leaders
- governors
- academy trusts
- the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
- local communities
- local planning authorities
- developers

to ensure there are the right number of school places in the right locations, with the aim of providing a high quality and inclusive education for all children and young people in East Sussex. Alongside our statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places to meet demand, we are responsible for promoting a good supply of places at strong schools through planning, organising, and commissioning places in a way that raises attainment, increases diversity, encourages collaboration between schools and promotes community cohesion.

Policies and strategies

The School Organisation Plan is one of several policies and strategies that link to wider education provision in East Sussex. Others include:

Excellence for All

[Excellence for All](#) sets out our collective vision with partners for the education system in East Sussex:

‘...that by 2030 all children and young people in East Sussex will be a part of an excellent, inclusive, and equitable education system. This system will foster a meaningful sense of belonging from Early Years all the way to post-16 provision.

Our inclusive system will be driven by outstanding leadership and scaffolded by good governance. Young people and their families will feel confident, cared for and ready to reach their full potential.

The principles set out in this vision will inform the strategic plans across our partnerships, the local authority, and our education providers. Our strong governance structures will oversee the delivery of our plans and our vision.’

Admission arrangements

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

Parents and carers have the right to express a preference for a school. This is not the same as choosing the school where their child will attend. Parents and carers in East Sussex can select up to three preferences when applying for a school place for their child.

For September 2024, the local authority was able to offer a place at a preferred school to:

- 98.4% of primary reception (Year R) applicants
- all junior Year 3 applicants
- 93.8% of secondary Year 7 applicants.

There is more information about [applying for a school place](#) on the local authority website.

Small Schools Policy

East Sussex has a variety of schools which differ in size and location. Small primary schools, particularly in rural areas, are a key feature of the East Sussex education

landscape. In 2023/24, 50 primary schools had fewer than 150 pupils on roll and were considered small schools. 26 (52%) of these are currently working as part of a federation of schools and 10% are part of academy trusts.

Small schools offer many strengths in serving their local community. Relationships are strong, and pupils are well-known by staff and their peers. But their small size and capacity means that it can be more difficult to overcome challenges. For example, staffing changes, falling pupil numbers and limited resources.

The [Small Schools Policy](#) is part of the local authority's strategy to help small schools remain sustainable and at the heart of their communities.

Childcare Sufficiency Duty

The [Childcare Sufficiency Duty](#) is a statutory annual report published by the local authority. It reports on the sufficiency of childcare and the state of the childcare market across East Sussex. We have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for eligible families of children aged 0-14, or up to 18 for disabled children.

A new Childcare Sufficiency Duty report for 2025/26 will be published in early 2025. It will take account of the expansion of the current Early Years Education entitlement funding streams being implemented from September 2024.

East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2022-25

In November 2022 a new, ambitious [East Sussex SEND Strategy](#) was launched covering the period 2022 to 2025. This sets out the shared ambitions we aim to achieve across education, health, and social care over the next three years for children and young people with SEND.

The Strategy outlines a joint approach to service provision and commissioning by putting children and young people, and their families at the centre of decision-making.

The SEND Strategy was developed by representatives from across the local authority, health services and education providers, informed by the voices of young people, parents and carers.

Post-16 education and training

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

- To secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996. To fulfil this duty, local authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.
- To make available to all young people aged 13-19 and those up to 25 with an EHCP, support that will encourage, enable, or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of the Education and Skills Act (ESA) 2008.

- Tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties, as is promoting effective participation.

The post-16 provision offer should meet the requirements of increasing participation, by offering a wide range of options with clear progression routes into further or higher education or employment with training. The post-16 offer should also reflect the local skills needs and priority sectors of East Sussex, with a curriculum plan and progression pathways which are influenced by local employers.

The local authority supports the progression of young people through:

- a focus on securing good quality careers advice through local [East Sussex Careers Hub](#) activities
- embedding the Enterprise Advisors Network
- the provision of [Careers East Sussex](#)
- an e-prospectus and online application platform
- a Work Experience Service for schools and
- the commissioning of the Youth Employability Service to provide specific support for vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of not being so.

National framework

For more information about the national framework within which local authorities must work in relation to education provision and school planning, please refer to the [Department for Education website](#).

The local perspective

Population

The overall population in East Sussex has grown steadily, rising from 492,000 in 2001 to 556,000 in 2023 (Source: 2001 Census and ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2023).

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

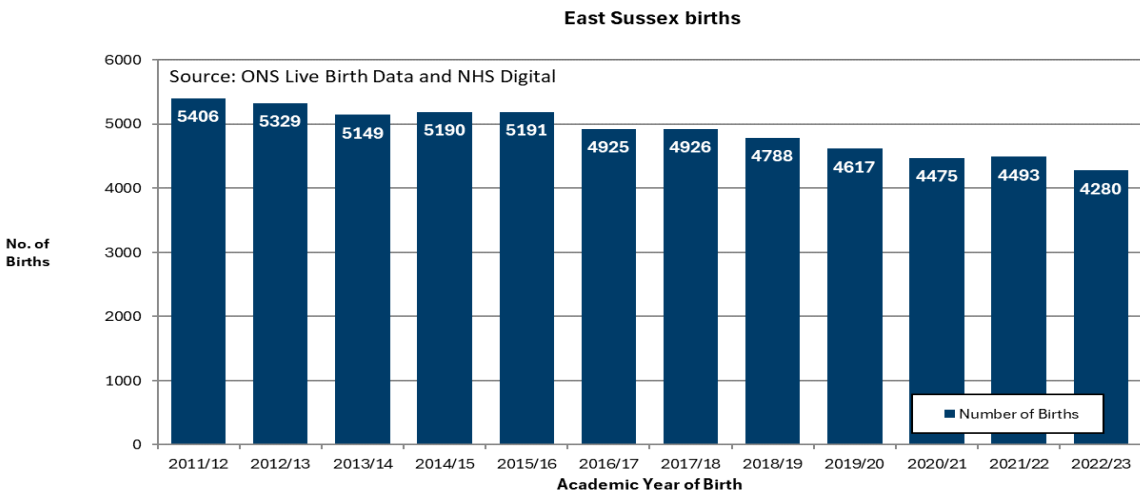
The picture for East Sussex as a whole is of an ageing county. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is forecast to rise from 26% in 2021 to 29% in 2028 and 33% by 2037 (Source: 2021 Census and ESCC Policy Based Population Projections January 2024).

Births in East Sussex peaked at 5,500 in the academic year 2010/11. Since then, countywide births have fallen to below 4,300 in 2022/23. Based on historic patterns of 11-13 year cycles of peaks and troughs, it is anticipated that birth numbers will begin to recover soon, but it is not clear whether 2022/23 marks the lowest point in the cycle.

East Sussex births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	5406
2012/13	5329
2013/14	5149
2014/15	5190
2015/16	5191
2016/17	4925
2017/18	4926
2018/19	4788
2019/20	4617
2020/21	4475
2021/22	4493
2022/23	4280

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Pupil numbers

Primary

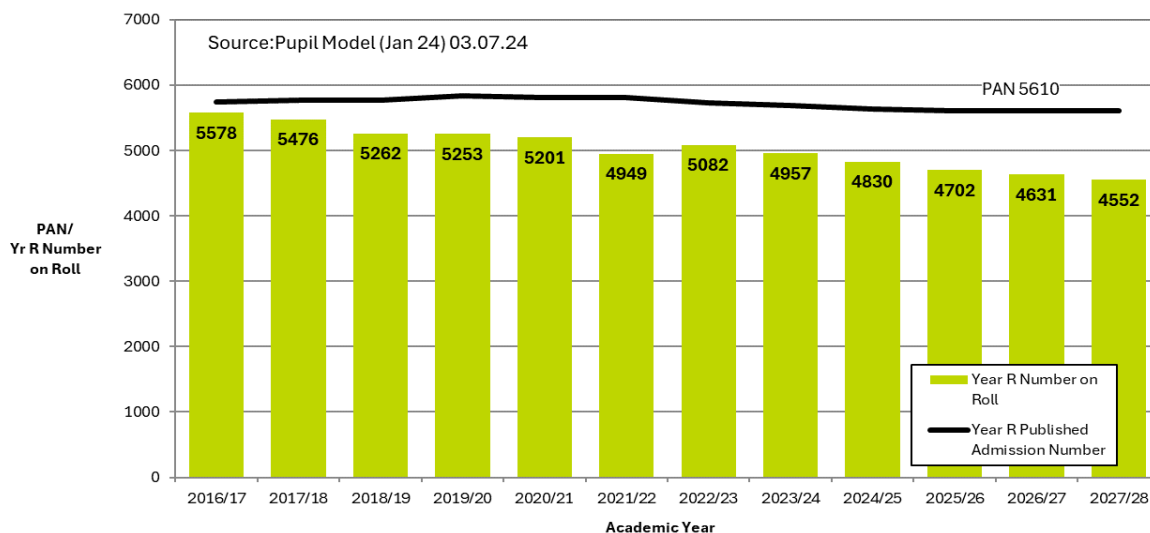
The fall in countywide births is reflected in falling primary reception (Year R) intake numbers, at least until 2027/28. The local authority's latest pupil forecasts are showing numbers recovering beyond this point. However, intake forecasts beyond 2027/28 are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data. Looking at previous cycles of births and Year R intakes, it is very possible that we may not see a recovery in Year R numbers until near the end of the decade and high Year R numbers across the county generally until the 2030s.

East Sussex primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	5748	5578
2017/18	5775	5476
2018/19	5766	5262
2019/20	5840	5253
2020/21	5813	5201
2021/22	5813	4949
2022/23	5725	5082
2023/24	5695	4957
2024/25	5635	4830
2025/26	5610	4702
2026/27	5610	4631
2027/28	5610	4552

Source: Pupil Model (January 2024) 03.07.24

East Sussex primary Year R numbers



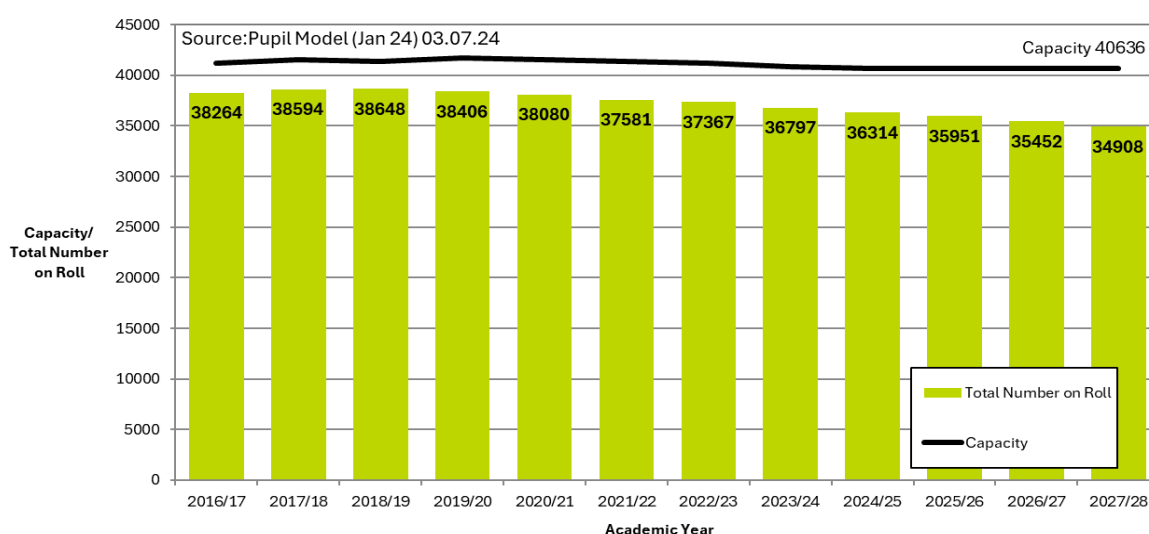
Total numbers on roll in primary schools peaked in 2018/19 and are now in decline, currently leaving around 10% surplus places overall, although this margin varies from area to area. By 2028/29, surplus places are forecast to rise to 15%.

East Sussex total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	41177	38264
2017/18	41516	38594
2018/19	41363	38648
2019/20	41741	38406
2020/21	41537	38080
2021/22	41327	37581
2022/23	41191	37367
2023/24	41191	36797
2024/25	40636	36314
2025/26	40636	35951
2026/27	40636	35452
2027/28	40636	34908

Source: Pupil Model (January 2024) 03.07.24

East Sussex total primary numbers



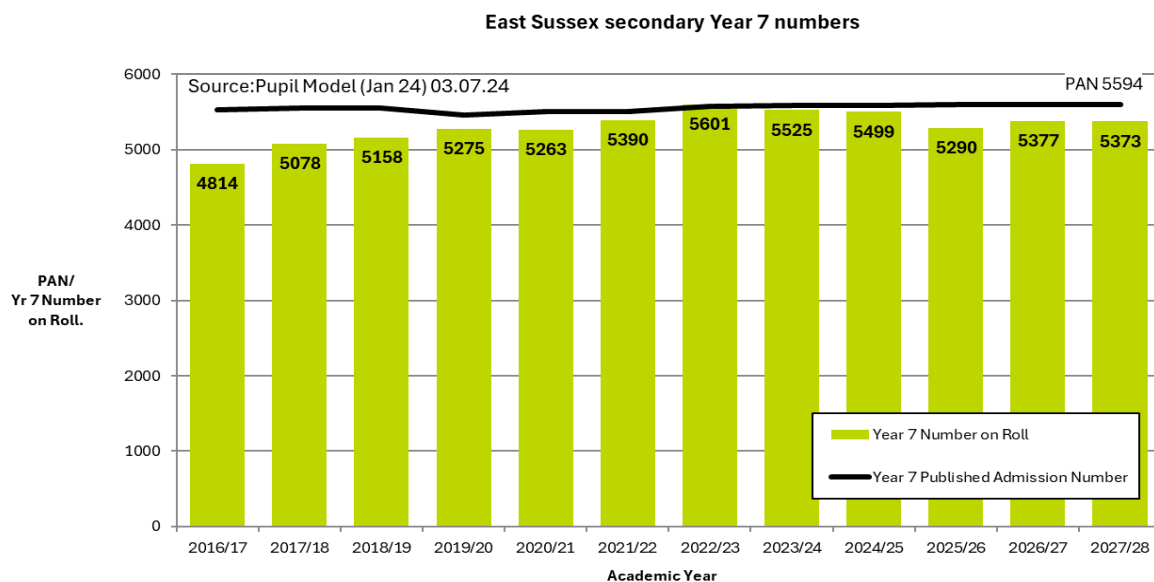
Secondary

Earlier high numbers in primary schools have been reflected in rising secondary Year 7 school intakes. Year 7 numbers peaked in 2022/23, with total numbers on roll in secondary schools predicted to peak around 2026/27.

East Sussex secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	5533	4814
2017/18	5548	5078
2018/19	5556	5158
2019/20	5457	5275
2020/21	5507	5263
2021/22	5507	5390
2022/23	5571	5601
2023/24	5581	5525
2024/25	5588	5499
2025/26	5594	5290
2026/27	5594	5377
2027/28	5594	5373

Source: Pupil Model (January 2024) 03.07.24

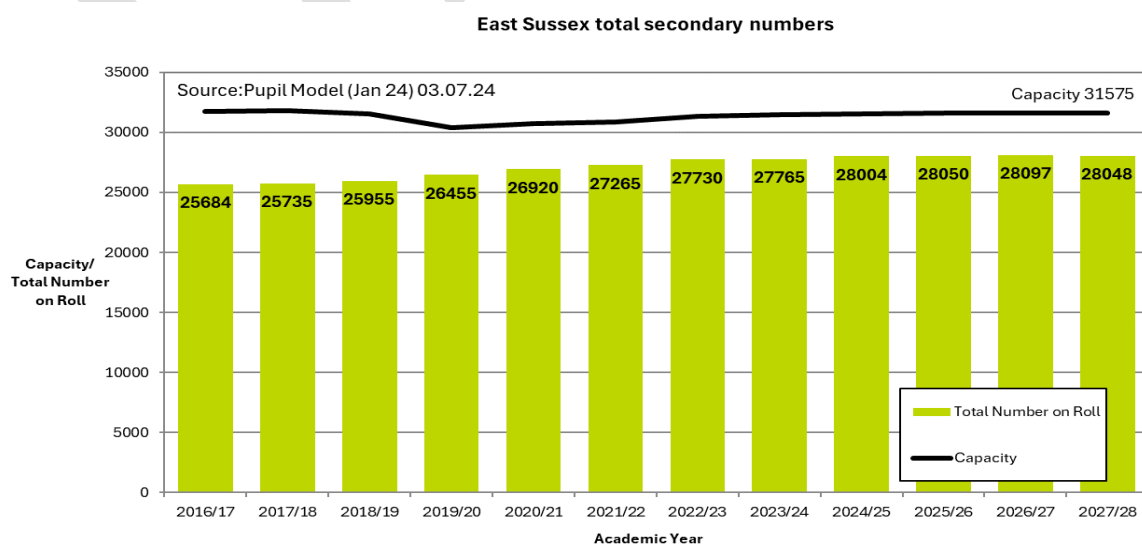


Surplus places in secondary schools, currently at 12% countywide, are predicted to remain relatively steady over the period of the plan.

East Sussex total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	31746	25684
2017/18	31815	25735
2018/19	31535	25955
2019/20	30410	26455
2020/21	30730	26920
2021/22	30860	27265
2022/23	31340	27730
2023/24	31440	27765
2024/25	31545	28004
2025/26	31575	28050
2026/27	31575	28097
2027/28	31575	28048

Source: Pupil Model (January 2024) 03.07.24



Special Educational Needs

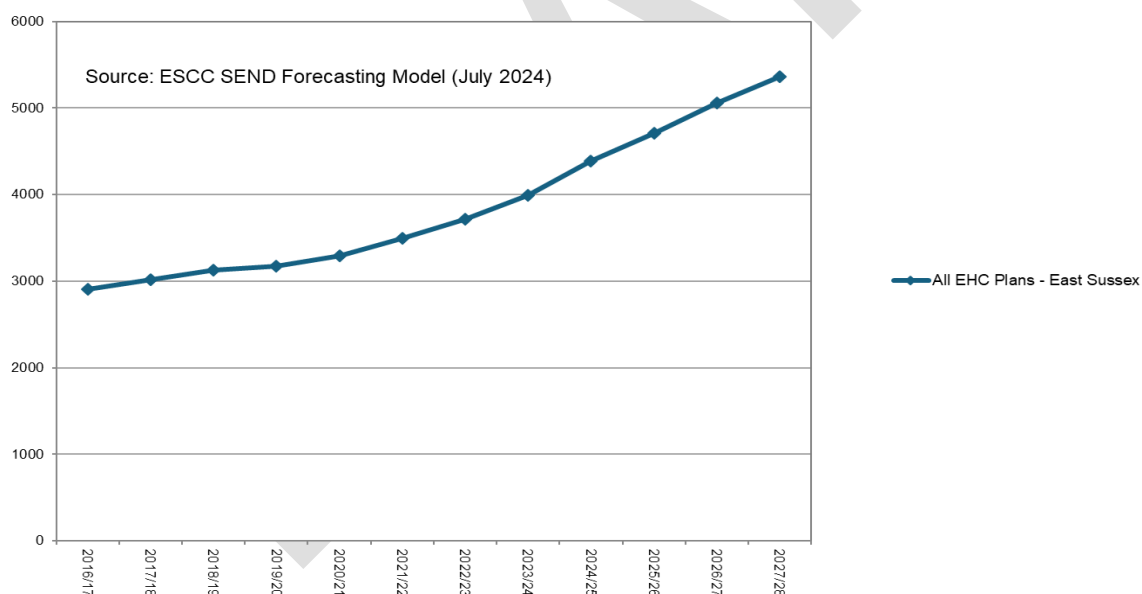
In 2023/24, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 3,989. There were also 482 young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who need continued support to transition to adulthood.

Over the next four years, the local authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow, by around 34%, to approximately 5,400.

School age children with an Education, Health and Care Plan from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	EHCPs
2016/17	2909
2017/18	3022
2018/19	3126
2019/20	3170
2020/21	3297
2021/22	3494
2022/23	3713
2023/24	3989
2024/25	4385
2025/26	4713
2026/27	5059
2027/28	5360

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2024)



Cross-border movement

At primary school level, across all year groups, around 400 children from the neighbouring authorities of:

- Kent
- West Sussex
- Brighton and Hove

attend schools in East Sussex. Approximately 900 children from East Sussex attend schools in these same authorities.

At secondary school level, across all year groups, approximately 800 children from these neighbouring authorities attend schools in East Sussex. Around 1,400 children from East Sussex attend schools in these same authorities. Kent Grammar schools represent a particular 'pull factor' for East Sussex children.

DRAFT

Schools in East Sussex

On 1 September 2024 there were 174 state funded mainstream schools and 15 special schools and alternative provisions in East Sussex. These range from local authority-maintained schools to academies and free schools. The following table provides a breakdown of the different types of school in East Sussex.

School Type	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Academy (inc free school)	Totals
Infant (4-7)	3				4	7
Junior (7-11)	1				5	6
Primary (4-11)	32	38	18	2	43	133
All-through (4-16/18)					3	3
Secondary (11-16/18)	6		1	1	15	23
Special	1				12	13
Alternative provision					2	2
Totals	43	38	19	3	84	187

Note:

Some primary and all-through schools include nursery provision and therefore have age ranges starting at 2 or 3.

Some all-through and secondary schools include sixth form provision and therefore have age ranges to 18.

- There are 103 local authority-maintained schools in East Sussex and 84 academies and free schools. Of the maintained schools, 43 are community schools, 57 are church schools and three are foundation schools.
- Of the 84 academies, 81 are part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) while three are single academy trusts (SATs).
- Of the 57 local authority-maintained church schools, 38 are voluntary controlled and 19 are voluntary aided. Of the voluntary aided schools, 13 are Church of England and eight are Catholic. A number of academies are also church schools.
- There are 13 formal school federations in East Sussex made up of 33 primary schools.
- According to the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2023, 60 of the 133 primary schools in the county (45%) are classified as rural.
- The 13 linked infant and junior schools are all located in urban areas, mainly Eastbourne.
- There are specialist facilities at 19 mainstream schools in East Sussex (nine primary and ten secondary), catering for primary needs such as autism, speech language and communication needs, moderate learning disability and physical disability.

For more information on where schools are located in the county please refer to [about schools in East Sussex](#) on the local authority website.

School organisation in East Sussex

Introduction

This chapter sets out the local authority's approach to school organisation, to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand.

The guiding principles underlying our approach are:

- To ensure that schools are of the right size and in the right location to meet local demand for places.
- To ensure that school provision is sustainable and is well placed to deliver a high-quality education that meets the needs of their local communities and makes best use of public funding.
- To support the amalgamation of linked infant and junior schools that delivers the benefit of continuous provision from early years to the end of Key Stage 2.
- To ensure any change to school organisation impacts positively on school performance and on the life chances of children and young people.
- To ensure any review of school organisation enables stakeholders to engage fully and effectively in the process.

School planning areas

For school planning purposes, East Sussex is split into:

- 18 primary school planning areas which closely reflect school admissions areas. For the purposes of the plan, rural primary schools, which tend to be single school admission areas, have been grouped together under the headings of 'Rural Lewes', 'Rural Rother' and 'Rural Wealden' or have been linked with a nearby town.
- 16 secondary school planning areas which closely reflect school admissions areas. Many secondary school admissions areas relate to a single school. In Eastbourne, where the single school boundaries are complex and overlapping, six secondary schools (including two all-through schools) have been grouped together for school planning purposes. Three secondary schools make up the Hastings planning area. There are two secondary schools in the Havens planning area. The Bexhill planning area contains two schools, one of which (a Catholic school) has a much wider catchment area than the town.

The local authority works closely with local planning authorities in East Sussex on the production of their Local Plan documents. This planning process identifies the requirement for additional school places arising from new housing development. It is anticipated that, through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements, new housing developments will contribute to the cost of providing additional school places to serve the development and, where necessary, provide land on which to build new schools.

Pupil forecasting

In producing forecasts of future demand for primary and secondary places, we consider factors such as:

- current numbers on roll in each academic year group

- births
- trend data (e.g., on how year group numbers change as cohorts move through schools)
- parental preference
- school admissions policies
- housing growth
- existing and planned capacity
- patterns of inward and outward migration.

The forecasts within this document provide a comprehensive account of predicted future trends in numbers and the areas of the county where pressures on places are most likely to occur. However, pupil forecasting is complex and, as a result, is not an exact science. For example, it is not always possible to predict changes in local demand for school places owing to swings in parental preference, changing migration patterns or revisions to planned local housing targets. Pupil forecasts are updated annually, and exceptions identified to manage the risk of under/over-supply of school places.

Taking account of the most recent three years of pupil forecasts, East Sussex County Council's countywide forecasts have achieved the following average levels of accuracy:

- Primary number on roll one year ahead forecast: 0.4%
- Primary number on roll three year ahead forecast: 1.2%
- Secondary number on roll one year ahead forecast: 1.1%
- Secondary number on roll three year ahead forecast: 2.4%

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

The local authority's SEND forecasting model predicts future numbers of children with EHCPs and numbers in maintained and independent non-maintained special schools. The forecasts take account of the following factors:

- demographic trends
- the prevalence of different types of SEND (as defined by primary need) in the population
- recent trends in prevalence rates (e.g., EHCPs per 10,000 population in a given age bracket)
- professional judgement from SEND practitioners as to whether these trends are likely to continue in the future.

Academies

Under the Academies Act 2010 it is possible for all maintained schools to become academies. On 1 September 2024, there were 84 academies in East Sussex (45% of all schools). All new schools that have opened in East Sussex since 2010 have been established as academies in line with government policy.

Of the 84 academies in East Sussex:

- four are infant schools (57% of the total number of infant schools in East Sussex)
- one is a junior school (17% of the total number of junior schools in East Sussex)
- 52 are primary schools (35% of the total number of primary schools in East Sussex)
- three are all-through schools (100% of the total number of all through schools in East Sussex)
- 15 are secondary schools (65% of the total number of secondary schools in East Sussex)
- 14 are special schools and alternative provision (93% of the total number of special schools and alternative provision in East Sussex).

81 academies (96%) are part of a multi academy trust (MAT), with three belonging to a single academy trust (SAT).

At the May 2024 school census, 37,501 (57%) of pupils in East Sussex were on roll in an academy:

- 16,366 primary school pupils (46%)
- 4,103 all-through school pupils (100%)
- 15,611 secondary school pupils (63%)
- 1,304 special school (excluding alternative provision) pupils (90%).

The local authority has a duty to facilitate academy conversions, as set out in the Academies Act 2010, 5b: 'Where an Academy order under section 4(A1) or (1)(b) has effect in respect of a school, the governing body of the school and the local authority must take all reasonable steps to facilitate the conversion of the school into an Academy.'

Federations

A federation is a formal structure between two or more local authority-maintained schools. A federation has one governing board that is accountable for all schools in the federation. The schools retain their separate legal status. They have their own budget allocations, individual admissions, performance tables and Ofsted inspections. Federation brings the opportunity to secure strong strategic leadership across schools.

On 1 September 2024 there were 13 formal school federations in East Sussex made up of 33 primary schools. At the May 2024 school census, 4,275 (78%) of pupils in East Sussex maintained schools were on roll in a school that is in a federation.

Creating new places

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

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

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

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

Capital funding

The local authority receives Basic Need capital funding from the government to support the creation of primary and secondary school places. This funding is provided on a formulaic basis using information provided by the local authority to the Department for Education in the annual School Capacity return. The local authority also receives High Needs Provision capital funding to support the delivery of new provision for children and young people with SEND.

The capital funding that the local authority receives from the government is insufficient to cover the entire capital costs of new build and expansion projects and the local authority must supplement the funding provided from other sources, including its own capital programme.

In areas where pressure on school places comes from new housing developments, the local authority works closely with local planning authorities to secure financial contributions towards the cost of providing additional school places through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The CIL is a charge which can be levied by local planning authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

In some instances, the local authority can also secure development contributions through the negotiation of Section 106 agreements. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between local authorities and developers; these are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations. In recent years, the local

authority has been successful in securing funding from Section 106 agreements and the CIL towards the provision of school places.

Surplus places

Schools operate most efficiently and effectively when full or nearly full. To this end the local authority seeks to keep the number of surplus places (the number of places in schools that are unfilled) to a minimum. However, it is generally accepted that not all unfilled places in a school are surplus places, but that a small margin of capacity is often allowed to facilitate parental preference, to take account of the fact that schools with available places may not always be in the part of a school planning area where the demand is, and to allow for a degree of error in the forecasts.

A school is generally considered to be full when it has less than 5% of its places unfilled. This is in line with the National Audit Office report on Capital Funding for new school places published in 2013, where it states:

“It is considered that on average 5 per cent was the bare minimum needed for authorities to meet their statutory duty with operational flexibility, while enabling parents to have some choice of schools”.

This figure is deemed to give the appropriate amount of flexibility in an area and is set against the need to ensure the efficient use of resources. In practice, the number of surplus places planned for in an area will also take account of local circumstances.

At the May 2024 school census, 27 primary schools in East Sussex had 25% or more surplus places. This reflects the falling primary reception (Year R) intake numbers being seen across the county. Conversely, with secondary Year 7 intake numbers having recently peaked, only three secondary schools had 25% or more surplus places.

Reviews of provision

Low pupil numbers can lead to a school facing financial challenges. The impact of these financial challenges is often more acute in small rural schools due to the characteristics of rural communities; low birth rates and in-area demand for places which can vary noticeably from one year to another. Fluctuating pupil numbers are difficult to manage and can lead to irregular class sizes and inefficient staff to pupil ratios. Smaller schools tend to have a higher proportion of their budget allocated to fixed costs than larger schools and, as such, have less flexibility to respond to cost pressures, unexpected events, and deficit recovery.

In undertaking its statutory duty, the local authority has a responsibility to consider the organisation of school places to create a sustainable network of schools across the county. In certain circumstances, rationalisation of provision can benefit schools by reducing surplus places in an area so that the remaining schools can operate more efficiently with more certainty over their pupil numbers.

To support this, the local authority regularly monitors pupil numbers in each of its school planning areas to ensure the current arrangement for the organisation of schools is appropriate.

In addition to the ongoing monitoring process, there may be times when the local authority wishes to conduct a more detailed review of a specific school(s) and/or a specific geographical area. This review could be conducted where there is significant change in circumstances that could impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of a school(s). Examples of significant change in circumstances might include:

- a school receives an inadequate grade for one or more of Ofsted's key judgements (quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; leadership and management) and for any relevant provision judgement (early years and/or sixth form provision)
- a school is judged to require special measures or to have serious weaknesses
- a school becomes eligible for intervention by the local authority
- a school faces significant financial challenges and is unable to create a viable recovery plan.

Any reviews of education provision the local authority undertakes and any recommendations for school re-organisation will, in part, be based on information contained in this document and in the local authority's Small Schools Policy where appropriate. Many schools in East Sussex are church schools, being voluntary controlled or voluntary aided, and therefore, the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton would be key partners in any review alongside a school's governing board.

Academy trusts may wish to consider the information in this document when considering the organisation of school places within their trust. If any trust is contemplating a change to their current organisation (expansion or reduction in provision) we would encourage them to contact the local authority at the outset to discuss their proposals. This will ensure that any plans align with the local authority's wider statutory duty around school places.

The following sections describe the current situation in each school planning area. They set out how we expect pupil numbers to change during the plan period and what action the local authority is planning to take to address any under or over provision of places, or any organisational change. The information is subject to revision and review as new data (for example, on live births) becomes available or local planning authorities' housing targets and trajectories are amended. We endeavour to communicate clearly with schools and local communities about current and predicted place planning pressures in their area. In general, we will only name a particular school(s) in the plan when there is certainty that a proposal will be implemented or where this is already underway.

The capacity information provided in the charts in each school planning area is based on either the local authority's net capacity assessment of each maintained school or, for academies, the capacity figure stated in each academy's funding agreement. Further information about an individual school's capacity and pupil numbers can be found in Appendix 1.

Eastbourne

Schools

There are 19 primary schools in the area, six of which are infant schools and five are junior schools. There are two all-through schools (primary and secondary) and four secondary schools. Five schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary schools		
Bourne Primary School	3-11	Community
Heron Park Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
Langney Primary Academy	2-11	Academy
Motcombe Infants' School	4-7	Community
Oakwood Primary Academy	3-11	Academy
Ocklynge Junior School	7-11	Academy
Parkland Infant School	4-7	Academy
Parkland Junior School	7-11	Academy
Pashley Down Infant School	4-7	Community
Roselands Infants' School	4-7	Academy
Shinewater Primary School	3-11	Academy
St Andrew's Church of England Infants School	4-7	Academy
St John's Meads Church of England Primary School	4-11	Academy
St Thomas A Becket Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Stafford Junior School	7-11	Academy
The Haven Church of England Methodist Primary School	4-11	Academy
Tollgate Community Junior School	7-11	Academy
West Rise Community Infant School	4-7	Community
West Rise Junior School	7-11	Community
All-through schools		
Gildredge House	4-16	Academy
The Cavendish School	2-16	Academy
Secondary schools		
Ratton School	11-16	Academy
St Catherine's College	11-16	Academy
The Eastbourne Academy	11-16	Academy
The Turing School	11-16	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

Births

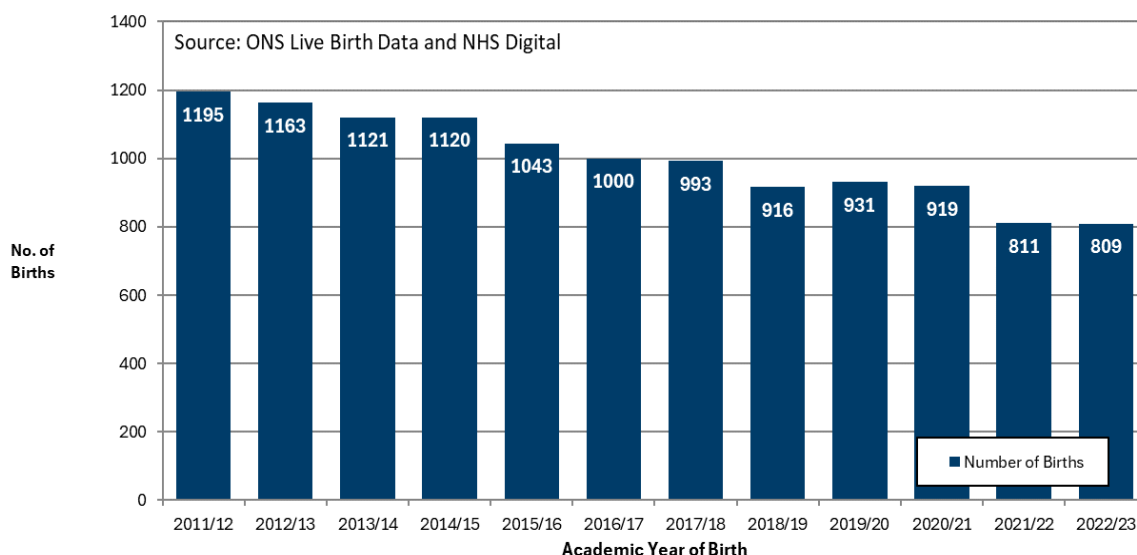
Births in Eastbourne have fallen by 32% since their peak of 1,195 in 2011/12, to 809 in 2022/23.

Eastbourne births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	1195
2012/13	1163
2013/14	1121
2014/15	1120
2015/16	1043
2016/17	1000
2017/18	993
2018/19	916
2019/20	931
2020/21	919
2021/22	811
2022/23	809

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Eastbourne births



Housing plans

Eastbourne Borough Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 900 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2026/27. Eastbourne Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in Eastbourne may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

In line with the falling births in Eastbourne, the local authority anticipates that reception (Year R) intakes in the area will generally fall away until the towards the end of the decade.

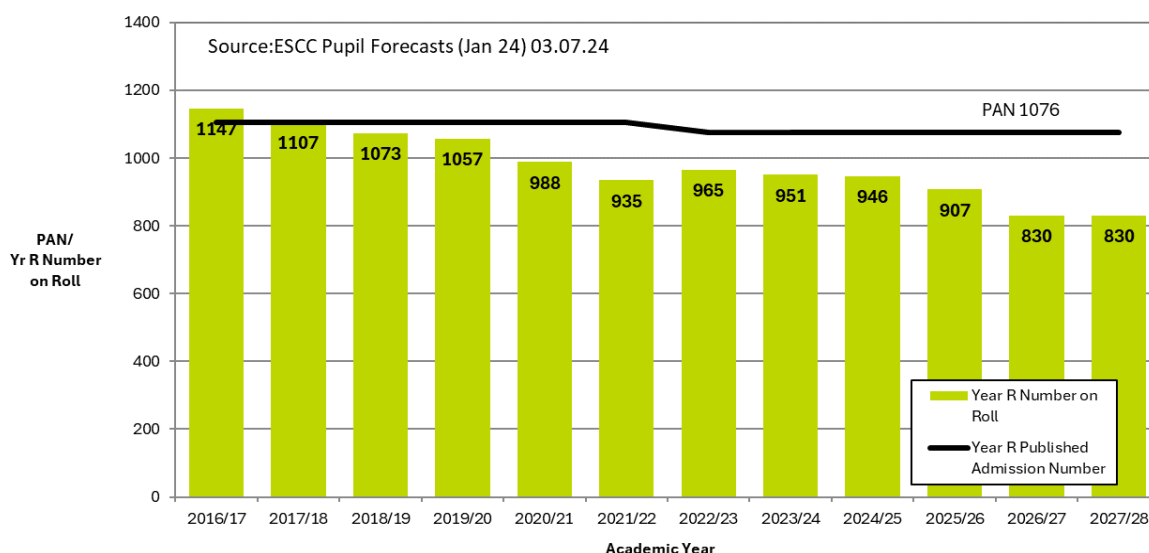
Many Eastbourne children attend schools in the surrounding area including Polegate Primary School and Willingdon Primary School, Stone Cross School, Hankham Primary School and Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School. The majority of these schools are full or close to full. High levels of recent and planned new housing will put additional pressure on places at these schools and may result in some demand from Eastbourne children being redirected by the school admissions system back into the area.

Eastbourne primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	1106	1147
2017/18	1106	1107
2018/19	1106	1073
2019/20	1106	1057
2020/21	1106	988
2021/22	1106	935
2022/23	1076	965
2023/24	1076	951
2024/25	1076	946
2025/26	1076	907
2026/27	1076	830
2027/28	1076	830

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Eastbourne primary Year R numbers



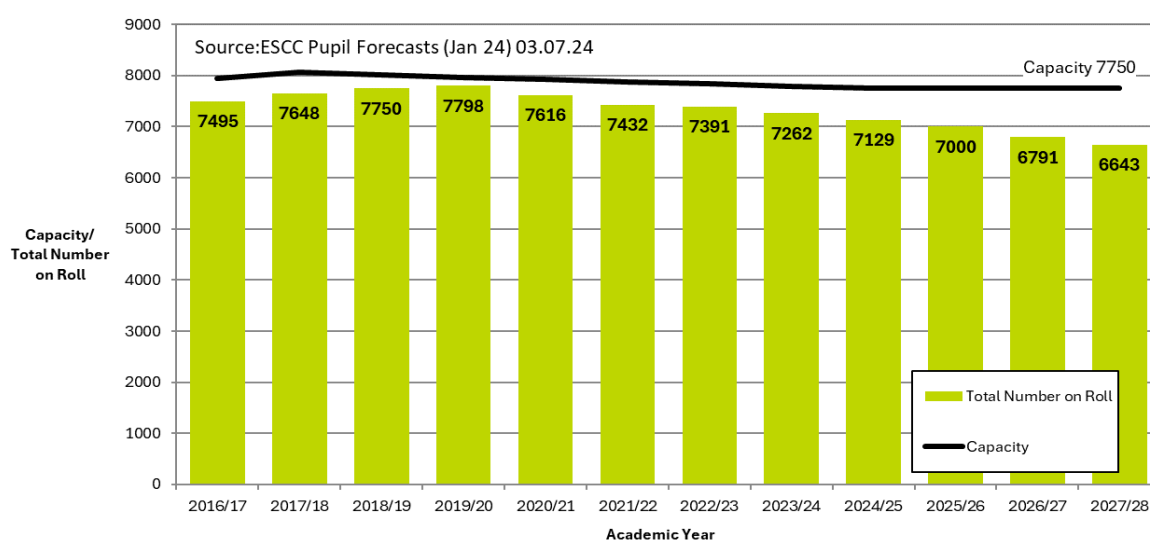
Falling intakes will have a knock-on effect on total primary numbers on roll in the area. Surplus places, which stood at 7% in 2023/24, are predicted to rise rapidly to around 14% by 2028/29. Currently there are three schools in Eastbourne with surplus places of 25% or more.

Eastbourne total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	7952	7495
2017/18	8072	7648
2018/19	8012	7750
2019/20	7960	7798
2020/21	7930	7616
2021/22	7870	7432
2022/23	7840	7391
2023/24	7780	7262
2024/25	7750	7129
2025/26	7750	7000
2026/27	7750	6791
2027/28	7750	6643

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Eastbourne total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

Two of the three schools with significant surplus places are academies. A decision on managing surplus capacity at either school rests with the relevant academy trust.

The local authority reduced the PAN at Motcombe Infants School from 120 to 90 with effect from the 2022/23 academic year to help manage surplus places in the school. Accommodation has not been removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

Secondary places

Based on the numbers coming through primary schools, intakes into Year 7 are forecast to remain high until 2026/27. From 2027/28, Year 7 numbers in Eastbourne are likely to fall away, leaving increasing numbers of spare places.

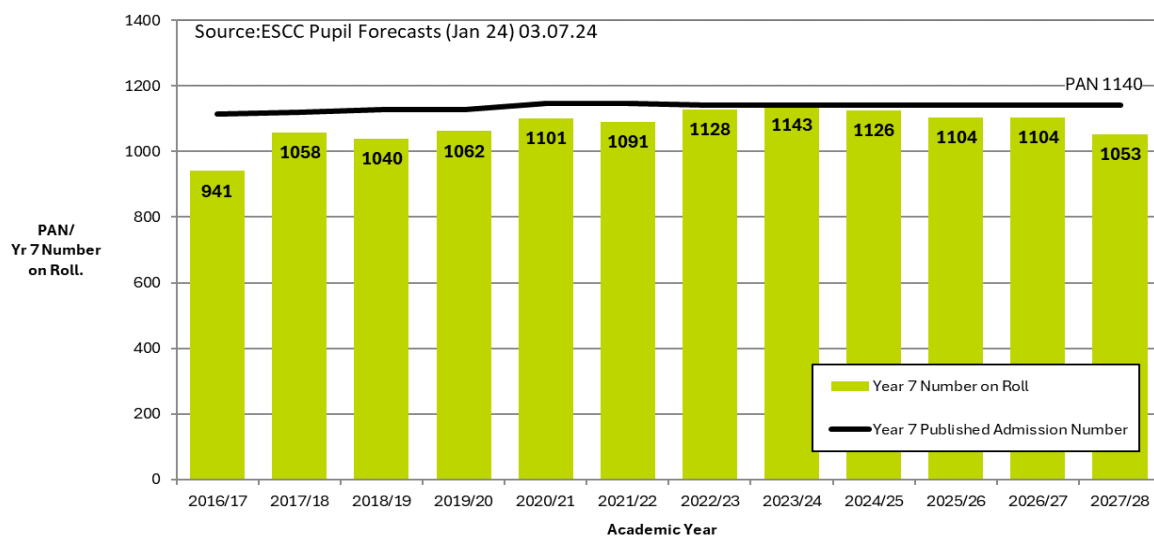
The Eastbourne area sees outflows of Catholic children to St Richard's Catholic College in Bexhill and some inflows from Bexhill and Hailsham. There are also significant inflows from and outflows to Willingdon Community School.

Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	1115	941
2017/18	1120	1058
2018/19	1128	1040
2019/20	1128	1062
2020/21	1148	1101
2021/22	1148	1091
2022/23	1140	1128
2023/24	1140	1143
2024/25	1140	1126
2025/26	1140	1104
2026/27	1140	1104
2027/28	1140	1053

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers



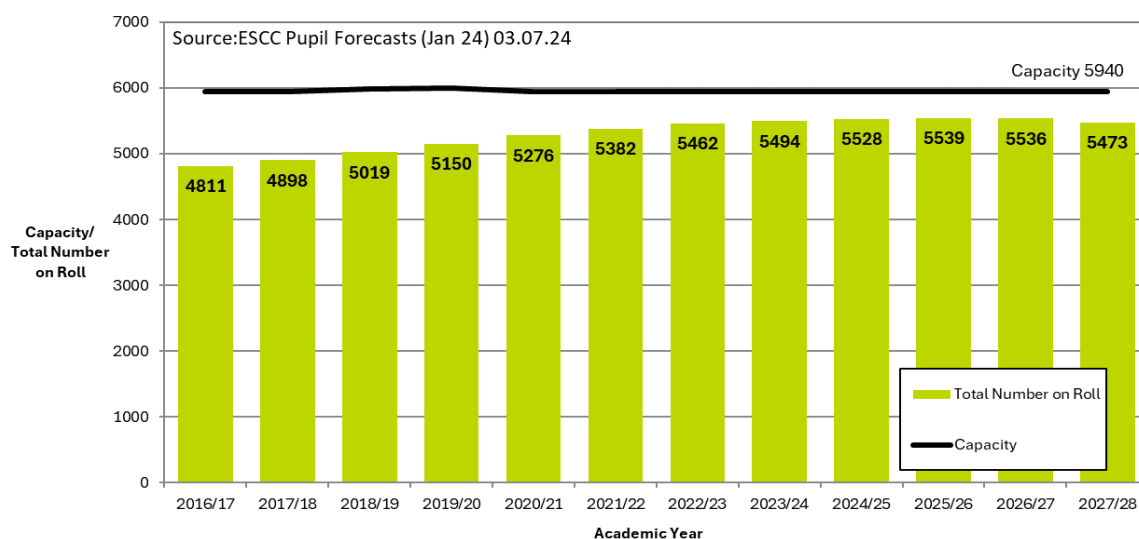
In line with larger Year 7 intakes, total secondary numbers in the Eastbourne schools have been rising and are expected to peak in 2025/26.

Eastbourne total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	5940	4811
2017/18	5940	4898
2018/19	5980	5019
2019/20	6000	5150
2020/21	5940	5276
2021/22	5940	5382
2022/23	5940	5462
2023/24	5940	5494
2024/25	5940	5528
2025/26	5940	5539
2026/27	5940	5536
2027/28	5940	5473

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Eastbourne total secondary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

Hastings

Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type
Primary		
All Saints CE Junior Academy	7-11	Academy
ARK Blacklands Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
ARK Castledown Primary School	2-11	Academy
ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy	2-11	Academy
Churchwood Primary Academy	2-11	Academy
Dudley Infant Academy	4-7	Academy
Hollington Primary Academy	2-11	Academy
Ore Village Primary Academy	3-11	Academy
Robsack Wood Primary Academy	3-11	Academy
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Sandown Primary School and Nursery	2-11	Community
Silverdale Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
St Leonard's Church of England Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Paul's Church of England Academy	2-11	Academy
The Baird Primary Academy	3-11	Academy
West St Leonards Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
Secondary		
ARK Alexandra Academy	11-18	Academy
The Hastings Academy	11-16	Academy
The St Leonard's Academy	11-16	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

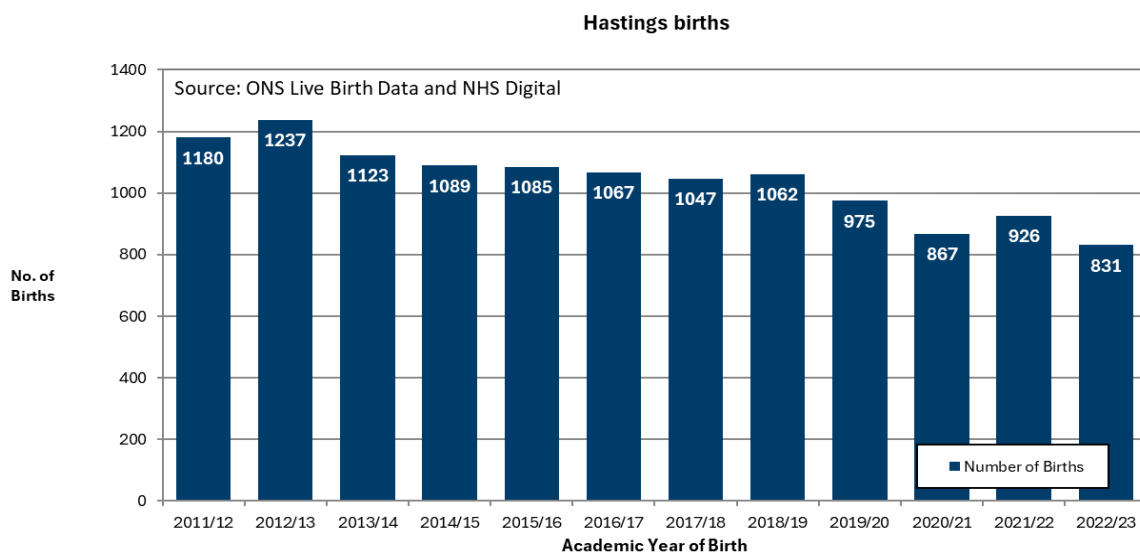
Births

Births in Hastings have fallen by 33% since their peak of 1,238 in 2010/11, to 831 in 2022/23.

Hastings births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	1180
2012/13	1237
2013/14	1123
2014/15	1089
2015/16	1085
2016/17	1067
2017/18	1047
2018/19	1062
2019/20	975
2020/21	867
2021/22	926
2022/23	831

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Hastings Borough Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. Hastings Borough Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 2,500 new dwellings being built in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

Reception (Year R) intake numbers in Hastings are forecast to remain well below the current Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area until late in the decade.

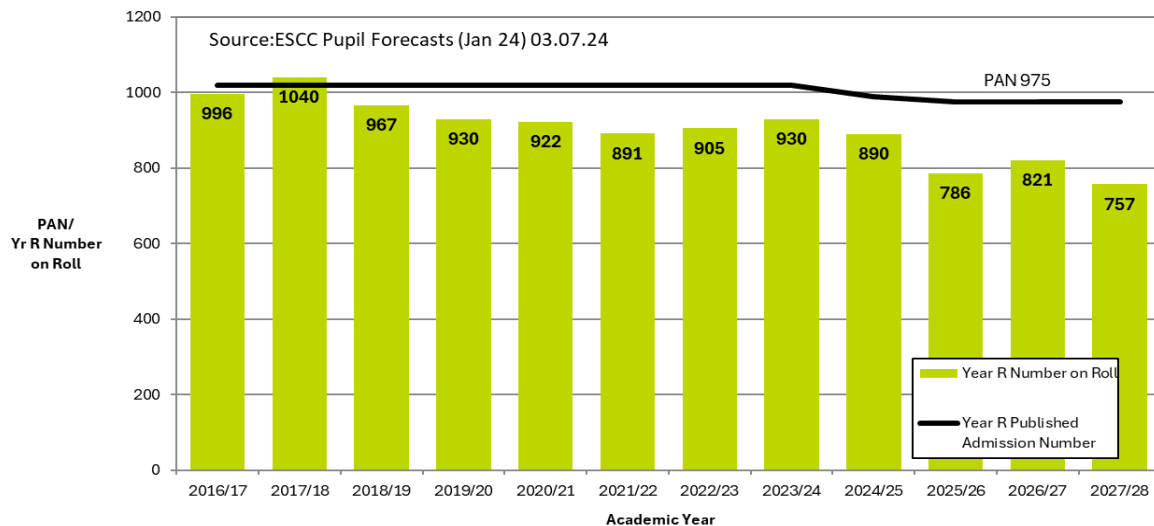
Many Hastings children attend surrounding primary schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School, Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling Bradshaw CE Primary School, Icklesham CE Primary School, Netherfield CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School, and Westfield School. Most of these have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

Hastings Primary Year R Numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	1020	996
2017/18	1020	1040
2018/19	1020	967
2019/20	1020	930
2020/21	1020	922
2021/22	1020	891
2022/23	1020	905
2023/24	1020	930
2024/25	990	890
2025/26	975	786
2026/27	975	821
2027/28	975	757

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Hastings primary Year R numbers

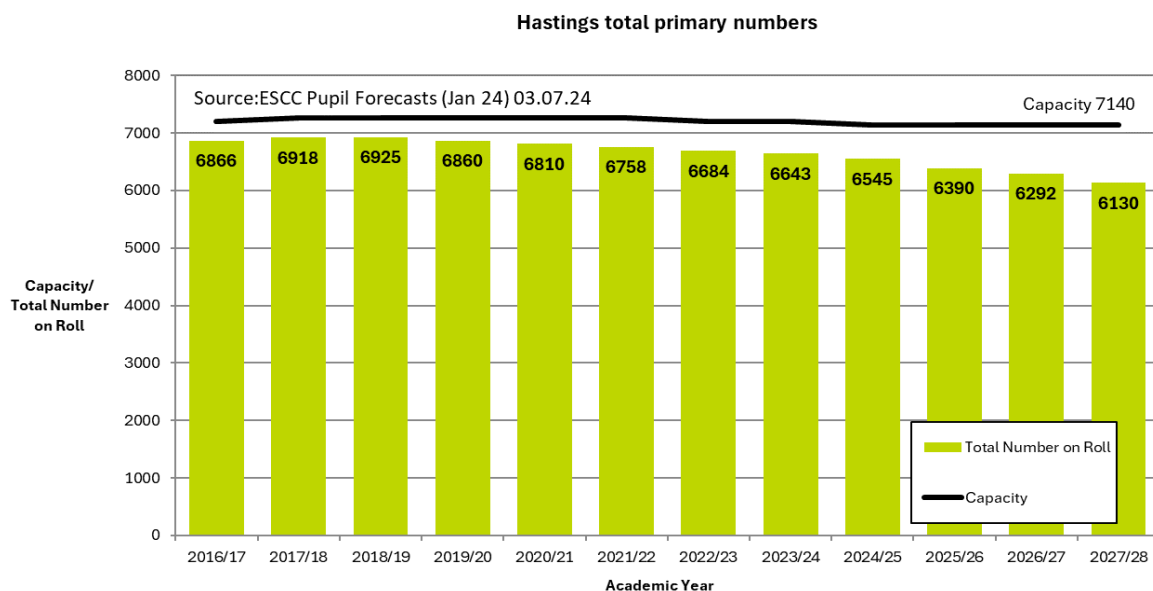


Lower intakes are predicted to result in higher numbers of surplus places in the town, which are forecast to rise from their level of 8% in 2023/24 to 14% by 2027/28.

Hastings total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	7200	6866
2017/18	7260	6918
2018/19	7260	6925
2019/20	7260	6860
2020/21	7260	6810
2021/22	7260	6758
2022/23	7200	6684
2023/24	7200	6643
2024/25	7140	6545
2025/26	7140	6390
2026/27	7140	6292
2027/28	7140	6130

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

Currently, there are three schools in the town with 25% or more surplus places, all of which are academies. A decision on managing surplus capacity at any of these schools rests with the respective academy trusts.

Secondary places

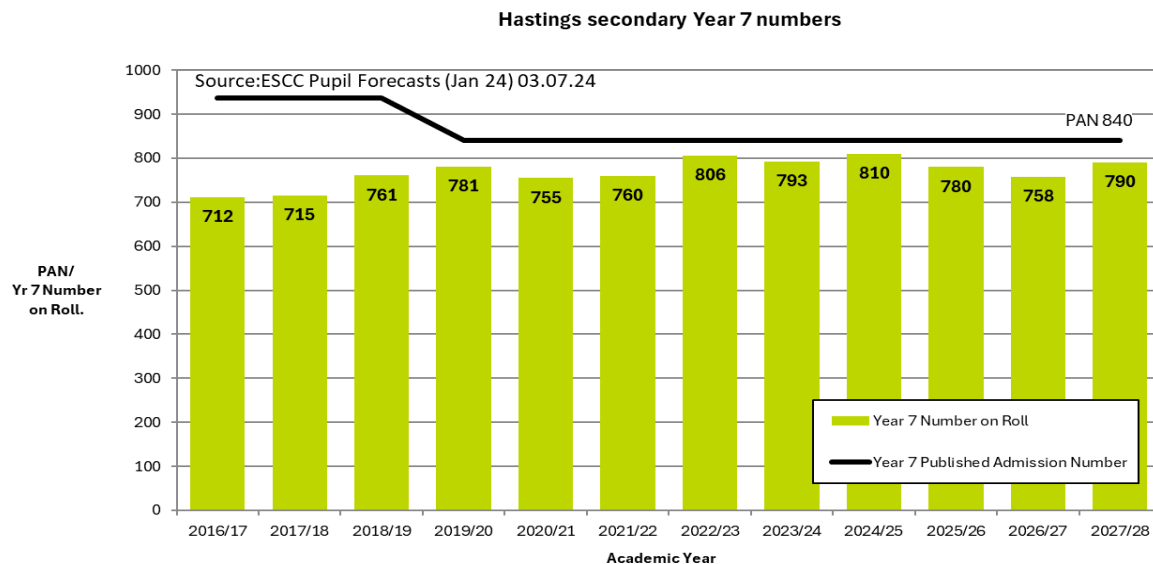
Linked to higher numbers coming through primary schools, current demand for Year 7 places is high. Year 7 numbers are forecast to be over 800 in 2024/25, with lower intakes forecast for subsequent years.

Significant numbers of Hastings children seek places in surrounding schools such as Bexhill High Academy, St Richard's Catholic College, Claverham Community College, Rye College, and Robertsbridge Community College.

Hastings secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	936	712
2017/18	936	715
2018/19	936	761
2019/20	840	781
2020/21	840	755
2021/22	840	760
2022/23	840	806
2023/24	840	793
2024/25	840	810
2025/26	840	780
2026/27	840	758
2027/28	840	790

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

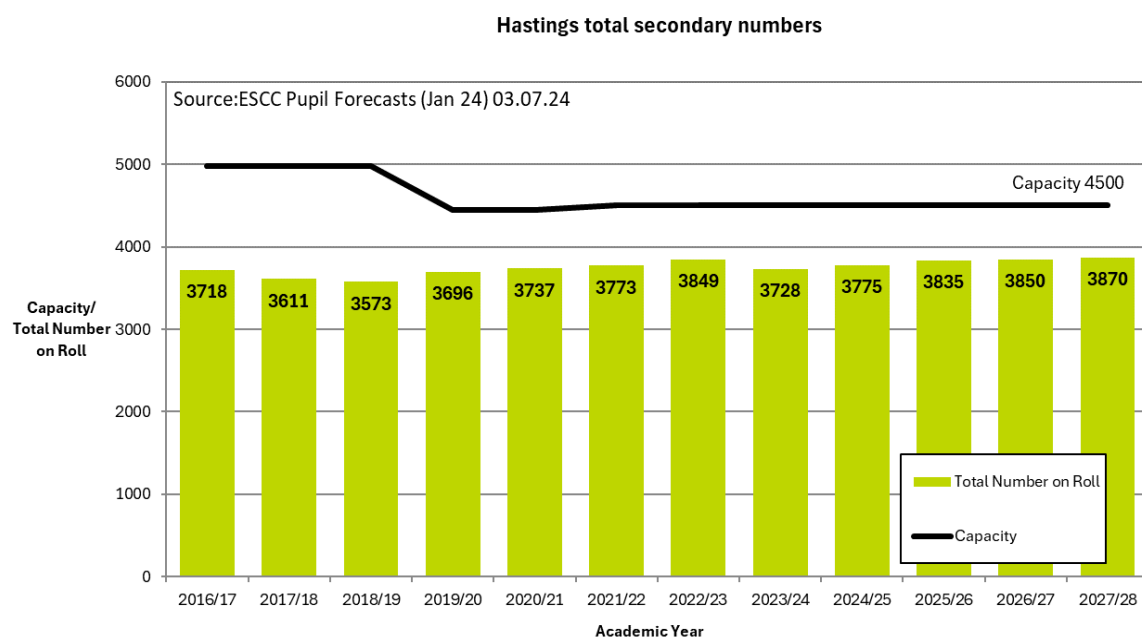


Overall pupil numbers are expected to rise slightly during the plan period but will continue to remain below the capacity in the area.

Hastings total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	4980	3718
2017/18	4980	3611
2018/19	4980	3573
2019/20	4450	3696
2020/21	4450	3737
2021/22	4450	3773
2022/23	4500	3849
2023/24	4500	3728
2024/25	4500	3775
2025/26	4500	3835
2026/27	4500	3850
2027/28	4500	3870

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

One school in the area currently has 25% or more surplus places, although it is likely that this will fall below 25% within the plan period.

Lewes and surrounding area

Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
South Malling CE Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Controlled
Southover CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Wallands Community Primary and Nursery School	3-11	Community
Western Road Community Primary School	4-11	Foundation
Secondary		
Priory School	11-16	Foundation

* School type correct on 1 September 2024

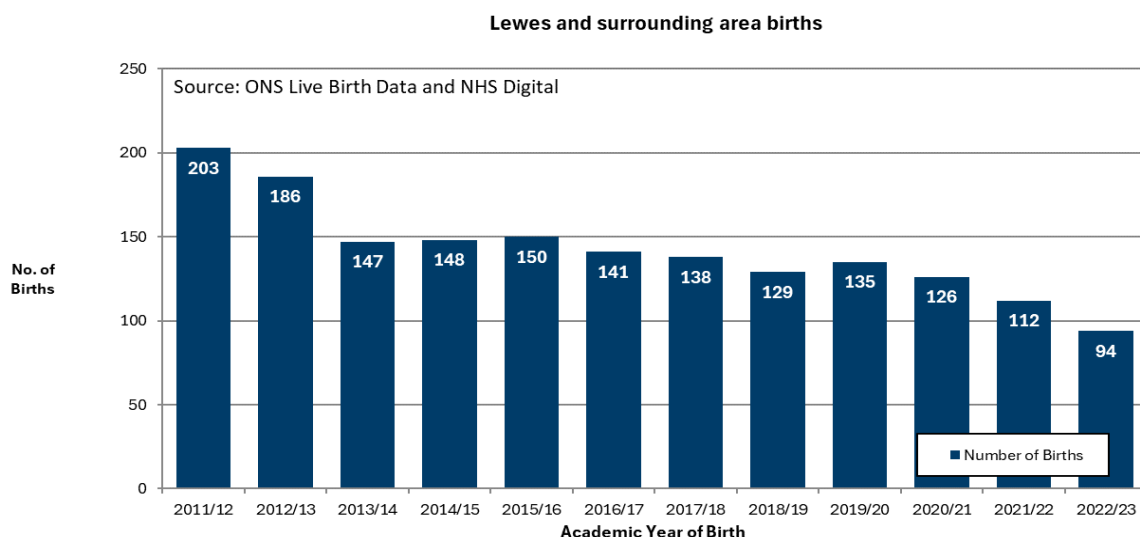
Births

Births in the area have continued to be particularly low in the last ten years.

Lewes births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	203
2012/13	186
2013/14	147
2014/15	148
2015/16	150
2016/17	141
2017/18	138
2018/19	129
2019/20	135
2020/21	126
2021/22	112
2022/23	94

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

The South Downs National Park Authority provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 1,000 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2032/33. The South Downs National Park Authority is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

Based on birth and GP registration data, we expect reception (Year R) numbers in the area to remain below the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area until at least 2028/29. However, 2025/26 might be tight.

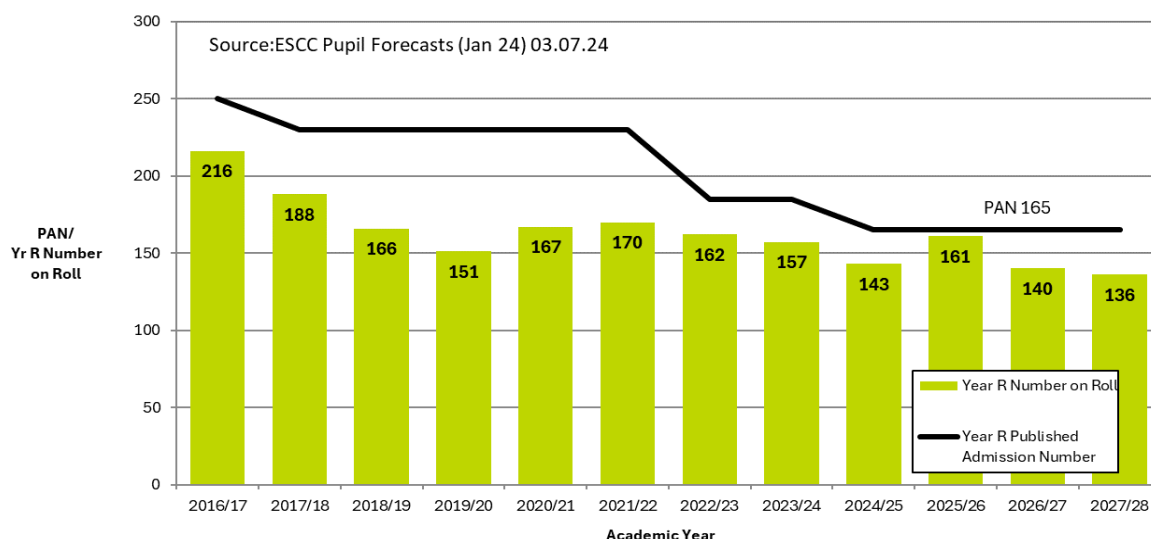
Some children from Lewes take up places in surrounding rural schools, notably Hamsey Community Primary School. Iford and Kingston CE Primary School experiences significant inflows of children from Newhaven.

Lewes primary Year R Numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	250	216
2017/18	230	188
2018/19	230	166
2019/20	230	151
2020/21	230	167
2021/22	230	170
2022/23	185	162
2023/24	185	157
2024/25	165	143
2025/26	165	161
2026/27	165	140
2027/28	165	136

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Lewes and surrounding area primary Year R numbers

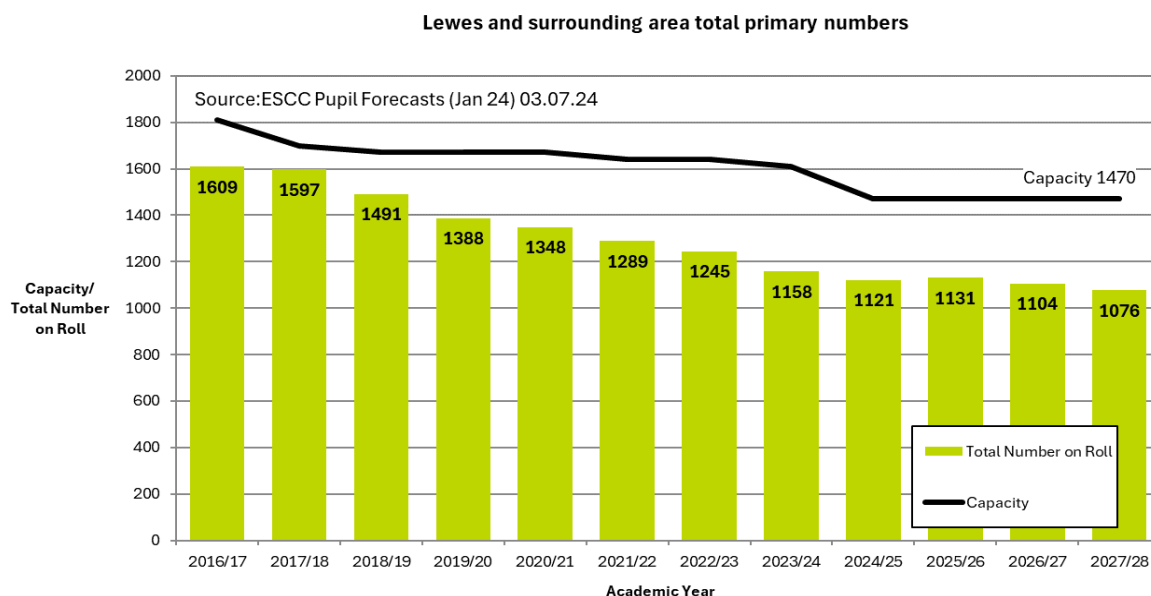


Lower intakes have led to higher numbers of surplus places in the area. In 2023/24, there were 28% surplus places. The closure of St Pancras Catholic Primary School on 31 August 2024 has seen capacity in the area reduce by 140 places.

Lewes and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1810	1609
2017/18	1700	1597
2018/19	1670	1491
2019/20	1670	1388
2020/21	1670	1348
2021/22	1640	1289
2022/23	1640	1245
2023-24	1610	1158
2024/25	1470	1121
2025/26	1470	1131
2026/27	1470	1104
2027/28	1470	1076

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

If the 700 new homes planned in the area for the period to 2029/30 are built according to schedule, and this is coupled with a general upswing in births, the reduced capacity in the area may not be sufficient to meet demand in the medium to longer term. If this is the case, the accommodation which remains at Southover CE Primary School and Wallands Community Primary School following their PAN reductions, can be brought back into use to increase capacity.

Secondary places

Part of Priory School's admissions area is a joint admissions area with that of King's Academy Ringmer.

Although the village of Ditchling is in a joint admissions area served by Priory School and Chailey School, it is also in the admissions area of Downlands Community School in Hassocks, West Sussex. Traditionally, children from the village have attended Downlands, which is their nearest school.

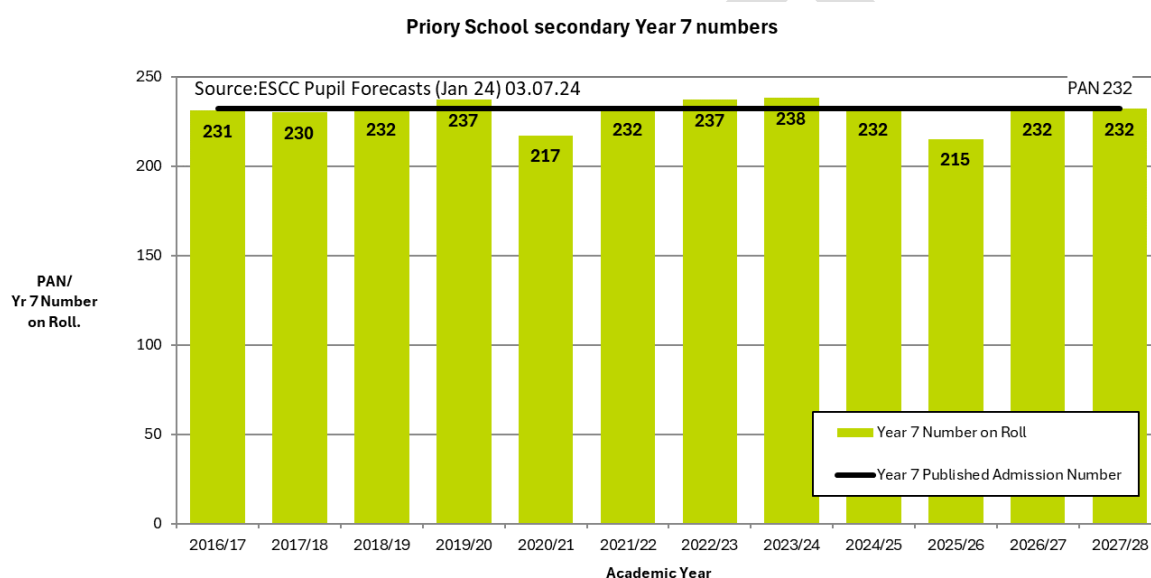
There is routinely significant pupil movement in and out between the Priory School area and notably Kings Academy Ringmer, Chailey School, the Havens area and neighbouring Brighton and Hove.

Priory School slightly exceeded its PAN of 232 in 2023/24. From 2024/25, numbers of in-area children coming into Year 7 start to fall away significantly. Future intake numbers will continue to depend heavily on demand from out of area, particularly from Brighton and Hove, bridging the gap between the demand from local children and the school's PAN.

Priory School secondary area secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	232	231
2017/18	232	230
2018/19	232	232
2019/20	232	237
2020/21	232	217
2021/22	232	232
2022/23	232	237
2023/24	232	238
2024/25	232	232
2025/26	232	215
2026/27	232	232
2027/28	232	232

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



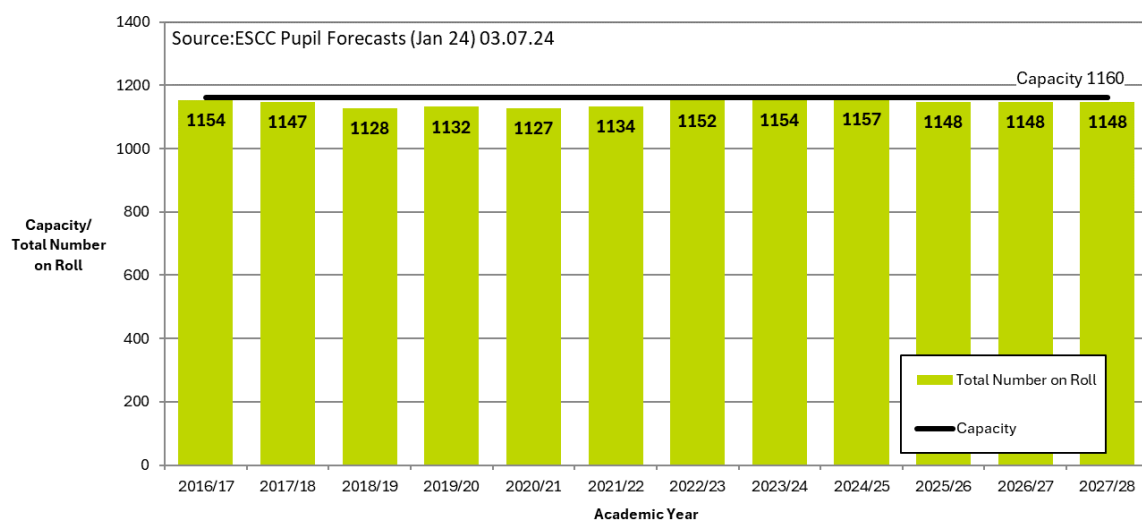
Total pupil places at the school are forecast to remain consistent until at least 2027/28.

Lewes and surrounding area total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1160	1154
2017/18	1160	1147
2018/19	1160	1128
2019/20	1160	1132
2020/21	1160	1127
2021/22	1160	1134
2022/23	1160	1152
2023/24	1160	1154
2024/25	1160	1157
2025/26	1160	1148
2026/27	1160	1148
2027/28	1160	1148

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Priory School total secondary numbers



The Havens

The Havens area covers both Newhaven and Peacehaven.

Schools

There are four primary schools in Newhaven. In Peacehaven, there are three primary schools, all with nursery provision. There are two secondary schools in the Havens area, one in each town.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary (Newhaven)		
Breakwater Academy	4-11	Academy
Denton Community Primary School and Nursery	3-11	Community
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	2-11	Community
High Cliff Academy	3-11	Academy
Primary (Peacehaven)		
Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery	2-11	Community
Peacehaven Heights Academy	3-11	Academy
Telscombe Cliffs Academy	2-11	Academy
Secondary		
Peacehaven Community School	11-16	Academy
Seahaven Academy	11-16	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

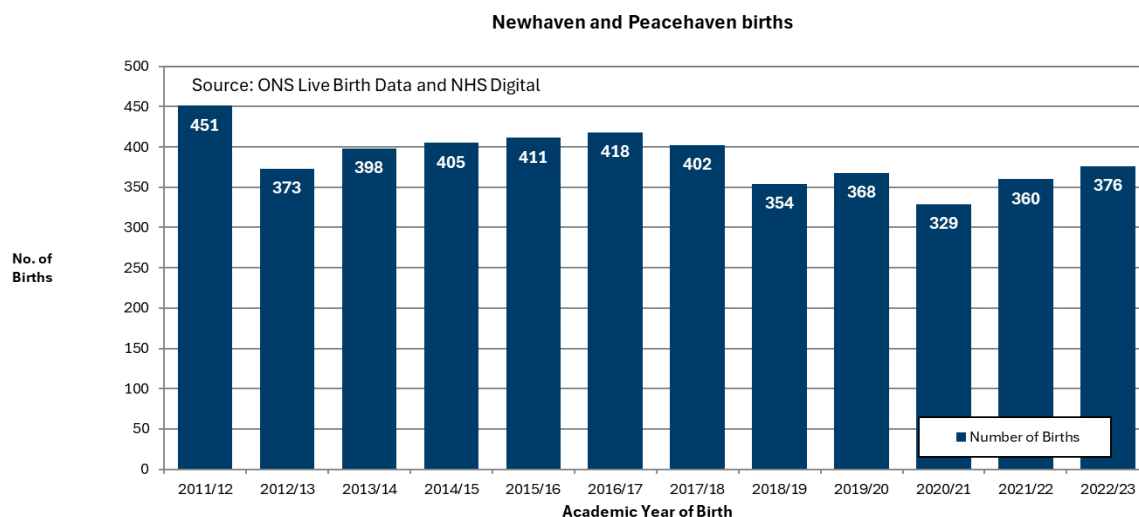
Births

Births in the area have continued to be low since their peak in 2011/12.

Newhaven and Peacehaven births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of Births
2011/12	451
2012/13	373
2013/14	398
2014/15	405
2015/16	411
2016/17	418
2017/18	402
2018/19	354
2019/20	368
2020/21	329
2021/22	360
2022/23	376

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 1,400 new homes are projected to be built in the Havens area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2029/30. Lewes District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

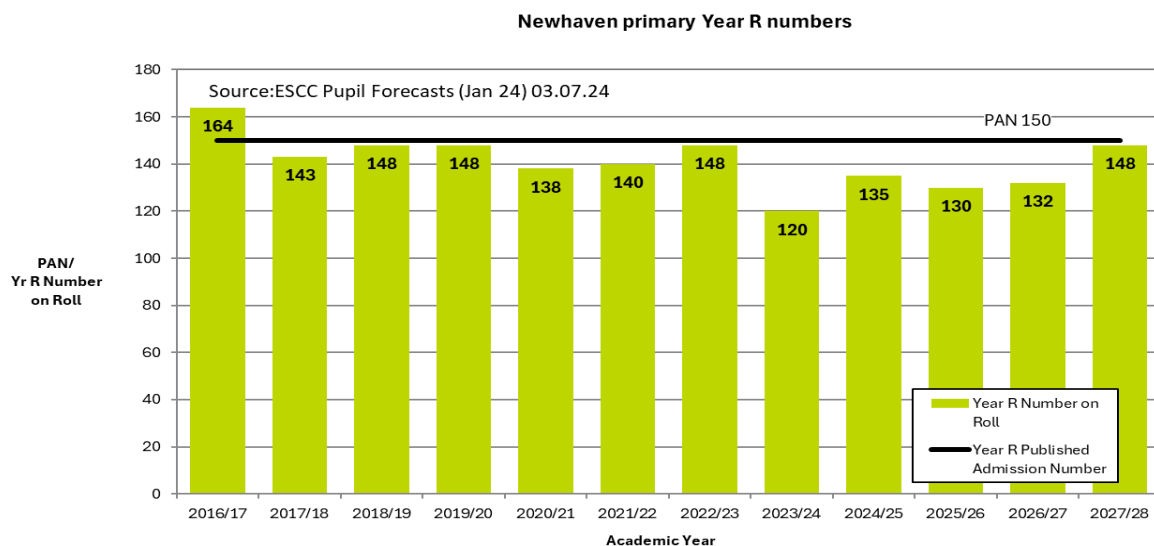
Primary places in Newhaven

In recent years, reception (Year R) numbers in Newhaven have tended to be close to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area. However, owing to fewer children coming into primary schools and higher than usual outflows to Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, we are currently witnessing a downturn in intake numbers. Based on birth and GP registration data, and assuming current preference patterns continue, intake numbers are forecast to stay below the PAN for the next four or five years.

Newhaven primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	150	164
2017/18	150	143
2018/19	150	148
2019/20	150	148
2020/21	150	138
2021/22	150	140
2022/23	150	148
2023/24	150	120
2024/25	150	135
2025/26	150	130
2026/27	150	132
2027/28	150	148

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

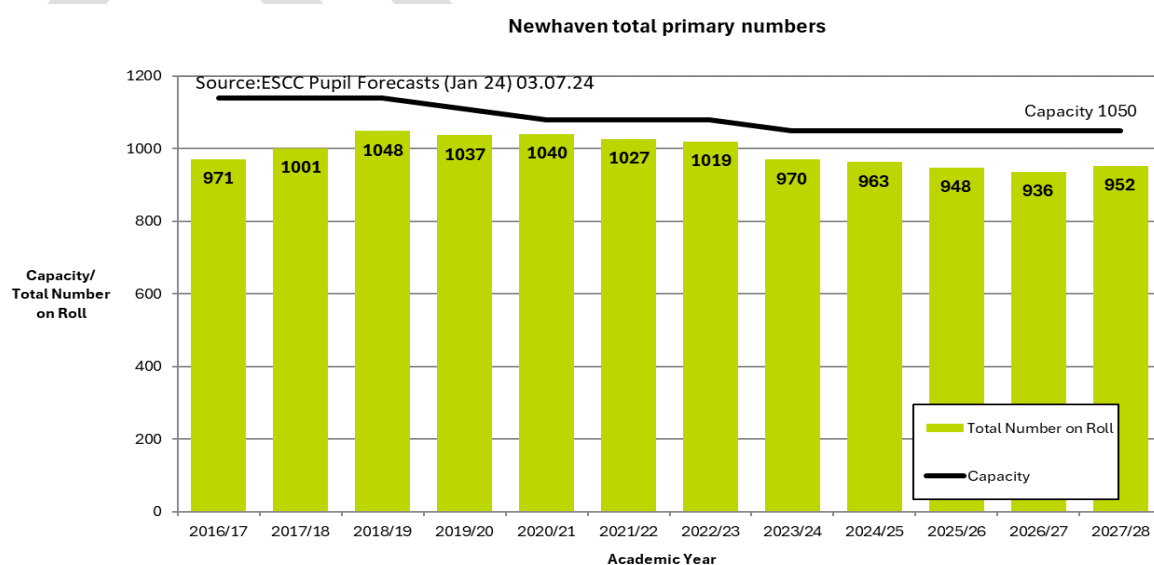


Surplus places for the area stood at 8% in 2023/24 and are forecast to be relatively static over the plan period.

Newhaven total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1140	971
2017/18	1140	1001
2018/19	1140	1048
2019/20	1110	1037
2020/21	1080	1040
2021/22	1080	1027
2022/23	1080	1019
2023-24	1050	970
2024/25	1050	963
2025/26	1050	948
2026/27	1050	936
2027/28	1050	952

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

With 1,400 new homes planned in the area by 2029/30, Year R pressures could resurface in the medium to longer term.

Primary places in Peacehaven

Live birth and GP data indicate that reception (Year R) numbers in Peacehaven are likely to be well below the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 210 for the foreseeable future.

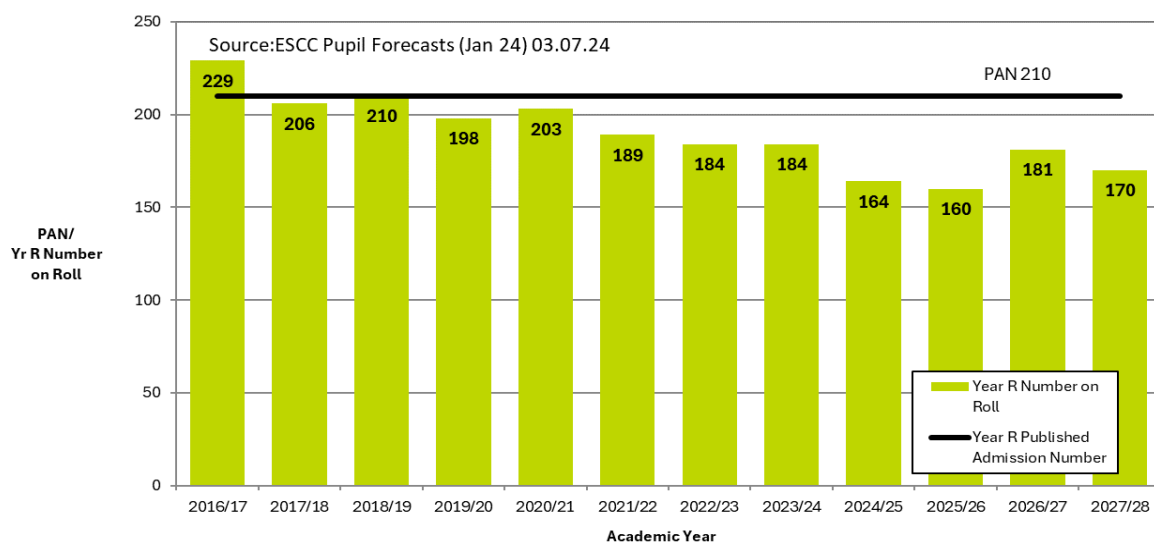
Saltdean Primary School in neighbouring Brighton and Hove is traditionally the school of preference for children who live in East Saltdean which is on the East Sussex side of the border. Traditionally around 20 to 30 East Sussex children per year group obtain a place at Saltdean Primary School. Additionally, a few Peacehaven area children normally attend St Margaret's CE Primary School and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in nearby Rottingdean, both in Brighton and Hove.

Peacehaven primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	210	229
2017/18	210	206
2018/19	210	210
2019/20	210	198
2020/21	210	203
2021/22	210	189
2022/23	210	184
2023/24	210	184
2024/25	210	164
2025/26	210	160
2026/27	210	181
2027/28	210	170

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Peacehaven primary Year R numbers



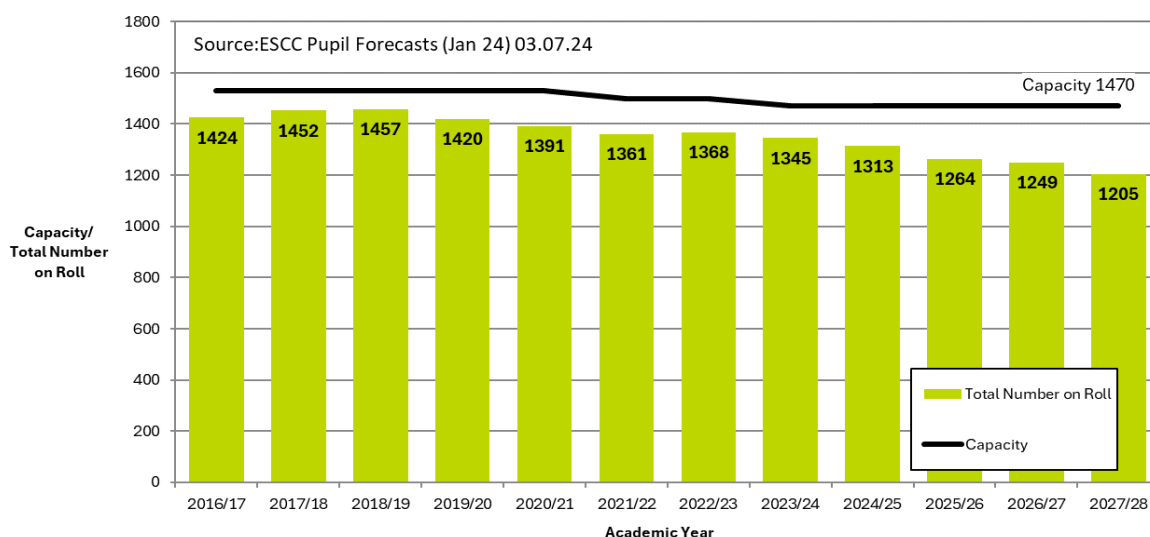
In 2023/24, surplus places in Peacehaven stood at 9%. By 2027/28, this is likely to rise to 18%.

Peacehaven total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1530	1424
2017/18	1530	1452
2018/19	1530	1457
2019/20	1530	1420
2020/21	1530	1391
2021/22	1500	1361
2022/23	1500	1368
2023-24	1470	1345
2024/25	1470	1313
2025/26	1470	1264
2026/27	1470	1249
2027/28	1470	1205

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Peacehaven total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

The majority of surplus places in the area are within the two academies. The one maintained school is largely full. A decision on managing surplus capacity at either of the academies rests with the academy trust.

Secondary places

Seahaven Academy's school admissions area covers both Newhaven and Peacehaven and includes the priority admissions area of Peacehaven Community School.

There is a net outflow from the area to Seaford Head School and Priory School, in Lewes. There are also inflows from and outflows to schools in Brighton and Hove.

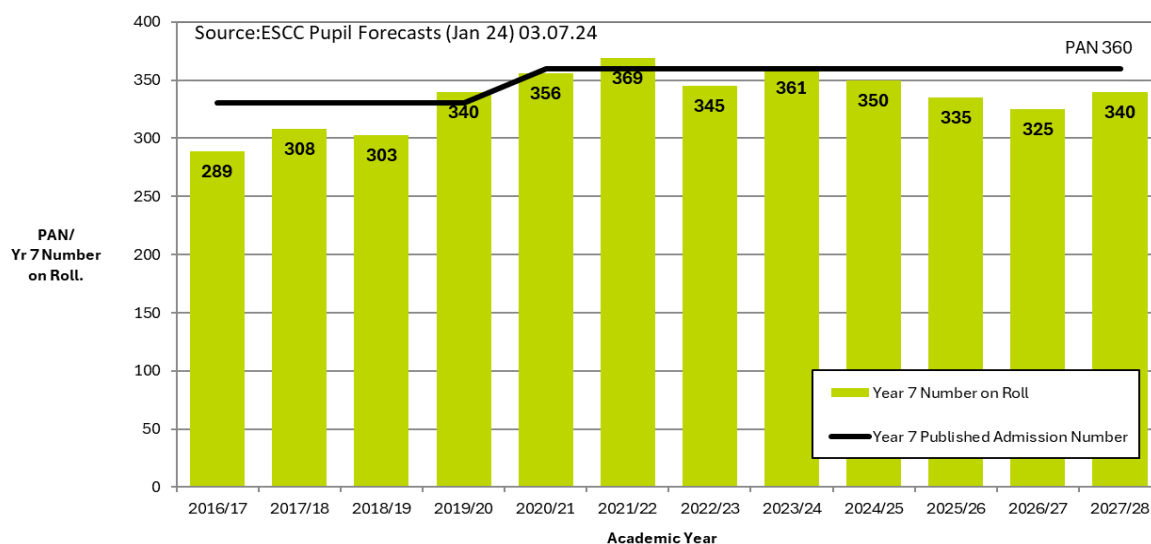
Both Peacehaven Community School and Seahaven Academy have experienced pressures on Year 7 places in recent years. These now appear to be reducing, with lower intakes expected in the coming years.

The Havens secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	330	289
2017/18	330	308
2018/19	330	303
2019/20	330	340
2020/21	360	356
2021/22	360	369
2022/23	360	345
2023/24	360	361
2024/25	360	350
2025/26	360	335
2026/27	360	325
2027/28	360	340

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

The Havens secondary Year 7 numbers

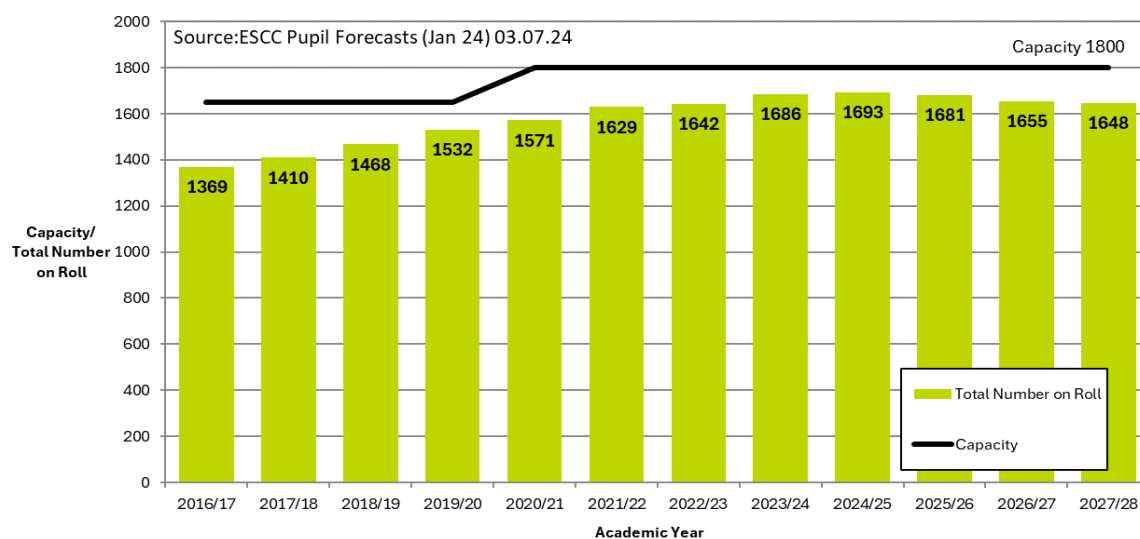


Total pupil numbers are expected to fall away slightly by the end of the plan period.

The Havens total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1650	1369
2017/18	1650	1410
2018/19	1650	1468
2019/20	1650	1532
2020/21	1800	1571
2021/22	1800	1629
2022/23	1800	1642
2023/24	1800	1686
2024/25	1800	1693
2025/26	1800	1681
2026/27	1800	1655
2027/28	1800	1648

The Havens total secondary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Seaford

Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Annecy Catholic Primary School	4-11	Academy
Chyngton School	4-11	Academy
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	2-11	Community
Seaford Primary School	4-11	Community
Secondary		
Seaford Head School	11-18	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

For further information about individual school capacities and numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

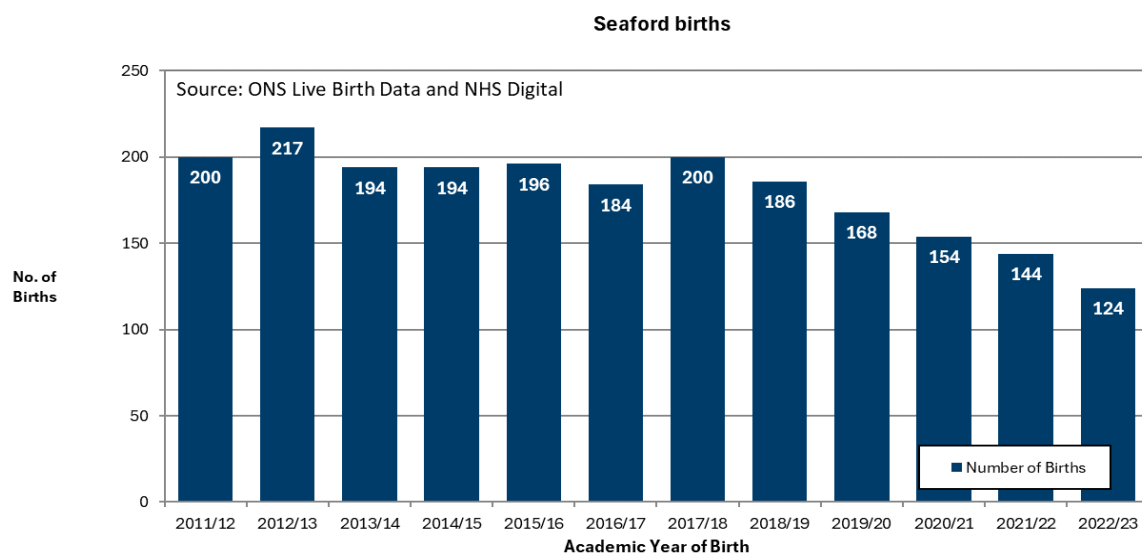
Births

Births in Seaford continue to fall. In 2022/23, they were 43% lower than at their peak of 217 in 2012/13.

Seaford births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	200
2012/13	217
2013/14	194
2014/15	194
2015/16	196
2016/17	184
2017/18	200
2018/19	186
2019/20	168
2020/21	154
2021/22	144
2022/23	124

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 300 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2029/30. Lewes District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

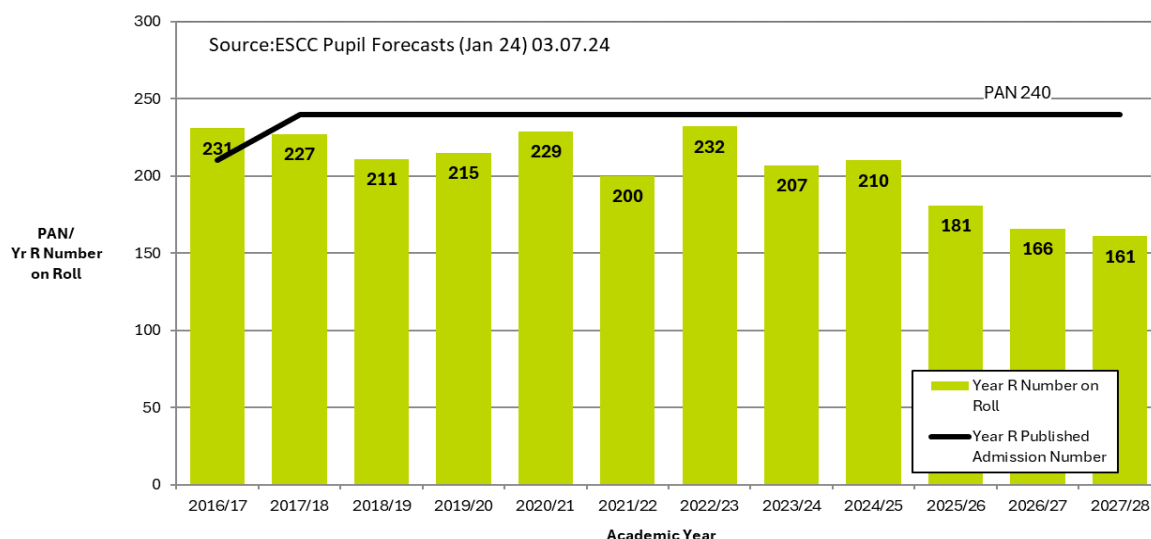
Based on birth and GP data, reception (Year R) intake numbers in Seaford are predicted to generally fall over the plan period.

Seaford primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	210	231
2017/18	240	227
2018/19	240	211
2019/20	240	215
2020/21	240	229
2021/22	240	200
2022/23	240	232
2023/24	240	207
2024/25	240	210
2025/26	240	181
2026/27	240	166
2027/28	240	161

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Seaford primary Year R numbers



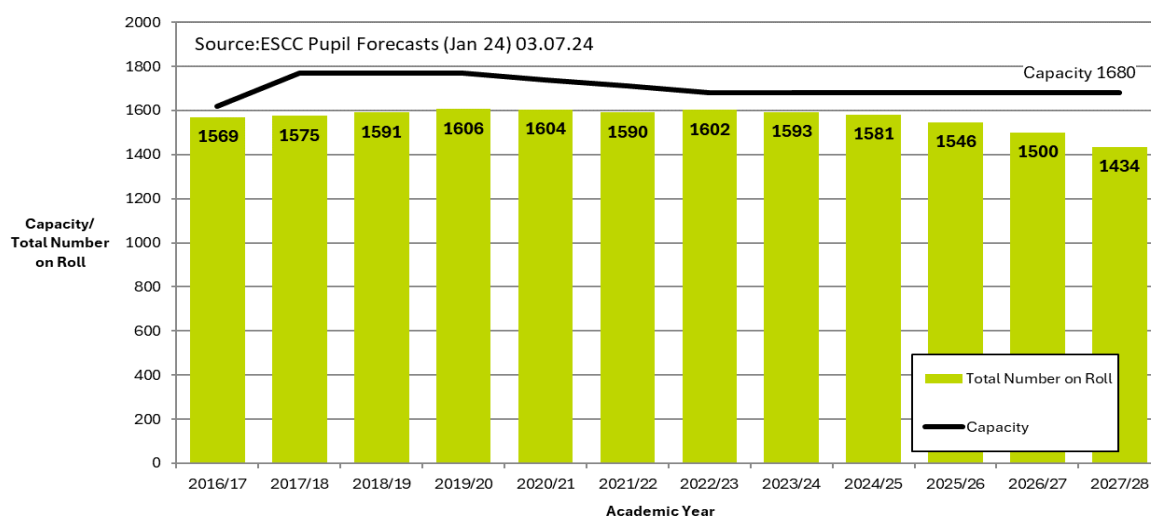
By 2027/28, the overall level of surplus places in the area, at 5% in 2023/24, may be as high as 15%.

Seaford total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1620	1569
2017/18	1770	1575
2018/19	1770	1591
2019/20	1770	1606
2020/21	1740	1604
2021/22	1710	1590
2022/23	1680	1602
2023/24	1680	1593
2024/25	1680	1581
2025/26	1680	1546
2026/27	1680	1500
2027/28	1680	1434

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Seaford total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

The majority of surplus places in the area are within the two academies. The two maintained schools are largely full. A decision on managing surplus capacity in the academies rests with the respective academy trusts.

Secondary places

Seaford Head School took the decision to lower its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 240 to 232 from 2024/25.

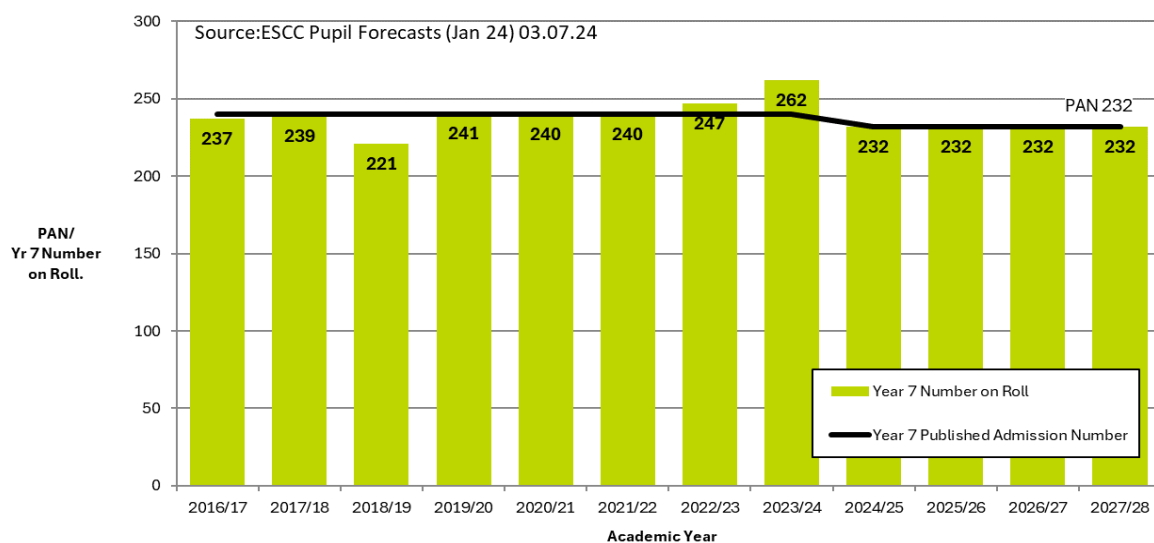
Although the school continues to be oversubscribed, it is currently forecast to be able to keep to its new PAN. This will entail the school admissions system redirecting non-priority out of area applicants to nearby Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School.

Seaford Head secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	240	237
2017/18	240	239
2018/19	240	221
2019/20	240	241
2020/21	240	240
2021/22	240	240
2022/23	240	247
2023/24	240	262
2024/25	232	232
2025/26	232	232
2026/27	232	232
2027/28	232	232

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Seaford Head secondary Year 7 numbers



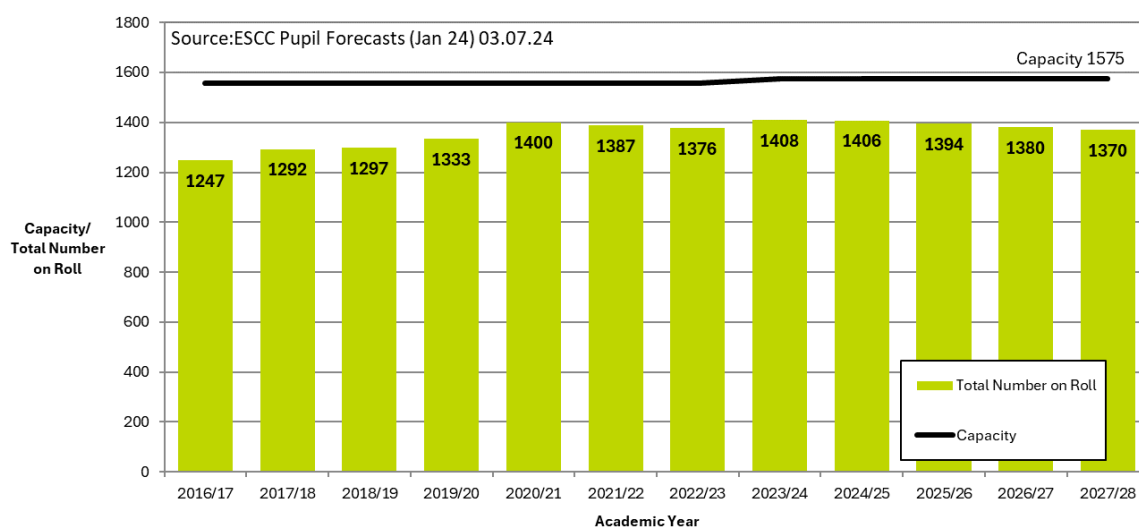
Overall pupil numbers at the school are forecast to reduce slightly over the plan period, reflecting the reduced PAN from 2024/25.

Seaford Head School total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1555	1247
2017/18	1555	1292
2018/19	1555	1297
2019/20	1555	1333
2020/21	1555	1400
2021/22	1555	1387
2022/23	1555	1376
2023/24	1575	1408
2024/25	1575	1406
2025/26	1575	1394
2026/27	1575	1380
2027/28	1575	1370

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Seaford Head School total secondary numbers



Rural Lewes

Schools

There are nine primary schools and two secondary schools in the area. Three primary schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Barcombe Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chailey St Peter's Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Ditchling St Margaret's Church of England Primary School	2-11	Academy
Firle Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Hamsey Community Primary School	4-11	Community
Newick Church of England Primary School	4-11	Academy
Plumpton Primary School	4-11	Community
Ringmer Primary and Nursery School	2-11	Community
Wivelsfield Primary School	2-11	Community
Secondary		
Chailey School	11-16	Community
King's Academy Ringmer	11-16	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

For further information about individual school capacities and numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

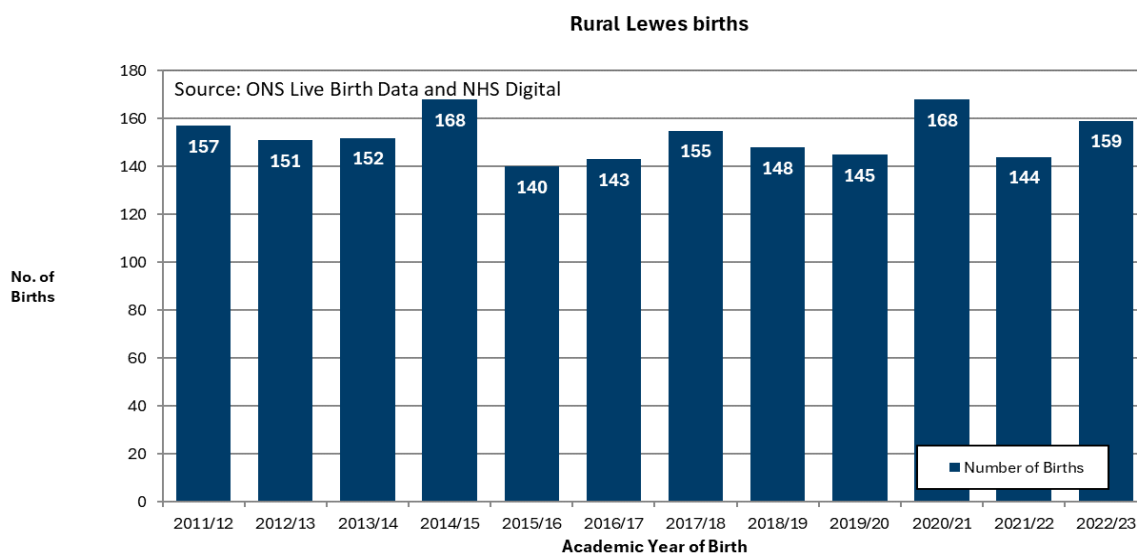
Births

While births have been largely consistent for a number of years, 2020/21, and to a lesser extent 2022/23, saw higher births in the area.

Rural Lewes births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	157
2012/13	151
2013/14	152
2014/15	168
2015/16	140
2016/17	143
2017/18	155
2018/19	148
2019/20	145
2020/21	168
2021/22	144
2022/23	159

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority provide the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 900 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Lewes District Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2029/30, of which approximately 300 are in Ringmer Parish and 200 are in Wivelsfield Parish. Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are currently preparing new Local Plans. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

The 219 reception (Year R) places in primary schools across the area are forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for the foreseeable future.

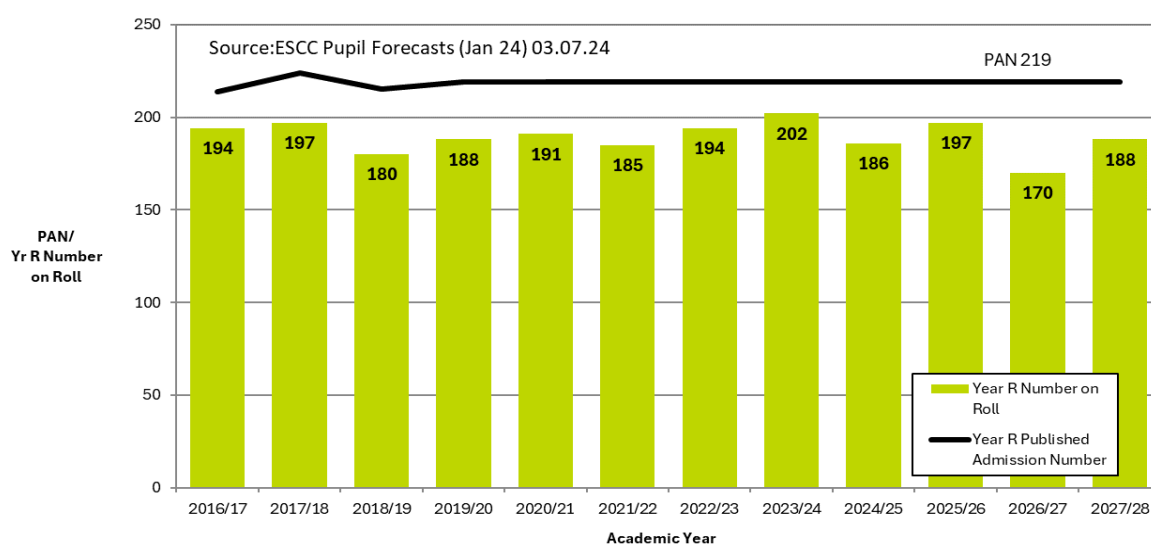
However, the picture will vary between individual rural areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year, owing to the fact that the size of the cohorts of children living in small geographical areas sometimes differs markedly from one age group to the next. Normally schools can organise to accommodate these fluctuations.

Rural Lewes primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	214	194
2017/18	224	197
2018/19	215	180
2019/20	219	188
2020/21	219	191
2021/22	219	185
2022/23	219	194
2023/24	219	202
2024/25	219	186
2025/26	219	197
2026/27	219	170
2027/28	219	188

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rural Lewes primary Year R numbers

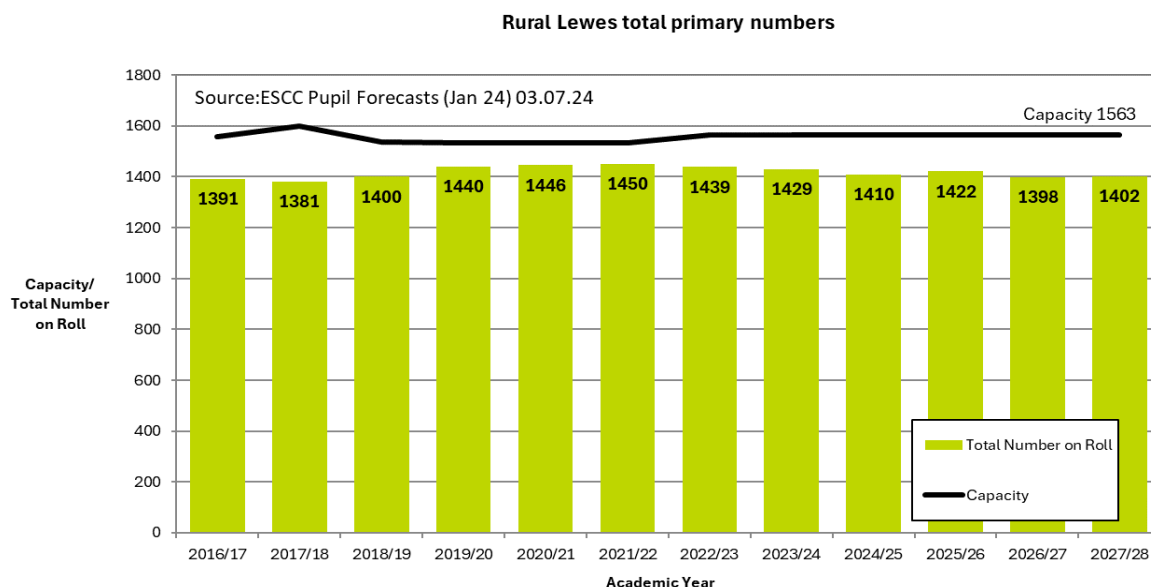


Total pupil numbers in the area are likely to remain consistent in the period to 2027/28.

Rural Lewes total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1558	1391
2017/18	1598	1381
2018/19	1535	1400
2019/20	1533	1440
2020/21	1533	1446
2021/22	1533	1450
2022/23	1563	1439
2023/24	1563	1429
2024/25	1563	1410
2025/26	1563	1422
2026/27	1563	1398
2027/28	1563	1402

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 11.

Despite its expansion in 2017/18, Wivelsfield Primary School is already full. Planned new housing at Wivelsfield Green and on the East Sussex / West Sussex Border in Hayward's Heath and Burgess Hill could place additional pressure on places over the short to medium term.

Ditchling St Margarets CE Primary School exceeded its Published Admission Number (PAN) of 24 in 2024/25. The school took this decision voluntarily to accommodate demand from neighbouring West Sussex.

Secondary places at Chailey School

There is some movement of children between the Chailey School area, and the areas served by Uckfield College and Priory School, in Lewes.

There is also significant movement of children to and from neighbouring West Sussex. Demand from across the border, particularly with the large volume of housing being built in Burgess Hill, should allow Chailey School to generally fill to its PAN in most years. The school is increasing its PAN from 174 to 180 from 2025/26.

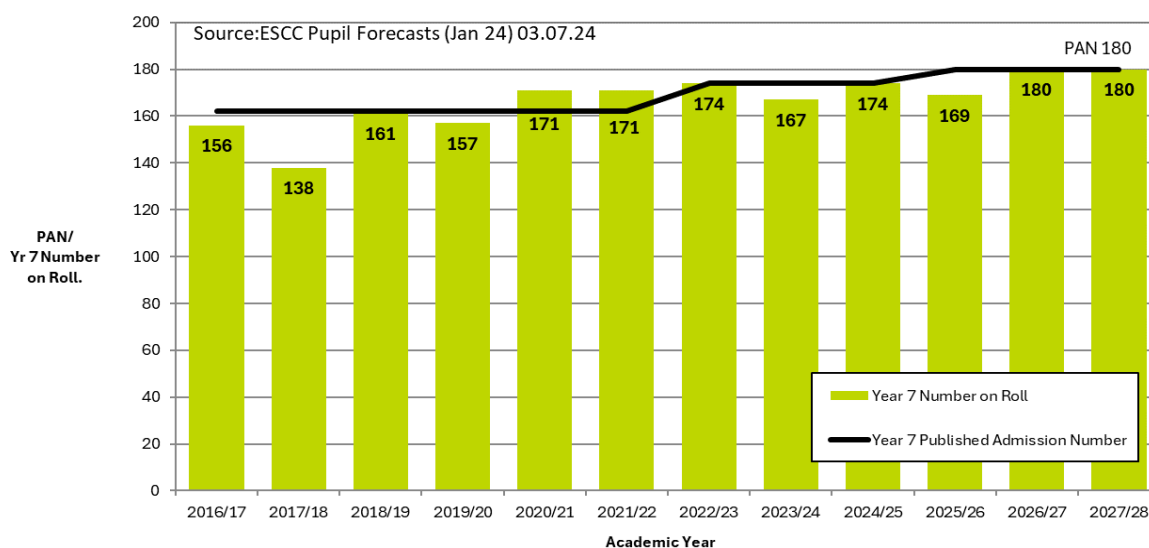
Although the village of Ditchling is in a joint admissions area between Chailey School and Priory School, it is also in the admissions area of Downlands Community School in Hassocks, West Sussex. Traditionally children from the village have attended Downlands, which is their nearest school.

Chailey School secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	162	156
2017/18	162	138
2018/19	162	161
2019/20	162	157
2020/21	162	171
2021/22	162	171
2022/23	174	174
2023/24	174	167
2024/25	174	174
2025/26	180	169
2026/27	180	180
2027/28	180	180

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Chailey School secondary Year 7 numbers

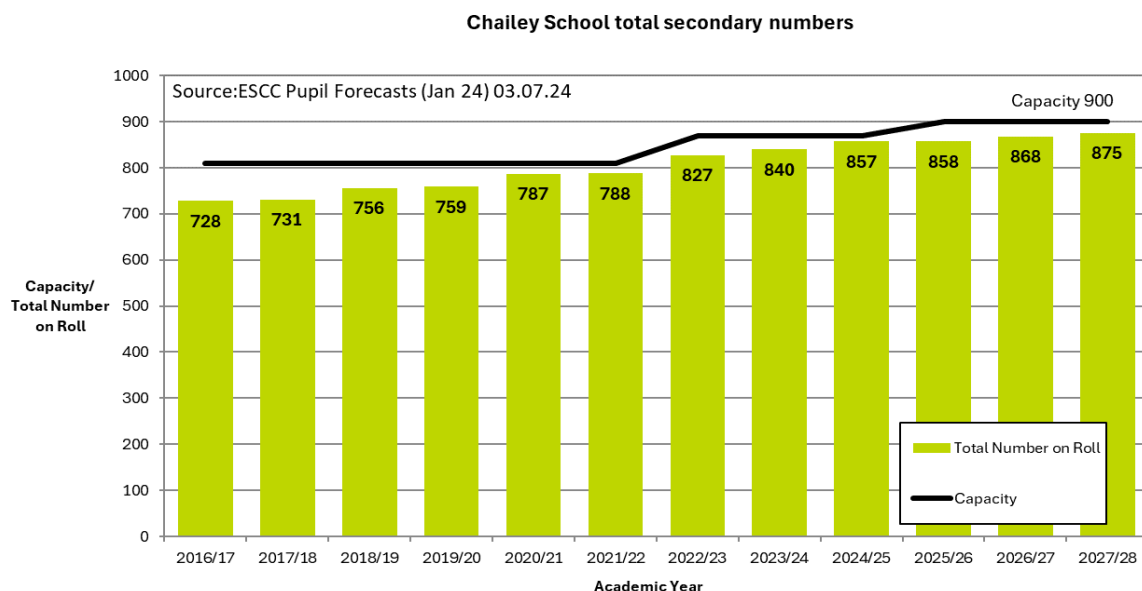


Overall pupil numbers are likely to rise during the plan period as a result of the increase to the schools PAN.

Chailey School total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	810	728
2017/18	810	731
2018/19	810	756
2019/20	810	759
2020/21	810	787
2021/22	810	788
2022/23	870	827
2023/24	870	840
2024/25	870	857
2025/26	900	858
2026/27	900	868
2027/28	900	875

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



Secondary places at King's Academy Ringmer

Part of King's Academy Ringmer's admissions area overlaps with that of Priory School in Lewes. There are also partial overlaps with the admissions areas of Seaford Head School, Hailsham Community College and Uckfield College.

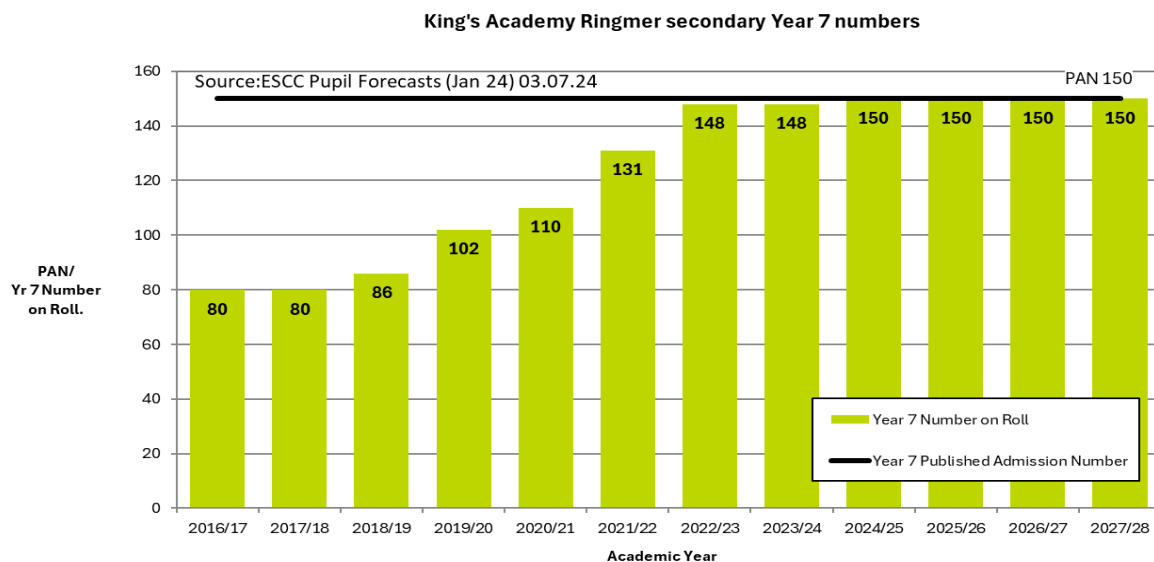
The school admits large number of children from the Hailsham area. There are also significant inflows and outflows to and from the Lewes and Uckfield areas.

King's Academy Ringmer nearly filled to its Published Admission Number (PAN) in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Depending on parental preference patterns in relation to surrounding schools, it could continue to have high intake numbers in the short to medium term. This will partly depend on the school continuing to experience larger inflows from Hailsham.

King's Academy Ringmer secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	150	80
2017/18	150	80
2018/19	150	86
2019/20	150	102
2020/21	150	110
2021/22	150	131
2022/23	150	148
2023/24	150	148
2024/25	150	150
2025/26	150	150
2026/27	150	150
2027/28	150	150

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

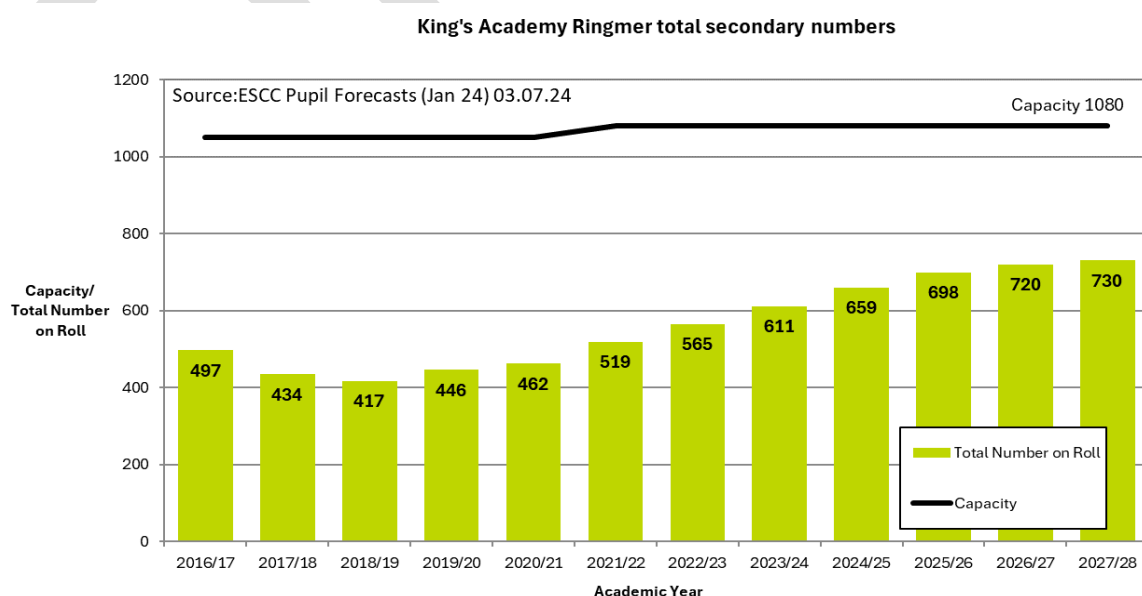


Overall pupil numbers at the school are forecast to rise by the end of the plan period, although they will remain below the school's capacity.

King's Academy Ringmer total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1050	497
2017/18	1050	434
2018/19	1050	417
2019/20	1050	446
2020/21	1050	462
2021/22	1080	519
2022/23	1080	565
2023/24	1080	611
2024/25	1080	659
2025/26	1080	698
2026/27	1080	720
2027/28	1080	730

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



Bexhill and surrounding area

Schools

There are ten primary schools in the area and two secondary schools. Two primary schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
All Saints Church of England Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Catsfield Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chantry Community Primary School	4-11	Academy
Glenleigh Park Primary Academy	2-11	Academy
King Offa Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
Little Common School	4-11	Academy
Ninfield Church of England Primary School	4-11	Academy
Pebsham Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Secondary		
Bexhill High Academy	11-16	Academy
St Richard's Catholic College	11-16	Voluntary Aided

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

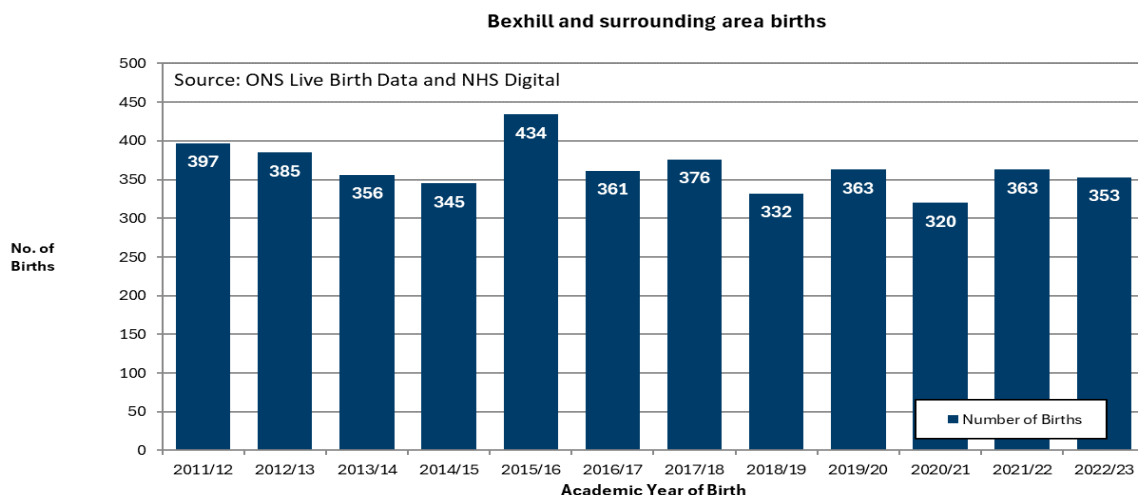
Births

Births in Bexhill have remained relatively steady for several years, barring a peak in 2015/16.

Bexhill and surrounding area births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	397
2012/13	385
2013/14	356
2014/15	345
2015/16	434
2016/17	361
2017/18	376
2018/19	332
2019/20	363
2020/21	320
2021/22	363
2022/23	353

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 1,500 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

Births and GP registration data indicate that the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 425 for the area should not be exceeded in the immediate future.

However, a high volume of new housing is likely to come forward over the next few years, including the remainder of the large development on land north of Pebsham. This, coupled with a general upswing in future births, could result in a shortfall of reception (Year R) places emerging towards the end of the decade.

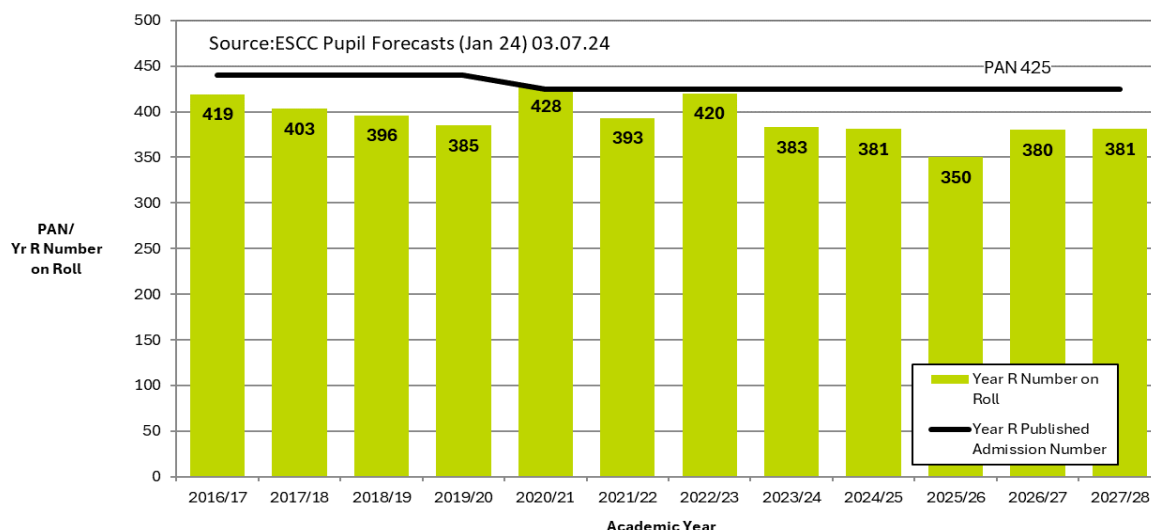
Some primary schools in the area experience inflows of children from Hastings. There are also outflows to surrounding schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School.

Bexhill and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	440	419
2017/18	440	403
2018/19	440	396
2019/20	440	385
2020/21	425	428
2021/22	425	393
2022/23	425	420
2023/24	425	383
2024/25	425	381
2025/26	425	350
2026/27	425	380
2027/28	425	381

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Bexhill and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



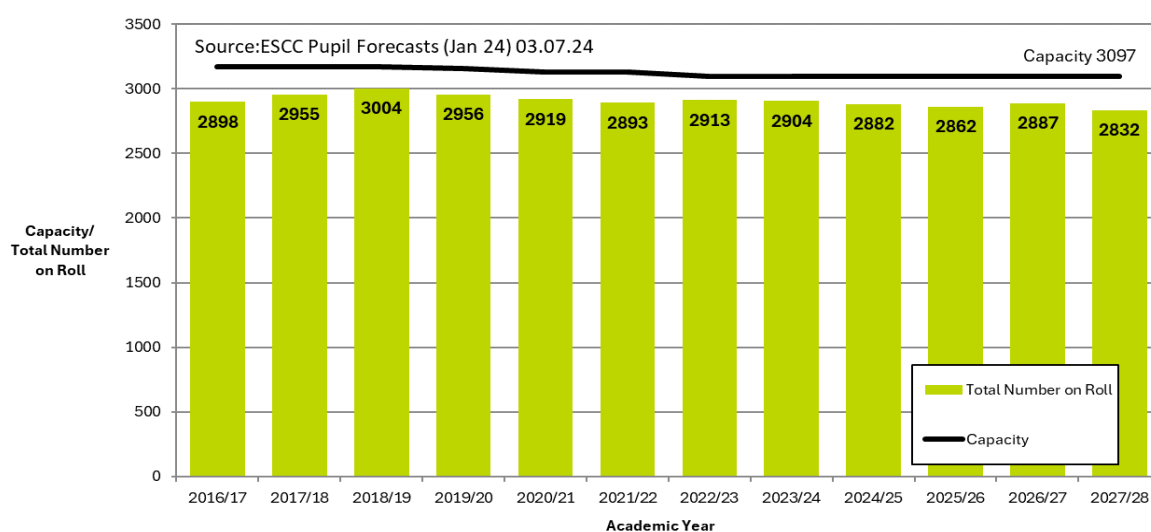
Surplus places in the area stood at 6% in 2023/24 and are forecast to rise to 9% by 2028/29. One school in the area has surplus places of 25% or more.

Bexhill and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	3170	2898
2017/18	3170	2955
2018/19	3170	3004
2019/20	3157	2956
2020/21	3127	2919
2021/22	3127	2893
2022/23	3097	2913
2023/24	3097	2904
2024/25	3097	2882
2025/26	3097	2862
2026/27	3097	2887
2027/28	3097	2832

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Bexhill and surrounding area total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

The local authority has an option agreement on land for a new school within the development site north of Pebsham and will bring forward proposals to create provision to serve the development at the appropriate time. The timing of this will be dependent upon when the school site is transferred by the developer to the local authority and the demand for places in the area at that time.

Secondary places

Bexhill High Academy has a PAN of 300. St Richard's Catholic College has a PAN of 200, giving a combined PAN of 500 for the town. Both schools are forecast to be full to PAN in 2024/25 and again in 2027/28.

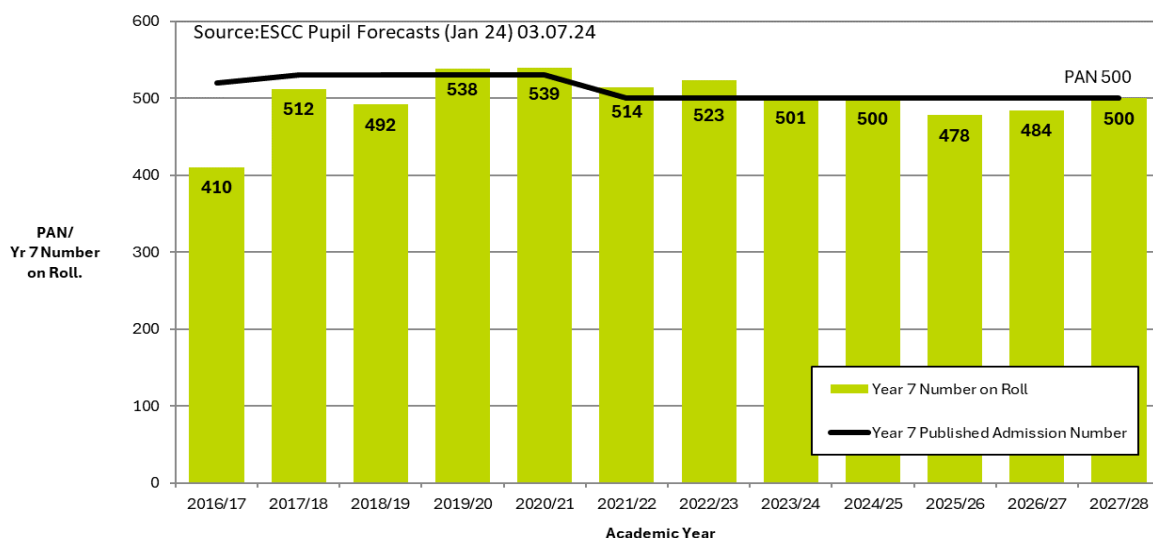
St Richard's Catholic College takes significant numbers of children from Hastings, Eastbourne, and Willingdon. Bexhill High Academy takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also outflows of children from Bexhill to Claverham Community College and Hastings.

Bexhill and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	520	410
2017/18	530	512
2018/19	530	492
2019/20	530	538
2020/21	530	539
2021/22	500	514
2022/23	500	523
2023/24	500	501
2024/25	500	500
2025/26	500	478
2026/27	500	484
2027/28	500	500

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Bexhill and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



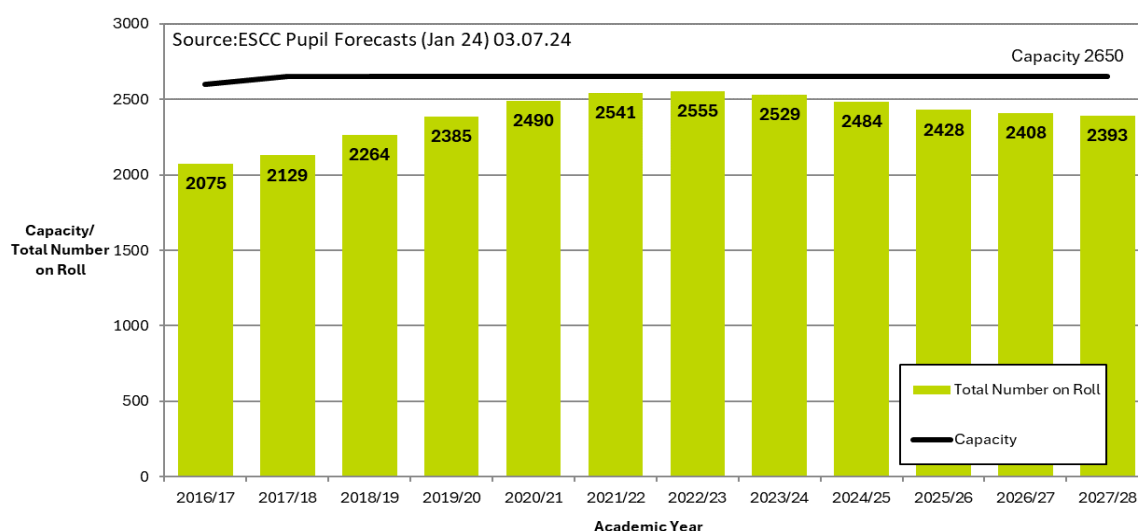
Total pupil numbers in the area are forecast to fall away slightly by 2027/28.

Bexhill and surrounding total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	2600	2075
2017/18	2650	2129
2018/19	2650	2264
2019/20	2650	2385
2020/21	2650	2490
2021/22	2650	2541
2022/23	2650	2555
2023/24	2650	2529
2024/25	2650	2484
2025/26	2650	2428
2026/27	2650	2408
2027/28	2650	2393

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Bexhill and surrounding area total secondary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

Longer term should there be a requirement for additional school places to serve the large volume of new housing planned in the area, the local authority will work with Bexhill High Academy, St Richard's Catholic College, and the Catholic Diocese to address this.

Battle

Schools

There is one primary school in the area and one secondary school.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Secondary		
Claverham Community College	11-16	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

Births

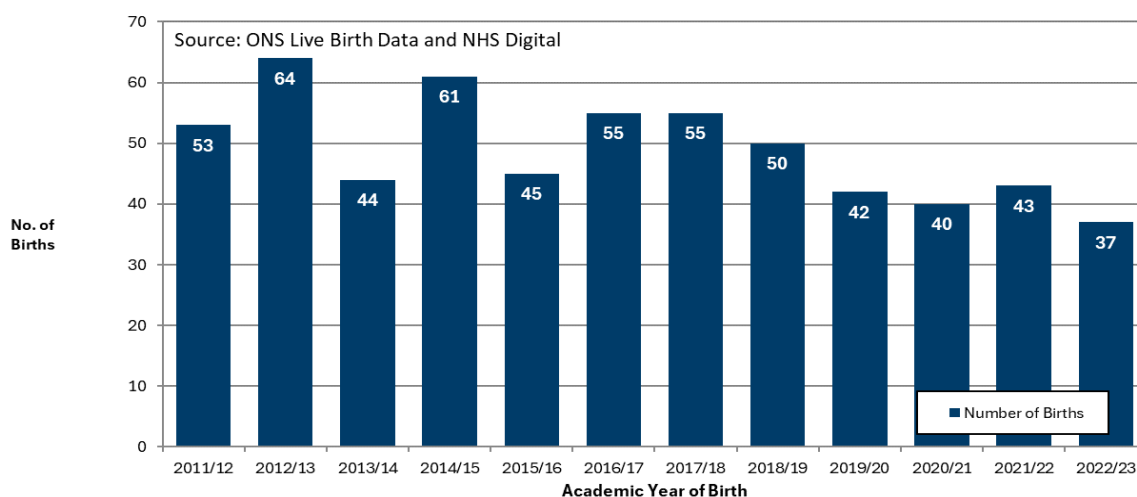
Births in the area have tended to fluctuate over time but have been particularly low in the last four years.

Battle births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	53
2012/13	64
2013/14	44
2014/15	61
2015/16	45
2016/17	55
2017/18	55
2018/19	50
2019/20	42
2020/21	40
2021/22	43
2022/23	37

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Battle births



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 300 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

Despite the number of new homes being planned in the period to 2027/28, Battle and Langton CE Primary School is forecast to remain within its Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 for the foreseeable future.

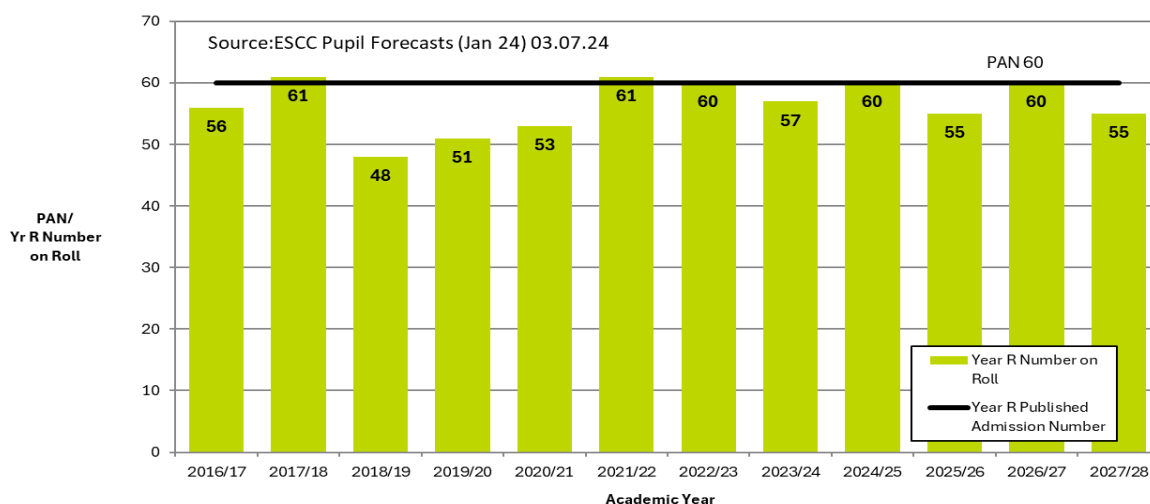
The school takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also inflows from Bexhill and the surrounding area. Any future increases in local demand should be able to be offset by the school admission system restricting inflows of children from other areas where necessary.

Battle primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	60	56
2017/18	60	61
2018/19	60	48
2019/20	60	51
2020/21	60	53
2021/22	60	61
2022/23	60	60
2023/24	60	57
2024/25	60	60
2025/26	60	55
2026/27	60	60
2027/28	60	55

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Battle primary Year R numbers



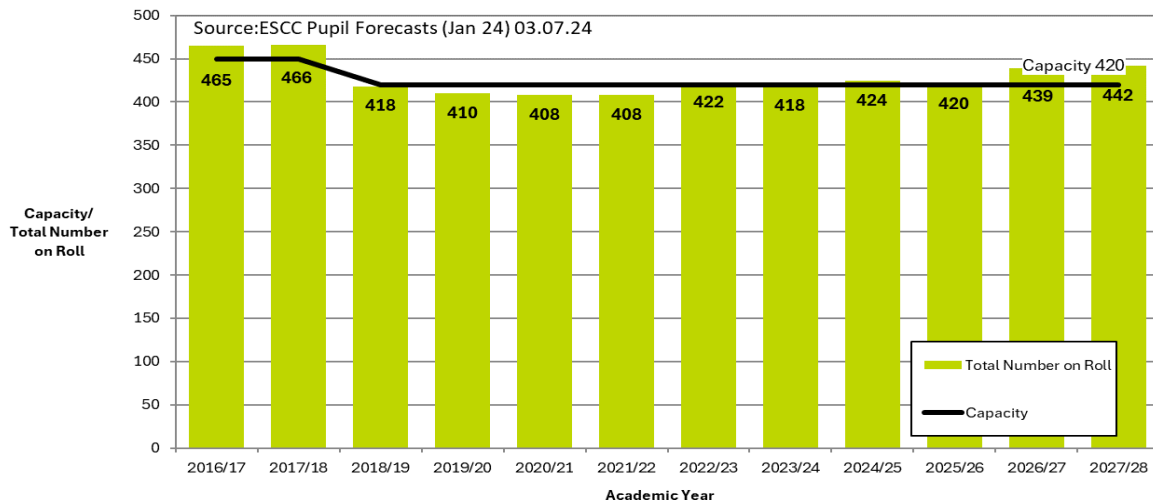
Overall pupil numbers at Battle and Langton CE Primary School are forecast to remain consistent during the plan period, with little, if any, spare capacity.

Battle total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	450	465
2017/18	450	466
2018/19	420	418
2019/20	420	410
2020/21	420	408
2021/22	420	408
2022/23	420	422
2023/24	420	418
2024/25	420	424
2025/26	420	420
2026/27	420	439
2027/28	420	442

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Battle total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Secondary places

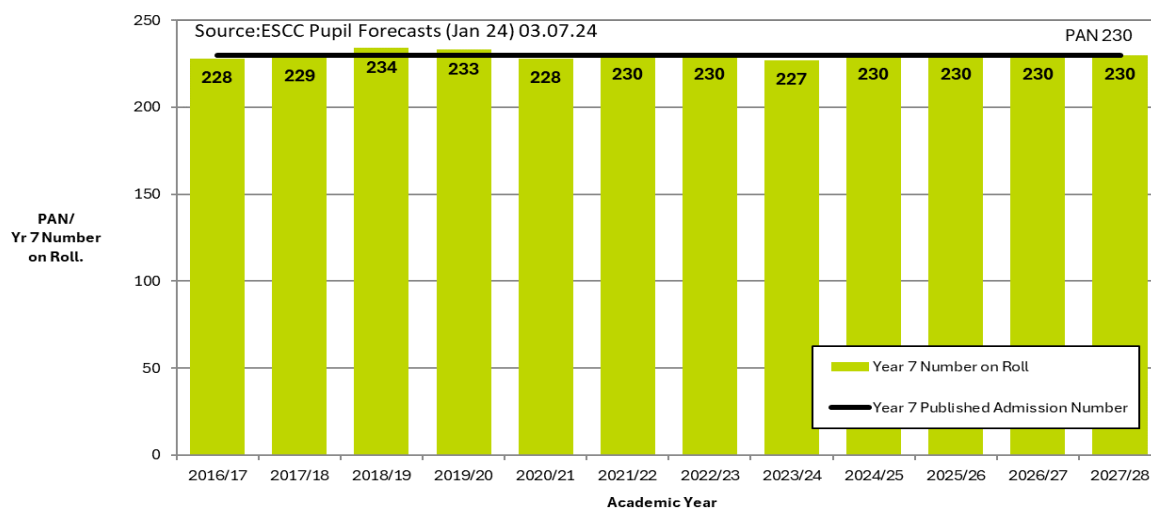
Claverham Community College takes significant numbers of children from Hastings and Bexhill. There are outflows of children from Battle to Robertsbridge Community College. The school has sufficient capacity to meet in-area demand. Provided it continues to be popular with out of area children it is likely to be close to full in most years.

Claverham Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	230	228
2017/18	230	229
2018/19	230	234
2019/20	230	233
2020/21	230	228
2021/22	230	230
2022/23	230	230
2023/24	230	227
2024/25	230	230
2025/26	230	230
2026/27	230	230
2027/28	230	230

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Claverham Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



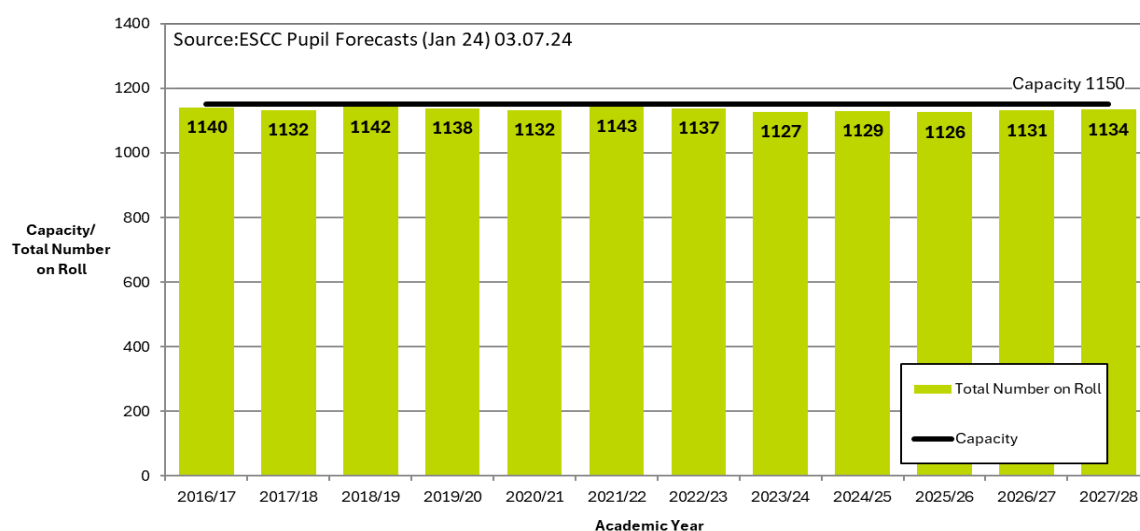
Overall pupil numbers at the school should remain constant during the plan period.

Claverham Community College total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1150	1140
2017/18	1150	1132
2018/19	1150	1142
2019/20	1150	1138
2020/21	1150	1132
2021/22	1150	1143
2022/23	1150	1137
2023/24	1150	1127
2024/25	1150	1129
2025/26	1150	1126
2026/27	1150	1131
2027/28	1150	1134

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Claverham Community College total secondary numbers



Rye and surrounding area

Schools

There are four primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Rye Community Primary School	2-11	Academy
St Michael's Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Secondary		
Rye College	11-16	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

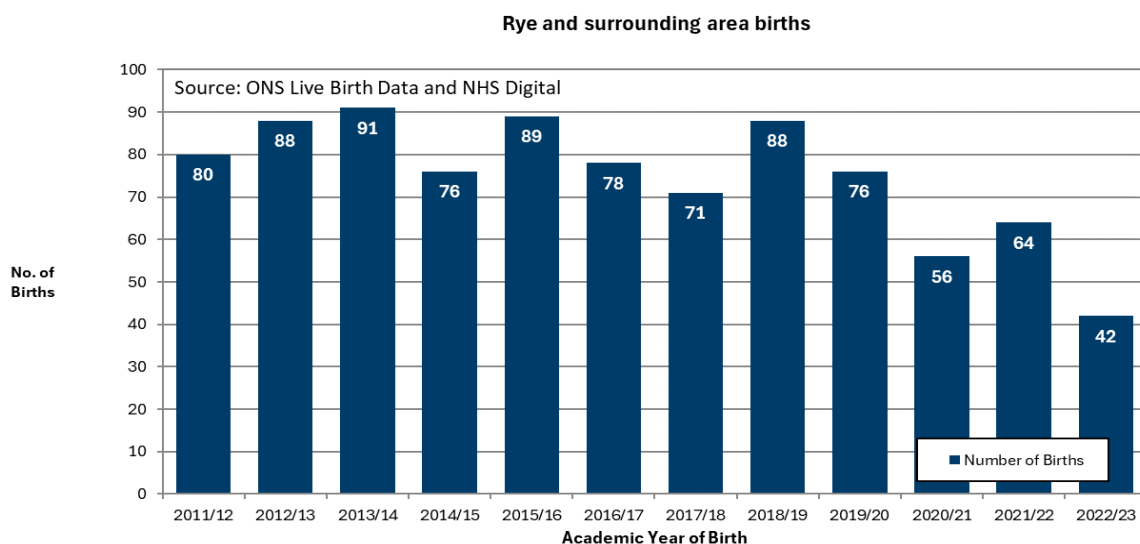
Births

Births have tended to fluctuate from year to year. However, the last three years have seen particularly low births in the area.

Rye and surrounding area births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	80
2012/13	88
2013/14	91
2014/15	76
2015/16	89
2016/17	78
2017/18	71
2018/19	88
2019/20	76
2020/21	56
2021/22	64
2022/23	42

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 200 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

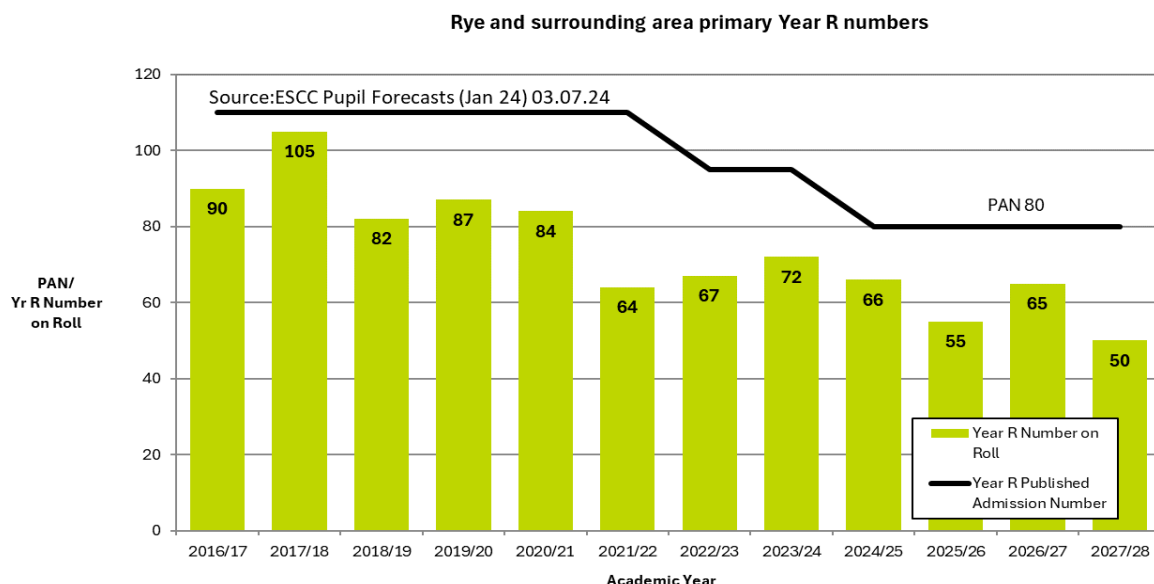
Primary places

Lower births coupled with a movement of pupils away from Rye Community Primary School to the surrounding schools have resulted in intakes well below the combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of the four schools, which reduced from 95 to 80 in 2024/25.

Rye and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	110	90
2017/18	110	105
2018/19	110	82
2019/20	110	87
2020/21	110	84
2021/22	110	64
2022/23	95	67
2023/24	95	72
2024/25	80	66
2025/26	80	55
2026/27	80	65
2027/28	80	50

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

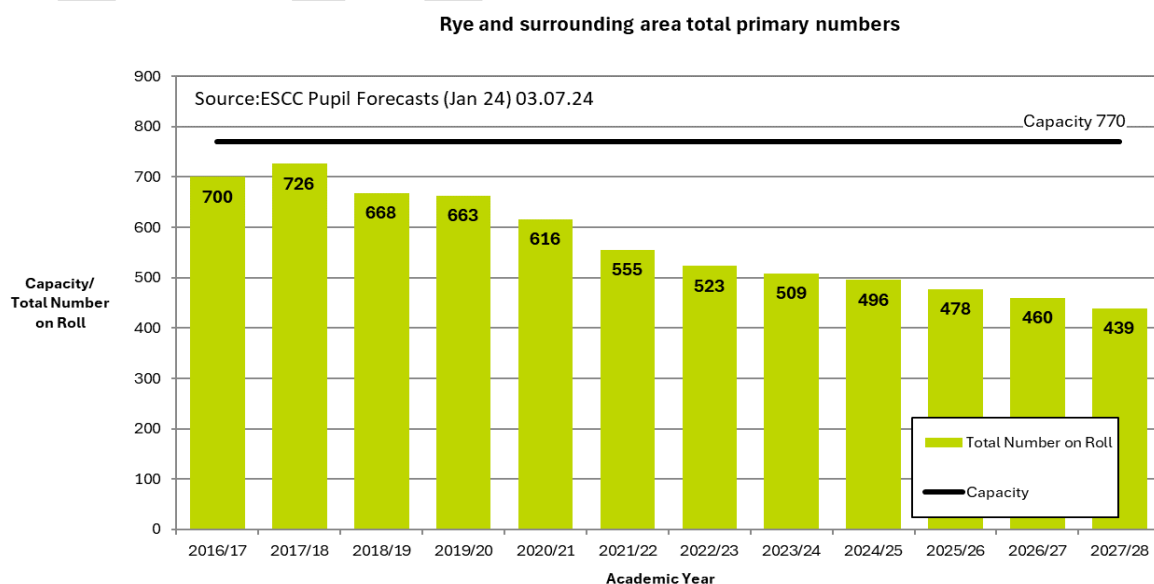


In 2023/24, surplus places in the area stood at 34% and could reach 43% by the end of the plan period. Two schools have surplus places of 25% or more.

Rye and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	770	700
2017/18	770	726
2018/19	770	668
2019/20	770	663
2020/21	770	616
2021/22	770	555
2022/23	770	523
2023/24	770	509
2024/25	770	496
2025/26	770	478
2026/27	770	460
2027/28	770	439

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Reflecting the lower demand for places at Rye Community Primary School, the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust has, in recent years, reduced the PAN at the school initially from 60 to 45 and then from 45 to 30 with effect from 2024/25. Accommodation has not been removed and can be brought back into use when pupil numbers start to rise again.

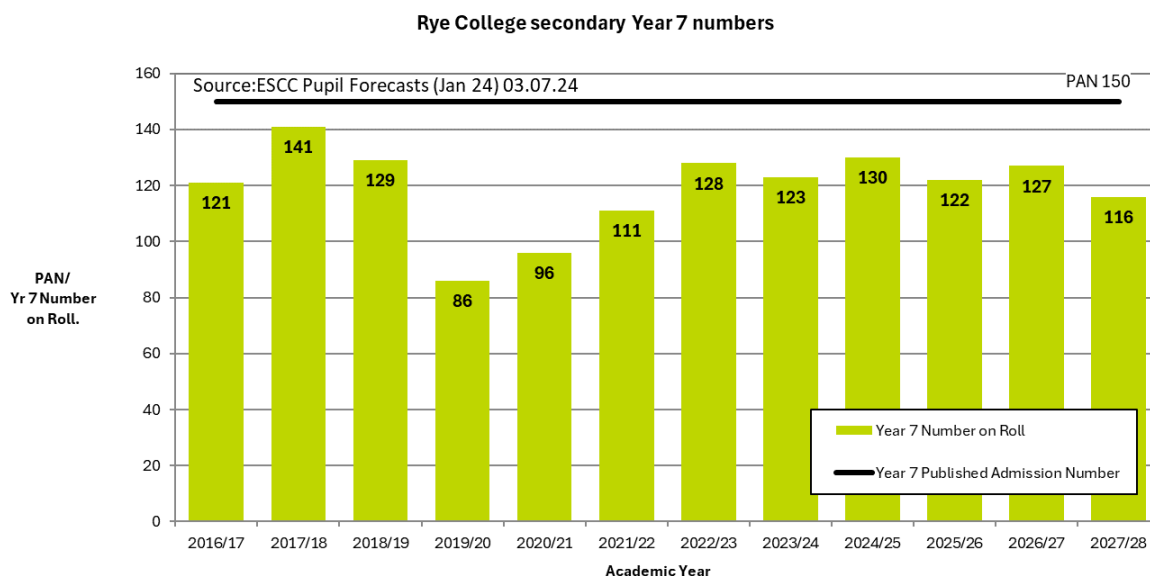
Secondary places

Rye College traditionally has in-area numbers well below its PAN and has relied on attracting children from Hastings and across the border in Kent. Year 7 intakes are expected to remain below the school's PAN of 150 for the duration of the plan period.

Rye College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	150	121
2017/18	150	141
2018/19	150	129
2019/20	150	86
2020/21	150	96
2021/22	150	111
2022/23	150	128
2023/24	150	123
2024/25	150	130
2025/26	150	122
2026/27	150	127
2027/28	150	116

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



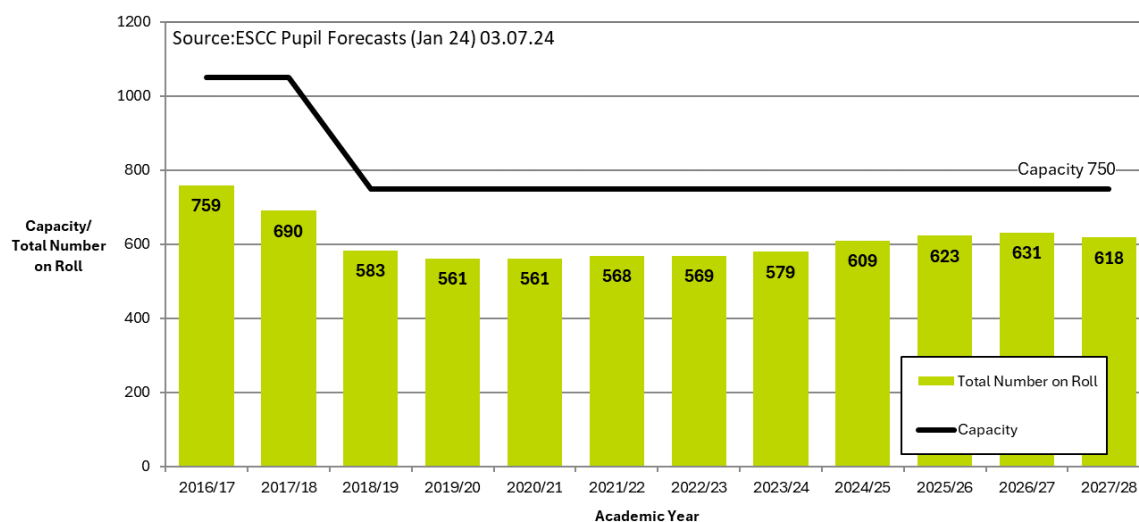
Total pupil numbers at Rye College are forecast to increase slightly during the period to 2026/27 but will still be below the school's capacity.

Rye College total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1050	759
2017/18	1050	690
2018/19	750	583
2019/20	750	561
2020/21	750	561
2021/22	750	568
2022/23	750	569
2023/24	750	579
2024/25	750	609
2025/26	750	623
2026/27	750	631
2027/28	750	618

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rye College total secondary numbers



Rural Rother

Schools

There are 18 primary schools in the area and one secondary school. Four primary schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Beckley Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Brede Primary School	4-11	Community
Burwash CE School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Crowhurst CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Dallington Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Etchingham Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Guestling Bradshaw Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Hurst Green Church of England Primary School and Nursery	2-11	Academy
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Netherfield CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Northiam Church of England Primary School and Nursery	2-11	Academy
Salehurst Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Sedlescombe CE Primary School	4-11	Academy
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Stonegate Church of England Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Ticehurst and Flimwell Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Westfield School	4-11	Community
Secondary		
Robertsbridge Community College	11-16	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

Births

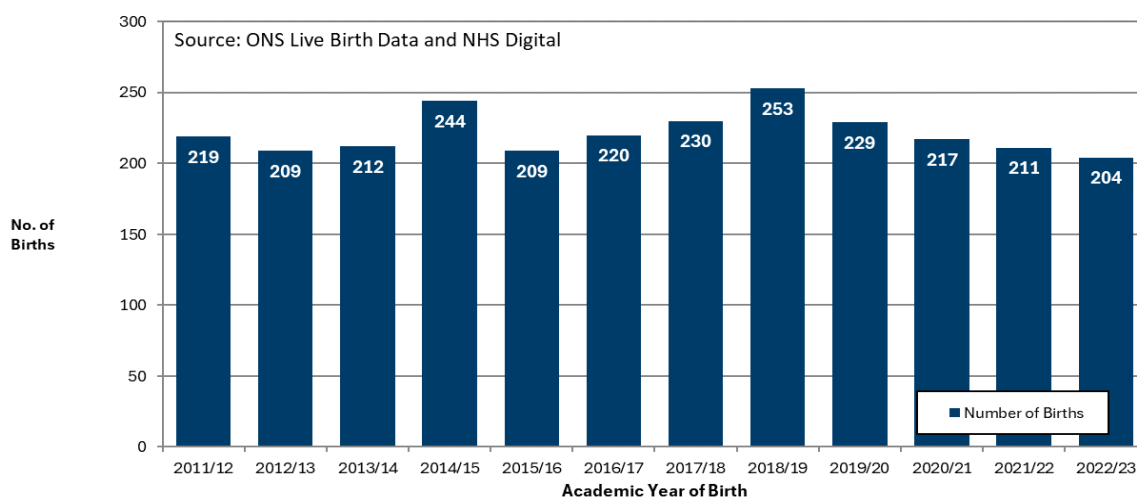
Following a rise in births in 2018/19, numbers in the last four years have fallen back to levels more normally seen in rural Rother.

Rural Rother births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	219
2012/13	209
2013/14	212
2014/15	244
2015/16	209
2016/17	220
2017/18	230
2018/19	253
2019/20	229
2020/21	217
2021/22	211
2022/23	204

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Rural Rother births



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. An estimated 500 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2024/25 to 2027/28. Approximately 200 of these are in Robertsbridge. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this plan.

Primary places

The 375 reception (Year R) places in primary schools across the area are forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for the foreseeable future.

However, the picture will vary between individual rural areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year, owing to the fact that the size of the cohorts of children living in small geographical areas sometimes differs markedly from one age group to the next. Normally schools can organise to accommodate any temporary bulges.

The following primary schools all take significant numbers of children from Hastings: Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary School, Icklesham CE Primary School, Netherfield CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School, and Westfield School. Falling pupil outflows from Hastings, because of lower numbers there, may result in some of these schools not filling as they normally do.

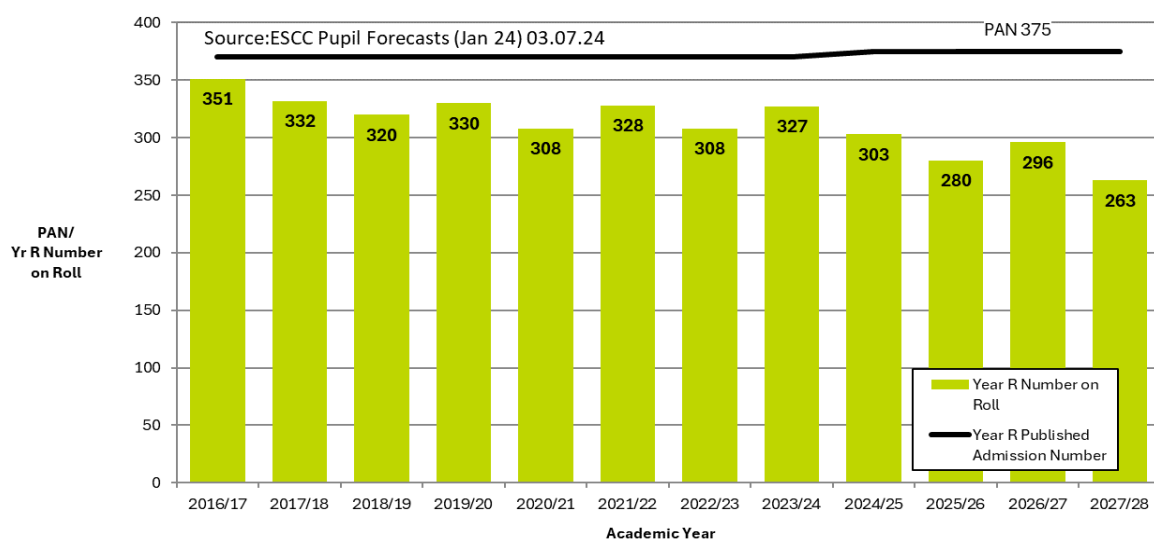
The Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) approved an increase in Northiam CE Primary School's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 15 to 20 with effect from the 2024/25 academic year.

Rural Rother primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	370	351
2017/18	370	332
2018/19	370	320
2019/20	370	330
2020/21	370	308
2021/22	370	328
2022/23	370	308
2023/24	370	327
2024/25	375	303
2025/26	375	280
2026/27	375	296
2027/28	375	263

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rural Rother primary Year R numbers



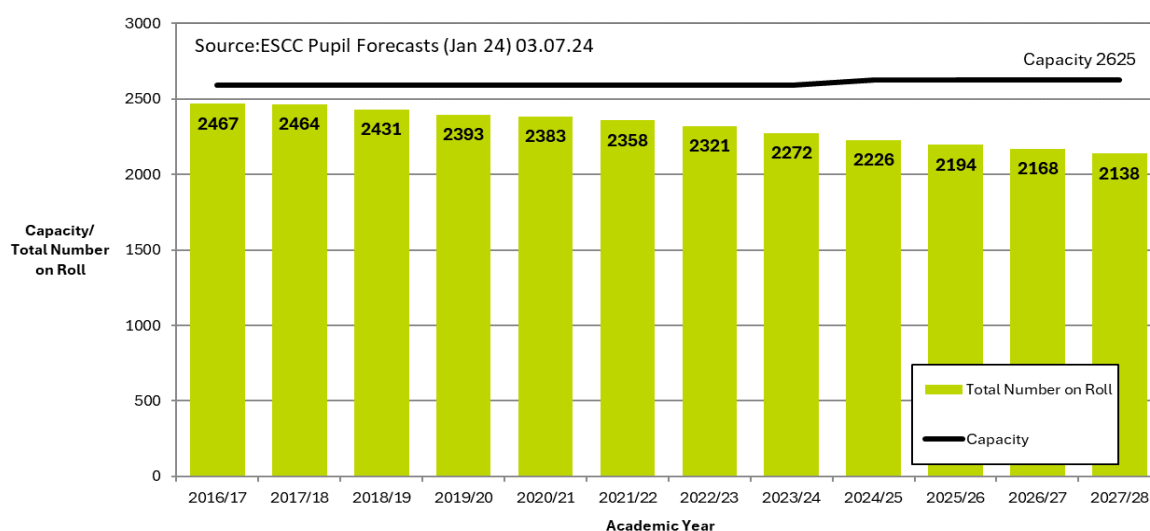
Surplus places for the area stood at 12% in 2023/24. By 2027/28 they are forecast to rise to 19%. Four schools currently have 25% or more surplus places.

Rural Rother total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	2590	2467
2017/18	2590	2464
2018/19	2590	2431
2019/20	2590	2393
2020/21	2590	2383
2021/22	2590	2358
2022/23	2590	2321
2023/24	2590	2272
2024/25	2625	2226
2025/26	2625	2194
2026/27	2625	2168
2027/28	2625	2138

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rural Rother total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Of the four schools with 25% or more surplus places, three are local authority maintained and one is an academy. The local authority will monitor the situation at the three maintained schools and take action where appropriate to manage the surplus capacity. A decision on surplus capacity at the academy school rests with the relevant academy trust.

Secondary places

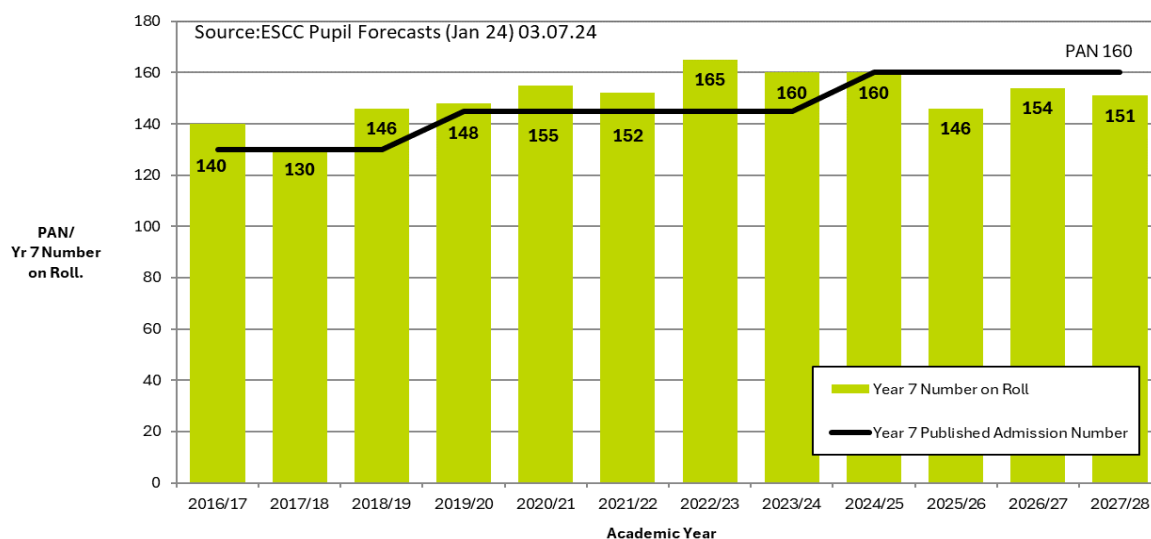
Robertsbridge Community College has enough places to meet in-area demand. Based on current preference patterns, it is forecast that Year 7 intakes will be full or close to full for most of the plan period, but this to a large extent depends on the school's continuing popularity with out of area applicants. The school's PAN increased from 145 to 160 in 2024/25.

Robertsbridge Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	130	140
2017/18	130	130
2018/19	130	146
2019/20	145	148
2020/21	145	155
2021/22	145	152
2022/23	145	165
2023/24	145	160
2024/25	160	160
2025/26	160	146
2026/27	160	154
2027/28	160	151

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Robertsbridge Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



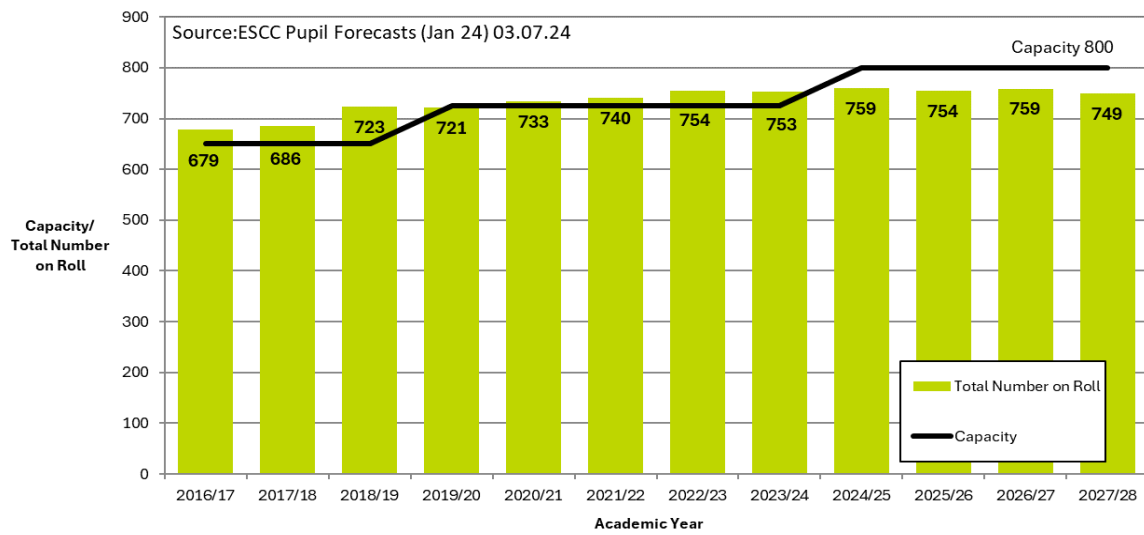
Overall pupil numbers at the school should remain consistent until the end of the plan period.

Robertsbridge Community College total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	650	679
2017/18	650	686
2018/19	650	723
2019/20	725	721
2020/21	725	733
2021/22	725	740
2022/23	725	754
2023/24	725	753
2024/25	800	759
2025/26	800	754
2026/27	800	759
2027/28	800	749

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Robertsbridge Community College total secondary numbers



Crowborough and surrounding area

Schools

There are six primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision. The secondary school has a sixth form.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Ashdown Primary School	4-11	Community
Jarvis Brook Primary School	2-11	Academy
Rotherfield Primary School	4-11	Community
Sir Henry Fermor Church of England Primary School	4-11	Academy
St John's Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Marys Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Secondary		
Beacon Academy	11-18	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

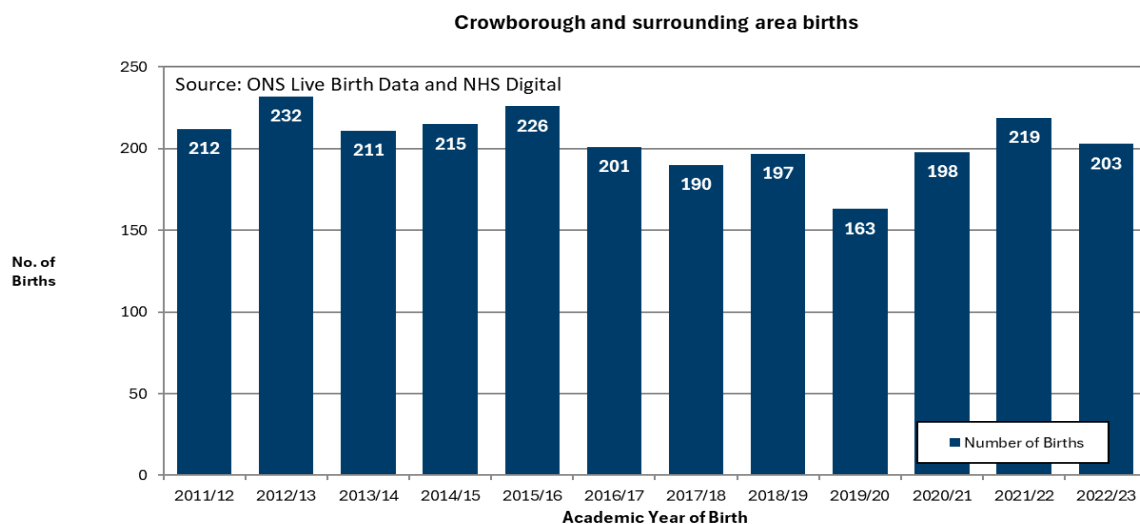
Births

Following a particularly low year for births in the area in 2019/20, they have risen in the last three years.

Crowborough and surrounding area births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	212
2012/13	232
2013/14	211
2014/15	215
2015/16	226
2016/17	201
2017/18	190
2018/19	197
2019/20	163
2020/21	198
2021/22	219
2022/23	203

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,200 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

Based on birth and GP registration data, for the foreseeable future, reception (Year R) numbers in the area are likely to fall well below the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 240.

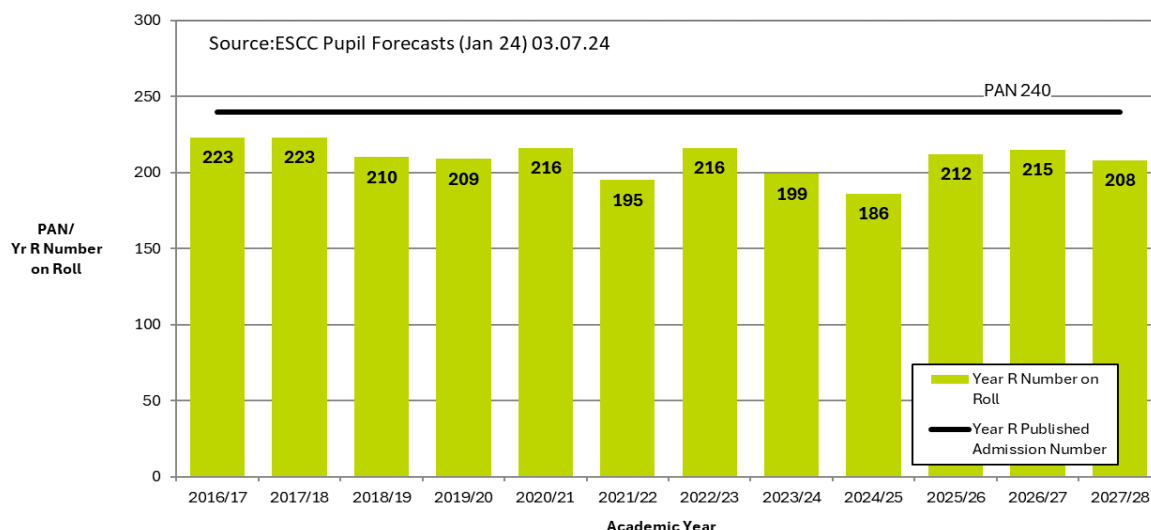
A number of children from the area currently attend surrounding schools, most notably High Hurstwood CE Primary School.

Crowborough and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	240	223
2017/18	240	223
2018/19	240	210
2019/20	240	209
2020/21	240	216
2021/22	240	195
2022/23	240	216
2023/24	240	199
2024/25	240	186
2025/26	240	212
2026/27	240	215
2027/28	240	208

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Crowborough and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



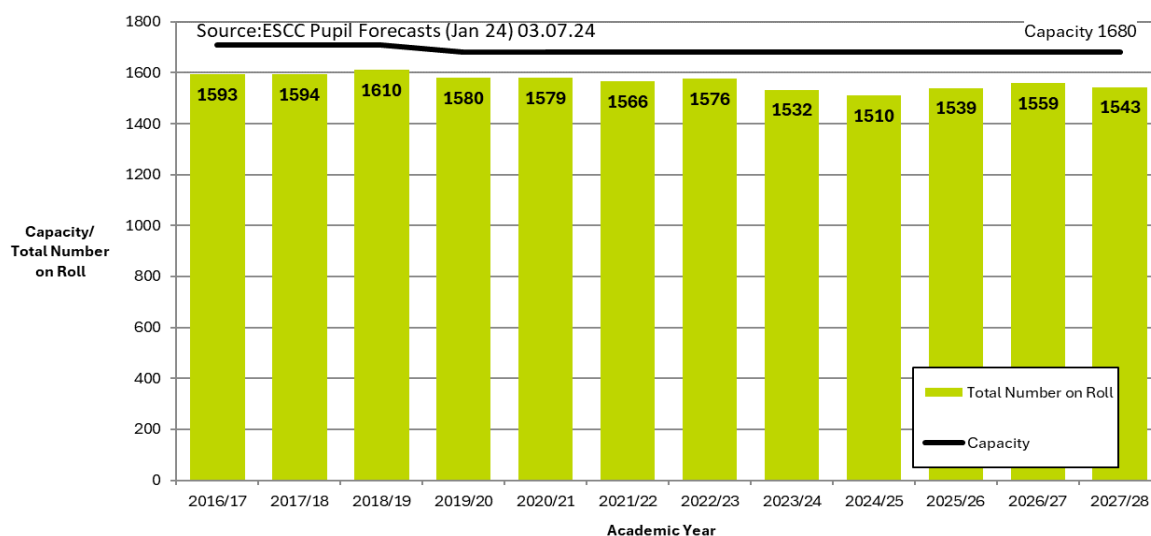
Overall pupil numbers in the area are likely to remain consistent until 2027/28. One school has surplus places of 25% or more.

Crowborough and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1710	1593
2017/18	1710	1594
2018/19	1710	1610
2019/20	1680	1580
2020/21	1680	1579
2021/22	1680	1566
2022/23	1680	1576
2023/24	1680	1532
2024/25	1680	1510
2025/26	1680	1539
2026/27	1680	1559
2027/28	1680	1543

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Crowborough and surrounding area total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

The school with 25% or more surplus places is an academy. A decision on managing surplus capacity at the school therefore rests with the relevant academy trust.

Secondary places

Year 7 intakes have significantly exceeded Beacon Academy's PAN of 250 in recent years. The school's admissions policy for 2023/24 changed so priority is only given to siblings of children at the school who live 'in-area' rather than all siblings. This is helping to limit the number of out of area applicants the school has to accommodate. Some children from Beacon Academy's area obtain places at Kent Grammar schools.

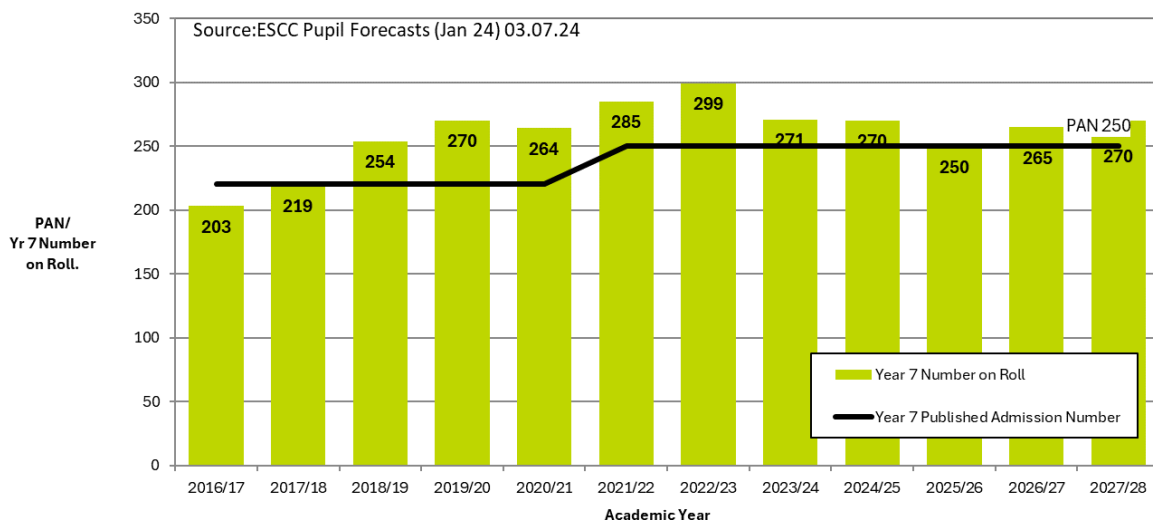
Numbers of pupils coming through primary schools in the area over the next few years are likely to be lower than in recent years, although in the short to medium term it may still be difficult for the school to keep to its PAN of 250.

Beacon Academy secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	220	203
2017/18	220	219
2018/19	220	254
2019/20	220	270
2020/21	220	264
2021/22	250	285
2022/23	250	299
2023/24	250	271
2024/25	250	270
2025/26	250	250
2026/27	250	265
2027/28	250	270

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Beacon Academy secondary Year 7 numbers



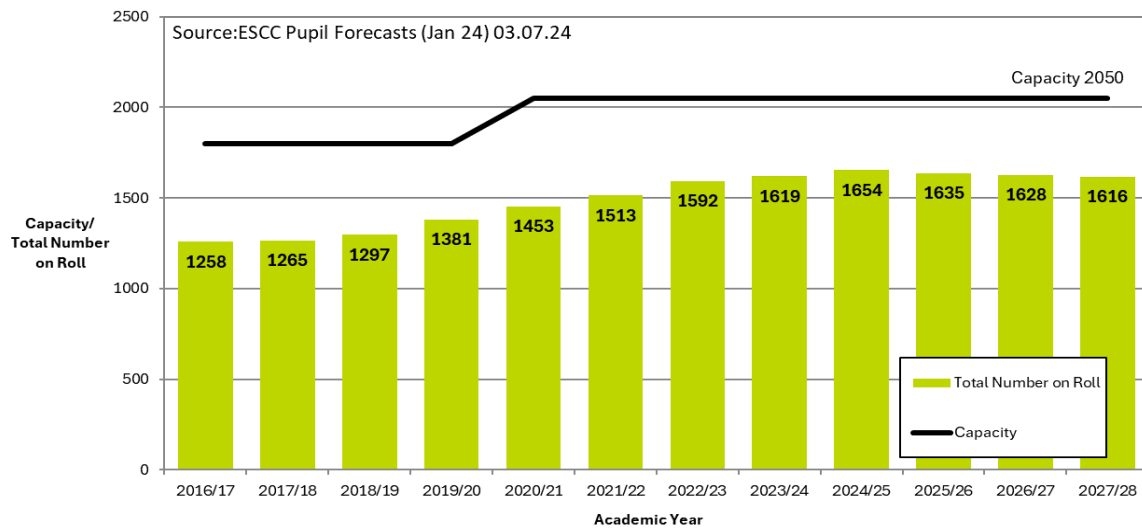
Overall pupil numbers at the school are forecast to remain consistent during the plan period.

Beacon Academy total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1800	1258
2017/18	1800	1265
2018/19	1800	1297
2019/20	1800	1381
2020/21	2050	1453
2021/22	2050	1513
2022/23	2050	1592
2023/24	2050	1619
2024/25	2050	1654
2025/26	2050	1635
2026/27	2050	1628
2027/28	2050	1616

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Beacon Academy total secondary numbers



Hailsham and surrounding area

Schools

There are seven primary schools in the area and one all through school (primary, secondary and sixth form). Three schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Burfield Academy	3-11	Academy
Grovelands Community Primary School	2-11	Foundation
Hawkes Farm Academy	4-11	Academy
Hellingly Community Primary School	4-11	Community
Park Mead Primary School	4-11	Community
Phoenix Academy	4-11	Academy
White House Academy	4-11	Academy
All-through		
Hailsham Community College	2-18	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

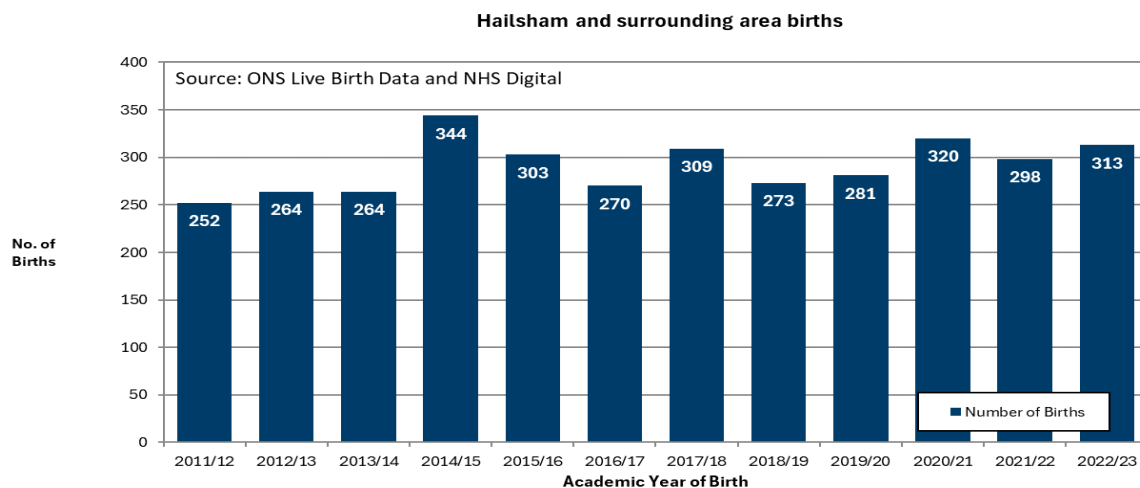
Births

Births in the area have risen in recent years reflecting the significant number of new homes that have been built in Hailsham.

Hailsham and surrounding area births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	252
2012/13	264
2013/14	264
2014/15	344
2015/16	303
2016/17	270
2017/18	309
2018/19	273
2019/20	281
2020/21	320
2021/22	298
2022/23	313

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 4,200 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

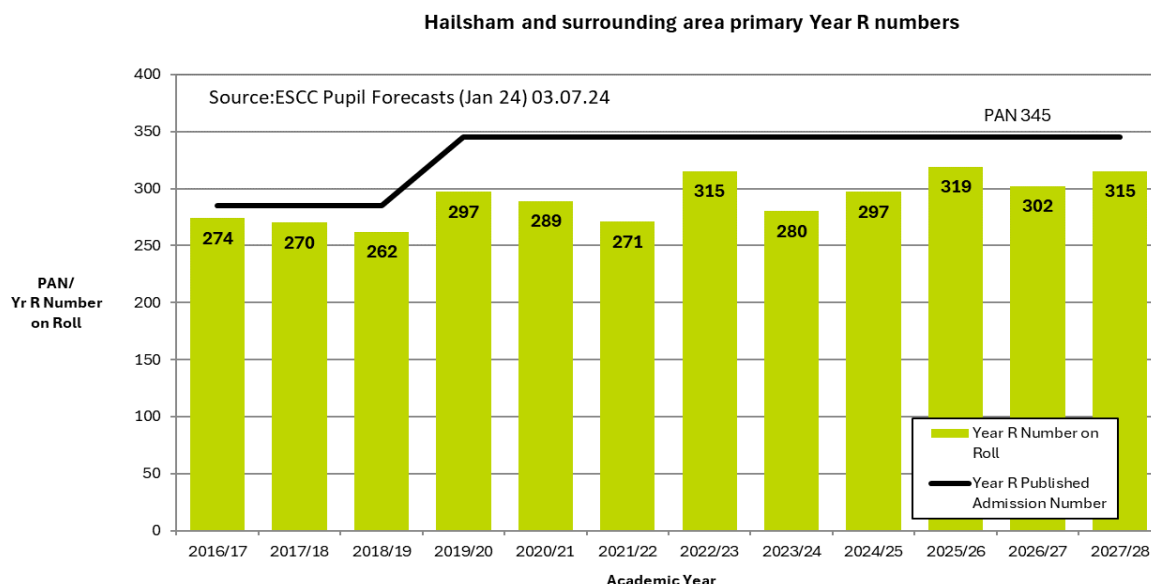
Primary places

Birth and GP registration data indicate that the combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of 345 for the area is unlikely to be exceeded for the foreseeable future.

Hailsham and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	285	274
2017/18	285	270
2018/19	285	262
2019/20	345	297
2020/21	345	289
2021/22	345	271
2022/23	345	315
2023/24	345	280
2024/25	345	297
2025/26	345	319
2026/27	345	302
2027/28	345	315

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

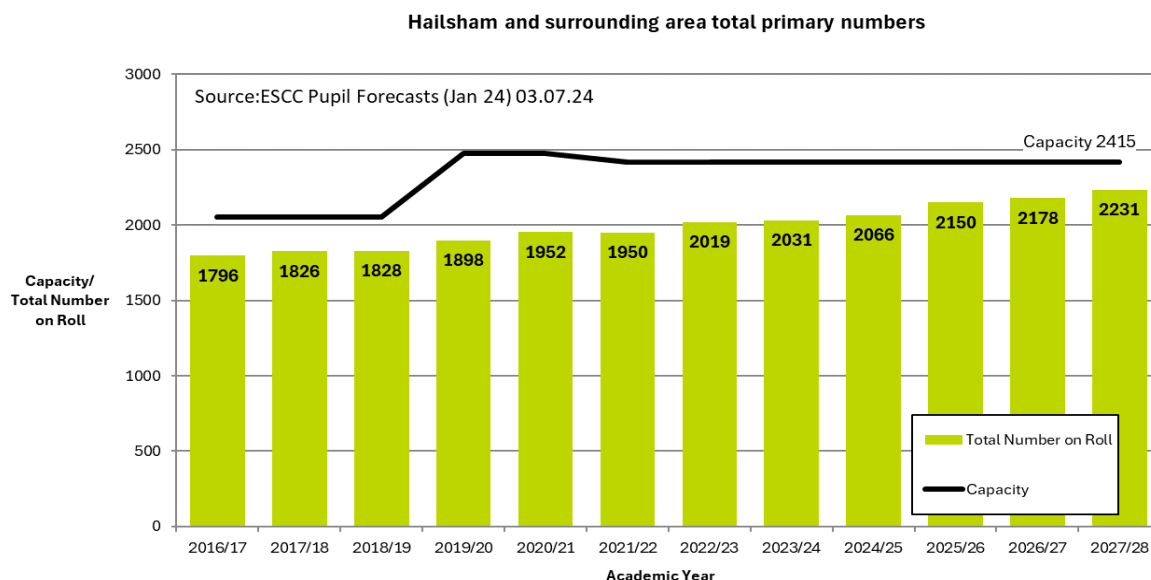


In 2023/24, surplus places in the town stood at 16%. This figure is likely to fall to 8% by 2027/28. Currently two schools in the area have 25% or more surplus places, although one, Hailsham Community College primary phase, only opened in 2019/20 and is filling from reception year up. The school will not have cohort in each year group until 2025/26.

Hailsham and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	2055	1796
2017/18	2055	1826
2018/19	2055	1828
2019/20	2475	1898
2020/21	2475	1952
2021/22	2415	1950
2022/23	2415	2019
2023/24	2415	2031
2024/25	2415	2066
2025/26	2415	2150
2026/27	2415	2178
2027/28	2415	2231

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

The other school with 25% or more surplus places, Phoenix Academy, is part of a proposal by Step Academy Trust to merge it with Burfield Academy. As the schools are academies, a final decision on the proposal will be taken by the Department for Education. If approved, the merger would create one primary school on the current Phoenix Academy site, with a reduction of capacity in the area by 210 places.

Secondary places

As a result of rising numbers coming through primary schools and additional pupils generated by the substantial volume of new housing being built in the town, Hailsham Community College is experiencing significantly higher numbers of in-area children than previously.

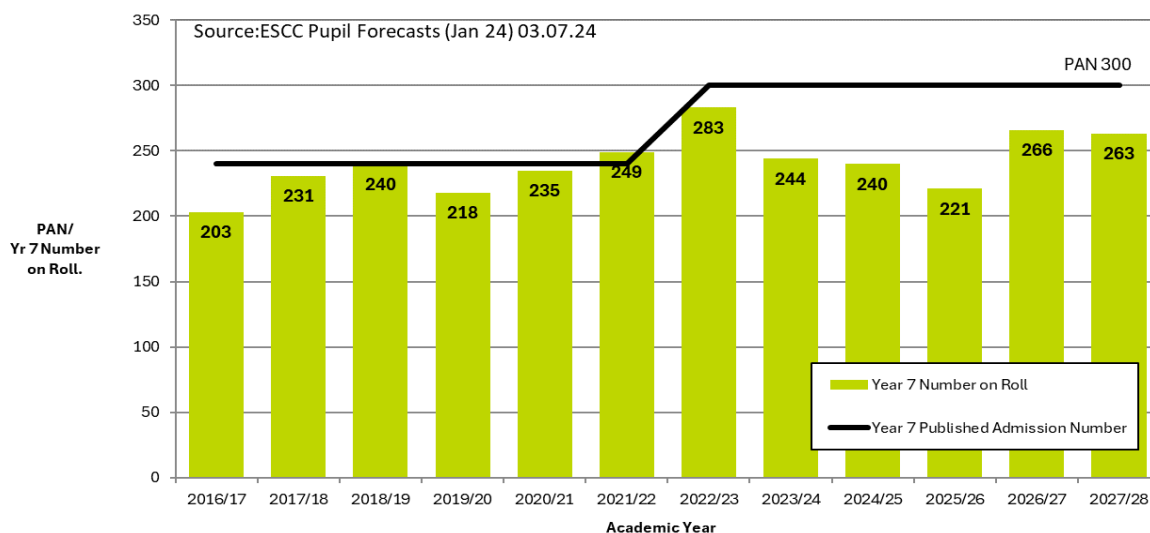
A substantial number of children from the area take up places at surrounding schools, notably Heathfield Community College, Kings Academy Ringmer, Willingdon Community School and schools in Eastbourne. Therefore, the exact magnitude of Year 7 intakes to Hailsham Community College will be heavily dependent on future patterns of parental preference and the availability of places in surrounding schools.

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	240	203
2017/18	240	231
2018/19	240	240
2019/20	240	218
2020/21	240	235
2021/22	240	249
2022/23	300	283
2023/24	300	244
2024/25	300	240
2025/26	300	221
2026/27	300	266
2027/28	300	263

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust secondary Year 7 numbers



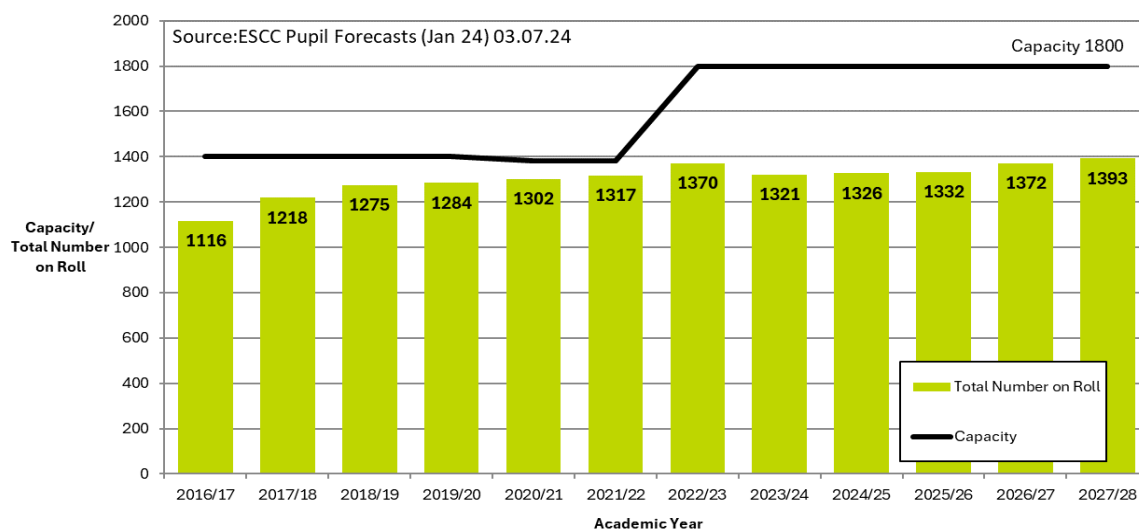
Total pupil numbers are forecast to grow slightly in the period 2027/28 but will remain below the school's capacity.

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1400	1116
2017/18	1400	1218
2018/19	1400	1275
2019/20	1400	1284
2020/21	1380	1302
2021/22	1380	1317
2022/23	1800	1370
2023/24	1800	1321
2024/25	1800	1326
2025/26	1800	1332
2026/27	1800	1372
2027/28	1800	1393

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust total secondary numbers



Heathfield

Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
All Saints' & St Richard's Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Cross-in-Hand Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Parkside Community Primary School	2-11	Community
Secondary		
Heathfield Community College	11-18	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

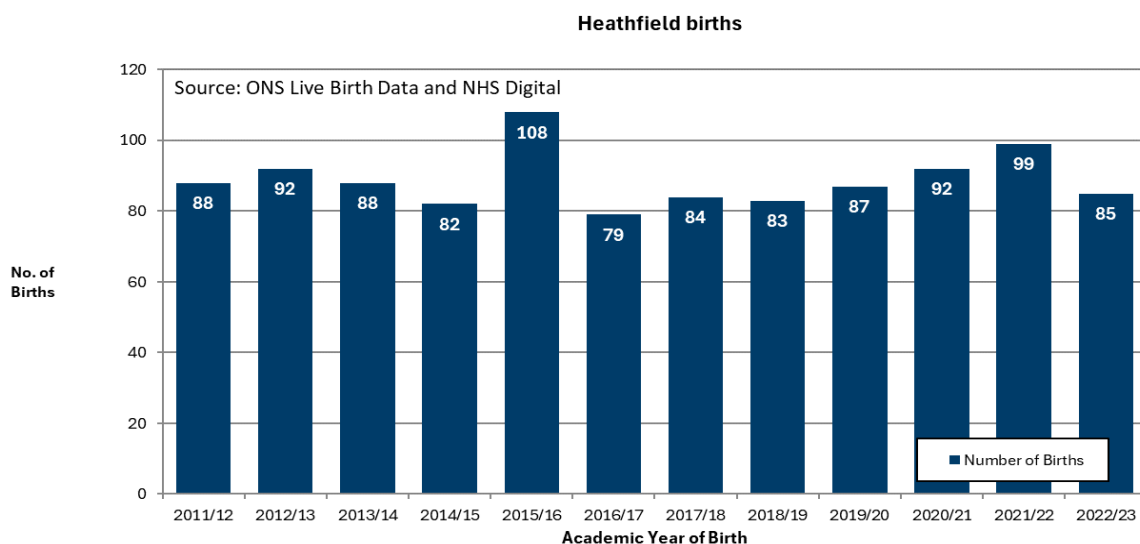
Births

Births in the area have been gradually rising in recent years but dropped back again in 2022/23.

Heathfield births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	88
2012/13	92
2013/14	88
2014/15	82
2015/16	108
2016/17	79
2017/18	84
2018/19	83
2019/20	87
2020/21	92
2021/22	99
2022/23	85

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 400 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

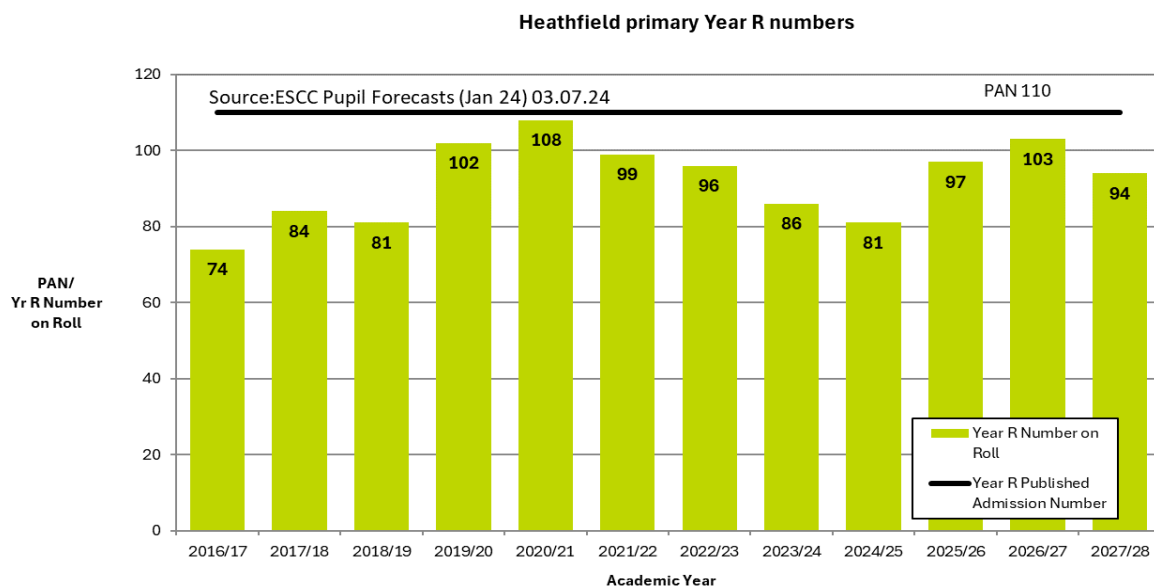
There is movement of children between Heathfield and the following schools: Maynard's Green Community Primary School, Punnetts Town Community Primary School, and schools in Hailsham.

Reception (Year R) numbers in the area are forecast to remain within the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 110 for the foreseeable future.

Heathfield primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	110	74
2017/18	110	84
2018/19	110	81
2019/20	110	102
2020/21	110	108
2021/22	110	99
2022/23	110	96
2023/24	110	86
2024/25	110	81
2025/26	110	97
2026/27	110	103
2027/28	110	94

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

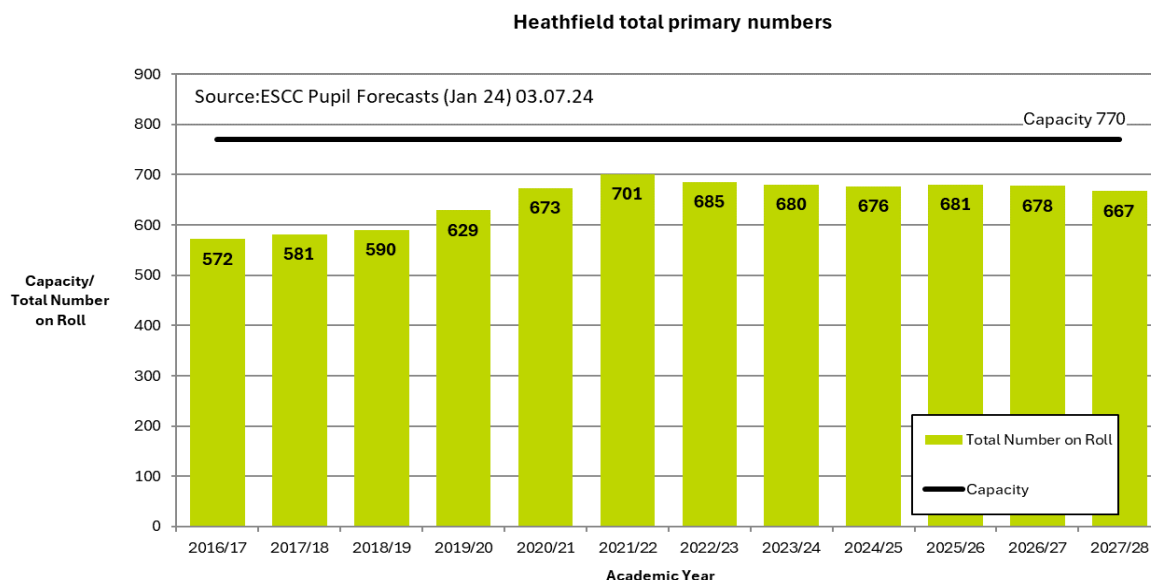


Overall pupil numbers should remain consistent until the end of the plan period. One school in the area has 25% or more surplus places.

Heathfield total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	770	572
2017/18	770	581
2018/19	770	590
2019/20	770	629
2020/21	770	673
2021/22	770	701
2022/23	770	685
2023/24	770	680
2024/25	770	676
2025/26	770	681
2026/27	770	678
2027/28	770	667

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Secondary places

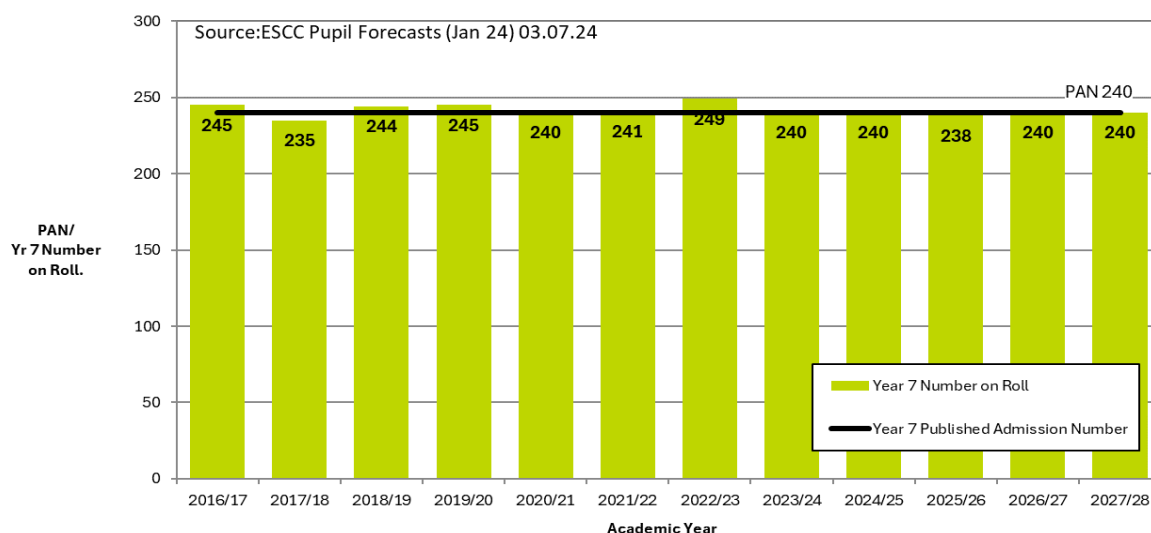
Heathfield Community College takes significant numbers of pupils from Hailsham and the surrounding area. With inflows of pupils from these areas, it is forecast that the school will continue to fill to its PAN for the foreseeable future.

Heathfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	240	245
2017/18	240	235
2018/19	240	244
2019/20	240	245
2020/21	240	240
2021/22	240	241
2022/23	240	249
2023/24	240	240
2024/25	240	240
2025/26	240	238
2026/27	240	240
2027/28	240	240

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Heathfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



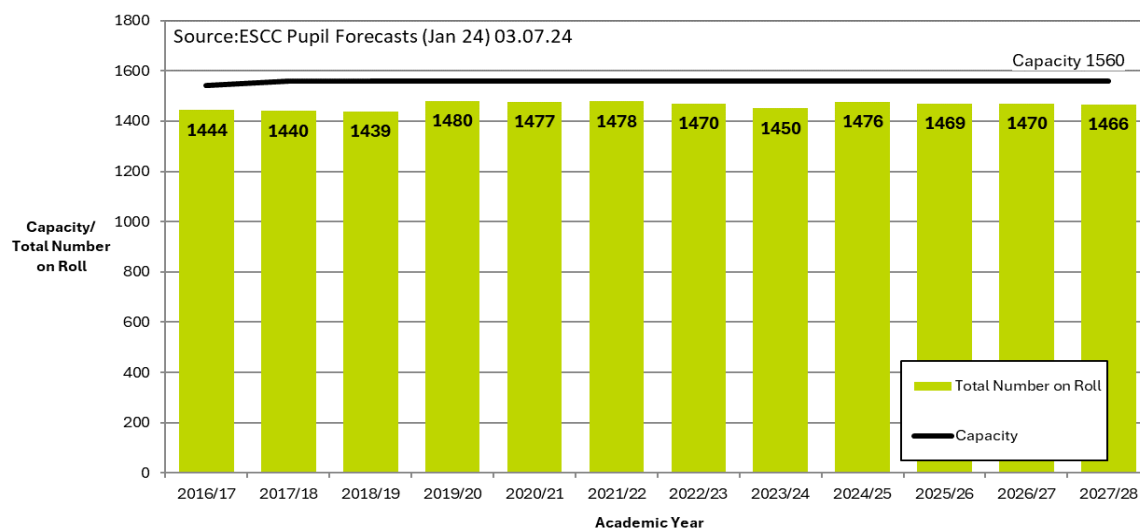
Heathfield Community College has sufficient capacity to meet in-area demand. The potential for the school admissions system to redirect out of area applicants back to Hailsham and other areas means that the school is unlikely to have to exceed capacity in future years.

Heathfield Community College total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1541	1444
2017/18	1560	1440
2018/19	1560	1439
2019/20	1560	1480
2020/21	1560	1477
2021/22	1560	1478
2022/23	1560	1470
2023/24	1560	1450
2024/25	1560	1476
2025/26	1560	1469
2026/27	1560	1470
2027/28	1560	1466

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Heathfield Community College total secondary numbers



Polegate and Willingdon

Schools

There are two primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Polegate Primary School	2-11	Community
Willingdon Primary School	4-11	Community
Secondary		
Willingdon Community School	11-16	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

Births

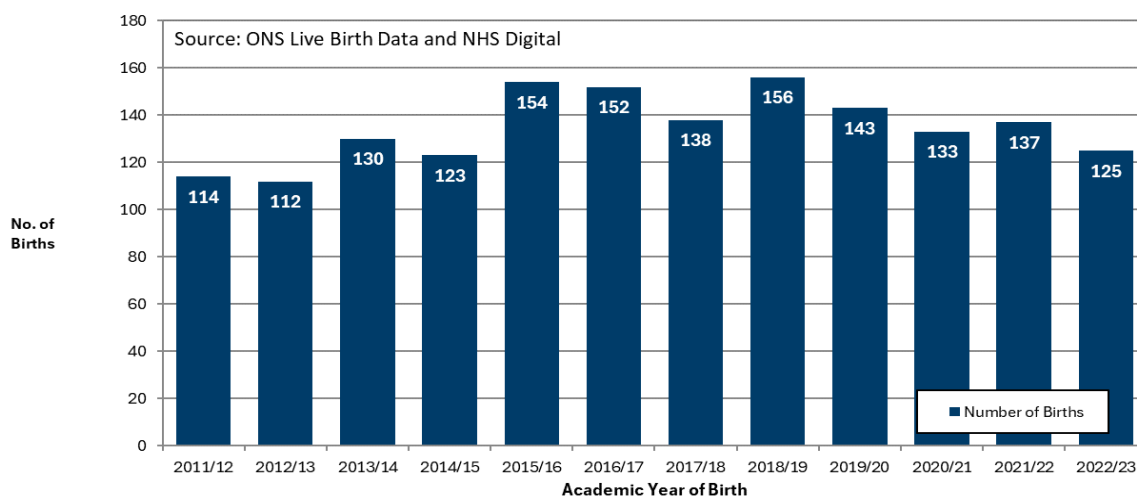
There has been a gradual decline in births in the area since their peak in 2018/19.

Polegate and Willingdon births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	114
2012/13	112
2013/14	130
2014/15	123
2015/16	154
2016/17	152
2017/18	138
2018/19	156
2019/20	143
2020/21	133
2021/22	137
2022/23	125

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Polegate and Willingdon births



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,900 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

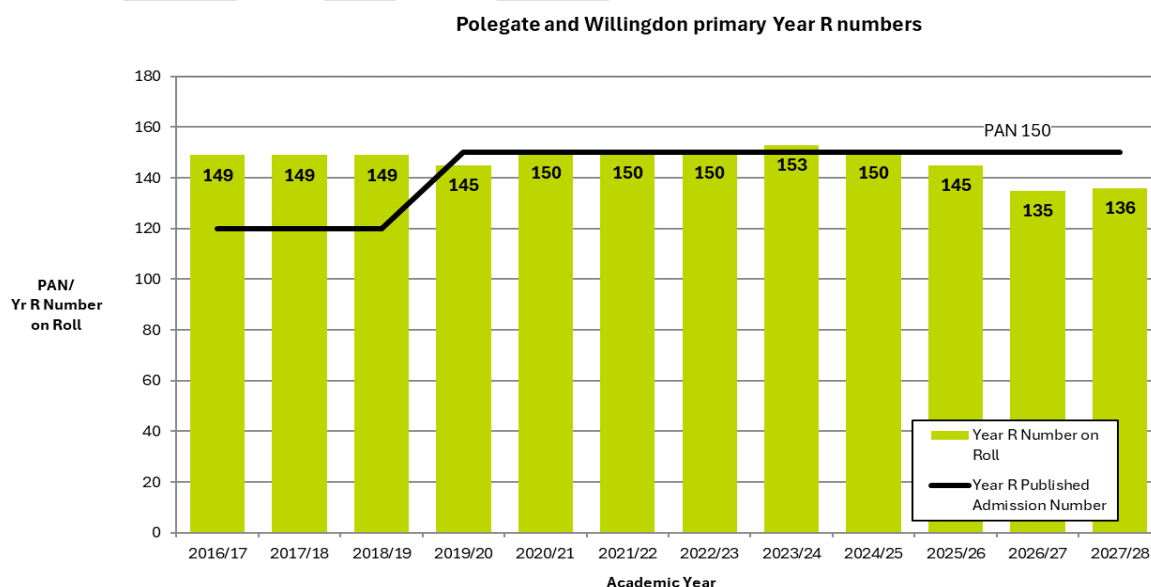
There are significant flows of children to and from Polegate Primary School and Willingdon Primary School and schools in Eastbourne.

In the short term, birth and GP registration data points to reception (Year R) numbers remaining at or within the combined PAN of 150.

Polegate and Willingdon primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	120	149
2017/18	120	149
2018/19	120	149
2019/20	150	145
2020/21	150	150
2021/22	150	150
2022/23	150	150
2023/24	150	153
2024/25	150	150
2025/26	150	145
2026/27	150	135
2027/28	150	136

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

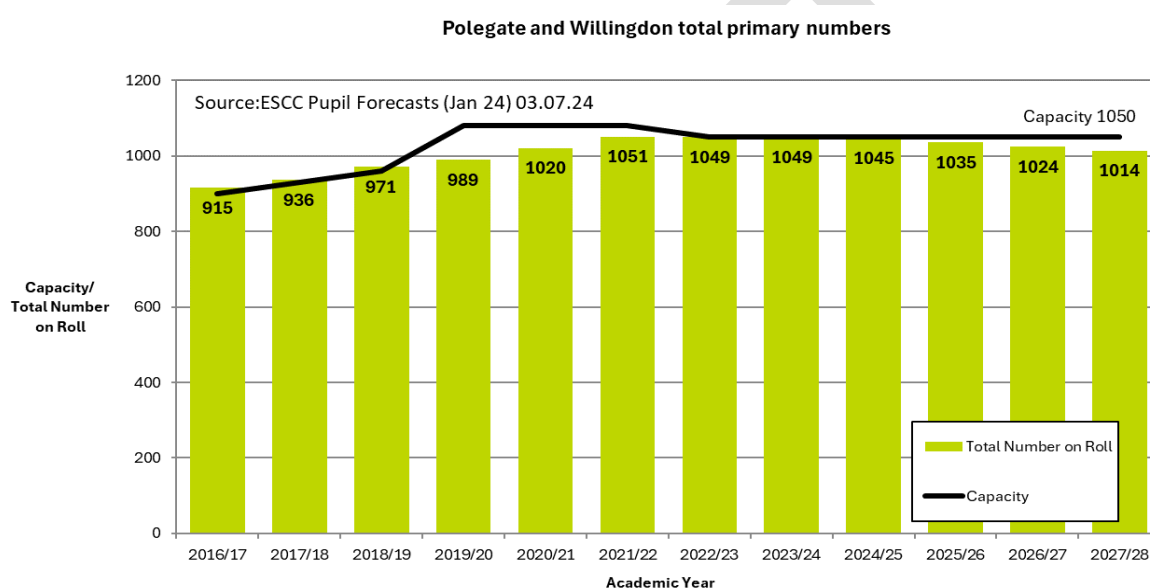


Total pupil numbers in the area should remain relatively consistent in the period 2027/28.

Polegate and Willingdon total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	900	915
2017/18	930	936
2018/19	960	971
2019/20	1080	989
2020/21	1080	1020
2021/22	1080	1051
2022/23	1050	1049
2023/24	1050	1049
2024/25	1050	1045
2025/26	1050	1035
2026/27	1050	1024
2027/28	1050	1014

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Secondary places

Linked to numbers coming through primary schools and the volume of recent housing development in the Polegate and Stone Cross areas, Willingdon Community School is likely to find it increasingly difficult to meet demand from all children within its admissions community area who wish to go there. The Willingdon school community area has shared areas with two Eastbourne schools, The Turing School and The Eastbourne Academy. In some years, if Willingdon Community School is to keep to its PAN of 210, the school admissions system may have to direct a number of local applicants from the school's community area to the above schools.

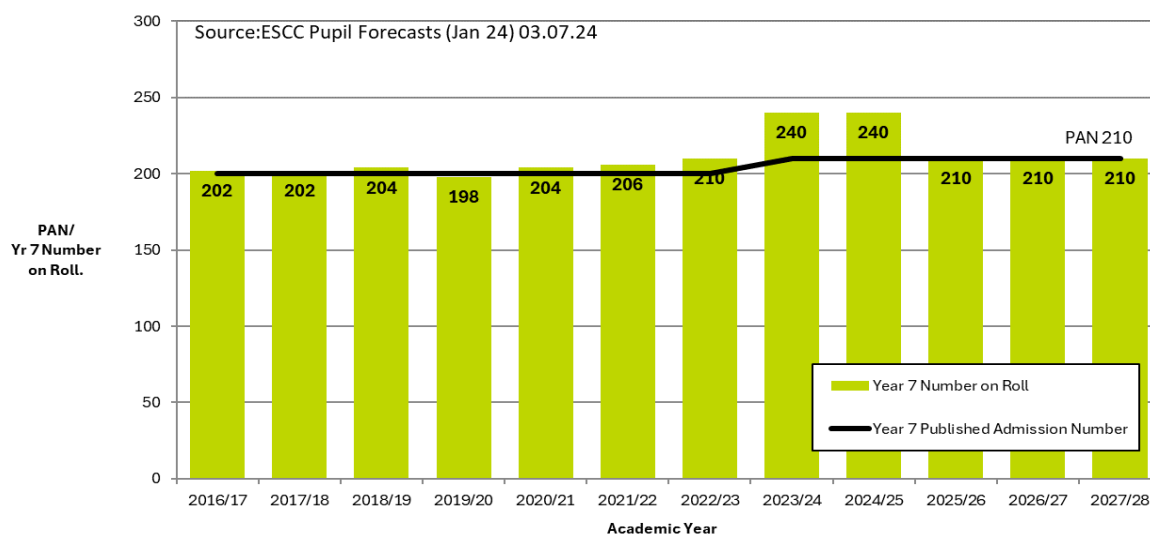
To address recent pressure on places at the school, the local authority agreed with the school that it would temporarily admit up to 240 children in Year 7 in 2023/24 and again in 2024/25.

Willingdon Community School secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	200	202
2017/18	200	202
2018/19	200	204
2019/20	200	198
2020/21	200	204
2021/22	200	206
2022/23	200	210
2023/24	210	240
2024/25	210	240
2025/26	210	210
2026/27	210	210
2027/28	210	210

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Willingdon Community School secondary Year 7 numbers



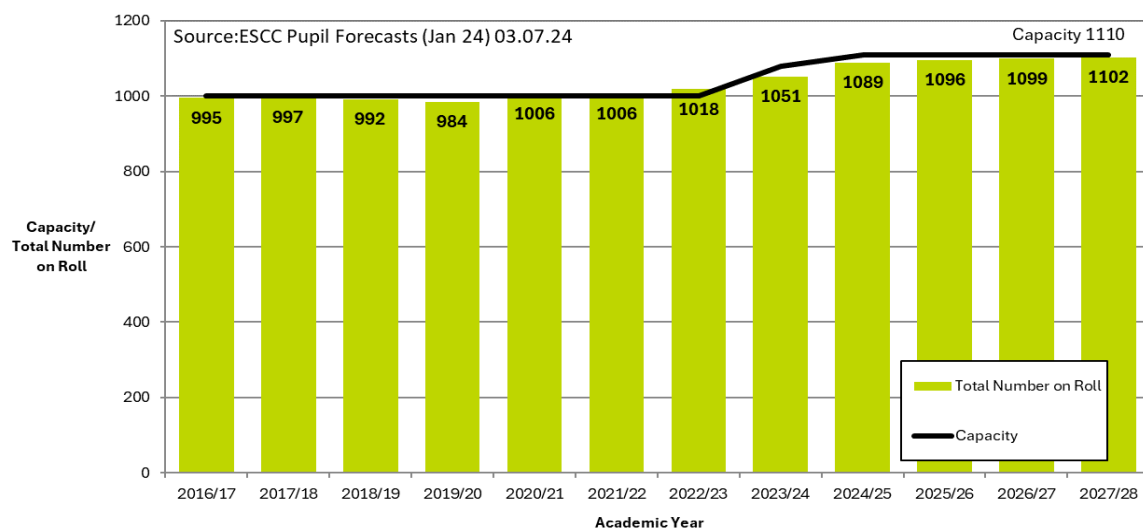
The school is likely to remain at, or close to, capacity during the plan period.

Willingdon Community School total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1000	995
2017/18	1000	997
2018/19	1000	992
2019/20	1000	984
2020/21	1000	1006
2021/22	1000	1006
2022/23	1000	1018
2023/24	1080	1051
2024/25	1110	1089
2025/26	1110	1096
2026/27	1110	1099
2027/28	1110	1102

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Willingdon Community School total secondary numbers



Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

Schools

There are three primary schools in the area.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Hankham Primary School	4-11	Community
Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Stone Cross School	4-11	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

Births

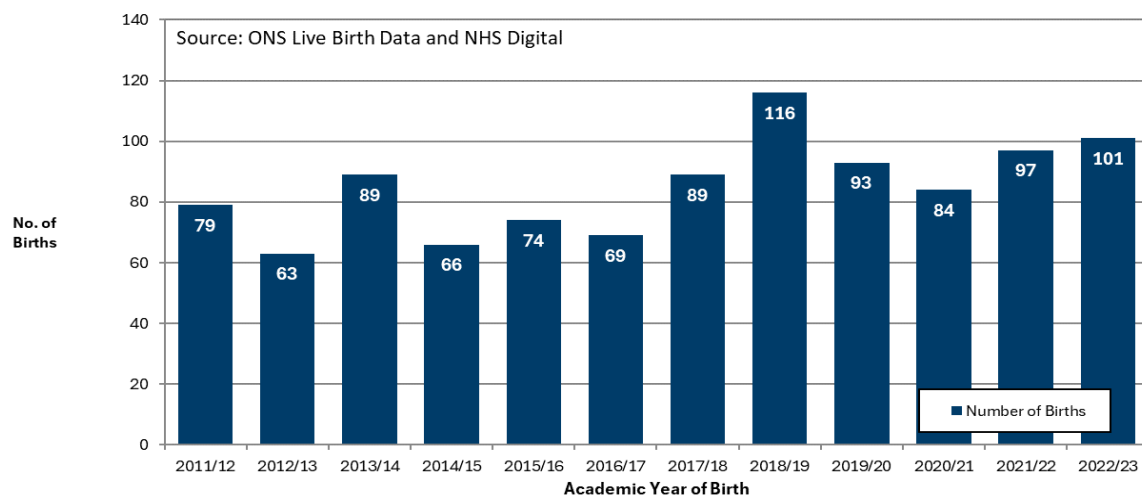
Births in the area tend to fluctuate year-on-year, although numbers in recent years have been generally higher than in the previous decade.

Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	79
2012/13	63
2013/14	89
2014/15	66
2015/16	74
2016/17	69
2017/18	89
2018/19	116
2019/20	93
2020/21	84
2021/22	97
2022/23	101

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham births



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,200 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

Recent house building in the area has resulted in larger numbers of in-area children coming through into reception (Year R). The three schools take significant numbers of children from Eastbourne area. In the short to medium term, the school admissions system should be able to redirect some of this demand back to Eastbourne, where future intake numbers are predicted to decline as a result of falling births, thereby ensuring sufficient places for local children.

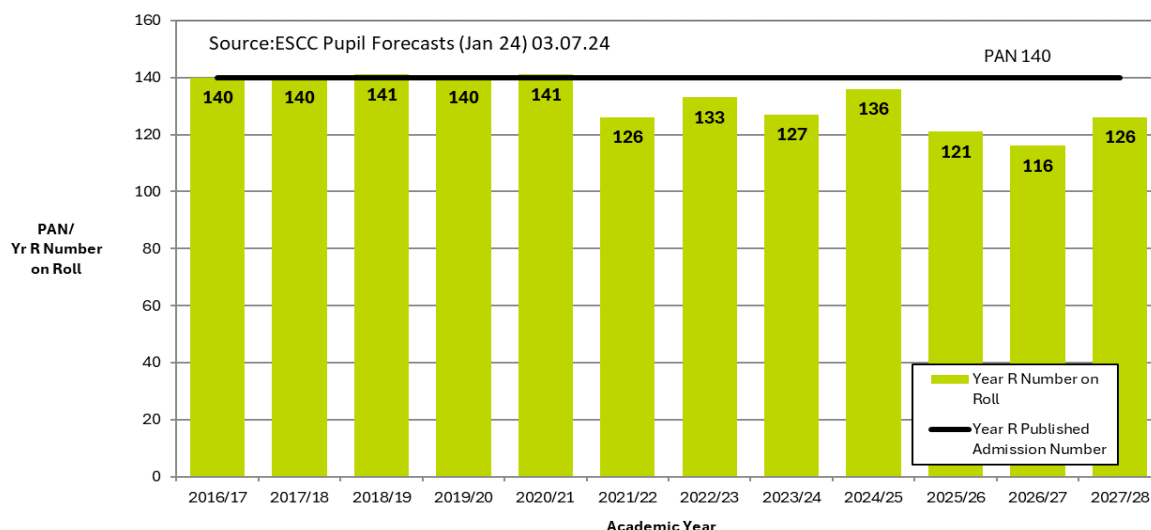
However, the volume of new housing, coupled with any future general upturn in births, could put pressure on school places in the local area in future years.

Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	140	140
2017/18	140	140
2018/19	140	141
2019/20	140	140
2020/21	140	141
2021/22	140	126
2022/23	140	133
2023/24	140	127
2024/25	140	136
2025/26	140	121
2026/27	140	116
2027/28	140	126

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham primary Year R numbers



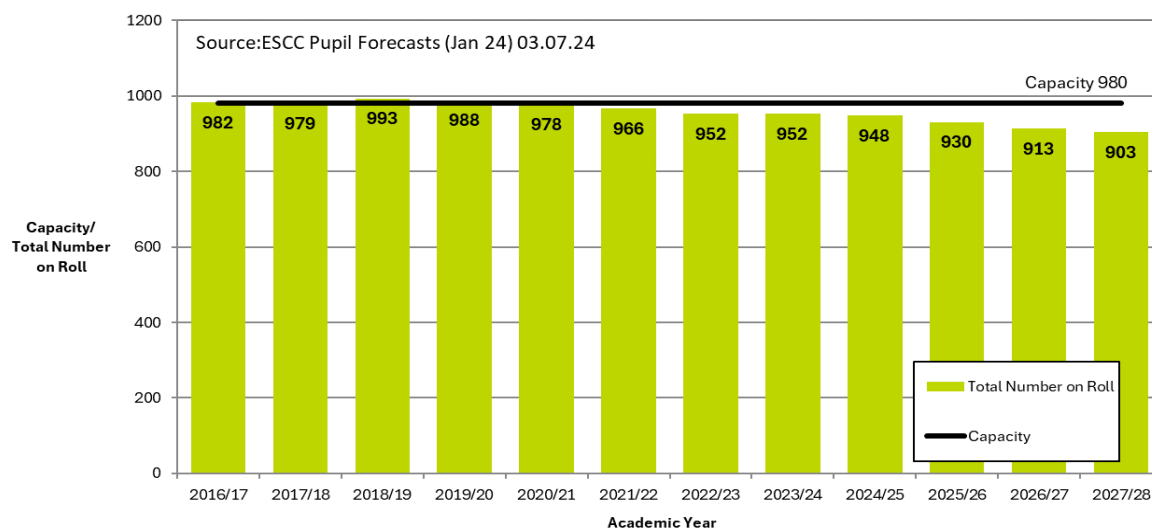
The three schools, which have largely been full to now, could start to see pupil numbers below capacity in the period to 2027/28.

Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	980	982
2017/18	980	979
2018/19	980	993
2019/20	980	988
2020/21	980	978
2021/22	980	966
2022/23	980	952
2023/24	980	952
2024/25	980	948
2025/26	980	930
2026/27	980	913
2027/28	980	903

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Uckfield and surrounding area

Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Framfield Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Harlands Primary School	2-11	Community
Little Horsted Church of England Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Aided
Manor Primary School	4-11	Community
Rocks Park Primary School	4-11	Community
St Philip's Catholic Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Aided
Secondary		
Uckfield College	11-18	Community

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

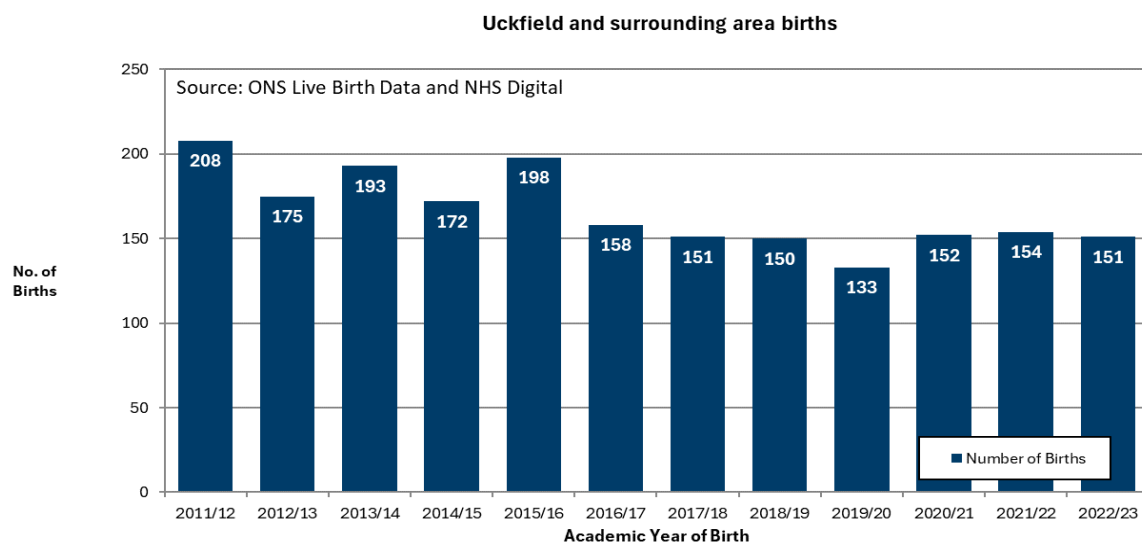
Births

Since 2015/16, births in Uckfield have been relatively consistent, although 2019/20 was a particularly low year.

Uckfield and surrounding area births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	208
2012/13	175
2013/14	193
2014/15	172
2015/16	198
2016/17	158
2017/18	151
2018/19	150
2019/20	133
2020/21	152
2021/22	154
2022/23	151

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 2,200 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40.

Primary places

A number of children from the area currently attend surrounding schools, notably Bonners CE Primary School and Buxted CE Primary School.

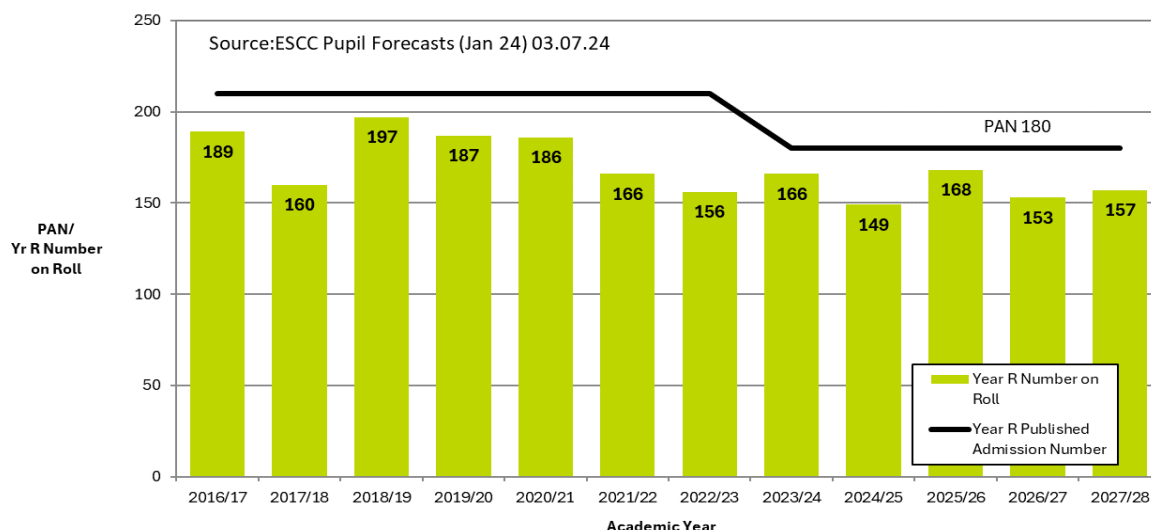
Live birth and GP registration data are currently suggesting reception (Year R) numbers remaining under the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area during the plan period.

Uckfield and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	210	189
2017/18	210	160
2018/19	210	197
2019/20	210	187
2020/21	210	186
2021/22	210	166
2022/23	210	156
2023/24	180	166
2024/25	180	149
2025/26	180	168
2026/27	180	153
2027/28	180	157

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uckfield and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



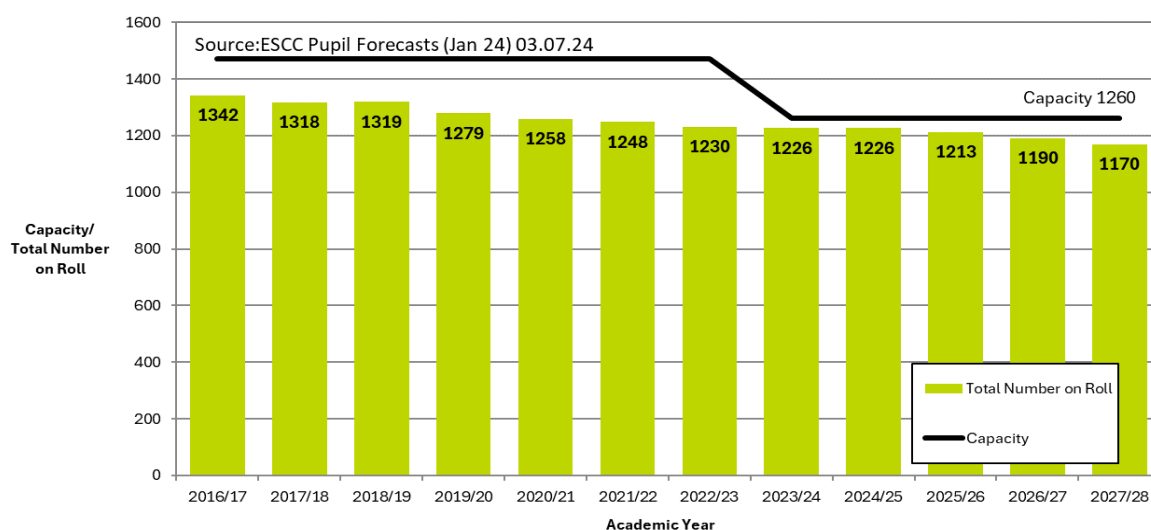
The closure of Holy Cross CE Primary School on 31 December 2023 saw capacity in the area reduce by 210 places. As a result, surplus places which had been at 16% in 2022/23, fell to 3% in 2023/24. It is predicted that they will rise again to 7% by 2027/28.

Uckfield and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	1470	1342
2017/18	1470	1318
2018/19	1470	1319
2019/20	1470	1279
2020/21	1470	1258
2021/22	1470	1248
2022/23	1470	1230
2023/24	1260	1226
2024/25	1260	1226
2025/26	1260	1213
2026/27	1260	1190
2027/28	1260	1170

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uckfield and surrounding area total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

In the medium to long term, the development of 1,000 new homes at Ridgewood Farm, Uckfield is likely to generate a significant number of school age children. The local authority has an option agreement on land for new school provision to serve the development site and will bring forward proposals at the appropriate time. The timing of this will be dependent upon when the school site is transferred by the developer to the local authority and the demand for places in the area at that time.

Secondary places

Uckfield College traditionally takes children from the Chailey and Ringmer areas. Conversely, children from Uckfield and the surrounding area access places at King's Academy, Ringmer as well as St Paul's Catholic College in West Sussex.

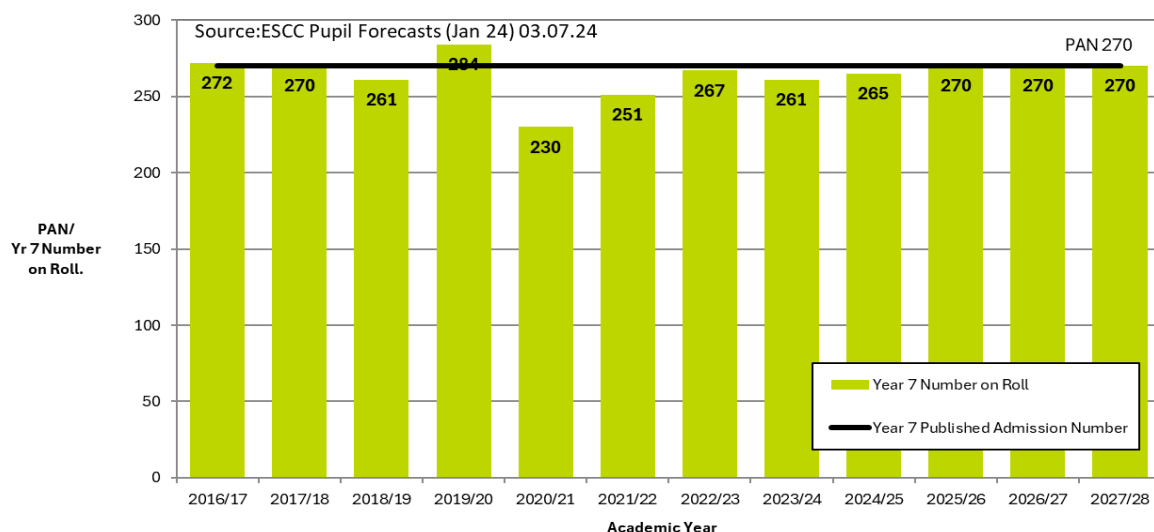
In the coming years, Year 7 intakes will depend on in-area numbers coming through primary schools and the relative popularity of Uckfield College and schools in other areas. It is unlikely that the school's PAN will need to be exceeded to accommodate in-area demand for places.

Uckfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	270	272
2017/18	270	270
2018/19	270	261
2019/20	270	284
2020/21	270	230
2021/22	270	251
2022/23	270	267
2023/24	270	261
2024/25	270	265
2025/26	270	270
2026/27	270	270
2027/28	270	270

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uckfield College secondary Year 7 numbers



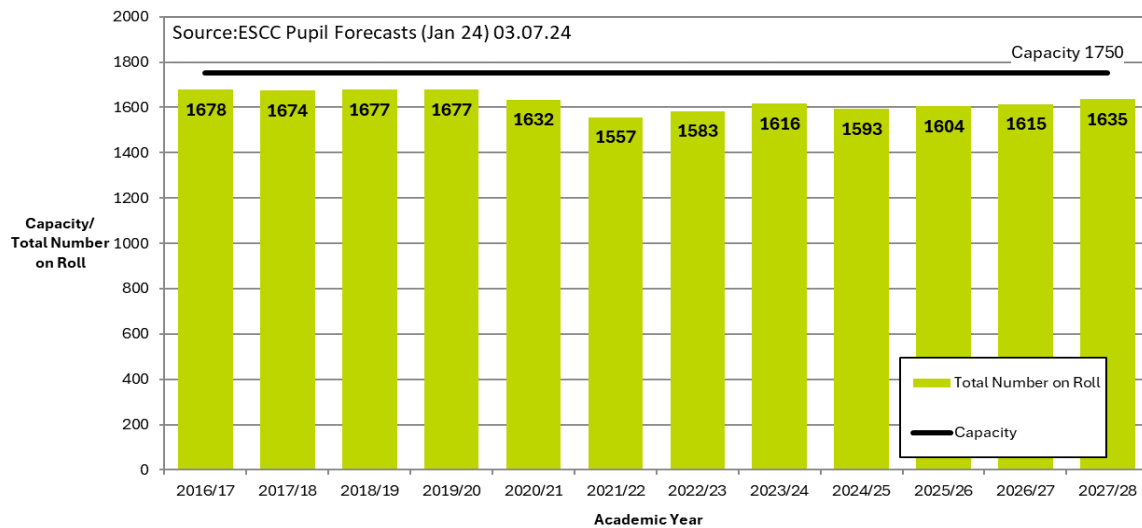
Total pupil numbers at the school are forecast to remain consistent during the plan period.

Uckfield Community College total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1750	1678
2017/18	1750	1674
2018/19	1750	1677
2019/20	1750	1677
2020/21	1750	1632
2021/22	1750	1557
2022/23	1750	1583
2023/24	1750	1616
2024/25	1750	1593
2025/26	1750	1604
2026/27	1750	1615
2027/28	1750	1635

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uckfield College total secondary numbers



Rural Wealden

Schools

There are 24 primary schools in the area and one secondary school. Four primary schools have nursery provision, and the secondary school has a sixth form.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary schools		
Alfriston School	4-11	Community
Blackboys Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Bonnars CE School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Buxted CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chiddingly Primary School	4-11	Community
Danehill Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
East Hoathly CE Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Controlled
Five Ashes CE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Fletching Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Frant Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Groombridge St Thomas' Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
High Hurstwood Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Laughton Community Primary School	4-11	Community
Mark Cross Church of England Aided Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Mayfield Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Maynards Green Community Primary School	4-11	Community
Nutley Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	2-11	Community
St Mark's Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
St Michael's Primary School	4-11	Community
Wadhurst CE Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Secondary schools		
Uplands Academy	11-18	Academy

*School type correct on 1 September 2024

For further information about individual school capacities and numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1.

Births

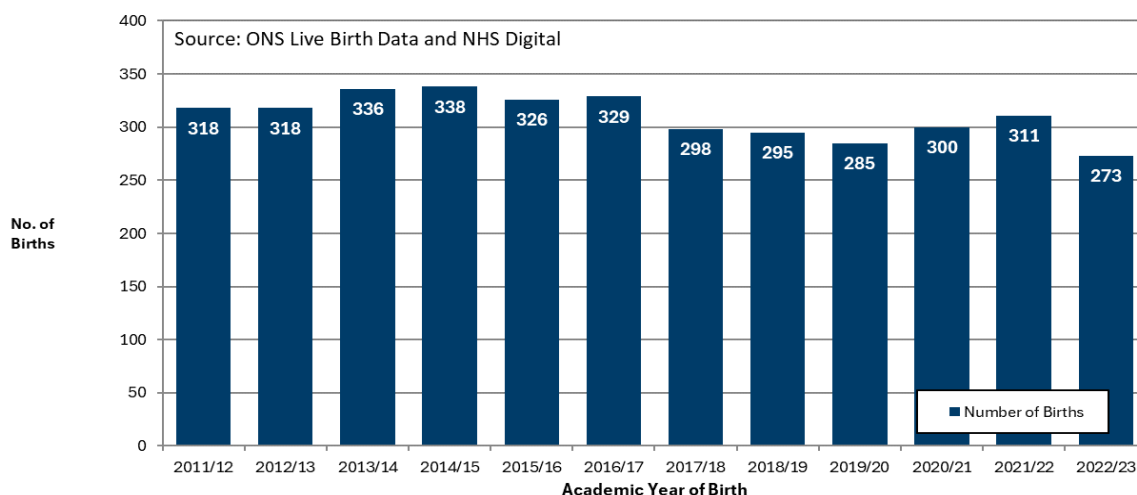
Births across the area tend to fluctuate year-on-year but have generally been lower in the last six years.

Rural Wealden births from 2011/12 to 2022/23

Academic year	Number of births
2011/12	318
2012/13	318
2013/14	336
2014/15	338
2015/16	326
2016/17	329
2017/18	298
2018/19	295
2019/20	285
2020/21	300
2021/22	311
2022/23	273

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

Rural Wealden births



Housing plans

Wealden District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. The Council has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 4,400 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2024/25 to 2039/40. 1,000 of these dwellings are proposed for Horam, 700 for Frant, 700 for East Hoathly with Halland, 300 for Maresfield, 300 for Buxted, and 200 for Herstmonceux.

Primary places

The 480 reception (Year R) places in primary schools across the area are forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for the foreseeable future. However, the picture will vary between individual rural areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate

significantly from year to year, owing to the fact that the size of the cohorts of children living in small geographical areas sometimes differs markedly from one age group to the next. Normally schools can organise to accommodate any temporary bulges.

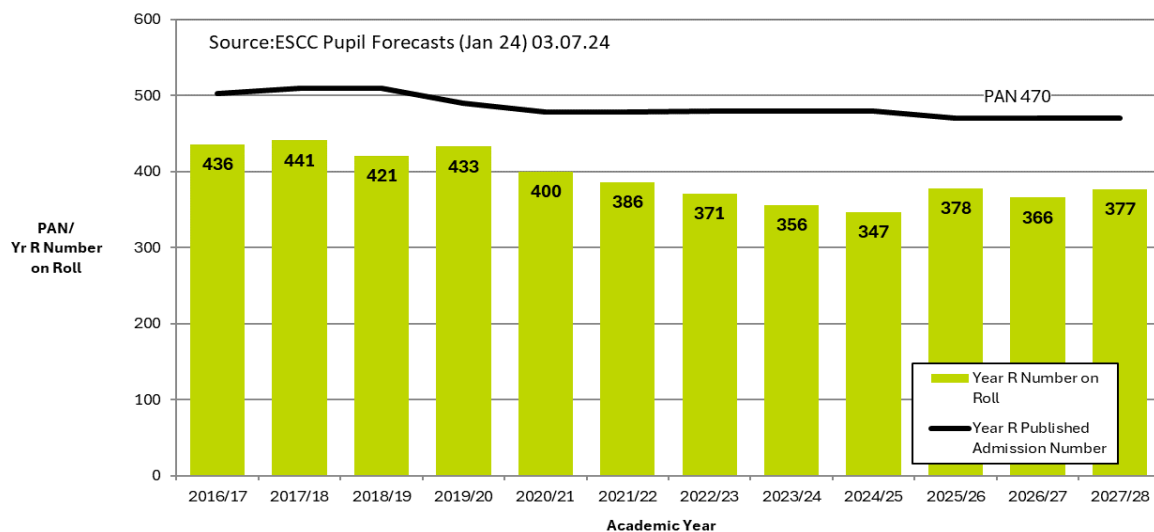
Lower numbers coming out of some of the larger towns may mean that some rural schools that have routinely filled to their Published Admission Number (PAN) in the past may not do so in some of the coming years.

Rural Wealden primary Year R numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	503	436
2017/18	510	441
2018/19	510	421
2019/20	490	433
2020/21	478	400
2021/22	478	386
2022/23	480	371
2023/24	480	356
2024/25	480	347
2025/26	470	378
2026/27	470	366
2027/28	470	377

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rural Wealden primary Year R numbers



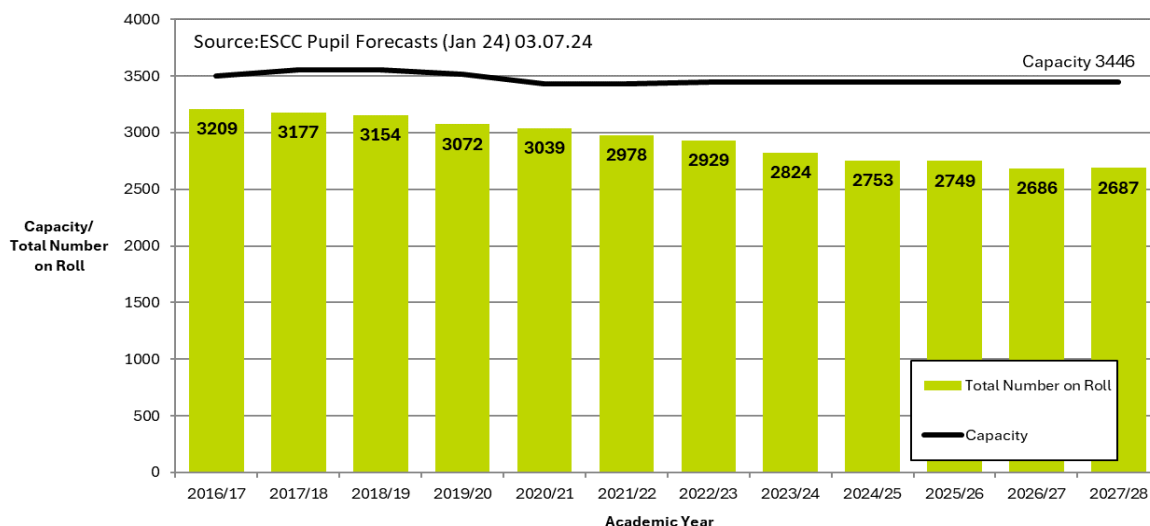
Overall pupil numbers in the area are forecast to continue to fall in the period to 2027/28. Six schools have 25% or more surplus places. One, Mayfield CE Primary School, is reducing its PAN from 30 to 20 with effect from 2025/26.

Rural Wealden total primary numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll
2016/17	3502	3209
2017/18	3551	3177
2018/19	3551	3154
2019/20	3516	3072
2020/21	3432	3039
2021/22	3432	2978
2022/23	3446	2929
2023/24	3446	2824
2024/25	3446	2753
2025/26	3446	2749
2026/27	3446	2686
2027/28	3446	2687

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Rural Wealden total primary numbers



*Note: For further information about individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll please refer to Appendix 1

Linked to recent and planned new housing, in-area numbers requiring a school place in the Maynards Green Community Primary School admissions community area in 2026/27 and 2027/28 are forecast to be over 40. If the school is to keep to its PAN of 30, it is likely that the admissions system will have to direct some in-area applicants to surrounding schools, notably in Heathfield. The new homes planned for the local area are likely to lead to shortfalls of places in the longer term.

Frant CE Primary School has a high in-area cohort of children reaching reception age in 2025/26. It is likely that the high numbers are linked to new housing on the Tunbridge Wells fringes, so the additional demand may be met by schools in Kent. However, it is possible that Frant's PAN of 15 could be exceeded.

The new homes planned for East Hoathly could put pressure on places at East Hoathly CE Primary School in future years.

Secondary places

Uplands Academy has sufficient places to accommodate in-area numbers. The closure of High Weald Academy has resulted in increased in demand from Kent pupils for Uplands Academy since 2022/23.

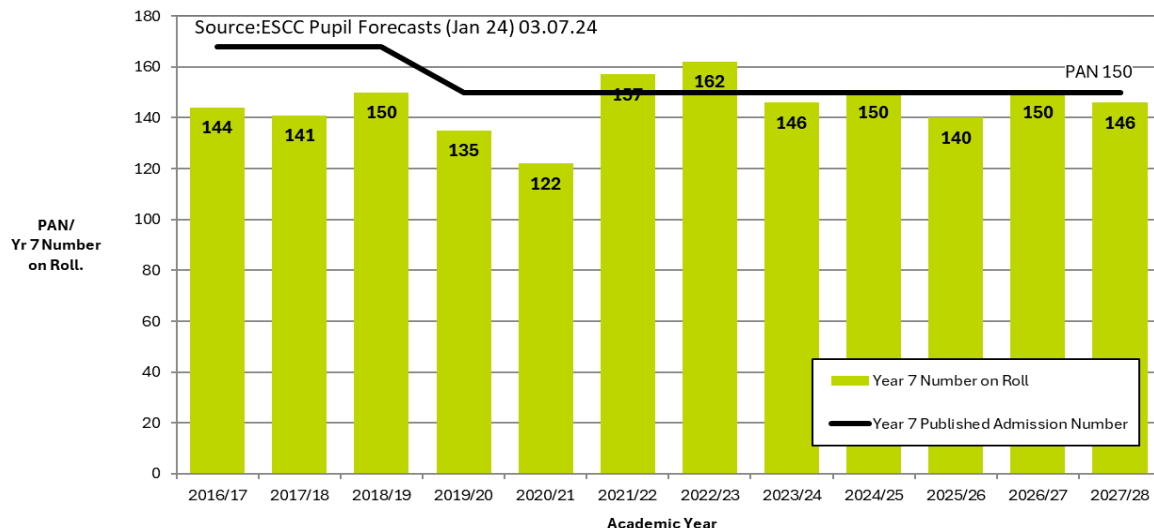
It is assumed that these higher inflows will continue to some extent, resulting in the school being forecast to be full or close to its PAN in the plan period. As most of this out of area demand is non-priority, it is not expected that the school will need to go over its PAN, unless it chooses to do so voluntarily.

Uplands Academy secondary Year 7 numbers from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
2016/17	168	144
2017/18	168	141
2018/19	168	150
2019/20	150	135
2020/21	150	122
2021/22	150	157
2022/23	150	162
2023/24	150	146
2024/25	150	150
2025/26	150	140
2026/27	150	150
2027/28	150	146

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uplands Academy secondary Year 7 numbers



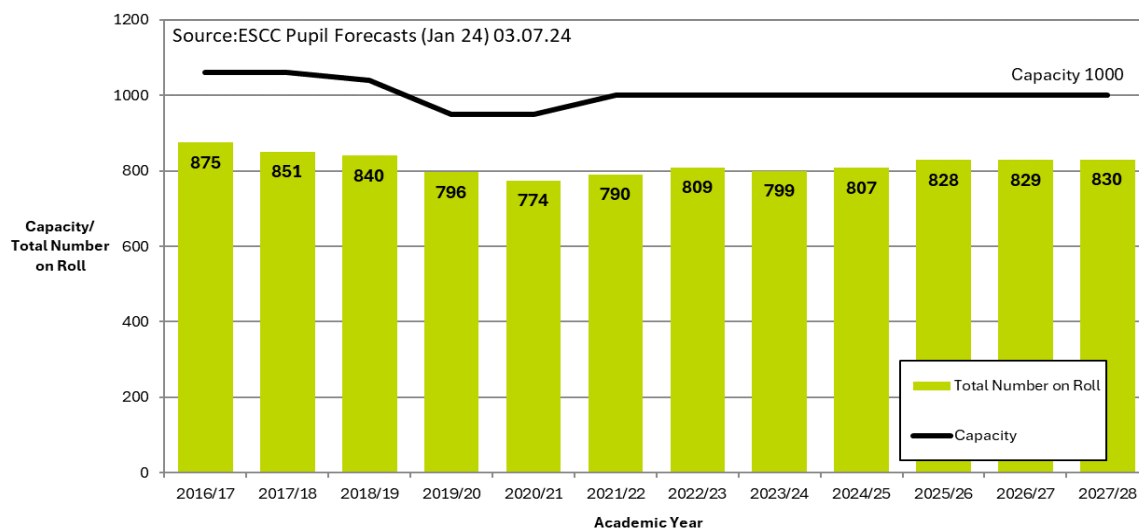
Total pupil numbers are expected to increase slightly over the plan period but will remain below the school's capacity.

Uplands Academy total secondary numbers 2016/17 to 2027/28

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll
2016/17	1060	875
2017/18	1060	851
2018/19	1040	840
2019/20	950	796
2020/21	950	774
2021/22	1000	790
2022/23	1000	809
2023/24	1000	799
2024/25	1000	807
2025/26	1000	828
2026/27	1000	829
2027/28	1000	830

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

Uplands Academy total secondary numbers



Special educational needs and disability (SEND)

Special schools and alternative provision

There are 13 state special schools in East Sussex and two alternative provisions.

State special schools and alternative provision	Age range	School type*
Special schools		
Cuckmere House School, Seaford	6-16	Academy
Glyne Gap School, Bexhill	2-19	Academy
Grove Park School, Crowborough	4-19	Community
Hazel Court School, Eastbourne	11-19	Academy
New Horizons, Hastings	7-16	Academy
Saxon Mount School, Hastings	11-16	Academy
St Mary's School, Horam	9-16	Academy
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	3-16	Academy
The Flagship School, Hastings	6-16	Academy
The Lindfield School, Eastbourne	11-16	Academy
The Ropemakers Academy, Hailsham	4-16	Academy
The South Downs School, Eastbourne	4-11	Academy
Torfield School, Hastings	4-11	Academy
Alternative Provision		
College Central, Eastbourne and Hastings	4-16	Academy
The Workplace, Bexhill	11-16	Academy

* Correct on 1 September 2024

Nine mainstream primary schools and ten mainstream secondary schools in East Sussex have specialist facilities.

Mainstream schools with specialist facilities

Primary schools	All Saints Church of England Primary School, Bexhill
	ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy, Hastings
	Churchwood Primary Academy, Hastings
	Denton Community Primary School, Newhaven
	Grovelands Community Primary School, Hailsham
	Manor Primary School, Uckfield
	Meridian Community Primary School, Peacehaven
	Wallands Community Primary and Nursery School, Lewes
	West St Leonards Primary Academy
Secondary schools	Bexhill High Academy
	Hailsham Community College
	Heathfield Community College
	Peacehaven Community School
	Priory School, Lewes
	Robertsbridge Community College
	The Eastbourne Academy
	The Hastings Academy
	The St Leonards Academy
	Uckfield College

You can find more information about each special school and specialist facility on the local authority's [Local Offer page](#).

Education, Health, and Care Plans

The local authority has a statutory duty to identify, assess and provide for children and young people with special educational needs. An assessment may lead to the issuing of an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) for a child. An EHCP sets out the additional support a child or young person needs and the type of school (mainstream or special) or other provision they will attend in order to meet their needs.

Children and young people with an EHCP will be recorded under one of the following primary need categories:

Primary need classifications

Cognition and Learning Needs	Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD)
	Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)
	Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)
	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (PMLD).
Communication and Interaction Needs	Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
	Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
Sensory and/or Physical Needs	Hearing Impairment (HI)
	Visual Impairment (VI)
	Physical Disability (PD)
	Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

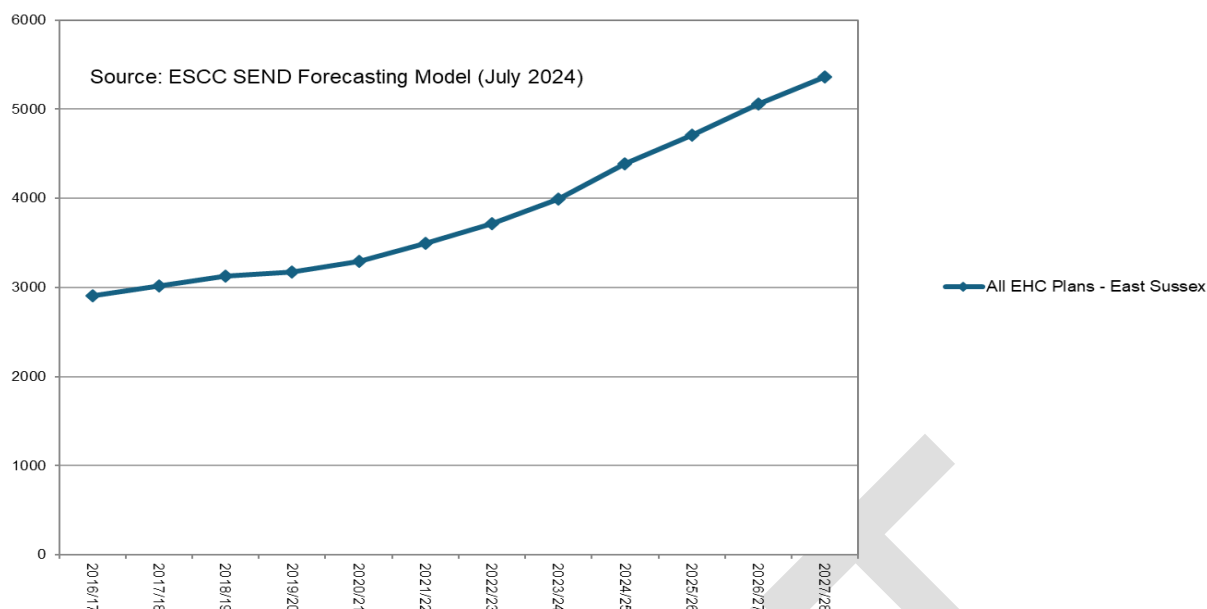
Demand for SEND provision

The overall numbers of children and young people aged 4 to 25 with an EHCP has been rising steeply. In 2023/24, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an EHCP stood at 3,989. There were also 482 young people aged 19-25 who need continued support to transition to adulthood. Over the next four years, the local authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow, by around 34%, to stand at approximately 5,400.

Overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs

Academic year	EHCPs
2016/17	2909
2017/18	3022
2018/19	3126
2019/20	3170
2020/21	3297
2021/22	3494
2022/23	3713
2023/24	3989
2024/25	4385
2025/26	4713
2026/27	5059
2027/28	5360

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2024)



The number of children and young people identified as autistic is growing year on year and is translating into rapidly increasing numbers of EHCPs issued with a primary need classification of 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)'. There are no signs of this trend reducing, and autism diagnoses look like being the biggest driver of rising EHCP numbers in the coming years.

The local authority has seen a post Covid upturn in the number of plans being issued with a primary need classification of Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

The number of plans issued for other primary need groups are generally stable or falling. The following table shows the number of school age children with an EHCP by primary need type.

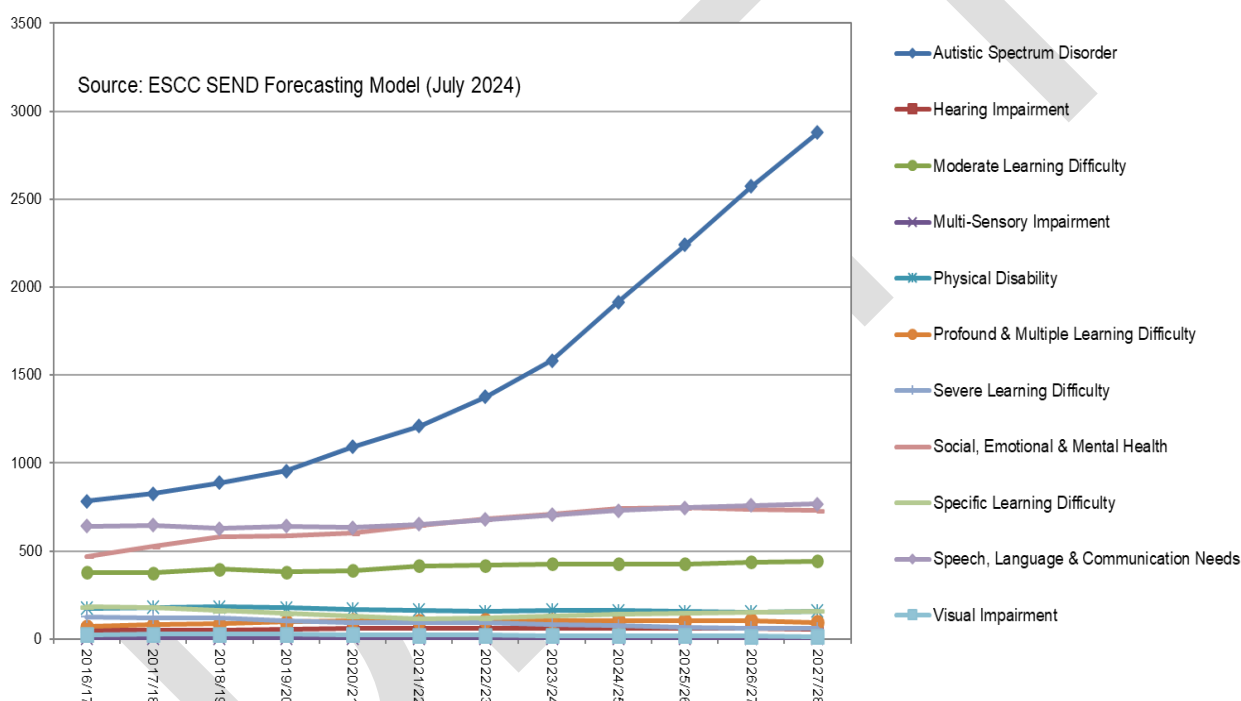
Key to table:

ASD - Autistic spectrum disorder
 HI - Hearing impairment
 MLD - Moderate learning difficulties
 MSI - Multi-Sensory Impairment
 PD - Physical disability
 PMLD - Profound and multiple learning difficulties
 SLD - Severe learning difficulties
 SEMH - Social emotional and mental health
 SpLD - Specific learning difficulties
 SLCN - Speech, Language & Communication Needs
 VI - Visual impairment

EHCPs by primary need group (school aged children) from 2016/17 to 2027/28

Need	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
ASD	784	827	889	955	1091	1211	1375	1582	1916	2240	2572	2879
HI	50	51	52	57	63	63	61	62	63	61	59	55
MLD	378	376	397	380	388	417	419	426	427	427	437	442
MSI	6	6	6	4	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
PD	175	181	184	178	170	165	157	163	162	155	154	158
PMLD	70	80	86	96	105	102	104	104	105	104	104	95
SLD	127	121	117	101	91	93	92	82	76	63	62	58
SEMH	471	527	582	587	600	648	682	709	744	746	738	731
SEMH	183	180	160	144	128	115	119	132	141	147	153	158
SLCN	640	646	627	642	633	653	680	706	729	747	760	767
VI	25	27	26	26	24	22	21	20	20	18	16	15
Total	2909	3022	3126	3170	3297	3494	3713	3989	4385	4713	5059	5360

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2024)



In 2023/24, there were 1,873 East Sussex resident children and young people on roll in special schools. 1,645 were in schools in East Sussex and 228 were in schools in other authorities. 1,453 were in maintained and academy provision and 420 were in non-maintained independent special schools. A further 233 East Sussex resident children and young people were in specialist facilities in mainstream schools.

The table below shows that since 2020/21, the biggest need has been for places in maintained special schools and academies followed by funded places in mainstream schools.

Key to table:

Band A: Mainstream School and Further Education Colleges (with a Non-Funded Plan)

Band B: Mainstream School and Further Education Colleges (with a Funded Plan)

Band C: Mainstream School Units and Special Facilities

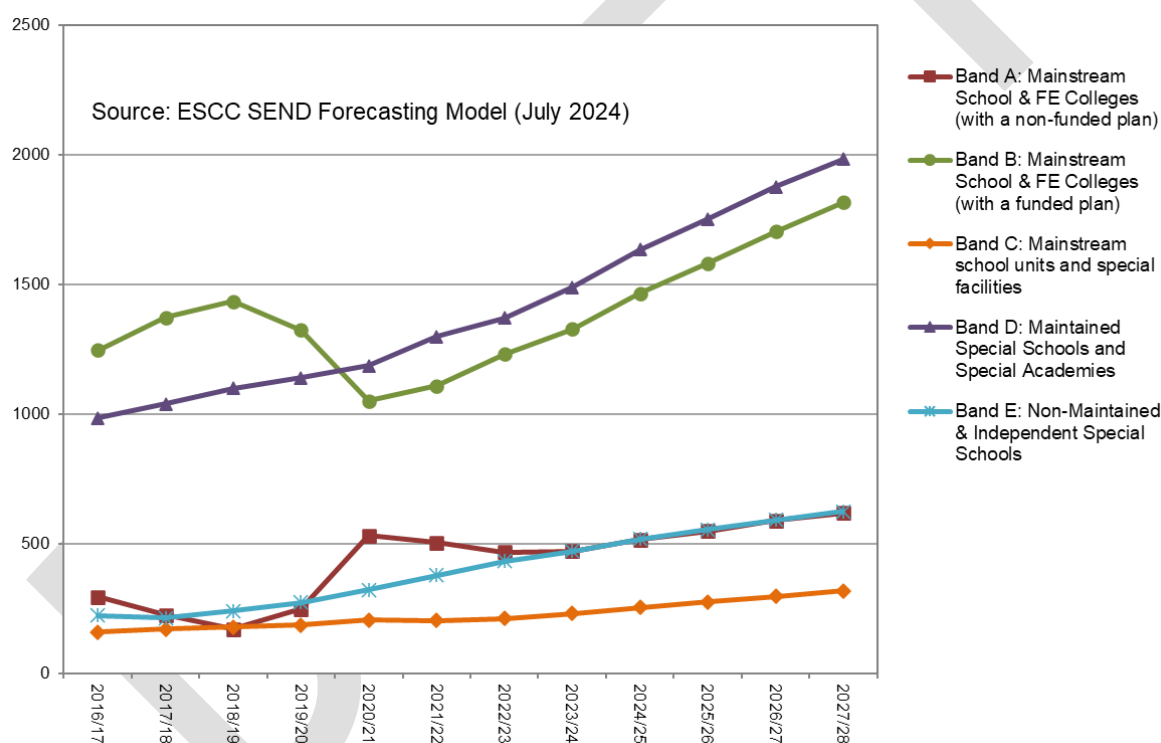
Band D: Maintained Special Schools and Special Academies

Band E: Non-Maintained and Independent Special Schools

EHCPs by Type of Provision Needed

Need	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27	2027/ 28
Band A	294	226	171	248	532	505	468	472	515	550	589	619
Band B	1246	1373	1435	1323	1051	1108	1230	1327	1465	1581	1704	1816
Band C	160	170	179	187	206	204	211	230	254	276	297	318
Band D	985	1039	1100	1139	1186	1298	1371	1488	1633	1753	1877	1983
Band E	224	214	241	273	322	379	433	472	517	554	591	624
Total	2909	3022	3126	3170	3297	3494	3713	3989	4385	4713	5059	5360

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2024)



The numbers assessed as requiring a special school place have risen by approximately 550 (39%) over the past four years. The number assessed as requiring maintained/academy special school places has risen by approximately 350 (31%). The number of pupils requiring non-maintained independent special school places has risen by approximately 200, a 73% increase.

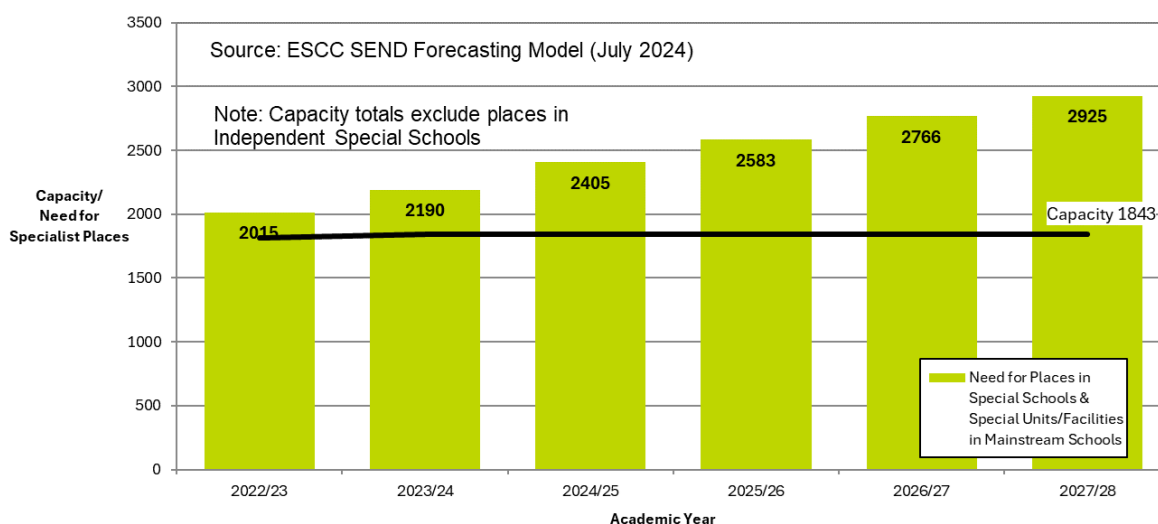
The following table compares the combined capacity of places in special schools and specialist facilities in mainstream schools with the current and forecast need for such places. The local authority does not have data on places in independent special schools. In reality, most of the current shortfall in places shown in the table is being met by independent special school placements.

Need for Special School Places from 2022/23 to 2027/28

	Capacity of places 2023/24*	Need 2022/23	Need 2023/24	Need 2024/25	Need 2025/26	Need 2026/27	Need 2027/28
Number of EHCP Plans	1843	2015	2190	2405	2583	2766	2925

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2024)

*Capacity totals exclude places in Independent Special Schools



The local authority has to use high cost independent and non-maintained special school provision to meet need for specialist placements. This is because there is insufficient capacity in state run provision. If current placement trends continue over the period to 2027/28, the effective shortfall in state run specialist provision is forecast to increase by over 700 places.

Figures for 2023/24 show that 2.2% of all pupils in state-funded schools in East Sussex are in special schools. This compares to the national average for England of 1.9%. (Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics, Department for Education, 2024).

SEND place planning strategy

In recent years, the local authority has taken action to address the increasing demand for special school and specialist facility places and manage the high cost of placements in non-maintained independent schools. 381 new special school and alternative provision places have opened in the county in four establishments. We have created 72 new specialist facility places at seven mainstream schools (five primary and two secondary). Two mainstream schools have extended the designation of their existing specialist facilities. This is to reflect the growing demand for provision for children with autism.

We are continuing our strategy of increasing the number of places available in special schools and specialist facilities. This is alongside developing inclusion in mainstream schools. This includes a proposed project to reorganise and expand Grove Park School to increase capacity. We plan to create extra specialist facility places through new and

expanded facilities in primary and secondary schools. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from schools for this.

We have also identified a need for more specialist provision for post-16 learners. We are working with special schools, FE Colleges and other post-16 providers to explore how to deliver this.

DRAFT

Appendix 1: Individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll

Primary Schools Capacity and Number on Roll (NOR)

Eastbourne primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Bourne Primary School	420	394	391	376	369
Gildredge House (primary phase)	392	418	418	418	418
Heron Park Primary Academy	420	300	285	280	275
Langney Primary Academy	420	426	424	417	413
Motcombe Infants' School	360	221	202	185	175
Oakwood Primary Academy	420	276	271	255	257
Ocklynge Junior School	840	729	709	668	639
Parkland Infant School	180	180	180	175	171
Parkland Junior School	240	243	240	240	238
Pashley Down Infant School	270	231	212	187	176
Roselands Infants' School	270	258	251	245	234
Shinewater Primary School	420	380	385	373	358
St Andrew's CE Infants School	270	248	242	246	235
St John's Meads CE Primary School	218	194	184	167	156
St Thomas à Becket Catholic Primary School	420	438	432	426	420
Stafford Junior School	360	352	352	347	349
The Cavendish School (primary phase)	420	421	421	421	420
The Haven CE Methodist Primary School	420	434	422	413	404
Tollgate Community Junior School	360	363	362	345	343
West Rise Community Infant School	270	263	255	244	234
West Rise Junior School	360	360	363	362	359
Total	7750	7129	7000	6791	6643

Hastings primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
All Saints CE Junior Academy	240	224	238	236	231
ARK Blacklands Primary Academy	630	619	617	613	611
Ark Castledown Primary Academy	420	380	373	370	352

ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy	420	431	427	424	421
Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy	420	407	393	381	364
Churchwood Primary Academy	210	213	211	207	202
Dudley Infant Academy	180	170	157	148	139
Hollington Primary School	420	266	233	219	204
Ore Village Primary Academy	420	286	267	250	231
Robsack Wood Primary Academy	420	361	343	339	328
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	210	208	201	197	189
Sandown Primary School and Nursery	420	422	419	419	418
Silverdale Primary Academy	630	631	625	622	618
St Leonard's CE Primary Academy	420	412	411	407	403
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	210	210	207	202	195
St Paul's Church of England Academy	630	612	602	602	592
The Baird Primary Academy	420	305	280	273	261
West St Leonards Primary Academy	420	389	387	383	372
Total	7140	6545	6390	6292	6130

Lewes and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Iford & Kingston CE Primary School	210	177	172	171	168
South Malling CE Primary School	210	212	212	211	210
Southover CE Primary School	420	281	302	286	269
Wallands Community Primary School	420	239	234	225	219
Western Road Community Primary School	210	211	211	211	210
Total	1470	1121	1131	1104	1076

The Havens - Newhaven primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Breakwater Academy	210	163	158	147	155
Denton Community Primary and Nursery School	210	210	209	210	210
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	420	416	416	417	419
High Cliff Academy	210	175	165	162	168
Total	1050	963	948	936	952

The Havens - Peacehaven primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery	420	417	417	419	416
Peacehaven Heights Academy	420	355	342	342	332
Telscombe Cliffs Academy	630	541	505	488	456
Total	1470	1313	1264	1249	1205

Seaford primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Anney Catholic Primary School	210	184	175	166	150
Chyngton School	420	360	343	328	304
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	630	624	618	608	596
Seaford Primary School	420	413	409	398	385
Total	1680	1581	1546	1500	1434

Rural Lewes primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Barcombe CE Primary School	140	137	143	132	133
Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School	140	109	112	100	92
Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School	168	172	165	165	168
Firle CE Primary School	105	56	52	50	52
Hamsey Community Primary School	105	99	105	98	101
Newick CE Primary School	210	197	202	201	201
Plumpton Primary School	140	136	141	143	138
Ringmer Primary and Nursery School	315	282	277	278	280
Wivelsfield Primary School	240	222	225	229	236
Total	1563	1410	1422	1398	1402

Bexhill and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
All Saints CE Primary School	210	218	216	217	214
Catsfield CE Primary School	105	107	109	107	106
Chantry Community Primary School	210	208	209	212	213
Glenleigh Park Primary Academy	525	344	334	357	316
King Offa Primary Academy	420	402	390	384	374
Little Common School	630	624	625	627	629

Ninfield CE Primary School	157	140	145	141	137
Pebsham Primary Academy	210	209	204	205	207
St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	210	211	211	212	212
St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School	420	420	420	425	424
Total	3097	2882	2862	2887	2832

Battle Primary School	Capacity 2023/24	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Battle and Langton CE Primary School	420	424	420	439	442

Rye and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Peasmarsh CE Primary School	105	66	69	67	65
Rye Community Primary School	420	210	192	183	165
St Michael's CE Primary School	105	87	87	81	81
St Thomas' CE Aided Primary School	140	132	130	130	128
Total	770	496	478	460	439

Rural Rother primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Beckley CE Primary School	105	90	88	86	83
Bodiam CE Primary School	105	68	68	65	70
Brede Primary School	140	99	94	93	94
Burwash CE School	175	170	168	164	168
Crowhurst CE Primary School	105	90	91	90	85
Dallington CE Primary School	105	105	106	100	96
Etchingham CE Primary School	105	98	98	96	94
Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary School	210	211	202	199	187
Hurst Green CE Primary School and Nursery	140	99	99	98	96
Icklesham CE Primary School	105	98	93	95	92
Netherfield CE Primary School	140	132	131	132	130
Northiam CE Primary School and Nursery	140	117	117	126	122
Salehurst CE Primary School	210	178	178	169	176
Sedlescombe CE Primary School	210	195	193	193	189
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	105	91	93	95	92
Stonegate CE Primary School	105	95	97	97	100

Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School	210	113	113	110	110
Westfield School	210	178	166	160	154
Total	2625	2226	2194	2168	2138

Crowborough and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Ashdown Primary School	420	407	404	407	406
Jarvis Brook Primary School	210	123	136	149	141
Rotherfield Primary School	210	206	207	206	209
Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary School	420	352	367	373	367
St John's CE Primary School	210	206	209	211	210
St Marys Catholic Primary School	210	217	215	212	210
Total	1680	1510	1539	1559	1543

Hailsham and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Burfield Academy	210	145	153	167	181
Grovelands Community Primary School	630	639	637	635	633
Hailsham Community College (primary phase)	420	353	413	419	420
Hawkes Farm Academy	420	348	356	353	373
Hellingly Community Primary School	210	201	200	203	210
Park Mead Primary School	105	100	98	99	100
Phoenix Academy	210	88	96	100	106
White House Academy	210	192	196	203	209
Total	2415	2066	2150	2178	2231

Heathfield primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
All Saints' and St Richard's CE Primary School	140	100	104	100	96
Cross-in-Hand CE Primary School	420	367	367	367	361
Parkside Community Primary School	210	210	210	210	210
Total	770	676	681	678	667

Polegate and Willingdon primary schools	Capacity 2023/24	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Polegate Primary School	630	628	625	621	617
Willingdon Primary School	420	417	410	403	397
Total	1050	1045	1035	1024	1014

Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Hankham Primary School	140	111	98	92	97
Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School	420	417	410	399	386
Stone Cross School	420	420	422	421	420
Total	980	948	930	913	903

Uckfield and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Framfield CE Primary School	105	91	91	88	86
Harlands Primary School	210	217	215	213	211
Little Horsted CE School	105	88	86	83	79
Manor Primary School	420	419	415	408	403
Rocks Park Primary School	210	214	212	212	211
St Philip's Catholic Primary School	210	197	195	186	180
Total	1260	1226	1213	1190	1170

Rural Wealden	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Alfriston School	105	79	75	74	74
Blackboys CE Primary School	140	130	130	125	124
Bonnors CE School, Maresfield	105	102	98	92	95
Buxted CE Primary School	210	191	192	193	194
Chiddingly Primary School	105	103	106	105	106
Danehill CE Primary School	105	97	95	93	91
East Hoathly CE Primary School	105	85	91	95	99
Five Ashes CE Primary School	56	54	52	49	49
Fletching CE Primary School	105	72	73	71	69
Forest Row CE Primary School	315	173	172	172	175
Frant CE Primary School	105	101	108	109	110

Groombridge St Thomas' CE Primary School	210	138	132	122	122
Herstmonceux CE Primary School	205	205	209	213	215
High Hurstwood CE Primary School	105	87	85	82	82
Laughton Community Primary School	105	74	81	80	86
Mark Cross CE Primary School	105	89	90	88	86
Mayfield CE Primary School	210	136	141	134	135
Maynards Green Community Primary School	210	200	199	201	200
Nutley CE Primary School	105	75	72	67	67
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	105	99	97	96	89
St Mark's CE Primary School, Hadlow Down	105	66	59	55	53
St Mary the Virgin CE Primary School, Hartfield	105	80	82	75	71
St Michael's Primary School	105	72	73	66	60
Wadhurst CE Primary School	315	246	236	230	236
Total	3446	2753	2749	2686	2687

Secondary Schools Capacity and Number on Roll (NOR)

Eastbourne secondary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Gildredge House (secondary phase)	840	737	731	728	724
Ratton School	1215	1194	1197	1200	1212
St Catherine's College	1040	1087	1076	1064	1058
The Cavendish School (secondary phase)	1000	902	900	904	901
The Eastbourne Academy	900	831	818	791	746
The Turing School	945	777	817	849	832
Total	5940	5528	5539	5536	5473

Hastings secondary schools	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
ARK Alexandra Academy	2100	1630	1719	1768	1791
The Hastings Academy	900	833	834	834	844
The St Leonards Academy	1500	1312	1282	1248	1235
Total	4500	3775	3835	3850	3870

Lewes and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Priory School	1160	1157	1148	1148	1148

The Havens	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Peacehaven Community School	900	911	905	897	885
Seahaven Academy	900	782	777	757	763
Total	1800	1693	1681	1655	1648

Seaford	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Seaford Head School	1575	1406	1394	1380	1370

Rural Lewes	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Chailey School	870	857	858	868	875
King's Academy Ringmer	1080	659	698	720	730

Bexhill and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Bexhill High Academy	1650	1470	1420	1404	1393
St Richard's Catholic College	1000	1014	1008	1004	1000
Total	2650	2484	2428	2408	2393

Battle	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Claverham Community College	1150	1129	1126	1131	1134

Rye and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Rye College	750	609	623	631	618

Rural Rother	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Robertsbridge Community College	800	759	754	759	749
Crowborough and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Beacon Academy	2050	1654	1635	1628	1616
Hailsham and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Hailsham Community College (secondary phase)	1800	1326	1332	1372	1393
Heathfield	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Heathfield Community College	1560	1476	1469	1470	1466
Polegate and Willingdon	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Willingdon Community School	1110	1089	1096	1099	1102
Uckfield and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Uckfield College	1750	1593	1604	1615	1635
Rural Wealden	Capacity	NOR 2024/25	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28
Uplands Academy	1000	807	828	829	830

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

Date: 9 December 2024

By: Director of Children's Services

Title of report: Proposed amalgamation of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School

Purpose of report: To seek Lead Member approval to amalgamate West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School and lower the new school's age range to 2 to 11.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the closure of West Rise Junior School on 30 April 2025 and to alter the age range of West Rise Community Infant School from 4 to 7 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 May 2025 in order to create an all-through primary school with nursery provision.

1. Background

1.1 In agreement with the governors of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School, East Sussex County Council (the Local Authority) consulted between 15 April and 24 May 2024 on a proposal to amalgamate the two schools to form a new all-through primary school. Linked to this, the Local Authority also proposes to change the new school's age range to 2 to 11 to enable it to take on the management of West Rise Nursery which currently operates as a governor-led nursery under a separate Ofsted registration.

1.2 On 10 September 2024, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability considered a report on the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of a statutory proposal to amalgamate the two schools and alter the new school's age range to 2 to 11. The report can be viewed at: [Decision - Proposed amalgamation of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School | East Sussex County Council](#).

2. Supporting Information

Statutory process

2.1 In accordance with sections 15 and 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011), the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, a statutory notice and full proposal were published on the Local Authority's website on 11 October 2024 and sent to stakeholders. The statutory notice, which contained the website address of the full proposal and details on how interested parties could object to, or comment on, the proposal, was published in the Eastbourne Herald and posted on the gates to the school's premises. By the end of the representation period on 7 November 2024, no responses had been received.

2.2 In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Regulations, the local authority, as the responsible body, is required to determine the statutory proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. In doing so, the Lead Member, as decision maker, must give due regard to the factors set out in the following sections.

Pupil numbers and admissions

2.3 All children attending the infant and junior schools on the date of amalgamation would automatically have a place at the all-through primary school. No children would be displaced by the

proposals. The most recent published School Census data from May 2024, shows that West Rise Community Infant School had 267 children on roll and West Rise Junior School had 356 children on roll.

2.4 The primary school's pupil capacity would be 630 which is equivalent to the places currently available at the separate infant and junior schools.

2.5 As a primary school, families of children in Year 2 would no longer have to apply for a place in the junior school from Year 3.

Impact on staff

2.6 Staff would continue in their roles as the two schools become one all-through primary school. The proposed changes may present opportunities for staff who would have more opportunities for professional development and would be able to gain greater understanding and experience of working in a primary school environment. The employer would remain East Sussex County Council, so there would be no need for a transfer of employment to take place under the Transfer of Undertaking and Protection of Employment Regulations 2006 (as amended in 2014) (TUPE).

2.7 No existing member of staff would be required to change their contract of employment by working across both schools. The proposed change would not constitute a break in service or affect staff terms and conditions in any way. The Local Authority knows the process of bringing two schools together as one can be unsettling for staff. As with any process of change, the interests of staff must be considered carefully, and all staff, and their unions would be consulted in accordance with the Council's Managing Change policies. The Local Authority's Human Resources team would work closely with school staff throughout the transition.

Impact on the community

2.8 It is anticipated that the proposal would have a positive impact on the school community as amalgamation would bring about the following benefits:

- There would no longer be a need for families of children in Year 2 to have to apply for a place in the junior school from Year 3, thereby removing any uncertainty about transfer to a 'new' school at the end of Key Stage 1.
- A shared vision and ethos across the school.
- Continuity of experience for children - in teaching and learning, pupil care and development – under a single headteacher and staff.
- Greater ability to track progress between key stages.
- A more coherent delivery of the National Curriculum from Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2.
- Easier sharing of good practice across the whole school.
- Expertise within the whole school could be better targeted across the full age range.
- Professional development opportunities for staff within an all-through primary school environment.
- Greater flexibility in organising classes, deploying teaching and support staff, and using curriculum resources more effectively.
- Greater opportunities for staff recruitment.
- Consistent engagement with families across the school.

Rural schools and the presumption against closure

2.9 Neither school is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2023. Therefore, the presumption against the closure of rural primary schools does not apply in this instance.

Balance of denominational provision

2.10 West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School are both community schools. The balance of denominational provision in the area would not change as the proposed all-through primary school would be a community school.

Maintained nursery schools

2.11 Currently, West Rise Nursery is run by the governors of West Rise Community Infant School under a different Ofsted registration, meaning it is run as a separate legal entity to the school. By changing its age range, the new all-through primary school would be able to formally take on the management of the nursery under the same Ofsted registration as the school.

Sixth form provision

2.12 Neither school has a sixth form.

Special educational needs (SEN) provision

2.13 At the May 2024 School Census, the percentage of SEN pupils (including those with an Education Health and Care Plan [EHCP]) on roll at West Rise Community Infant School was 27.7% (74 out of 267), and West Rise Junior School 22.5% (80 out of 356). This is higher than the East Sussex average of 18.6% and the Eastbourne average of 18.7%. There were 12 pupils (1.9%) with an EHCP across both schools. This compares to the East Sussex average of 2% and Eastbourne average of 1.7%.

2.14 Unless a child has an EHCP, the determination of whether a child has SEN is down to individual schools in consultation with parents and the threshold varies between schools. All schools have the same duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014 to identify and provide for children with SEN. Unless there are specific provisions named in a statutory plan which would make admission incompatible with the requirement for reasonable adjustments, it is a legal requirement for all schools to comply. As the barriers to learning, that a child with SEN might experience, change over time, the Local Authority would expect provision to adapt and change alongside these developments. In some cases, children may cease to be identified as having SEN if appropriate adjustments are put in place to enable them to overcome barriers and to make progress in line with their peers.

Travel

2.15 As all children currently on roll at the infant and junior schools would automatically have a place at the all-through primary school following amalgamation, the Local Authority does not envisage any change to current travel arrangements.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

2.16 The Local Authority does not believe that the proposals would have an effect on other educational institutions within the area as there would be no increase or loss of provision as a result of the proposals.

Project costs

2.17 No capital expenditure is required to implement the proposals.

Equality Impact Assessment

2.18 The Lead Member is required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining the proposal. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify any equality implications of the proposal and to address any concerns through appropriate mitigations. The local authority does not consider that any groups who share the protected characteristics, including any parents and carers or members of the local community who use the school, should be more affected by the proposal than any other. All potential impacts have been assessed and appropriate mitigations set out in the EqIA. The EqIA is available to view in the Cabinet and Members' rooms at County Hall.

Establishing the amalgamated school

2.19 To establish one 'all-through' primary school with nursery provision, the Local Authority proposes to close West Rise Junior School on 30 April 2025 (this is known as a technical closure) and change the age range at West Rise Community Infant School from 4 to 7 to 2 to 11 from 1 May 2025. In doing so, the school would likely change its name to West Rise Primary School and would continue to operate across the existing site and premises.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

3.1 The proposal to amalgamate West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School builds on the improvements being made through the partnership working between the two schools and aligns with one of the guiding principles to school organisation in East Sussex.

3.2 The Regulations set out the options the decision-maker has when making a decision on a closure proposal. The decision-maker can:

- reject the proposal;
- approve the proposal without modification;
- approve the proposal with modifications; or
- approve the proposal, with or without modification, subject to certain conditions being met.

3.3 The Local Authority believes that the longer-term future for education in the local area can best be achieved through amalgamating the two schools into one all-through primary school, operating on the same site. For that reason, the Lead Member is recommended to approve, without modification, the closure of West Rise Junior School on 30 April 2025 and to alter the age range of West Rise Community Infant School from 4 to 7 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 May 2025 in order to create an all-through primary school with nursery provision.

CAROLYN FAIR
Director of Children's Services

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Alan Shuttleworth