



## 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

**WEDNESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2025 AT 11.00 AM**

**REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **AGENDA**

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 3 November (*Pages 3 - 4*)
2. Disclosures of interests  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
3. Urgent items  
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
4. School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029 (*Pages 5 - 158*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
5. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER  
Deputy Chief Executive  
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25 November 2025

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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 3 November 2025 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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Councillor Nuala Geary spoke on item 4 (see minute 24)

### 20. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 6 OCTOBER 2025

20.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2025.

### 21. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

21.1 There were none.

### 22. URGENT ITEMS

22.1 There were none.

### 23. REPORTS

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

### 24. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR EAST SUSSEX SCHOOLS 2027-28 (PERMISSION TO CONSULT)

24.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

## DECISIONS

24.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- 1) approve consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for the 2027-28 academic year, as set out in appendix 1 to the report;
- 2) note that there are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements;
- 3) approve consultation on the proposed published admission numbers (PANs) for Community and VC schools for 2027 – 28, specifically the proposed PAN change at Hankham Primary School and Southover CE Primary School and;
- 4) approve consultation on the proposed co-ordinated schemes of admissions as set out in appendices 3-6 of the report.

## REASONS

24.3 The Council is required by law to consult on its admission arrangements every 7 years, or sooner if any changes to those arrangements are proposed for schools for which it is the admission authority.

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

**Date:** 3 December 2025

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

**Title of report:** School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029

**Purpose of report:** To seek Lead Member approval to publish the School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to approve the School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029 for publication.**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 The Local Authority ('LA') has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand across East Sussex. In support of this duty, the LA publishes a School Organisation Plan ('the plan') annually. The plan sets out the projected demand for primary, secondary, and special educational needs places in the future. It also identifies where the LA expects 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 2024 to 2028, was approved for publication by the Lead Member on 9 December 2024. A new draft plan for 2025 to 2029, has been produced using the most recent set of pupil forecasts which take account of the latest information on births, GP registrations, parental preferences, housing developments, and migration patterns. The draft plan also includes new chapters on Alternative Provision (AP) and Post-16 provision. The draft plan is available at Appendix 1.

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

2.1 The draft plan describes how births in the county have continued to decline since their peak of 5,500 in the 2010/11 academic year. Countywide births fell to below 4,300 in 2022/23. Based on historic patterns of 11-to-13-year cycles of peaks and troughs, birth numbers may soon begin to rise again. However, the declining fertility rates currently seen in East Sussex and nationally may mean that previous cyclical patterns are not repeated. Births in East Sussex for 2023/24 have increased by approximately 80 births when compared to the previous year. It remains to be seen whether this signifies the start of a prolonged recovery in the birth rate.

2.2 The decline in countywide birth rates is reflected in falling primary reception (Year R) intake numbers, a trend expected to continue until at least 2027/28. The latest pupil forecasts indicate a potential recovery in pupil numbers beyond this point. However, intake forecasts beyond 2028/29 are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data, making them less certain. Even if birth rates follow typical cyclical patterns, it is unlikely that higher Year R intake numbers will be seen across the county before the 2030s.

2.3 Intakes to secondary schools in Year 7 peaked in 2022/23 and are now in decline.

2.4 In 2024/25, the number of school-aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an Education, Health and Care Plan ('EHCP') was 4,481. There were also 412 young people aged 19 to 25 with an EHCP who needed continued support to transition to adulthood. Over the next four years, the LA forecasts that the number of school-aged children with EHCPs will grow by around 22% to nearly 5,500.

2.5 To meet this growing demand, the LA's Special Educational Needs and Disability ('SEND') place planning strategy focuses on developing more specialist facilities in mainstream schools. This will help schools to be more inclusive and educate children alongside their peers in their local communities. In the

2024/25 academic year the LA invited schools to submit expressions of interest for new or expanded specialist facilities. To date, the LA has approved:

- Three new primary school facilities at:
  - Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School
  - Ocklynge Junior School
  - Chyngton School
- One new secondary school facility at:
  - Seaford Head School
- Two expanded secondary school facilities at:
  - Uckfield College
  - Heathfield Community College

2.6 Alongside the development of more specialist facility provision, the LA is also reorganising and expanding [Acre Wood Academy](#)'s Church Road premises. This will increase capacity for secondary age students and create a school run nursery.

2.7 The LA has also identified a need for more specialist post-16 provision including for learners with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, and improved transition support for learners with SEND to progress onto Further Education ('FE') Colleges for Level 1 and Level 2 courses. The LA is exploring with special schools and post-16 providers how this provision will be delivered.

### **3. Stakeholder consultation**

3.1 The LA 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. By the end of the consultation period three responses had been received, from two primary schools and one special school. Respondents focused on the increasing pressures related to SEND provision.

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

4.1 In conclusion, the draft School Organisation Plan for the period 2025 to 2029 sets out how the LA 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.

4.2 The Lead Member is recommended to approve the School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029 for publication.

**CAROLYN FAIR**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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LOCAL MEMBERS  
All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS  
Consultation responses

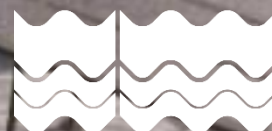
APPENDICES  
Appendix 1 – Draft School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029

# East Sussex County Council School Organisation Plan 2025 to 2029



**EDUCATION**  
**EAST SUSSEX**  
TOGETHER FOR EXCELLENCE  
AND INCLUSION

East Sussex  
County Council





# Foreword

Welcome to East Sussex County Council's School Organisation Plan. The plan is a 4-year rolling plan. It sets out how East Sussex County Council (the local authority) will meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in the right locations to meet demand. It is updated every year.

Our Excellence for All vision sets out our shared commitment to an education system where all children belong and there is a culture of inclusion embedded across the county. In addition our East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 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.

We are anticipating significant changes to the government's approach to SEND and Inclusion, aligned to national changes in accountability, curriculum, assessment and inspection. A government White Paper is due to be published in early 2026. Through our work with the SEND & AP (Alternative Provision) Change programme, a government plan to improve support for children with SEND, it is clear that there will be a strong focus on inclusion in schools. Specifically a focus on more children with SEND and additional needs in mainstream schools.

Over the plan period the biggest challenge for the local authority will continue to be the 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). In recent years, the local authority has delivered 359 new special school and specialist facility places, to help address the increasing demand for special educational needs provision and to manage the high cost of placements in non-maintained and independent special schools. Our SEND place planning strategy will continue to deliver more special educational needs provision during the lifetime of the plan.

At the same time there will be areas of the county where demand for mainstream school places is low as a result of the continuing decline in the birth rate. This creates its own challenges for schools in terms of their medium to long term viability. Our Small Schools Policy is part of the local authority's strategy to help small schools remain sustainable and at the heart of their local communities.

For September 2025, we are pleased to confirm that we were able to offer a place at a preferred school to:

- Primary Reception year: 98.1% of applicants
- Junior Year 3: 100% of applicants
- Secondary Year 7: 96.5% of applicants

The local authority continues to face challenges related to the capital cost of providing school places. There is an imbalance between the significant cost of providing new places and the funding that we receive. To help to address this and reduce the local authority's reliance on borrowing, we will continue to work closely with the District and Borough Councils to ensure that housing developments in the county contribute where



necessary towards the cost of building education infrastructure to serve those developments.

In East Sussex we have a history of strong partnership working; something we are rightly proud of. Collaboration with all our schools and settings is essential to ensure that we continue to play a strong and consistent role in shaping the local education offer for our children and young people. We are grateful to school leaders, academy trusts, diocesan colleagues and other key partners for their continued support in helping to shape our strategic planning for education provision in East Sussex.

We hope that you will find this document of interest and we welcome any comments you might have on the plan.



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



**Carolyn Fair**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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# Introduction

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to ensure there are enough school places available in their area to meet demand, as set out in section 14 of the Education Act 1996. In line with these duties, East Sussex County Council (the local authority) publishes a School Organisation Plan each year which sets out how we will provide enough primary, secondary and special educational needs places in the right locations to meet demand. This School Organisation Plan covers the period 2025 to 2029.

The document contains information on:

- the current pattern of school provision across the county
- forecasts for 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 sets 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, expanding or reducing the size 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 seeks 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.

To achieve this, the local authority works closely with:

- school leaders, including headteachers and governing boards
- academy trusts
- the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
- local communities
- local planning authorities and developers

# 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 2025, the local authority was able to offer a place at a preferred school to:

- 98.1% of primary reception (Year R) applicants
- all junior Year 3 applicants
- 96.5% 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 2024/25, 48 primary schools had fewer than 150 pupils on roll and were

considered small schools. 28 (56%) of these are currently working as part of a federation of schools.

Small schools offer many strengths in serving their local community. Relationships are strong, and pupils are well-known by staff and their peers. However, 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, and up to 18 for disabled children.

A new Childcare Sufficiency Duty report for 2026/27 will be published in early 2026. It will take account of the expansion of the [Early Years Education entitlement](#) for working families. This expansion was fully implemented from September 2025.

## **East Sussex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy**

In November 2022 a new, ambitious [East Sussex SEND Strategy](#) was launched covering the period 2022 to 2026. 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.

## **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 555,000 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 30% in 2029 and 34% by 2037 (Source: 2021 Census and ESCC Dwelling-Led Population Projections May 2025).

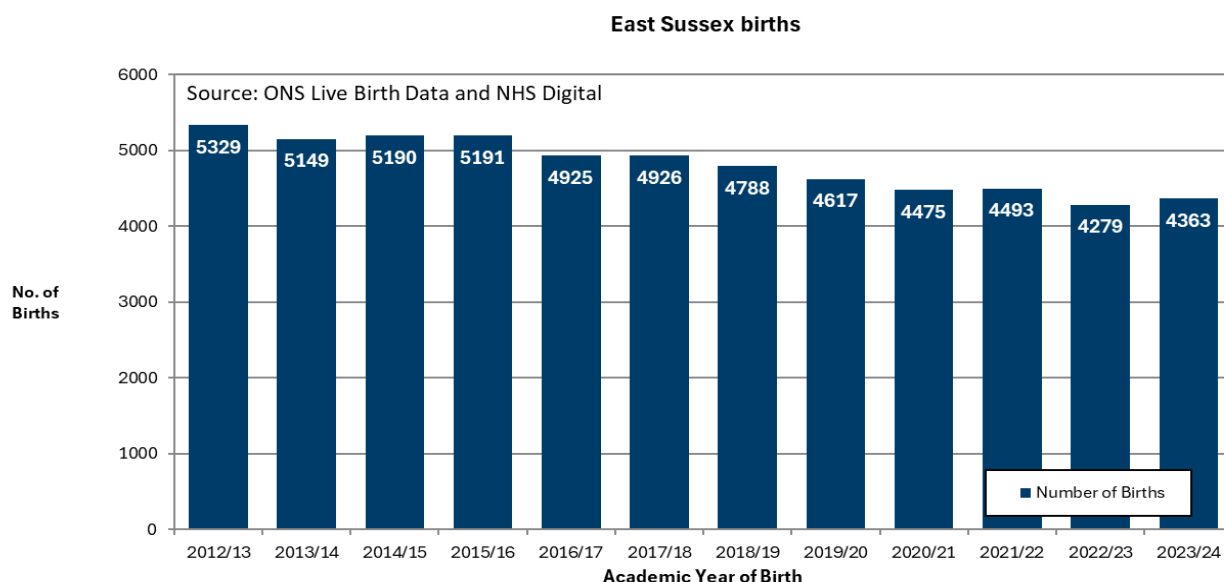
Births in East Sussex peaked at 5,500 in academic year 2010/11. Since then, countywide births have fallen to below 4,300 in 2022/23. Based on historic patterns of 11-13 year cycles of peaks and troughs, birth numbers may begin an upward cycle soon. However, the declining fertility rates currently being witnessed not only in East Sussex, but in most of the UK and in many parts of the world, may mean that previous cyclical patterns are not repeated. Births in East Sussex for 2023/24 are around 80 up on the previous year, but it is not clear whether this is just a blip or marks the start of a prolonged recovery.

East Sussex births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	4279
2023/24	4363

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 beginning to recover beyond this point. However, intake forecasts beyond 2028/29 are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data and are less certain. Even if births do continue to follow their normal cyclical patterns, we may not see high Year R numbers across the county generally until the 2030s.

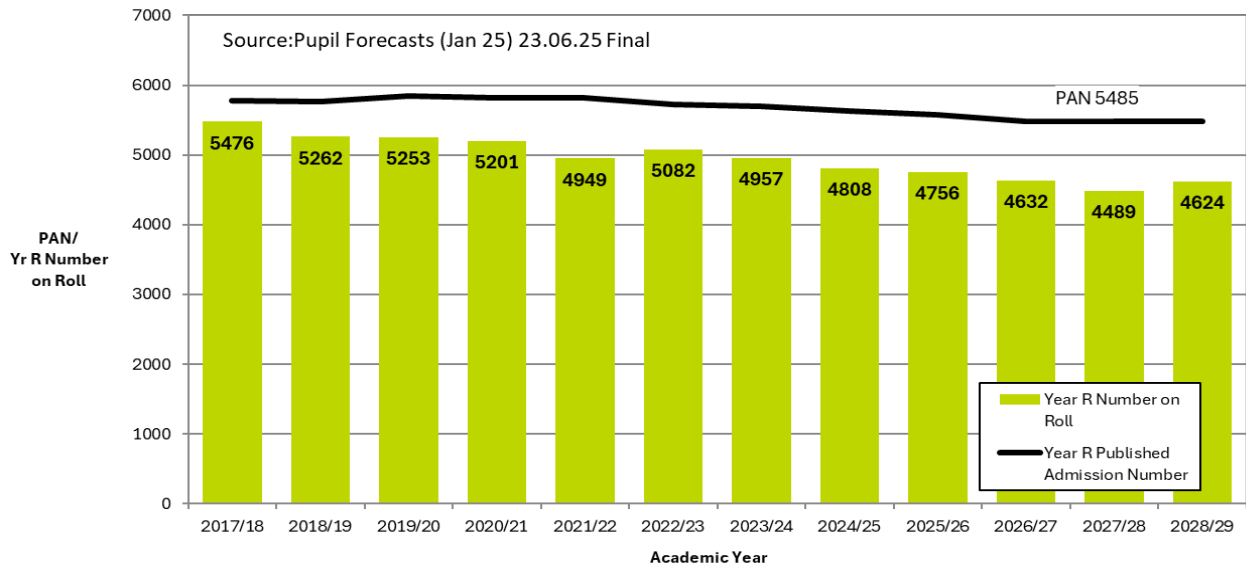
However, in some areas of the county where high volumes of new housing are planned, numbers in Year R may rise sooner than in other parts of East Sussex.

#### East Sussex primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	4808
2025/26	5575	4756
2026/27	5485	4632
2027/28	5485	4489
2028/29	5485	4624

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### East Sussex primary Year R numbers



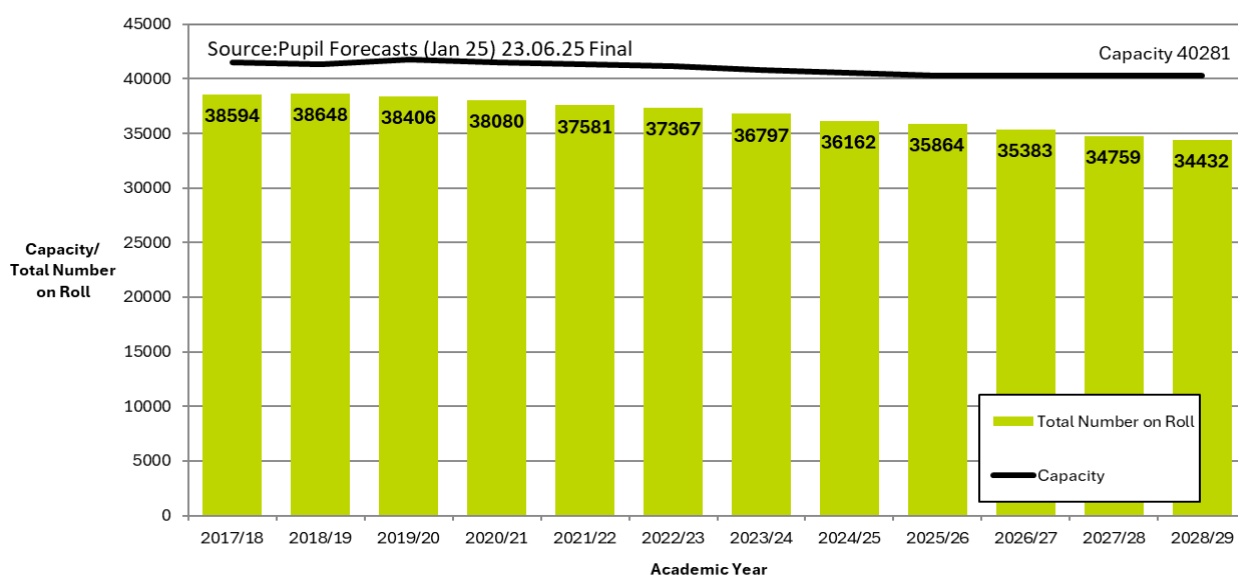
Total numbers on roll in primary schools peaked in 2018/19 and are now in decline, currently leaving around 11% surplus places overall, although this margin varies from area to area. By 2028/29, surplus places are forecast to rise to 15%.

### East Sussex total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	41516	38594	2922	7%
2018/19	41363	38648	2715	7%
2019/20	41741	38406	3335	8%
2020/21	41537	38080	3457	8%
2021/22	41327	37581	3746	9%
2022/23	41191	37367	3824	9%
2023/24	40831	36797	4034	10%
2024/25	40531	36162	4369	11%
2025/26	40311	35864	4447	11%
2026/27	40311	35383	4928	12%
2027/28	40281	34759	5522	14%
2028/29	40281	34432	5849	15%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan25) 23.06.25 Final

### East Sussex total primary numbers



## Secondary

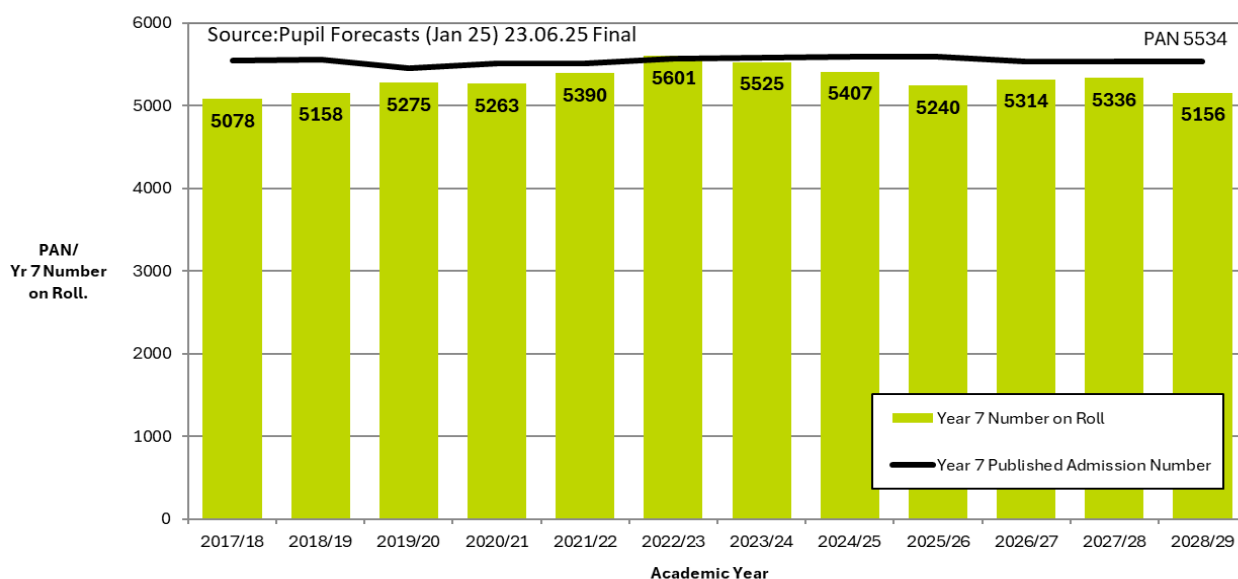
Earlier high numbers in primary schools have been reflected in rising Year 7 secondary school intakes. Year 7 numbers peaked in 2022/23 with total numbers on roll in secondary schools peaking in 2023/24.

### East Sussex secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	5407
2025/26	5594	5240
2026/27	5534	5314
2027/28	5534	5336
2028/29	5534	5156

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### East Sussex secondary Year 7 numbers

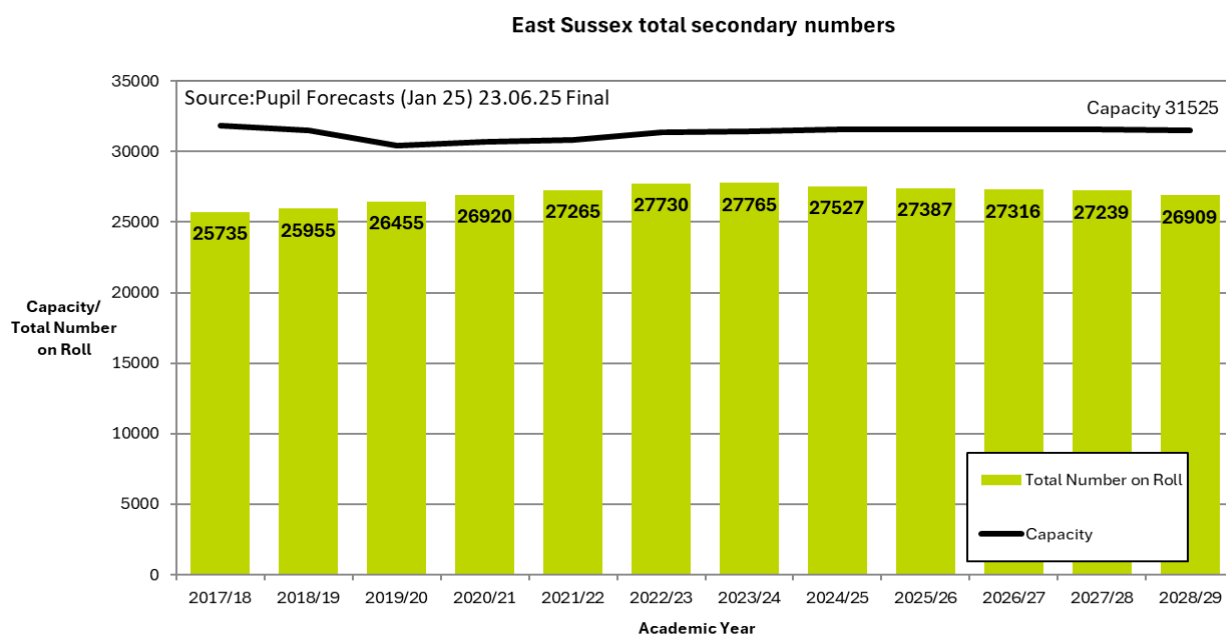


With secondary school numbers now in decline, surplus places, currently at 13% countywide, are predicted to rise to 15% by the end of the plan period.

### East Sussex total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	31815	25735	6080	19%
2018/19	31535	25955	5580	18%
2019/20	30410	26455	3955	13%
2020/21	30730	26920	3810	12%
2021/22	30860	27265	3595	12%
2022/23	31340	27730	3610	12%
2023/24	31440	27765	3675	12%
2024/25	31545	27527	4018	13%
2025/26	31575	27387	4188	13%
2026/27	31575	27316	4259	13%
2027/28	31575	27239	4336	14%
2028/29	31525	26909	4616	15%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



## Special Educational Needs

In 2024/25, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 4,481. There were also 412 young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who need continued support to transition to adulthood.

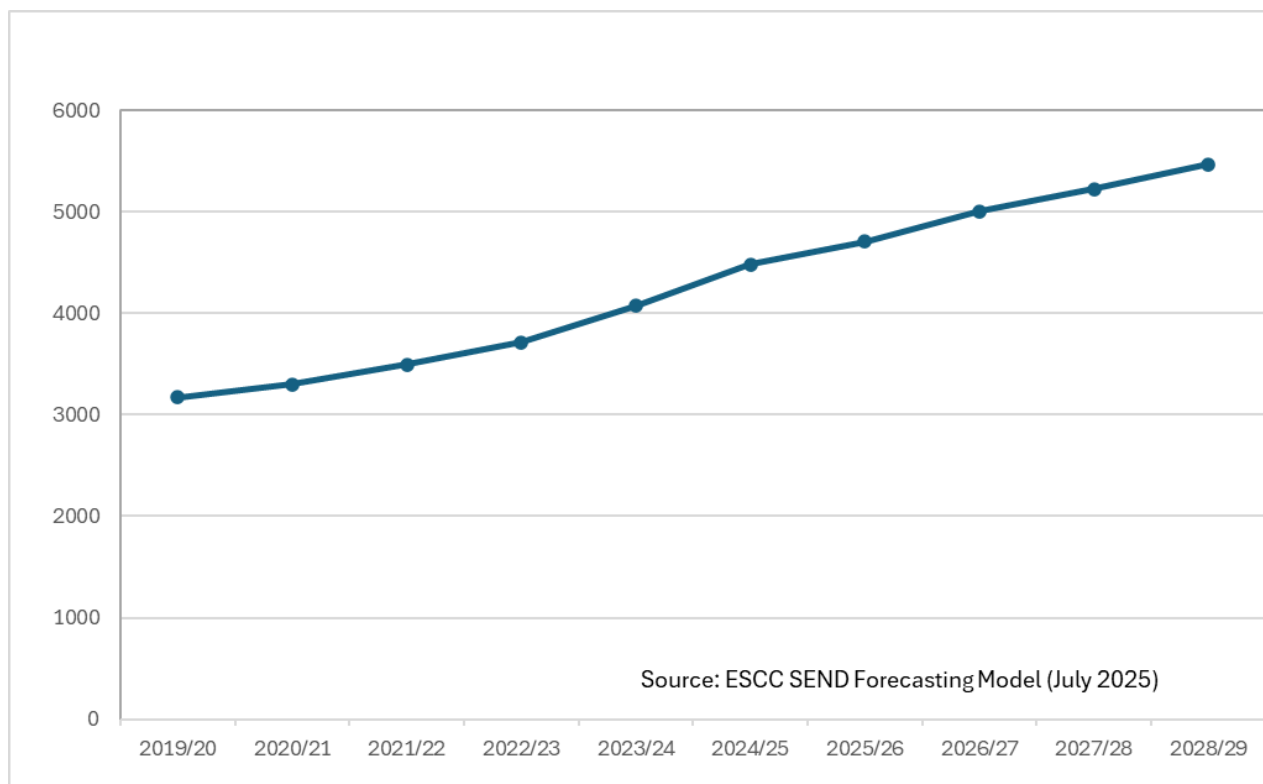
Over the next four years, the local authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow, by around 22%, to nearly 5,500.

### School age children with an Education, Health and Care Plan from 2019/20 to 2028/29

Academic year	EHCPs
2019/20	3170
2020/21	3297
2021/22	3494
2022/23	3713
2023/24	4073
2024/25	4481
2025/26	4708
2026/27	5008
2027/28	5224
2028/29	5468

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2025)

### School age children with an Education, Health and Care Plan from 2019/20 to 2028/29



## 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 900 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.

## Schools in East Sussex

On 1 October 2025, there were 170 state funded mainstream schools, 13 special schools and two 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.

## State funded schools by type

School Type	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Academy (including free school)	Totals
Infant (4-7)	2				4	6
Junior (7-11)					5	5
Primary (4-11)	31	38	16	1	47	133
All-through (4-16/18)					3	3
Secondary (11-16/18)	5			1	17	23
Special					13	13
Alternative provision					2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>185</b>

### Note:

Some primary and all-through schools include nursery provision and therefore have age ranges starting at 0, 2 or 3.

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

## Local Authority maintained schools

There are 94 local authority-maintained schools in East Sussex (51% of all schools). Of these, 38 are community schools, 38 are voluntary controlled church schools, 16 are voluntary aided church schools and two are foundation schools. Of the 55 church schools, 49 are Church of England, 4 are Catholic and one is Methodist.

In the 2024/25 academic year, 39% (25,574) of pupils in East Sussex were on roll in a local authority-maintained school.

## 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.

There are currently 12 formal school federations in East Sussex made up of 34 primary schools. In the 2024/25 academic year, 22% (3,714) of pupils in East Sussex maintained primary schools were on roll in a school that is in a federation.

## Rural Primary Schools

According to the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2024, 67% (59) of the local authority-maintained primary schools (including infant and junior schools) in East Sussex are classified as rural, reflecting the largely rural nature of the county. A small number of academies are also in rural locations.



## Academies

Under the Academies Act 2010 it is possible for all maintained schools to become academies. All new schools that have opened in East Sussex since 2010 have been established as academies (free schools) in line with government policy. 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.'

There are currently 91 academies in East Sussex (49% of all schools). 89 academies are part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) and two are single academy trusts (SATs).

In the 2024/25 academic year, 61% (39,592) of pupils in East Sussex were on roll in an academy.

For more information on individual schools 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:

- 17 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.
- 17 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, revisions to planned local housing targets or school and sixth-form closures. 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: -1.6%
- Secondary number on roll one year ahead forecast: 1.7%
- Secondary number on roll three year ahead forecast: 4.4%

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. Where some schools in an area are consistently oversubscribed, this may give the impression that there is a shortage of places. This may not be the case overall, if 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, non-maintained and independent special schools. The forecasts take account of the following factors:

- demographic trends
- the prevalence of different types of SEND (as defined by primary need)
- current cohorts of children in each academic year group moving through the system
- recent trends in the numbers of new plans created and existing plans ceased
- professional judgement from SEND practitioners as to whether these trends are likely to continue in the future

## Creating new places

When the local authority identifies a shortfall of capacity it will consider providing additional school places, either through the temporary or permanent expansion of existing schools or through commissioning new schools.

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).
- 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 that 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. Similarly, the local authority is cautious about removing permanent capacity when pupil numbers are low. By leaving physical capacity in place and using it for alternative purposes when numbers are low, it can be brought back into use again as pupil numbers begin to grow.

## 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 Allocation 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 will work 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.

## 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.

In 2024/25 26 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 and one all-through school 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 recent Ofsted inspection which raises significant concern
- 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 18 primary schools in the area, five of which are infant schools and four are junior schools. There are two all-through schools (primary and secondary) and four secondary schools. Six schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
<b>Primary schools</b>		
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	Academy
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 Primary School	2-11	Community
<b>All-through schools</b>		
Gildredge House	4-16	Academy
The Cavendish School	2-16	Academy
<b>Secondary schools</b>		
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 October 2025



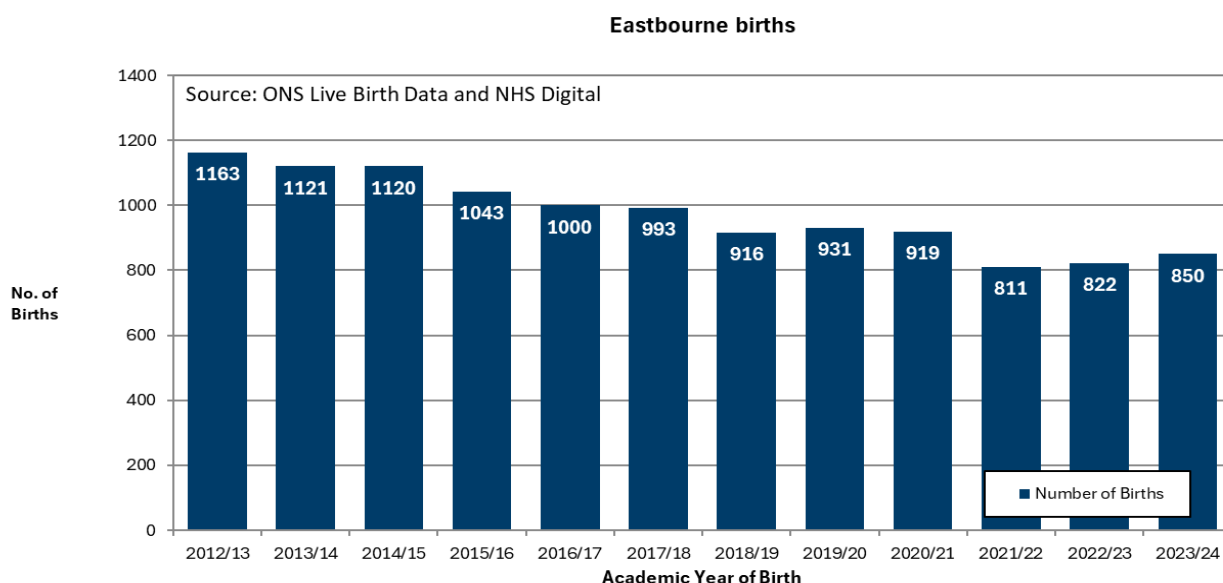
## Births

Births in Eastbourne have been falling since their peak in 2011/12. Births in 2023/24 are slightly up on 2022/23 figures, but it is not clear yet whether this signifies the start of a prolonged recovery or may be an anomaly.

**Eastbourne births from 2012/13 to 2023/24**

Academic year	Number of births
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	822
2023/24	850

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) 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. 500 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period from 2025/26 to 2026/27. EBC 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 reception (Year R) intakes in the area to be low at least for the remainder of the decade if not beyond.

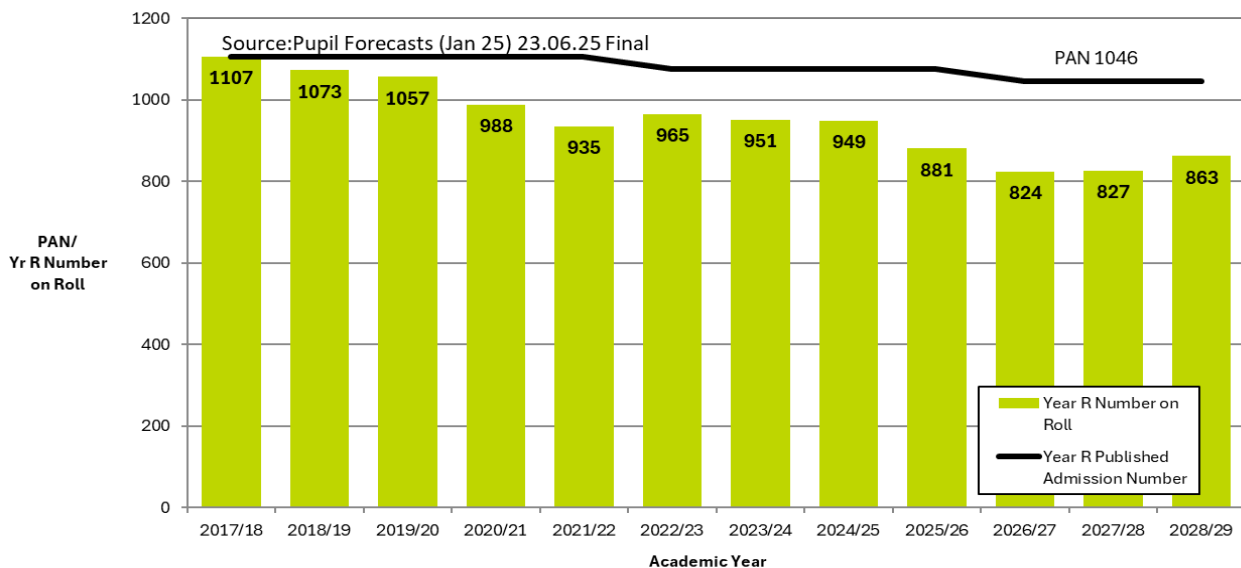
Many Eastbourne children attend schools in the surrounding area including Polegate School, Willingdon Primary School, Stone Cross School, Hankham Primary School and Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School. The majority of these schools are full or close to full. High levels of recent and planned new housing 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 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	949
2025/26	1076	881
2026/27	1046	824
2027/28	1046	827
2028/29	1046	863

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Eastbourne primary Year R numbers



Low intakes will have a knock-on effect on total numbers on roll. By 2028/29, surplus places for the area could have risen to 15%.

Currently, there are three schools in Eastbourne with surplus places of 25% or more.

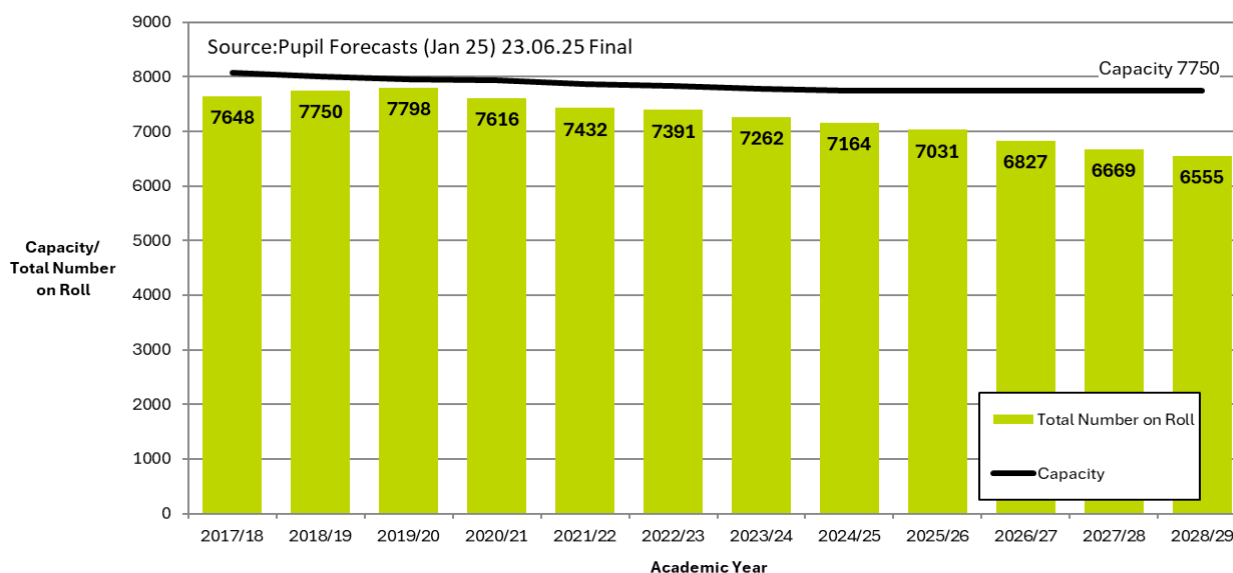
#### Eastbourne total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	8072	7648	424	5%
2018/19	8012	7750	262	3%
2019/20	7960	7798	162	2%
2020/21	7930	7616	314	4%

2021/22	7870	7432	438	6%
2022/23	7840	7391	449	6%
2023/24	7780	7262	518	7%
2024/25	7750	7164	586	8%
2025/26	7750	7031	719	9%
2026/27	7750	6827	923	12%
2027/28	7750	6669	1081	14%
2028/29	7750	6555	1195	15%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

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. Although decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with the trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

The Published Admission Number (PAN) at Motcombe Infants School will reduce from 90 to 60 with effect from the 2026/27 academic year to help manage surplus places in the school. Accommodation will not be removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

On 1 May 2025, West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School amalgamated to create West Rise Primary School.

The local authority is working with Ocklynge Junior School to establish a specialist facility with a designation of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for up to 12 pupils with autism. The new facility is due to open on 1 January 2026.

Pashley Down Infant School aims to lower its age range from September 2026 to establish school-run nursery provision on site.

## Secondary places

Based on the numbers coming through primary schools, intakes into Year 7 are forecast to remain high until 2026/27. Beyond that, intake numbers are predicted to fall away.

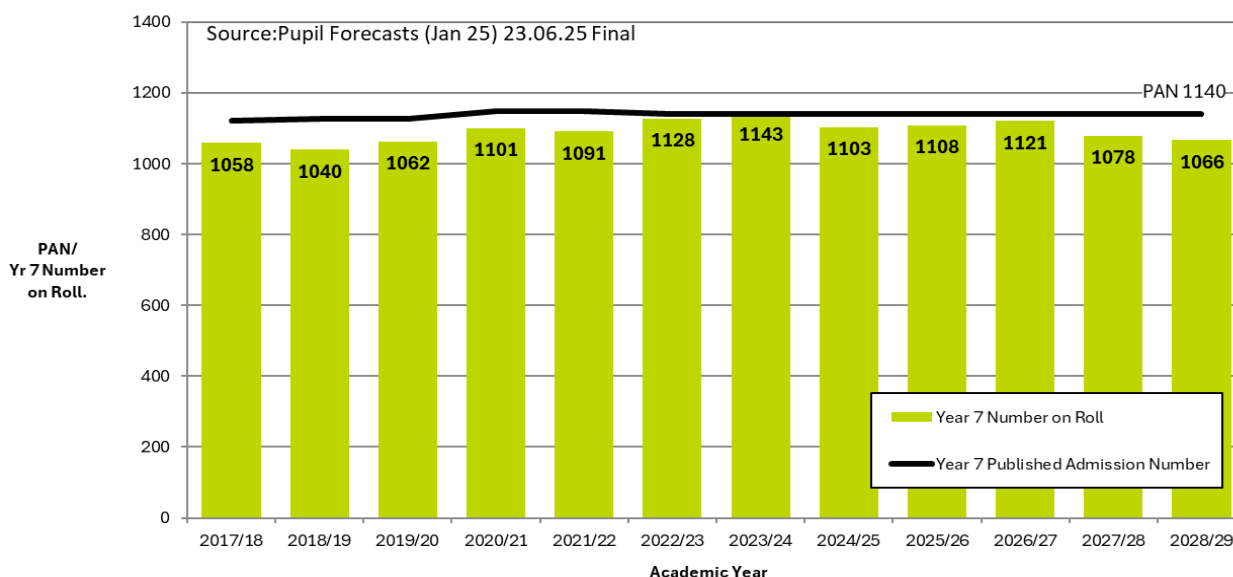
The Eastbourne area sees outflows of Catholic children to St Richard's Catholic College in Bexhill and some inflows from the Hailsham area. There are also significant inflows from and outflows to Willingdon Community School.

### Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	1103
2025/26	1140	1108
2026/27	1140	1121
2027/28	1140	1078
2028/29	1140	1066

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers



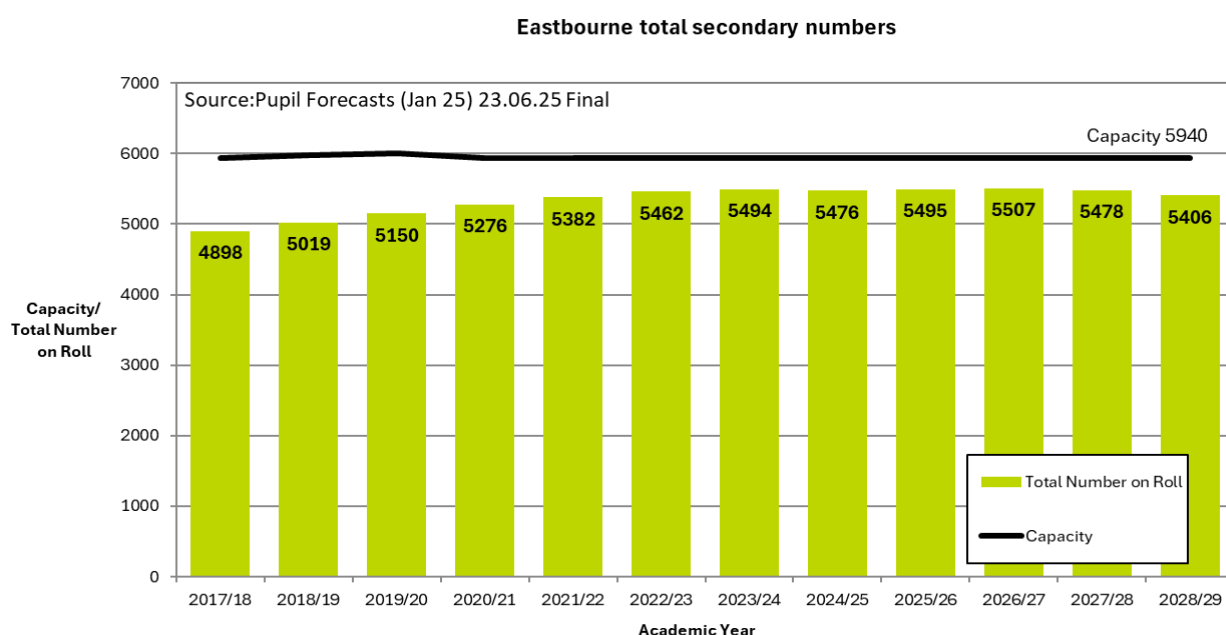
Overall secondary numbers are expected to peak in 2026/27 before starting to fall away. Surplus places for the area, which stood at 8% in 2024/25, are forecast to rise to 9% by 2028/29.

### Eastbourne total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	5940	4898	1042	18%
2018/19	5980	5019	961	16%
2019/20	6000	5150	850	14%

2020/21	5940	5276	664	11%
2021/22	5940	5382	558	9%
2022/23	5940	5462	478	8%
2023/24	5940	5494	446	8%
2024/25	5940	5476	464	8%
2025/26	5940	5495	445	7%
2026/27	5940	5507	433	7%
2027/28	5940	5478	462	8%
2028/29	5940	5406	534	9%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



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

In May 2025, the Department for Education's Regional Director for the South East approved the transfer of The Eastbourne Academy from Swale Academies Trust to the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. The date of transfer will be confirmed in due course.

# 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
<b>Primary</b>		
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	0-11	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	Academy
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
ARK Alexandra Academy	11-16	Academy
The Hastings Academy	11-16	Academy
The St Leonard's Academy	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

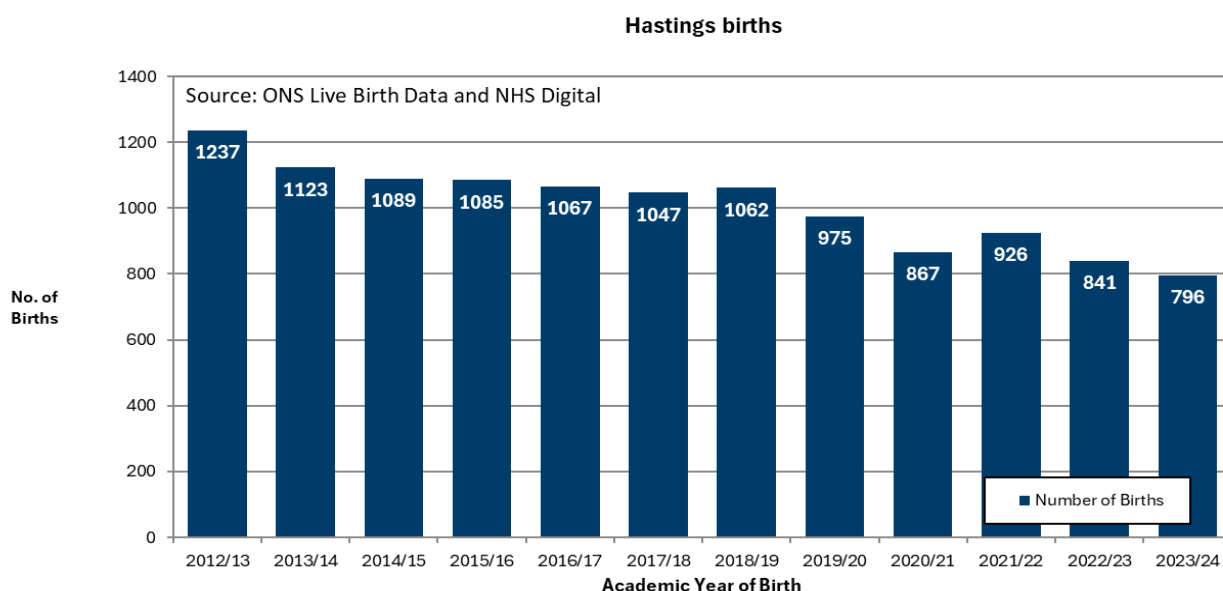
## Births

Since their peak in 2010/11, births in Hastings have continued to fall.

**Hastings births from 2012/13 to 2023/24**

Academic year	Number of births
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	841
2023/24	796

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Hastings Borough Council (HBC) 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. HBC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 2,300 new dwellings being built in the period 2025/26 to 2040/41.

## Primary places

In line with falling births, reception (Year R) intake numbers in the area are forecast to remain well below the current Published Admission Number (PAN) until late in the decade and probably beyond.

Many Hastings children attend surrounding primary schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School, Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling Bradshaw CE Primary School,



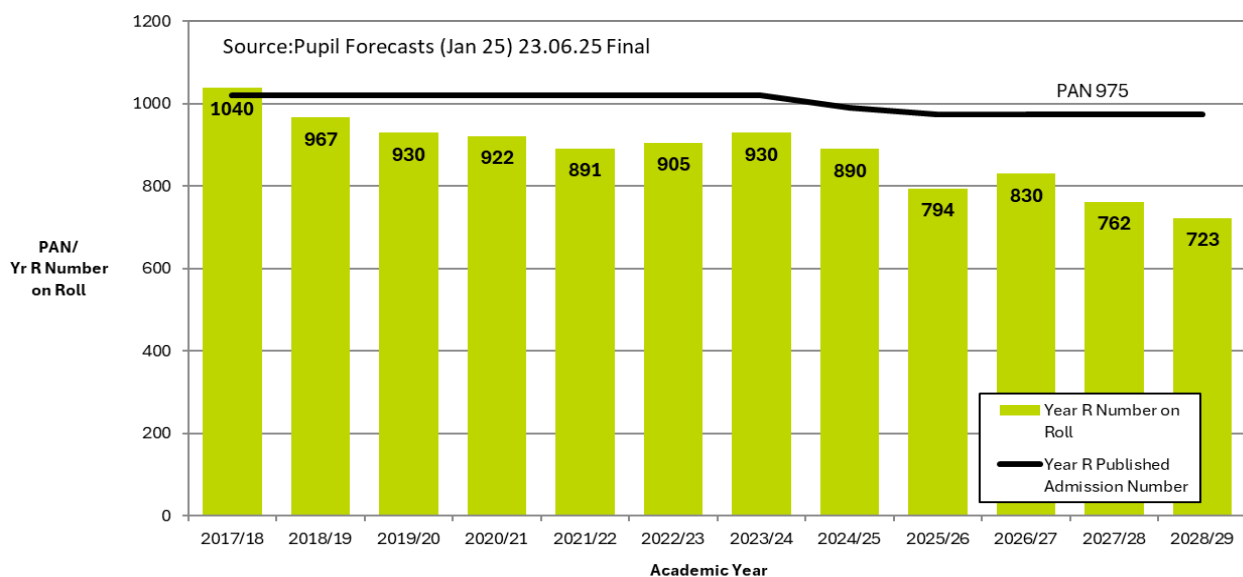
Icklesham CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School, and Westfield School. Most of these have historically been full or close to full. However, going forward, lower levels of demand from Hastings may see numbers in some of these surrounding schools falling.

#### Hastings primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	794
2026/27	975	830
2027/28	975	762
2028/29	975	723

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Hastings primary Year R numbers



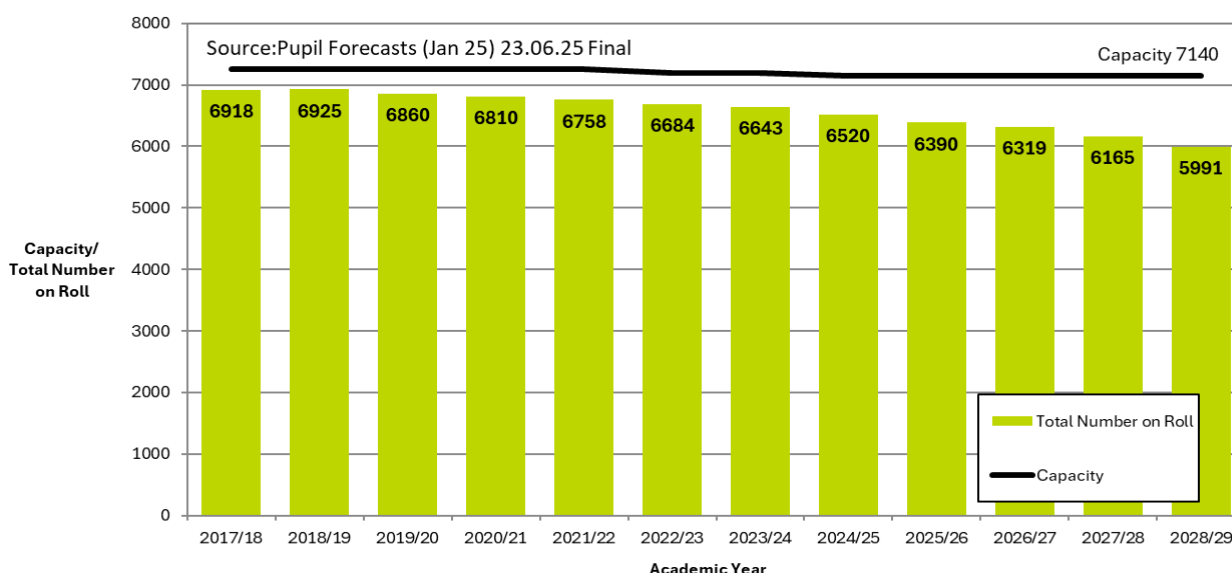
Lower intakes are predicted to result in higher numbers of surplus places in the area. By 2028/29, surplus places for the area could have risen to 16%.

## Hastings total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	7260	6918	342	5%
2018/19	7260	6925	335	5%
2019/20	7260	6860	400	6%
2020/21	7260	6810	450	6%
2021/22	7260	6758	502	7%
2022/23	7200	6684	516	7%
2023/24	7200	6643	557	8%
2024/25	7140	6520	620	9%
2025/26	7140	6390	750	10%
2026/27	7140	6319	821	11%
2027/28	7140	6165	975	14%
2028/29	7140	5991	1149	16%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Hastings total primary numbers



\*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. Hollington Primary Academy reduced its PAN from 60 to 30 in 2024/25 and The Baird Primary Academy's PAN reduces from 60 to 45 with effect from 2025/26. Accommodation has not been removed from either school and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers begin to rise again.

## Secondary places

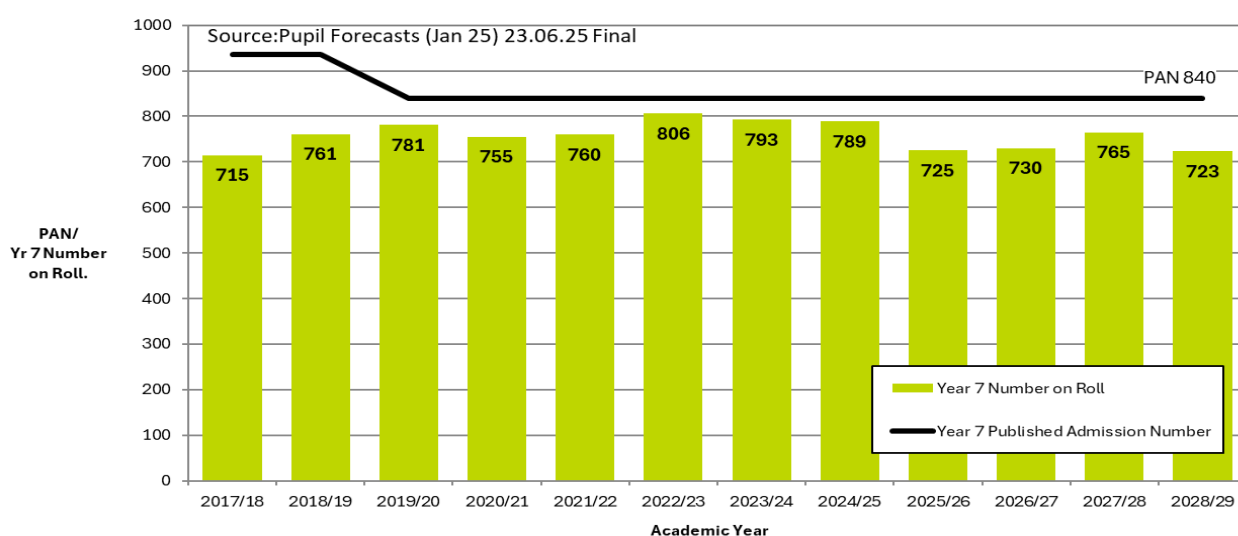
Year 7 intakes in the area peaked in 2022/23 and the subsequent trend is forecast to be generally downward.

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.

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	789
2025/26	840	725
2026/27	840	730
2027/28	840	765
2028/29	840	723

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

Hastings secondary Year 7 numbers



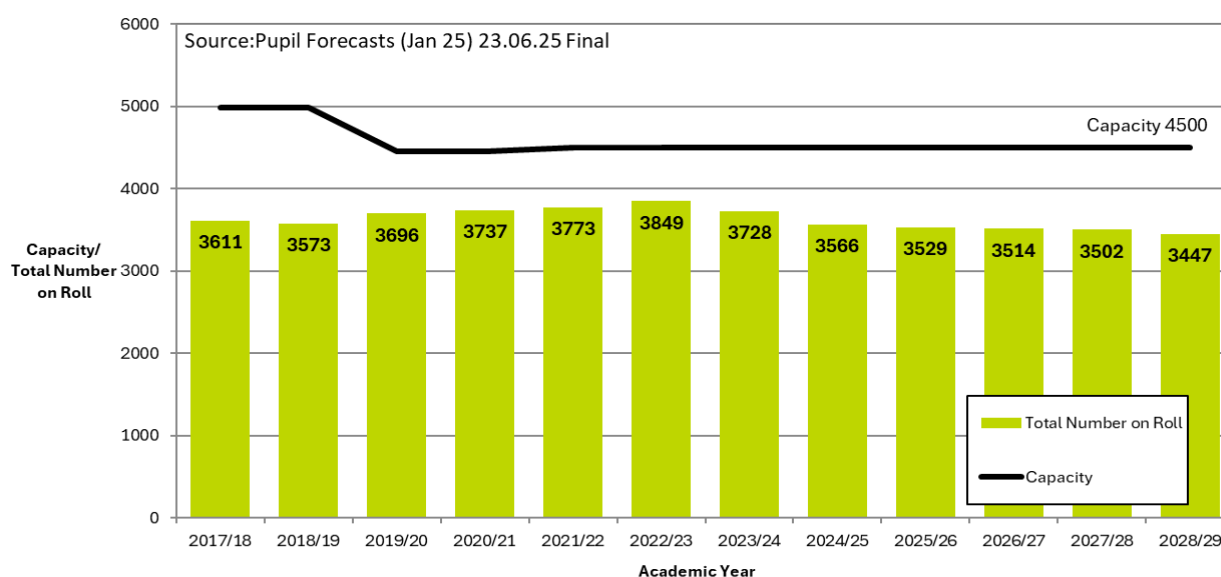
Surplus places in Hastings stood at 21% in 2024/25 and are forecast to rise to 23% by 2028/29.

### Hastings total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	4980	3611	1369	27%
2018/19	4980	3573	1407	28%
2019/20	4450	3696	754	17%
2020/21	4450	3737	713	16%
2021/22	4450	3773	727	16%
2022/23	4500	3849	651	14%
2023/24	4500	3728	772	17%
2024/25	4500	3566	934	21%
2025/26	4500	3529	971	22%
2026/27	4500	3514	986	22%
2027/28	4500	3502	998	22%
2028/29	4500	3447	1053	23%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Hastings total secondary numbers



\*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 decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

Following a decision in early 2025 by trustees at the University of Brighton Academies Trust (UBAT) to close the trust, the six primary and two secondary UBAT schools in Hastings will transfer to new trusts during the 2025/26 academic year. The date of transfer will be confirmed in due course.

## Lewes and surrounding area

### Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Priory School	11-16	Foundation

\* School type correct on 1 October 2025

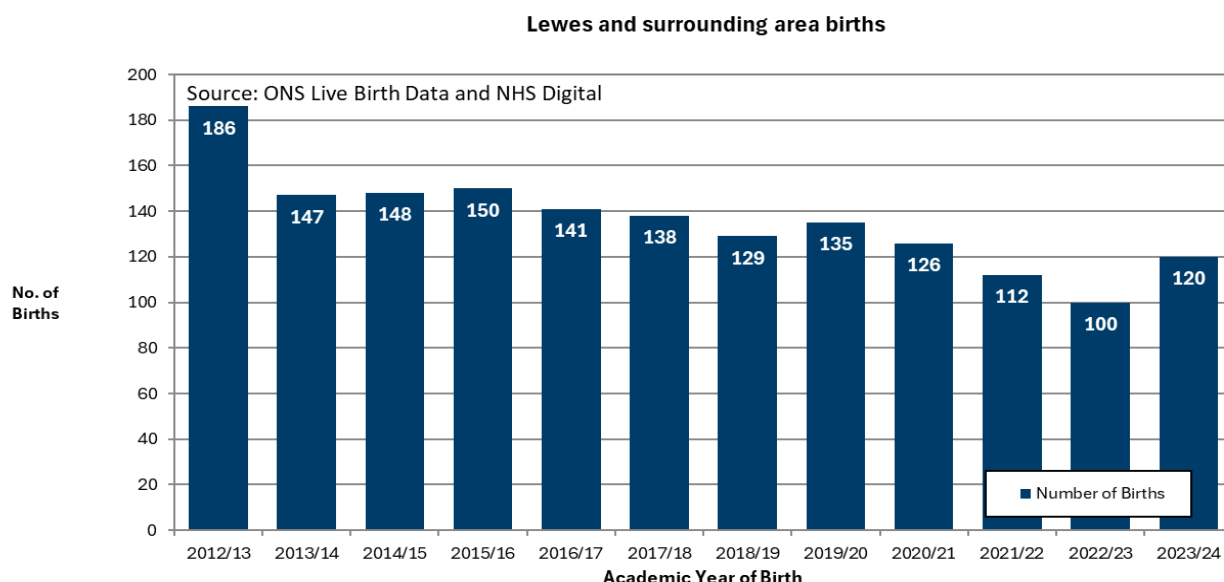
### Births

Following a period of falling births, numbers in 2023/24 are up on 2022/23 figures. However, it is not clear yet whether this signifies the start of a prolonged recovery or may be an anomaly.

#### Lewes births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	100
2023/24	120

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) 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 2025/26 to 2032/33. The SDNPA 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 2025/26, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area is insufficient to meet demand for reception (Year R) places. For the remainder of the plan period, shortfalls are not currently forecast.

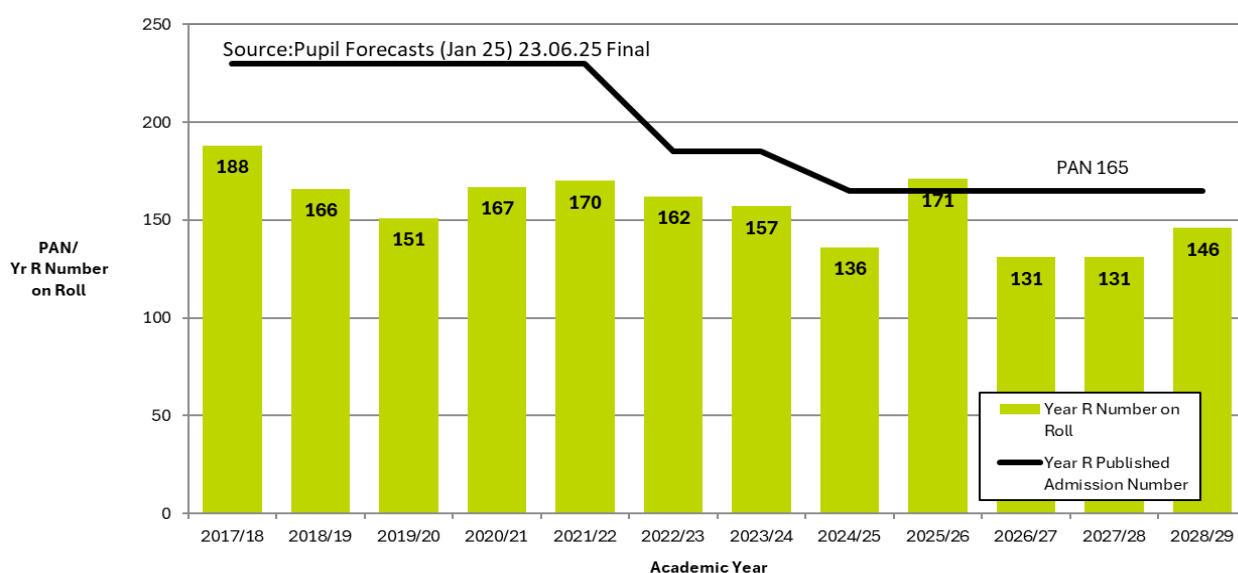
Some children from Lewes take up places in surrounding rural schools, notably Hamsey Community Primary School. Iford and Kingston CE Primary School experiences significant inflows of children from Newhaven.

## Lewes and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	136
2025/26	165	171
2026/27	165	131
2027/28	165	131
2028/29	165	146

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Lewes and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



To meet the shortfall of Year R places in 2025/26, Wallands Community Primary School admitted numbers above its PAN of 30, utilising spare accommodation from its previous reduction in PAN.

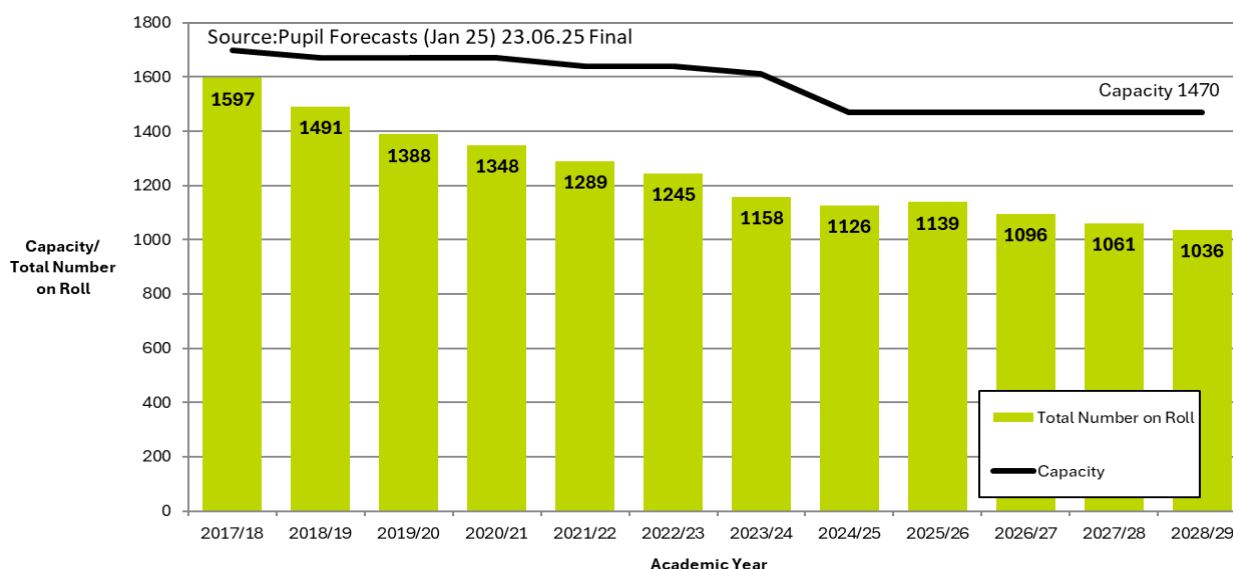
Lower intakes have led to higher numbers of surplus places in the area. By 2028/29, surplus places could have risen to 30%.

## Lewes and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1700	1597	103	6%
2018/19	1670	1491	179	11%
2019/20	1670	1388	282	17%
2020/21	1670	1348	322	19%
2021/22	1640	1289	351	21%
2022/23	1640	1245	395	24%
2023/24	1610	1158	452	28%
2024/25	1470	1126	344	23%
2025/26	1470	1139	331	23%
2026/27	1470	1096	374	25%
2027/28	1470	1061	409	28%
2028/29	1470	1036	434	30%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Lewes and surrounding area total primary numbers



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

If the 600 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 number of Year R places 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 the number of places.

## Secondary places

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

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.



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 Community School, which is their nearest school.

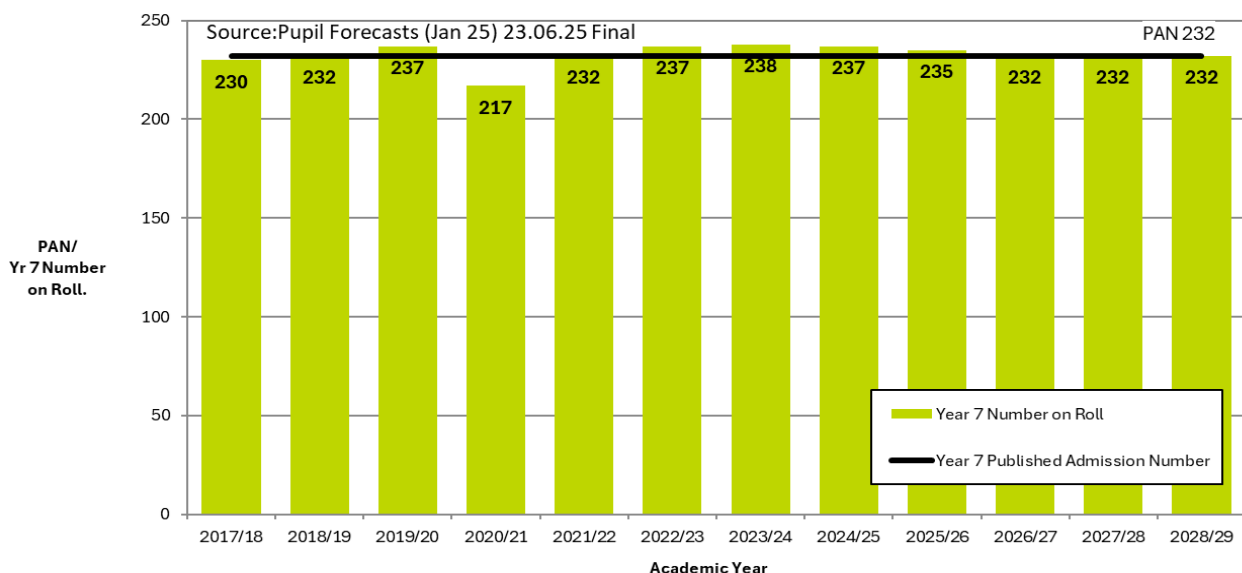
Priory School slightly exceeded its PAN of 232 in 2024/25 and is likely to do so again in 2025/26. This was as a result of the school allocating extra places to cater for demand from out of area. Future Year 7 numbers at the school will continue to depend heavily on demand from out of area, particularly from Brighton and Hove and The Havens area, bridging the gap between the demand from local children and its PAN. Recent preference patterns indicate that in the coming years this out of area demand will largely be able to fill this gap.

#### Lewes and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	237
2025/26	232	235
2026/27	232	232
2027/28	232	232
2028/29	232	232

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Lewes and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



Priory school is currently slightly over capacity and is expected to remain so for the plan period.

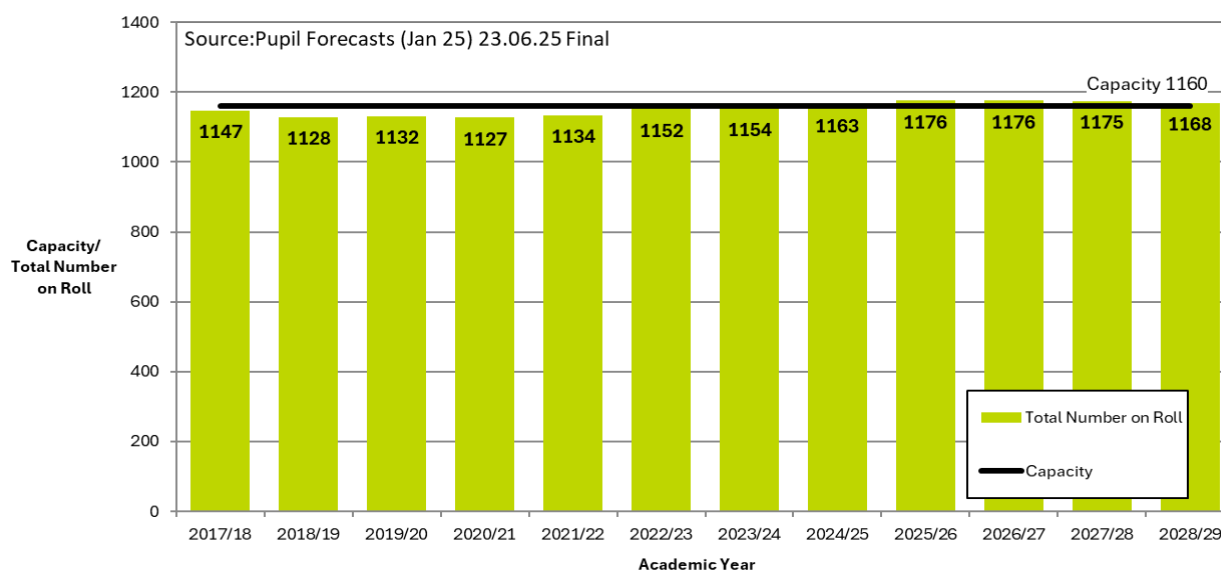
#### Lewes and surrounding area total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
Page 45				

2017/18	1160	1147	13	1%
2018/19	1160	1128	32	3%
2019/20	1160	1132	28	2%
2020/21	1160	1127	33	3%
2021/22	1160	1134	26	2%
2022/23	1160	1152	8	1%
2023/24	1160	1154	6	1%
2024/25	1160	1163	(3)	0%
2025/26	1160	1176	(16)	(1%)
2026/27	1160	1176	(16)	(1%)
2027/28	1160	1175	(15)	(1%)
2028/29	1160	1168	(8)	(1%)

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Lewes and surrounding area total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned in the area.

# The Havens

The Havens area covers both Newhaven and Peacehaven.

## Schools

There are four primary schools in Newhaven, three of which have nursery provision. 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*
<b>Primary (Newhaven)</b>		
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
<b>Primary (Peacehaven)</b>		
Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery	2-11	Community
Peacehaven Heights Academy	3-11	Academy
Telscombe Cliffs Academy	2-11	Academy
<b>Secondary</b>		
Peacehaven Community School	11-16	Academy
Seahaven Academy	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

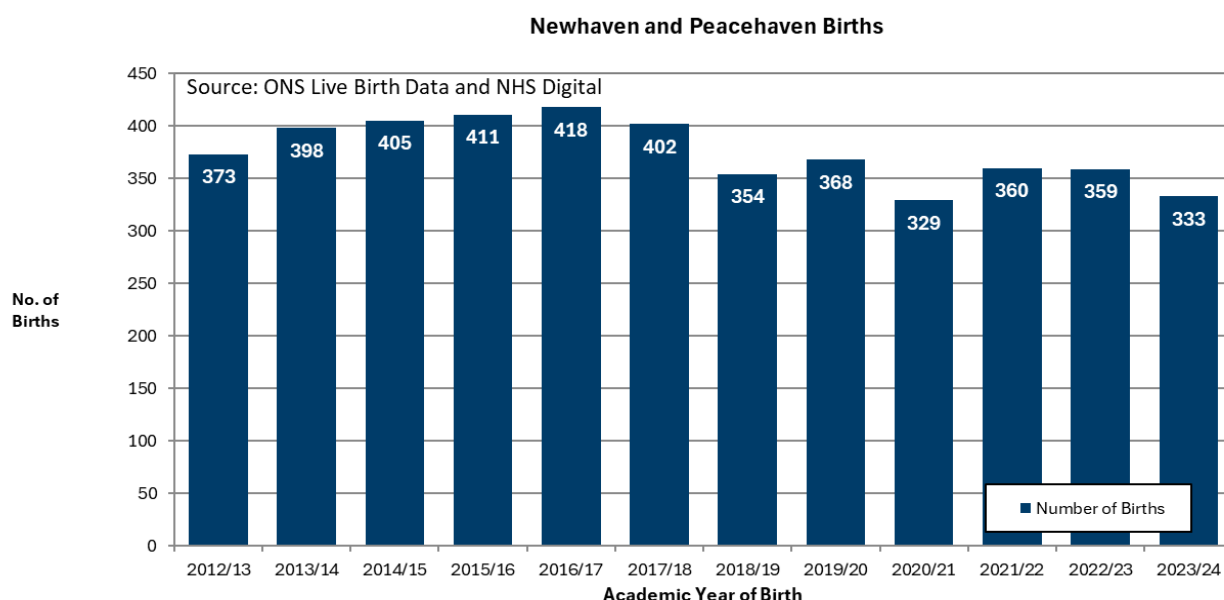
## Births

Overall, births in the Havens area continue to be low when compared to the period up to 2017/18.

### Newhaven and Peacehaven births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of Births
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	359
2023/24	333

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Lewes District Council (LDC) 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 1,200 new homes are projected to be built in the Havens area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2025/26 to 2029/30. LDC 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

Owing to fewer children coming into primary schools and higher than usual outflows to Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, we are currently witnessing lower reception (Year R) intake numbers than previously. Based on birth and GP registration data, and assuming current preference patterns continue, intake numbers are forecast to stay below PAN in the period to 2028/29.

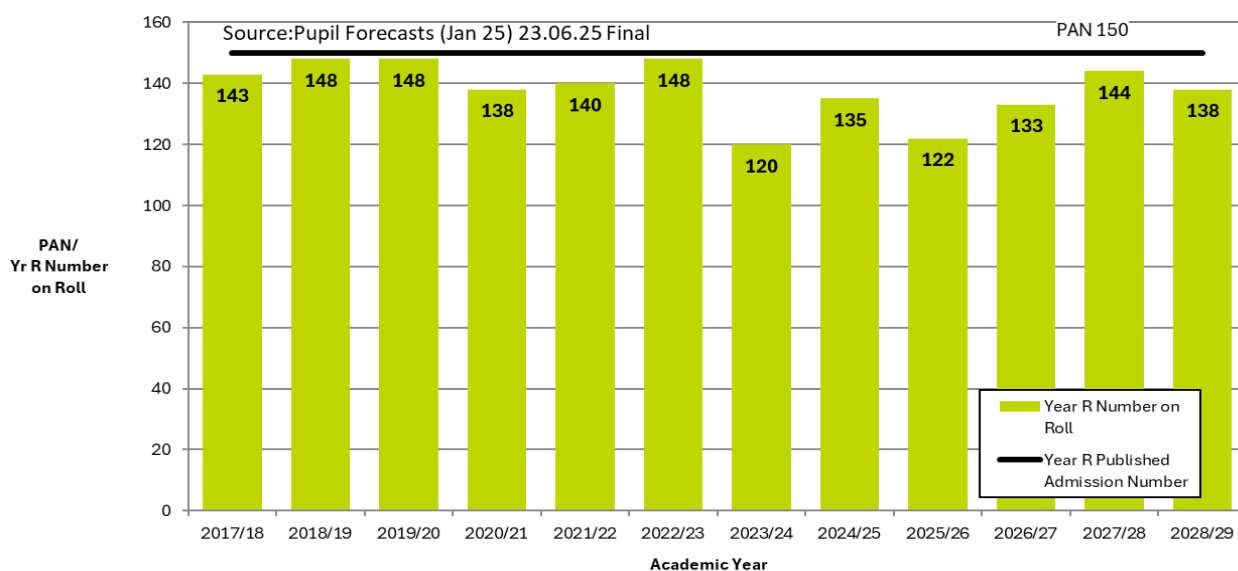
A number of Newhaven pupils attend Iford and Kingston CE Primary School and schools in Seaford.

### Newhaven primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	122
2026/27	150	133
2027/28	150	144
2028/29	150	138

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Newhaven primary Year R numbers



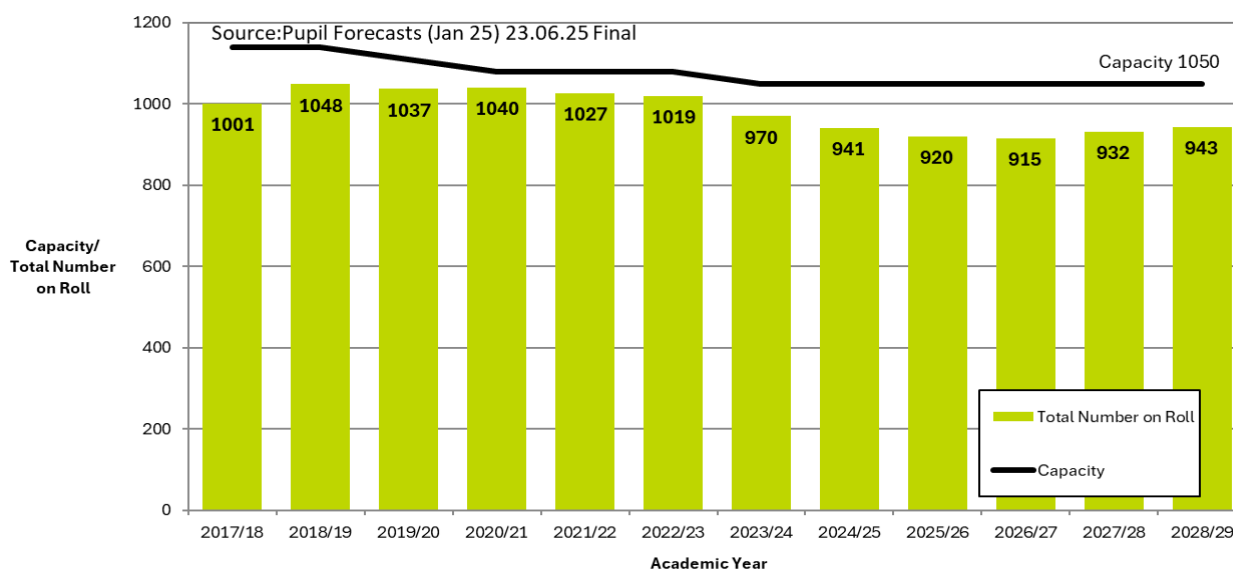
Surplus places for the area stood at 10% in 2024/25 and are forecast to be relatively static over the plan period.

### Newhaven total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1140	1001	139	12%
2018/19	1140	1048	92	8%
2019/20	1110	1037	73	7%
2020/21	1080	1040	40	4%
2021/22	1080	1027	53	5%
2022/23	1080	1019	61	6%
2023/24	1050	970	80	8%
2024/25	1050	941	109	10%
2025/26	1050	920	130	12%
2026/27	1050	915	135	13%
2027/28	1050	932	118	11%
2028/29	1050	943	107	10%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Newhaven 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. Although decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with the trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

With more 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

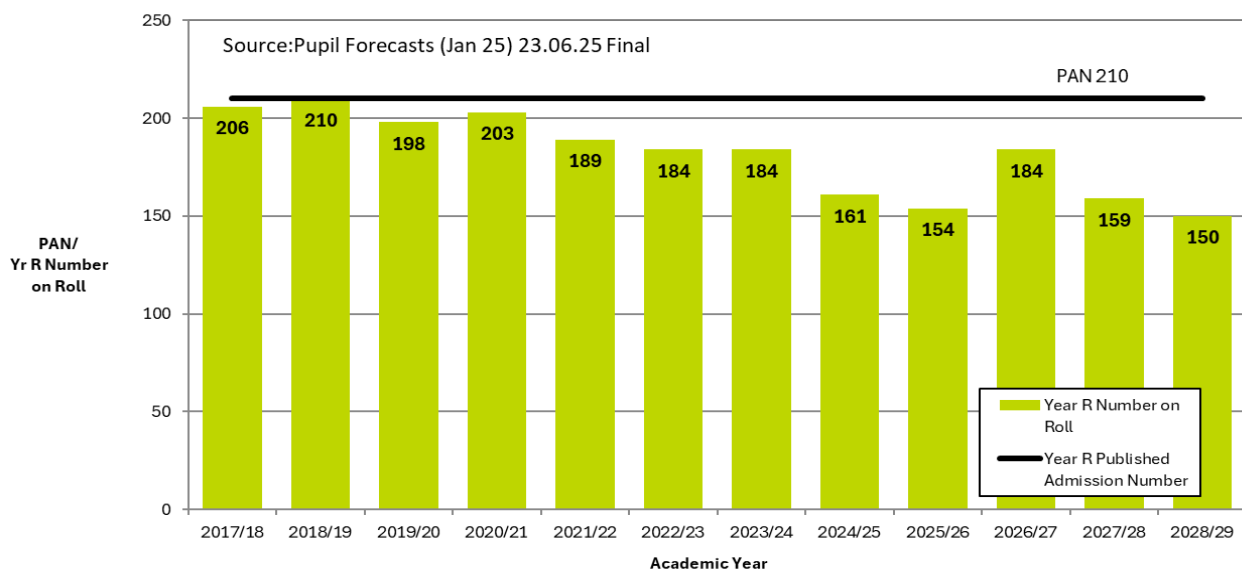
border. Traditionally around 20 to 30 East Saltdean children per year group obtain a place at Saltdean Primary School. Saltdean Primary School's PAN reduces from 90 to 60 from 2025/26, however, owing to their proximity to the school, East Saltdean children are still likely to obtain Year R places there. 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 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	161
2025/26	210	154
2026/27	210	184
2027/28	210	159
2028/29	210	150

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Peacehaven primary Year R numbers



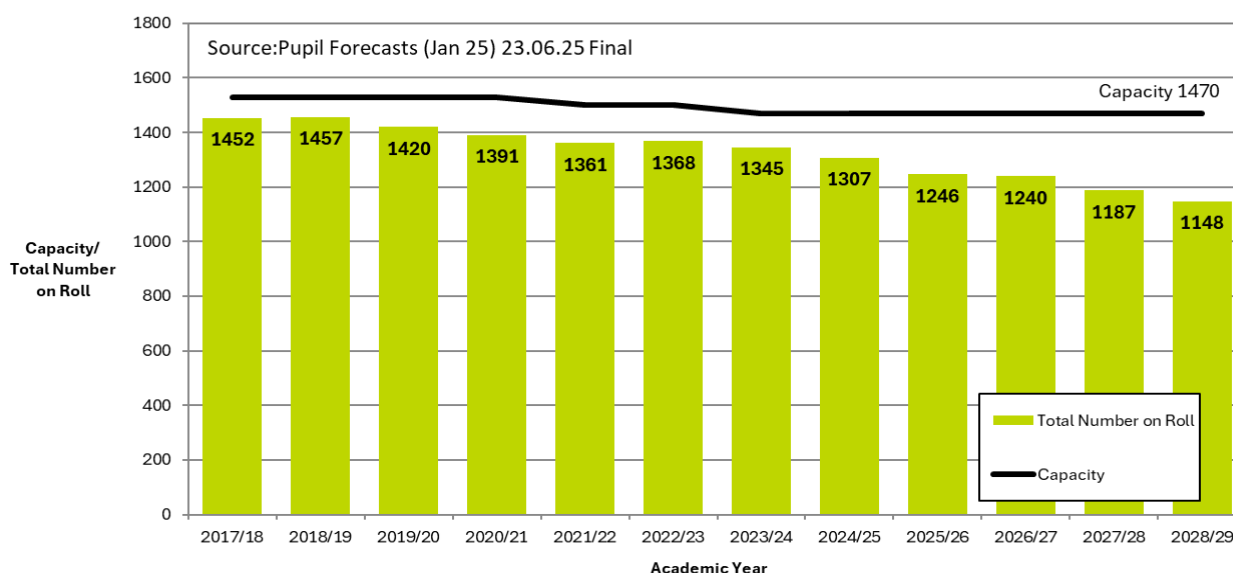
By 2028/29, surplus places in the area, at 11% in 2024/25, could have risen to 22%.

### Peacehaven total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1530	1452	78	5%
2018/19	1530	1457	73	5%
2019/20	1530	1420	110	7%
2020/21	1530	1391	139	9%
2021/22	1500	1361	139	9%
2022/23	1500	1368	132	9%
2023-24	1470	1345	125	9%
2024/25	1470	1307	163	11%
2025/26	1470	1246	224	15%
2026/27	1470	1240	230	16%
2027/28	1470	1187	283	19%
2028/29	1470	1148	322	22%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### 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. Although decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with the trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

## 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.



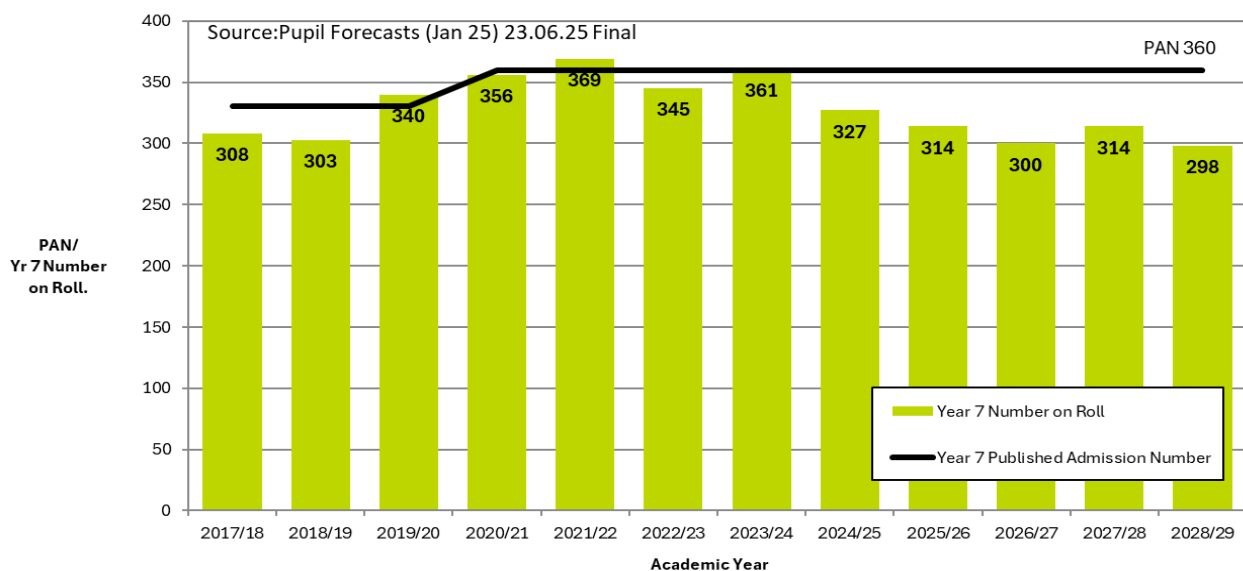
Both Peacehaven Community School and Seahaven Academy have experienced pressures on Year 7 places in recent years. These are now abating. Based on current preference patterns, most of the spare Year 7 places are likely to be at Seahaven Academy.

#### The Havens secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	327
2025/26	360	314
2026/27	360	300
2027/28	360	314
2028/29	360	298

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### The Havens secondary Year 7 numbers



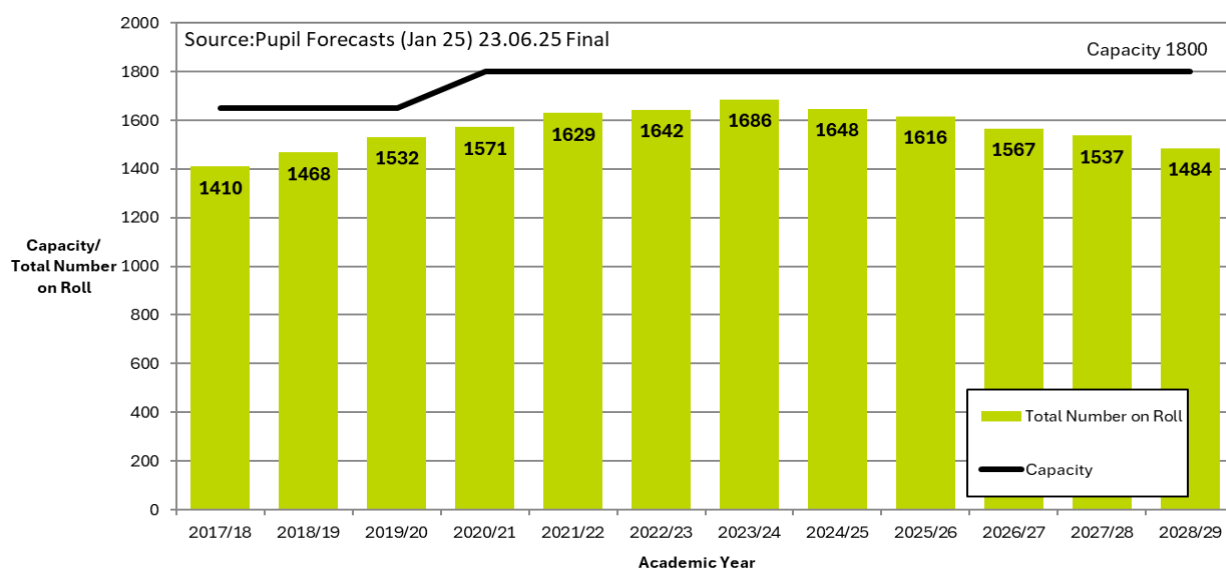
In line with falling Year 7 intakes, increasing numbers of surplus places are forecast, rising from 8% in 2024/25 to 18% by 2028/29.

### The Havens total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1650	1410	240	15%
2018/19	1650	1468	182	11%
2019/20	1650	1532	118	7%
2020/21	1800	1571	229	13%
2021/22	1800	1629	171	10%
2022/23	1800	1642	158	9%
2023/24	1800	1686	114	6%
2024/25	1800	1648	152	8%
2025/26	1800	1616	184	10%
2026/27	1800	1567	233	13%
2027/28	1800	1537	263	15%
2028/29	1800	1484	316	18%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### The Havens total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned in the area.

# Seaford

## Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Seaford Head School	11-18	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

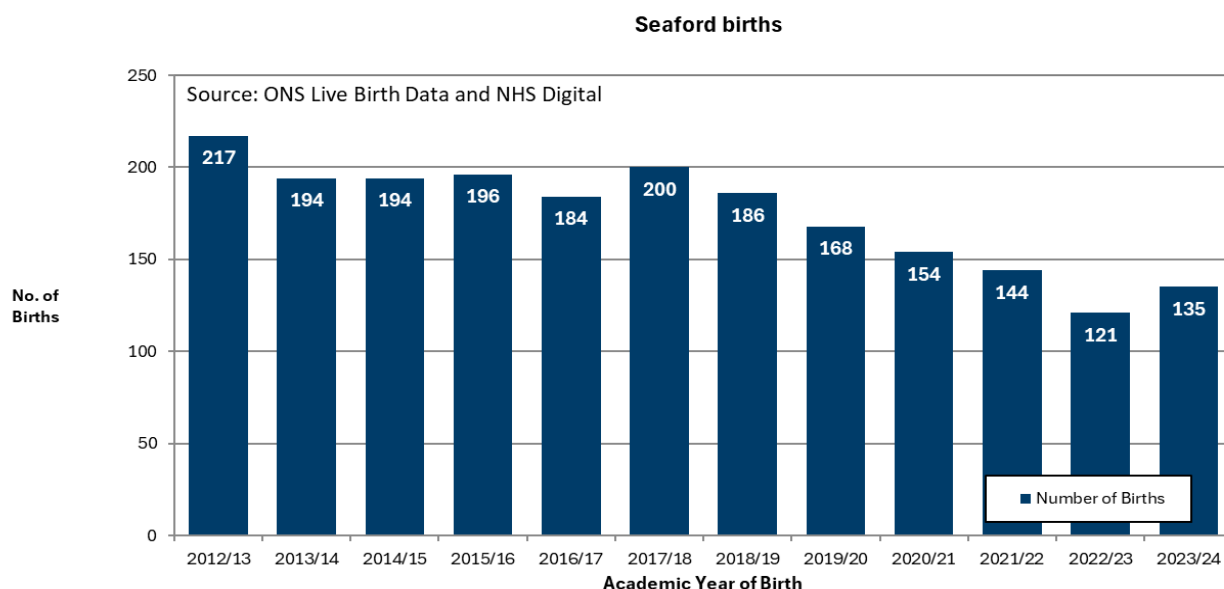
## Births

Following a period of falling births, numbers in 2023/24 are up on 2022/23 figures. It is not clear yet whether this signifies the start of a prolonged recovery or may be an anomaly.

### Seaford births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	121
2023/24	135

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Lewes District Council (LDC) 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 2025/26 to 2029/30. LDC 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 be very low over the plan period.

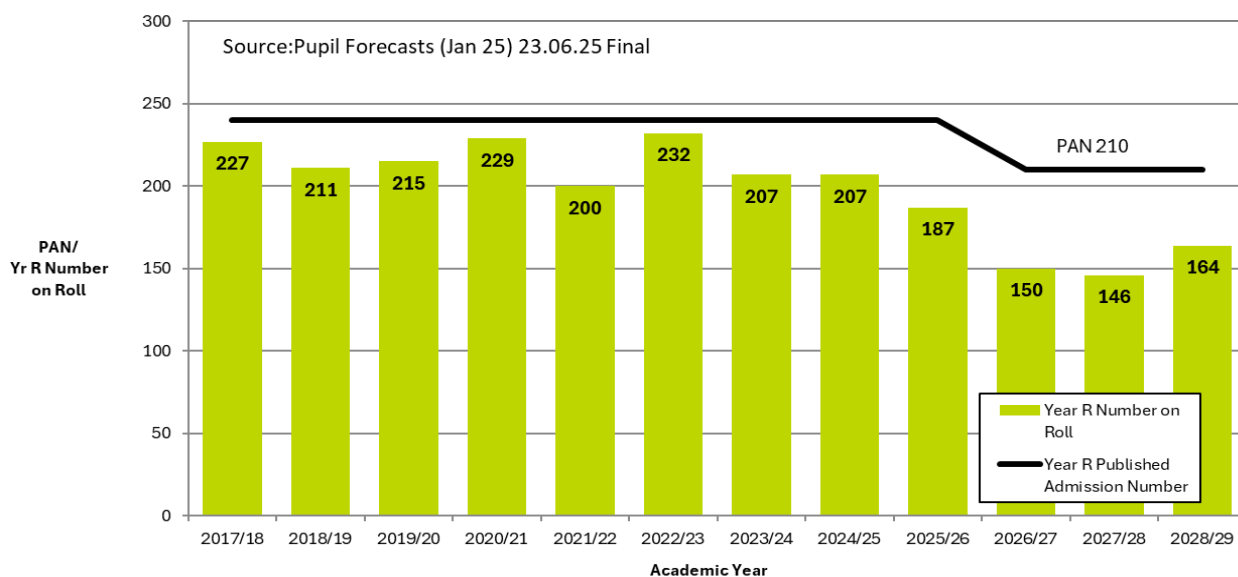
There are inflows of pupils to Seaford primary schools from Newhaven and outflows to Alfriston School.

**Seaford primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29**

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	207
2025/26	240	187
2026/27	210	150
2027/28	210	146
2028/29	210	164

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Seaford primary Year R numbers

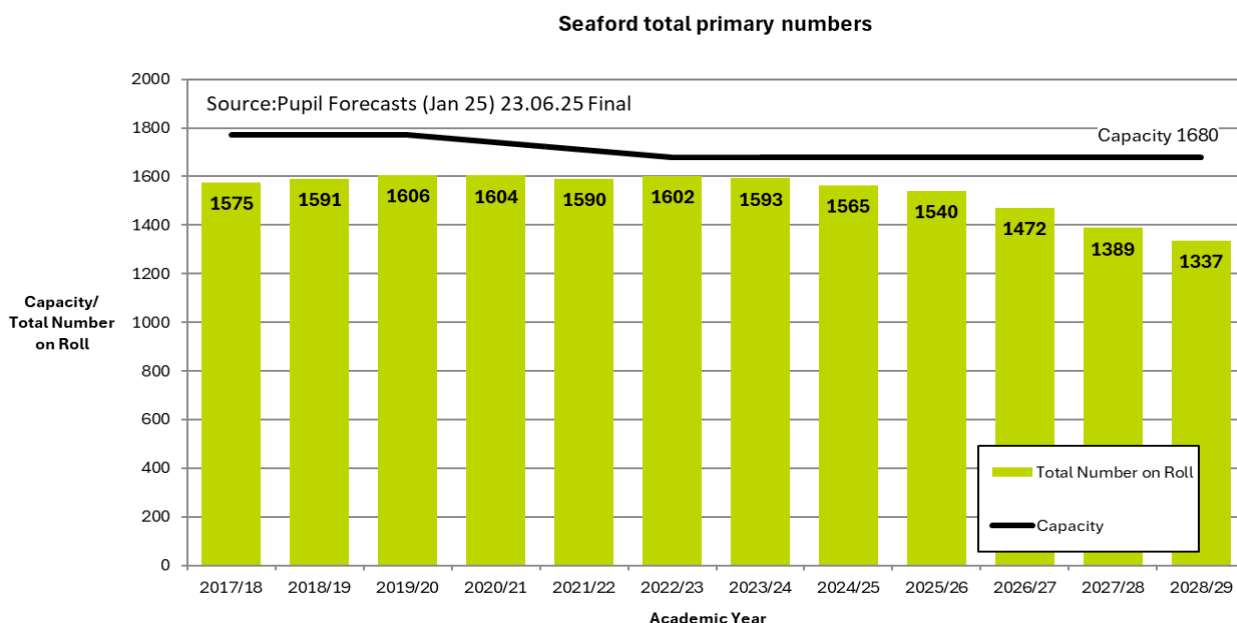


By 2028/29, surplus places in the area, at 7% in 2024/25, could have risen to 20%.

### Seaford total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1770	1575	195	11%
2018/19	1770	1591	179	10%
2019/20	1770	1606	164	9%
2020/21	1740	1604	136	8%
2021/22	1710	1590	120	7%
2022/23	1680	1602	78	5%
2023/24	1680	1593	87	5%
2024/25	1680	1565	115	7%
2025/26	1680	1540	140	8%
2026/27	1680	1472	208	12%
2027/28	1680	1389	291	17%
2028/29	1680	1337	343	20%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



\*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. The Seaford Learning Trust has taken the decision to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Chyngton School from 60 to 30 with effect from 2026/27.

Chyngton School was successful with its School Based Nursery Programme bid earlier this year and will establish school-run nursery provision on site from January 2026.

## Secondary places

Seaford Head School lowered its 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 PAN. This will entail the school admissions system redirecting non-priority out of area applicants to nearby Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School.

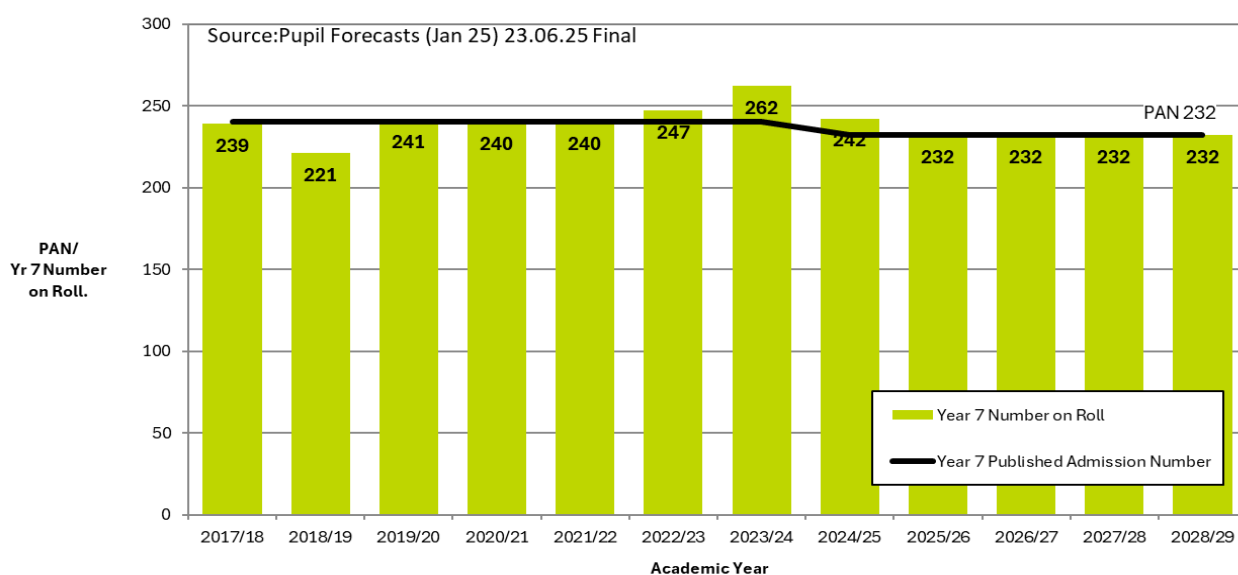
Part of Seaford Head School's admissions area overlaps with that of King's Academy Ringmer. The school experiences significant levels of demand from The Havens area.

### Seaford Head secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	242
2025/26	232	232
2026/27	232	232
2027/28	232	232
2028/29	232	232

Source: ESCC Pupil Forecasts (January 2024) 03.07.24

### Seaford Head secondary Year 7 numbers



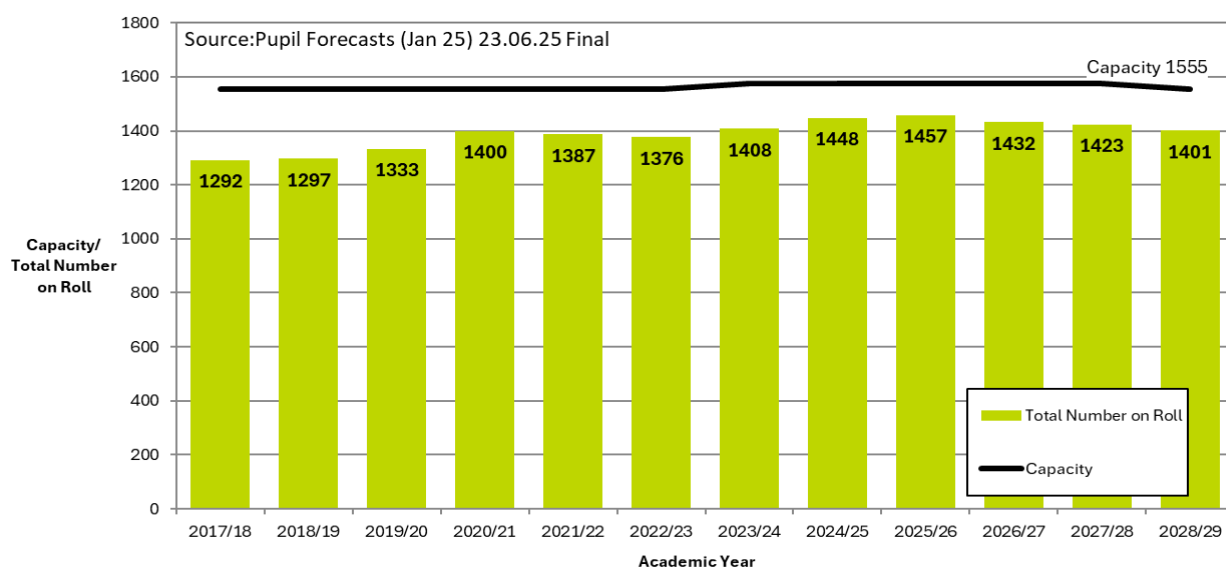
Seaford Head School had 8% surplus places in 2024/25. This is forecast to grow to 10% by the end of the plan period. Surplus places are mainly in the sixth form.

### Seaford Head School total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1555	1292	263	17%
2018/19	1555	1297	258	17%
2019/20	1555	1333	222	14%
2020/21	1555	1400	155	10%
2021/22	1555	1387	168	11%
2022/23	1555	1376	179	12%
2023/24	1575	1408	167	11%
2024/25	1575	1448	127	8%
2025/26	1575	1457	118	7%
2026/27	1575	1432	143	9%
2027/28	1575	1423	152	10%
2028/29	1555	1401	154	10%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Seaford Head School total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned in the area.



# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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	Academy
Wivelsfield Primary School	2-11	Community
<b>Secondary</b>		
Chailey School	11-16	Community
King's Academy Ringmer	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

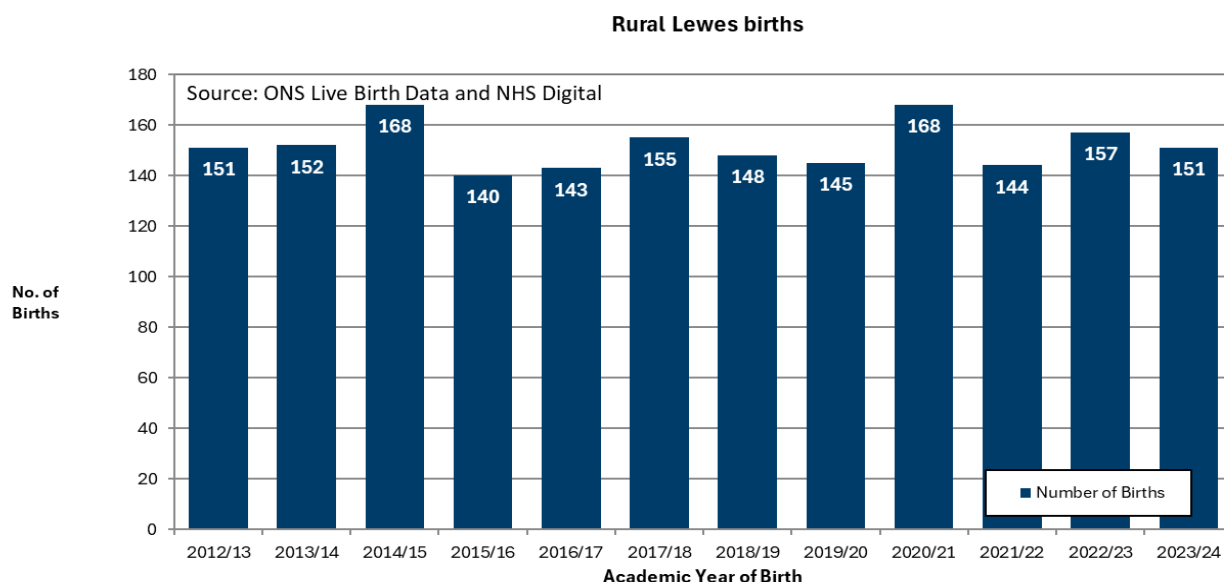
## Births

Births in the area have remained largely consistent in recent years.

### Rural Lewes births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	157
2023/24	151

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Lewes District Council (LDC) and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) 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 1000 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Lewes District Local Plan period 2025/26 to 2029/30, of which approximately 400 are in Ringmer Parish and 200 are in Wivelsfield Parish. LDC and the SDNPA 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.

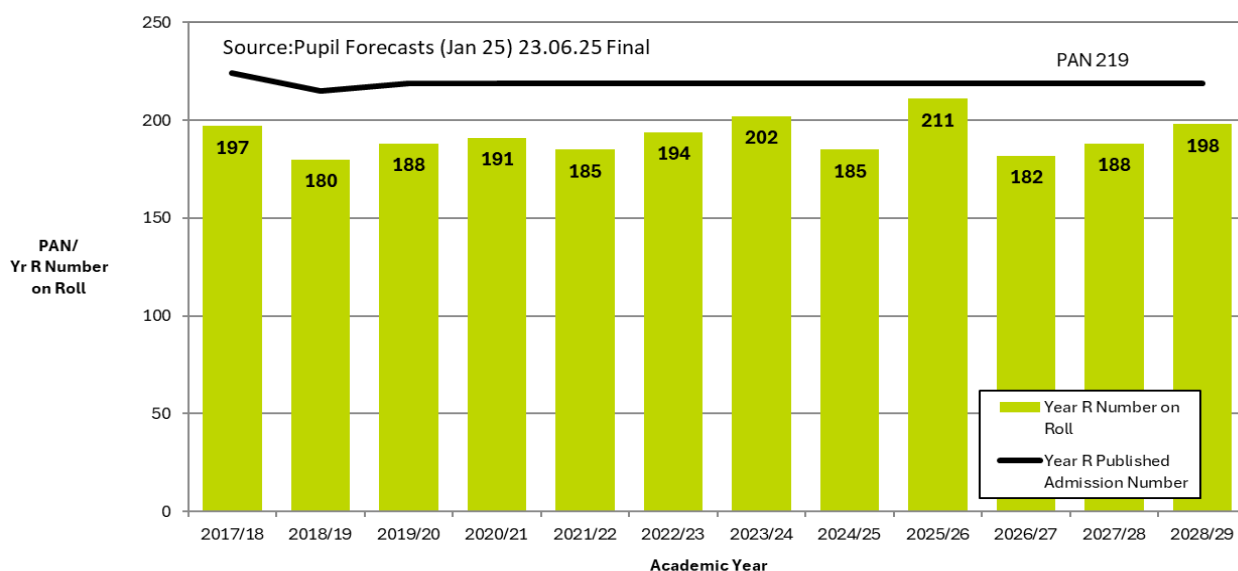
However, the picture will vary between individual rural areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year, owing to the fact that the size of the cohorts of children living in small geographical areas sometimes differs markedly from one age group to the next. Normally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

### Rural Lewes primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	185
2025/26	219	211
2026/27	219	182
2027/28	219	188
2028/29	219	198

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Rural Lewes primary Year R numbers



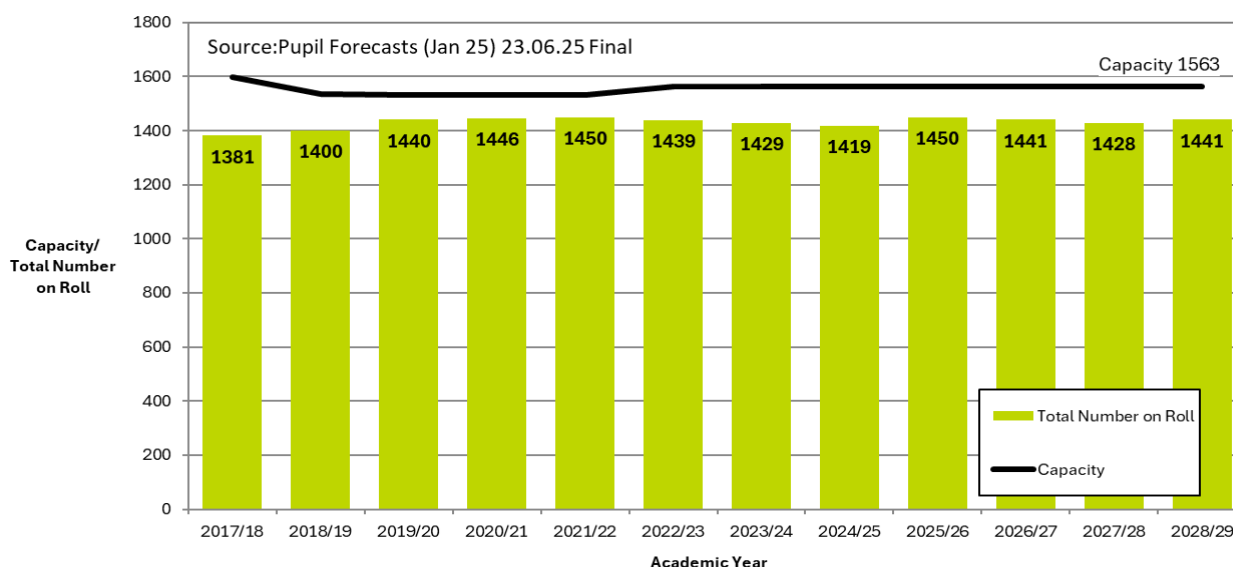
Total pupil numbers in the area are likely to remain consistent in the period to 2028/29. Surplus places for the area stood at 9% in 2024/25 and are forecast to be relatively static over the plan period. Two schools have 25% or more surplus places.

### Rural Lewes total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1598	1381	217	14%
2018/19	1535	1400	135	9%
2019/20	1533	1440	93	6%
2020/21	1533	1446	87	6%
2021/22	1533	1450	83	5%
2022/23	1563	1439	124	8%
2023/24	1563	1429	134	9%
2024/25	1563	1419	144	9%
2025/26	1563	1450	113	7%
2026/27	1563	1441	122	8%
2027/28	1563	1428	135	9%
2028/29	1563	1441	122	8%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Rural Lewes total primary numbers



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

Linked to pressures arising from children coming out of recent and planned housing developments, the Year R position at Wivelsfield Primary School is likely to continue to be tight. The school experiences significant inflows of children from the towns of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, both in West Sussex. Large scale housing development in and around both these towns is likely to lead to additional demand for places at Wivelsfield. However, owing to in-area pressures, few West Sussex children are likely to gain admission.

West Sussex County Council reports that the opening of the new Hurst Farm Primary School, on the edge of Haywards Heath, originally scheduled for September 2020, has been significantly delayed and is unlikely to happen until 2027/28 at the earliest.

Ditchling St Margarets CE Primary School takes around half of its Year R intake from West Sussex. The school will voluntarily exceed its PAN in 2025/26 to accommodate West Sussex children. This may be repeated in future years.

Based on birth and GP registration data, Ringmer Primary School is forecast to have sufficient Year R places to meet demand in the coming years. However, new housing developments planned for the village in the period to 2029/30, coming on top of recently completed new developments, could potentially significantly increase the numbers of in-area children coming through into Year R.

The local authority is working with all small schools with large surpluses as part of our Small Schools Strategy and we will discuss with individual schools any action required if appropriate.

The local authority is working with Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School to establish a specialist facility with a designation of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for up to 12 pupils with autism. The new facility is due to open on 1 January 2026.

## 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 housing developments being built in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, should allow Chailey School to generally fill to its PAN in most years. The school's PAN increased from 174 to 180 in 2025/26.

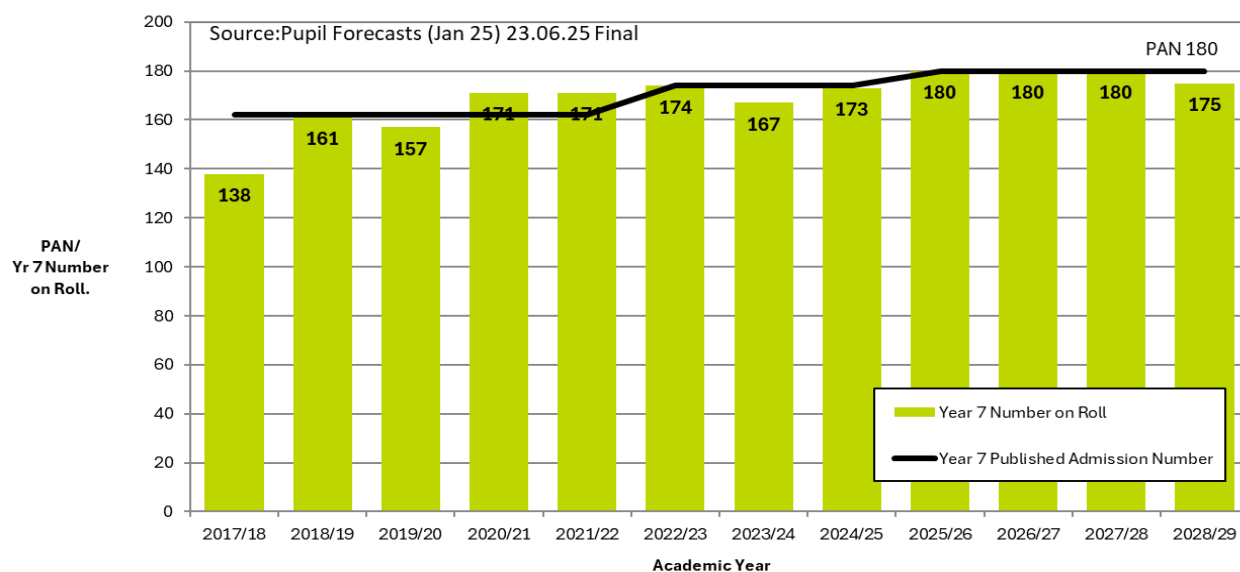
Although the village of Ditchling is in a joint admissions area between Chailey School and Priory School, it is also in the admissions area of Downlands Community School in Hassocks, West Sussex. Traditionally children from the village have attended Downlands, which is their nearest school. The village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

### Chailey School secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	173
2025/26	180	180
2026/27	180	180
2027/28	180	180
2028/29	180	175

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Chailey School secondary Year 7 numbers

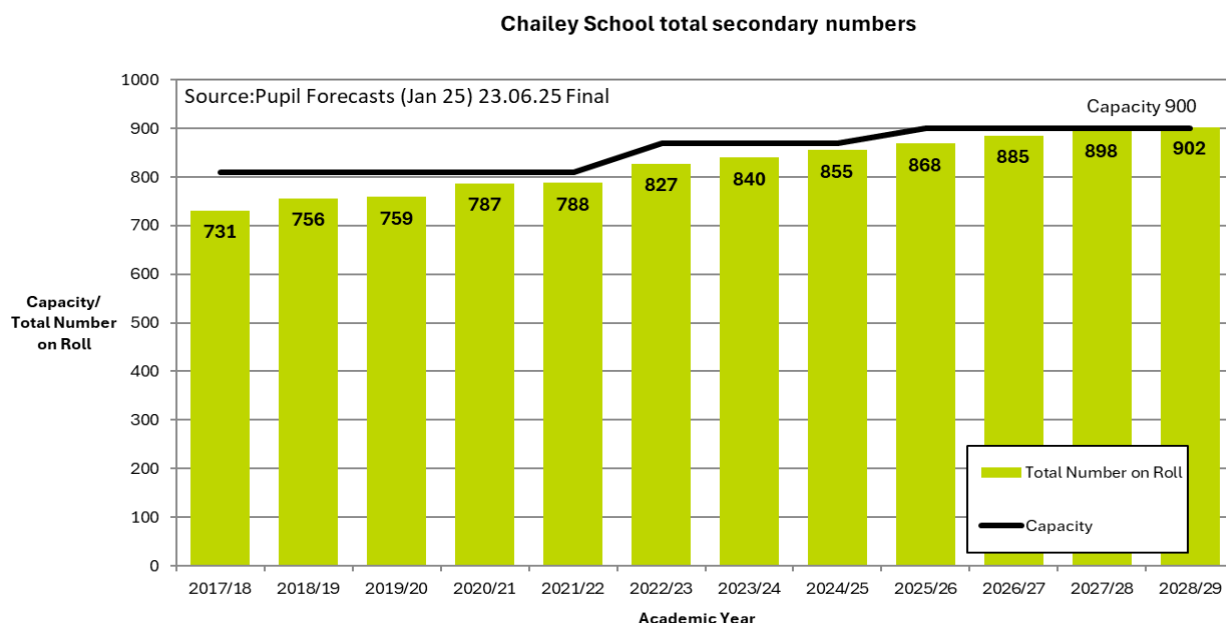


Overall pupil numbers are likely to rise during the plan period because of the increase to the schools PAN. Surplus places stood at 2% and are forecast to remain low or even fall to 0% by the end of the plan period.

### Chailey School total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	810	731	79	10%
2018/19	810	756	54	7%
2019/20	810	759	51	6%
2020/21	810	787	23	3%
2021/22	810	788	22	3%
2022/23	870	827	43	5%
2023/24	870	840	30	3%
2024/25	870	855	15	2%
2025/26	900	868	32	4%
2026/27	900	885	15	2%
2027/28	900	898	2	0%
2028/29	900	902	(2)	0%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



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

## 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 Academy and Uckfield College.

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

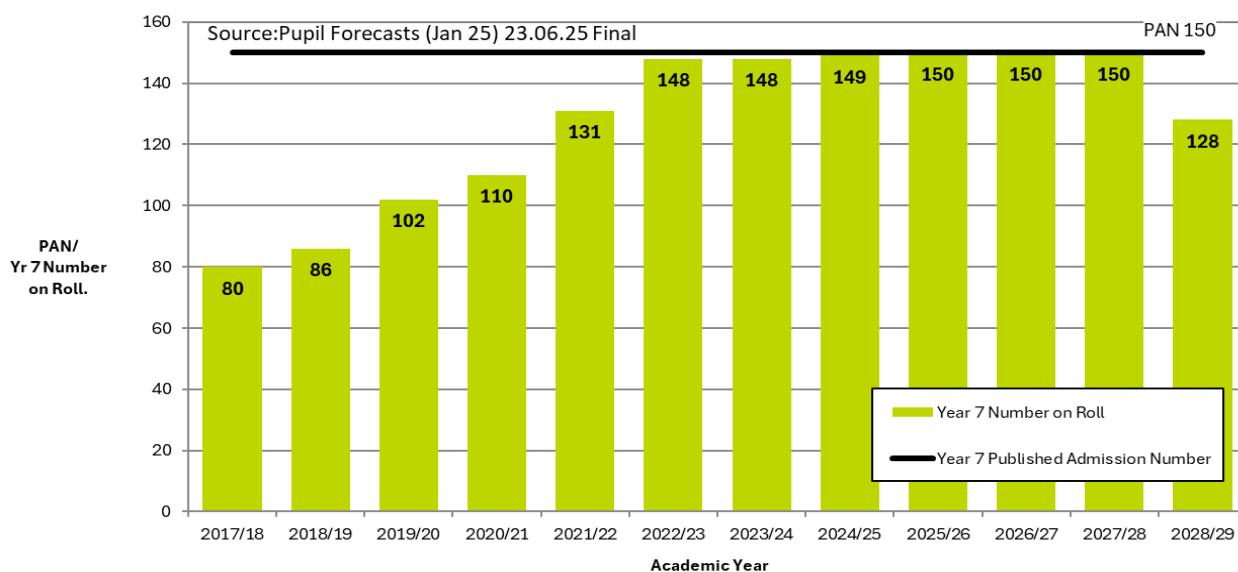
King's Academy Ringmer nearly filled to its PAN in 2024/25 and, depending on parental preference patterns in relation to surrounding schools, could continue to have high intake numbers in the short term. However, whether the forecast numbers are achieved will partly depend on the school continuing to experience large inflows from the Hailsham area.

### King's Academy Ringmer secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	149
2025/26	150	150
2026/27	150	150
2027/28	150	150
2028/29	150	128

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### King's Academy Ringmer secondary Year 7 numbers



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. This is largely due to accommodation remaining on site following a previous PAN reduction from 180 to 150 and the school's sixth form closing.

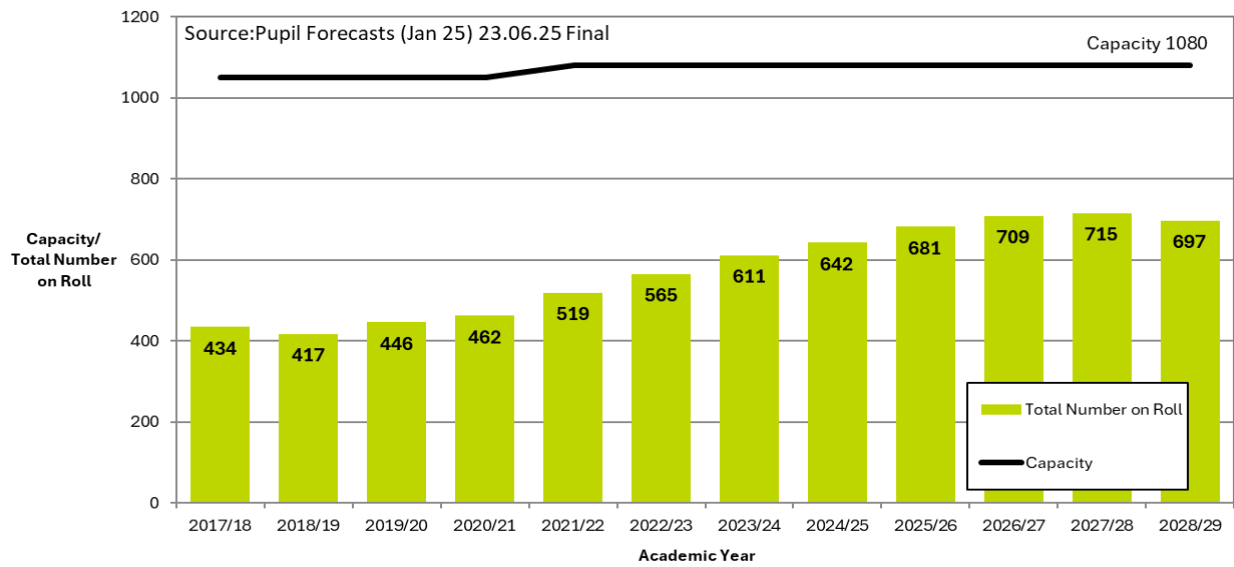
### King's Academy Ringmer total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1050	434	616	59%
2018/19	1050	417	633	60%
2019/20	1050	446	604	58%
2020/21	1050	462	588	56%
2021/22	1080	519	561	52%
2022/23	1080	565	515	48%
2023/24	1080	611	469	43%
2024/25	1080	642	438	41%
2025/26	1080	681	399	37%
2026/27	1080	709	371	34%
2027/28	1080	715	365	34%
2028/29	1080	697	383	35%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



### King's Academy Ringmer total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned in the area.

# Bexhill and surrounding area

## Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
<b>Primary</b>		
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	2-11	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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Bexhill High Academy	11-16	Academy
St Richard's Catholic College	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

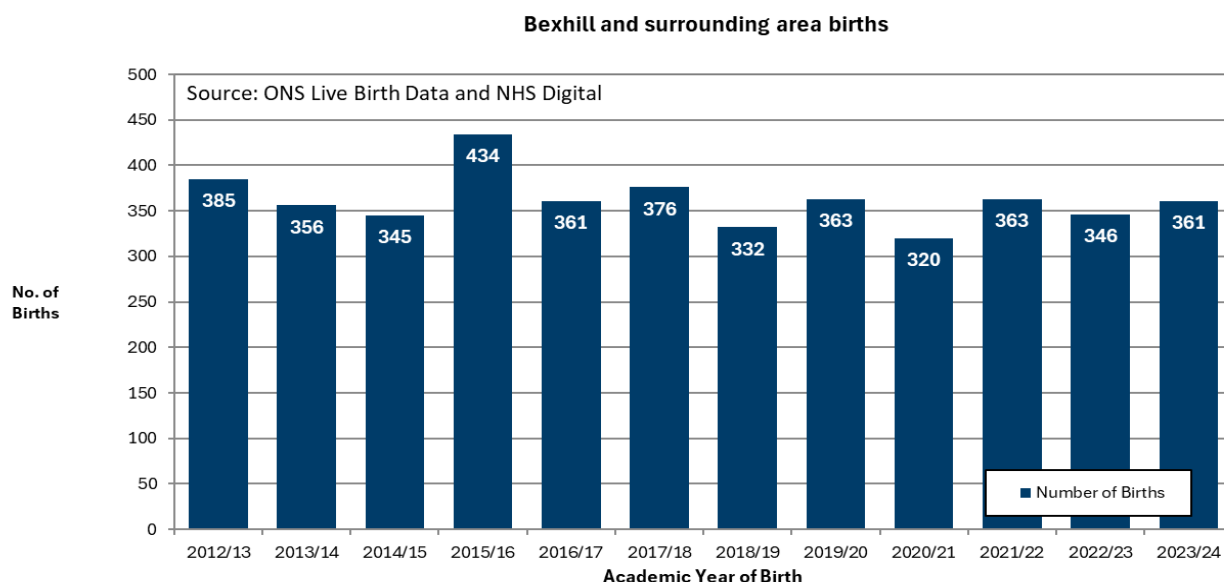
## Births

Births in Bexhill have remained relatively steady in recent years.

### Bexhill and surrounding area births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	346
2023/24	361

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Rother District Council (RDC) 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 1,100 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2025/26 to 2027/28. RDC 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.

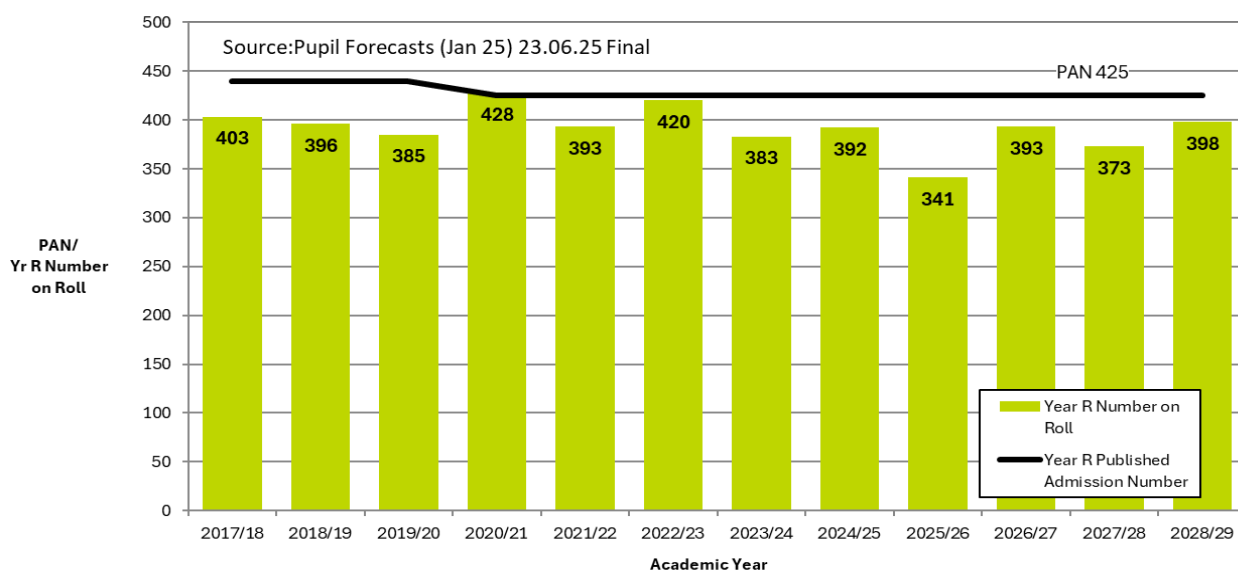
Some primary schools in the area experience inflows of children from Hastings. There are also outflows to surrounding schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School.

## Bexhill and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	392
2025/26	425	341
2026/27	425	393
2027/28	425	373
2028/29	425	398

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Bexhill and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



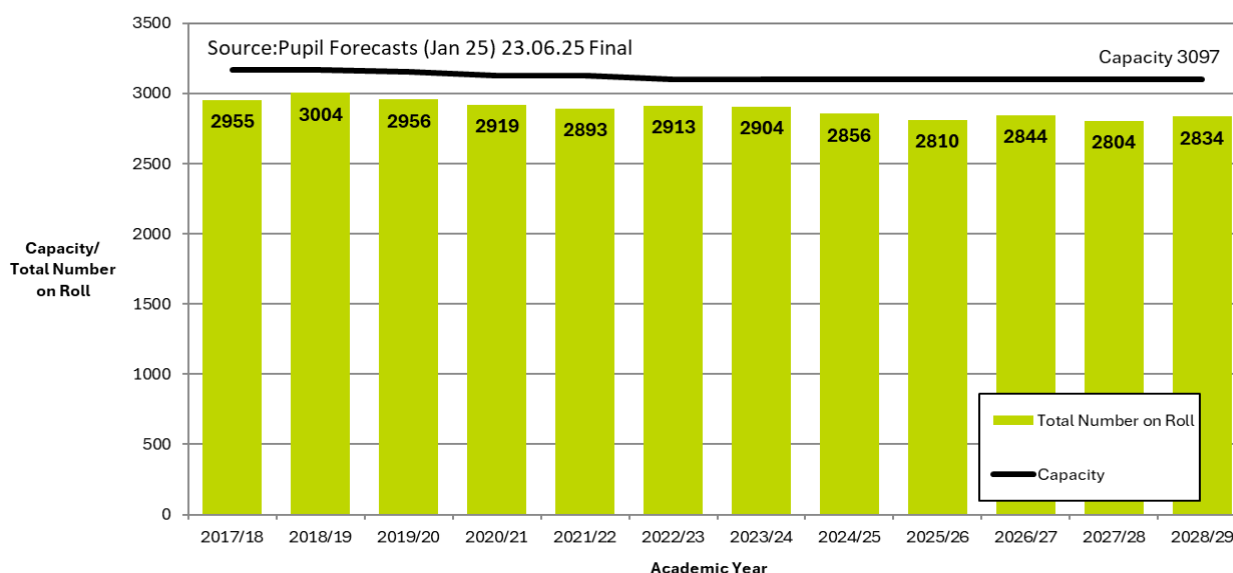
Surplus places in the area stood at 8% in 2024/25 and are forecast to be relatively static over the plan period. One school in the area has surplus places of 25% or more.

## Bexhill and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	3170	2955	215	7%
2018/19	3170	3004	166	5%
2019/20	3157	2956	201	6%
2020/21	3127	2919	208	7%
2021/22	3127	2893	234	7%
2022/23	3097	2913	184	6%
2023/24	3097	2904	193	6%
2024/25	3097	2856	241	8%
2025/26	3097	2810	287	9%
2026/27	3097	2844	253	8%
2027/28	3097	2804	293	9%
2028/29	3097	2834	263	8%

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 establish 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.

Little Common School lowered its age range from September 2025 to establish school-run nursery provision on site.

## 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 or close to full to their PANs in the coming years. A shortfall of around 15 places is predicted in 2027/28.

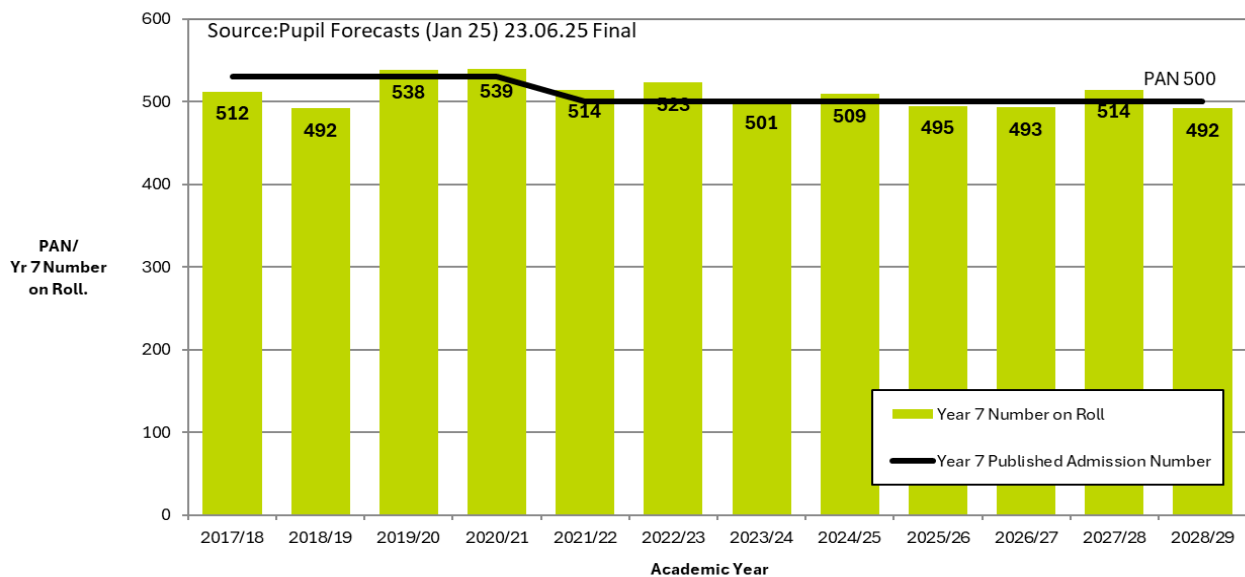
St Richard's Catholic College takes significant numbers of children from Hastings, Eastbourne, and Willingdon. Bexhill High Academy takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also outflows of children from Bexhill to Claverham Community College and Hastings.

#### Bexhill and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	509
2025/26	500	495
2026/27	500	493
2027/28	500	514
2028/29	500	492

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Bexhill and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



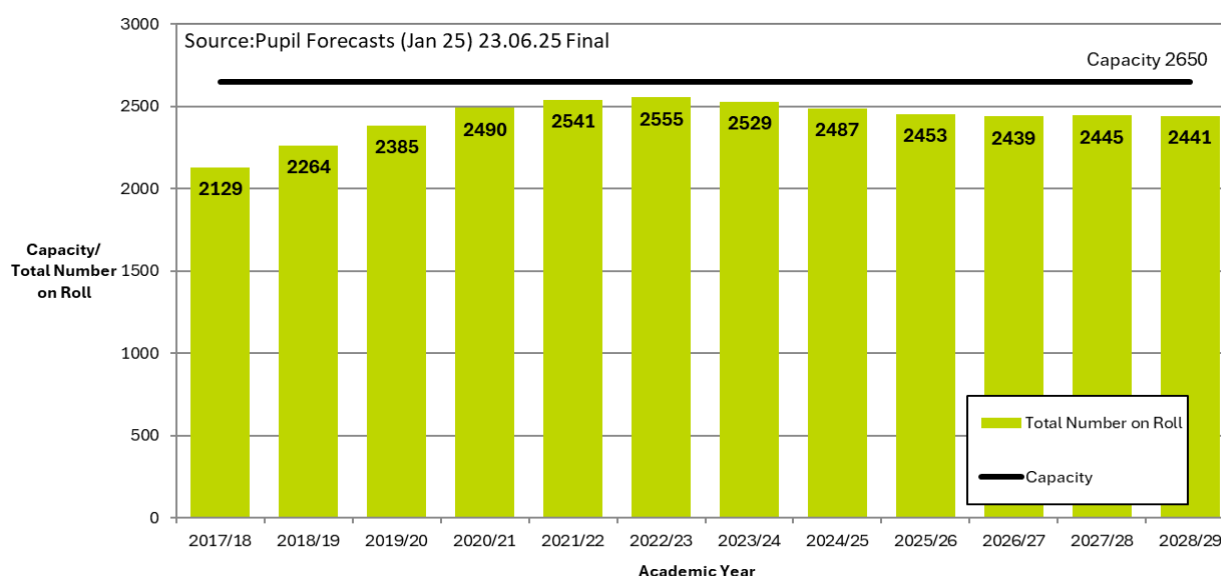
Total pupil numbers in the area are forecast to be relatively static over the plan period, with surplus places between 6% and 8%.

### Bexhill and surrounding total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	2650	2129	521	20%
2018/19	2650	2264	386	15%
2019/20	2650	2385	265	10%
2020/21	2650	2490	160	6%
2021/22	2650	2541	109	4%
2022/23	2650	2555	95	4%
2023/24	2650	2529	121	5%
2024/25	2650	2487	163	6%
2025/26	2650	2453	197	7%
2026/27	2650	2439	211	8%
2027/28	2650	2445	205	8%
2028/29	2650	2441	209	8%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Bexhill and surrounding area total secondary numbers



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

Should the predicted Year 7 shortfall emerge in 2027/28, the local authority will agree with Bexhill High Academy and St Richard's Catholic College how this can be accommodated.

Longer term should there be a requirement for additional permanent school places to serve the large volume of new housing planned in the area, the local authority will work with both schools and their respective academy trusts to address this.

# Battle

## Schools

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

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

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

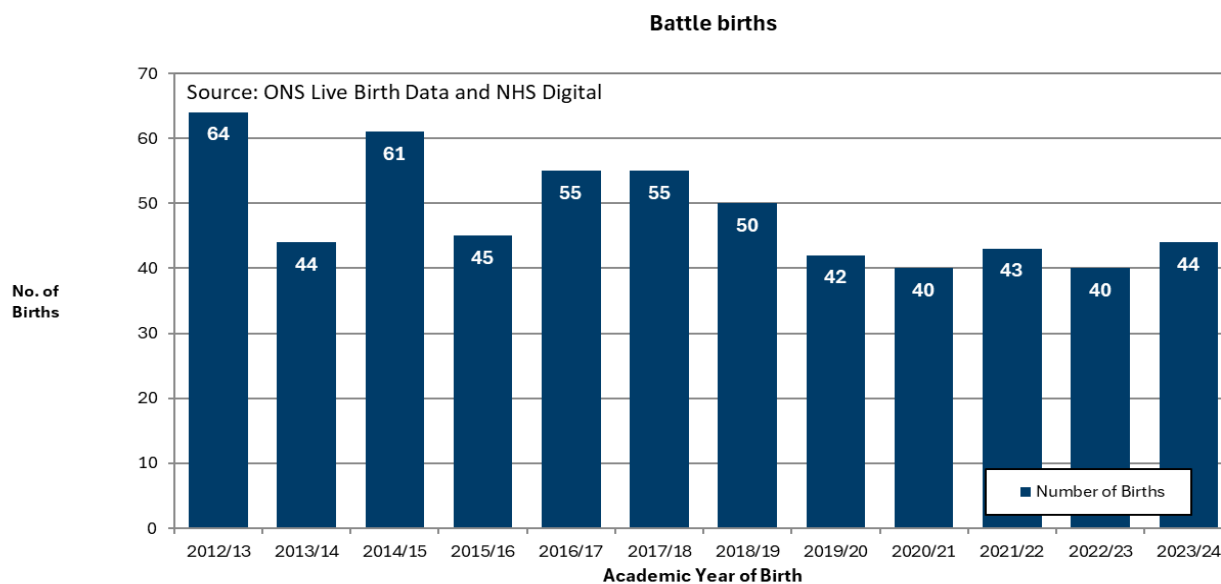
## Births

In recent years births in the area have been particularly low, with numbers in the low 40s.

### Battle births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	40
2023/24	44

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital





## Housing plans

Rother District Council (RDC) 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 2025/26 to 2027/28. RDC 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 built in the area, Battle and Langton CE Primary School is forecast to remain within its Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 for the foreseeable future.

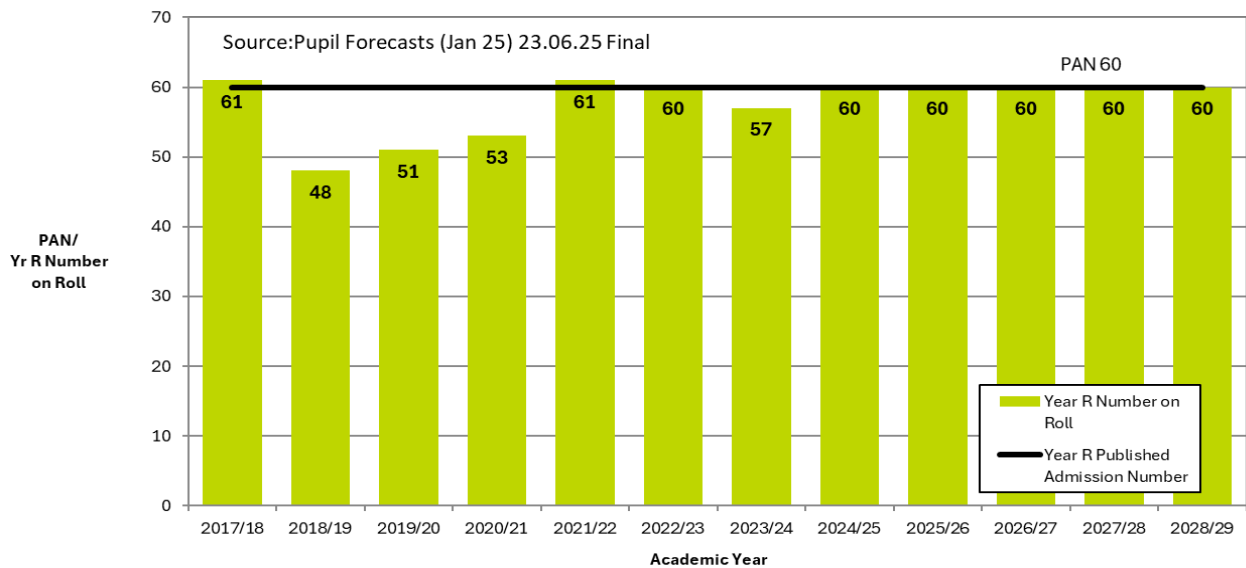
The school takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also inflows from Bexhill and the surrounding area. Any future increases in local demand should be able to be offset by the school admission system restricting inflows of children from other areas where necessary.

### Battle primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	60
2026/27	60	60
2027/28	60	60
2028/29	60	60

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Battle primary Year R numbers



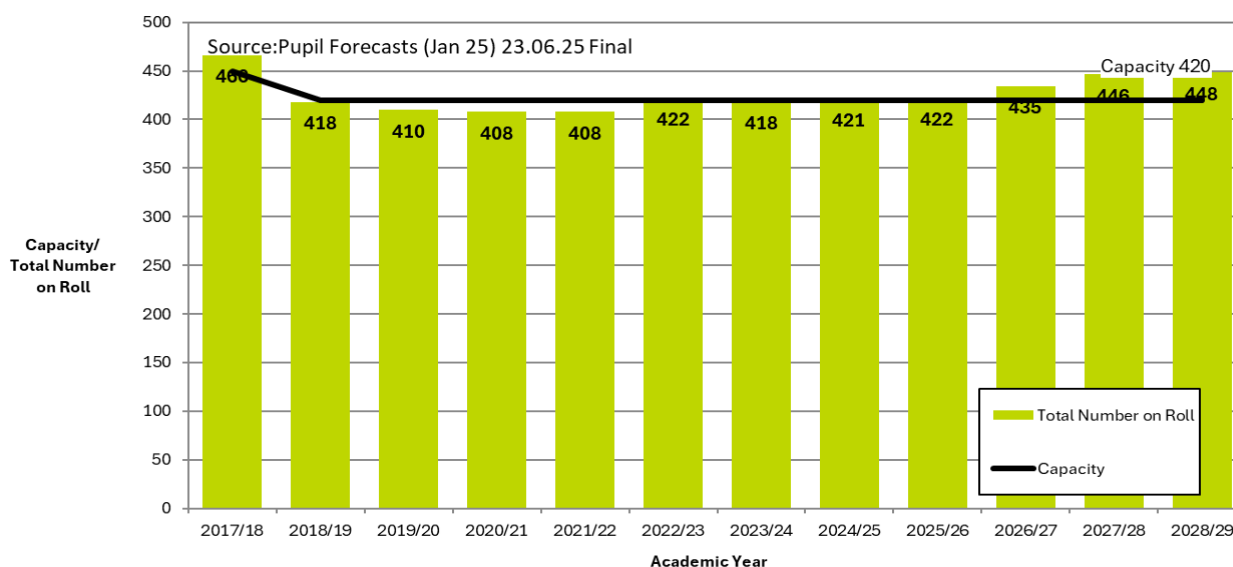
Although Battle and Langton CE Primary School should be able to keep to its PAN, marginal shortfalls in other year groups might be possible as a result of new housing developments. This could impact on overall numbers at the school and push it over capacity in the coming years.

### Battle total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	450	466	(16)	(4%)
2018/19	420	418	2	0%
2019/20	420	410	10	2%
2020/21	420	408	12	3%
2021/22	420	408	12	3%
2022/23	420	422	(2)	0%
2023/24	420	418	2	0%
2024/25	420	421	(1)	0%
2025/26	420	422	(2)	0%
2026/27	420	435	(15)	(3%)
2027/28	420	446	(26)	(6%)
2028/29	420	448	(28)	(7%)

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Battle total primary numbers



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

The local authority will monitor the situation and, where possible, keep any shortfalls to a minimum.

## Secondary places

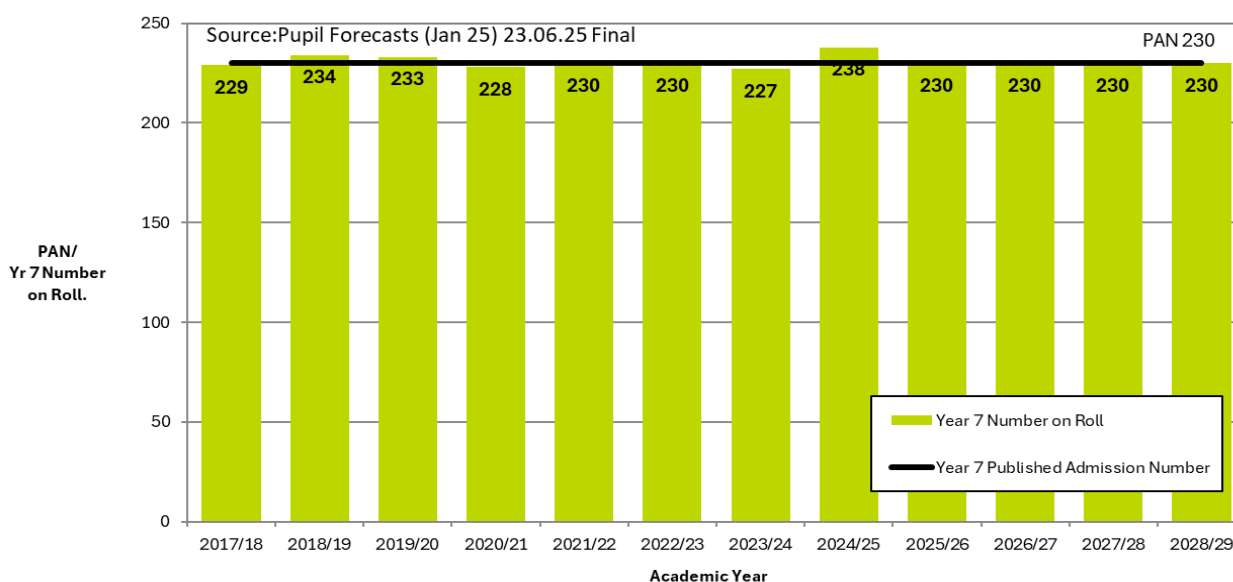
Claverham Community College has sufficient Year 7 places to meet in-area demand and so is likely to fill to its PAN each year with out-of-area children, particularly from Hastings and Bexhill. There are outflows of children from Battle to Robertsbridge Community College.

### Claverham Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	238
2025/26	230	230
2026/27	230	230
2027/28	230	230
2028/29	230	230

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Claverham Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



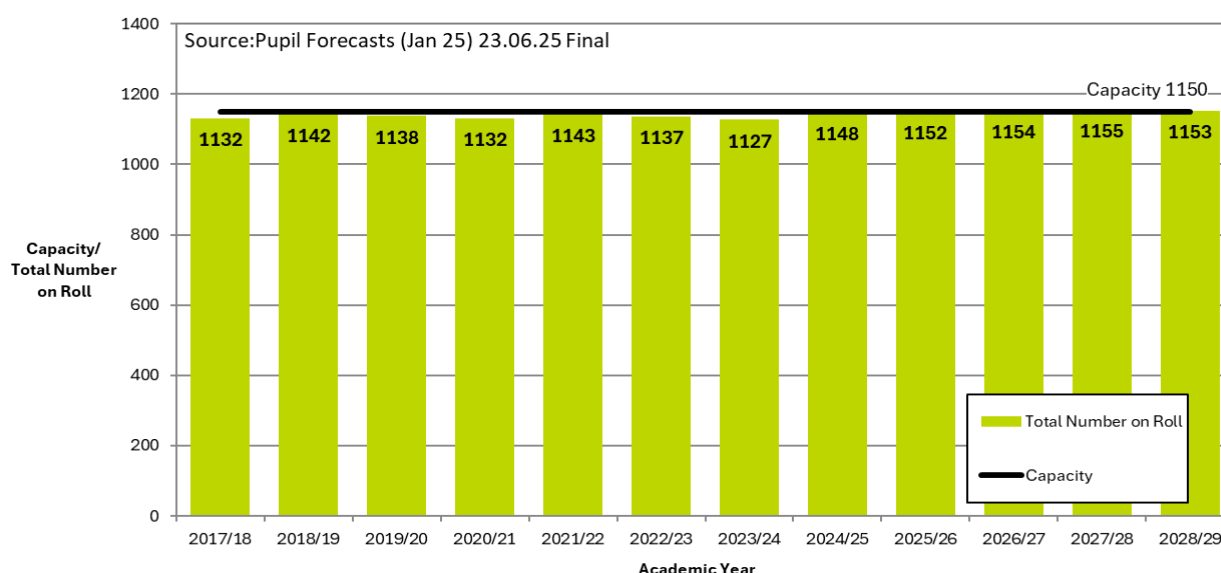
Overall pupil numbers at the school should remain constant during the plan period and may marginally exceed capacity.

## Claverham Community College total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1150	1132	18	2%
2018/19	1150	1142	8	1%
2019/20	1150	1138	12	1%
2020/21	1150	1132	18	2%
2021/22	1150	1143	7	1%
2022/23	1150	1137	13	1%
2023/24	1150	1127	23	2%
2024/25	1150	1148	2	0%
2025/26	1150	1152	(2)	0%
2026/27	1150	1154	(4)	0%
2027/28	1150	1155	(5)	0%
2028/29	1150	1153	(3)	0%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

## Claverham Community College total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned in the area.

## 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Rye College	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

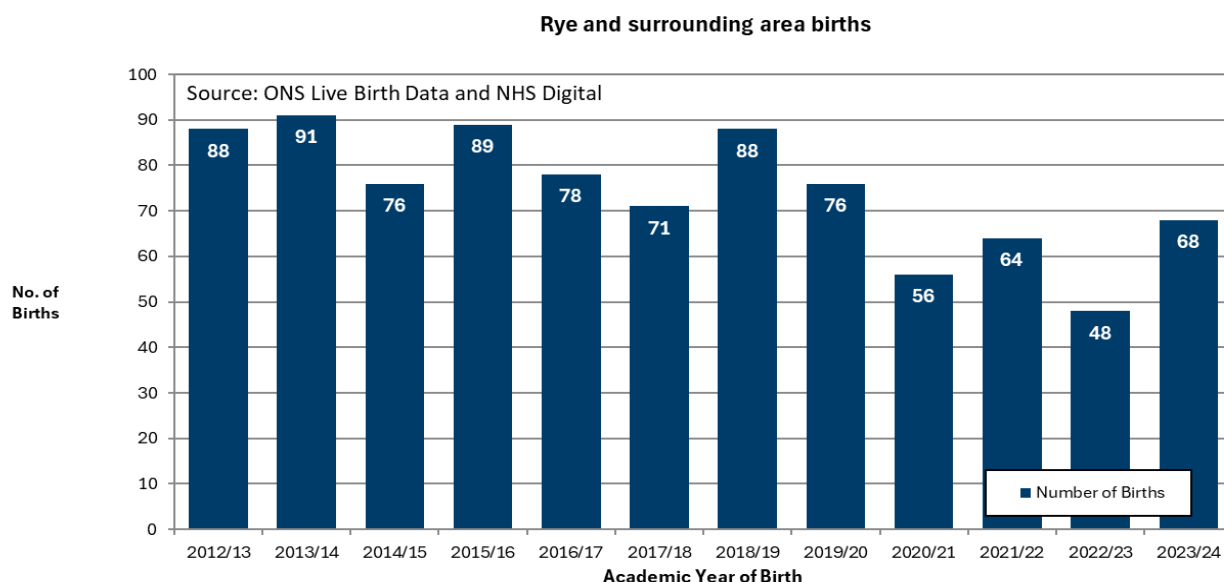
### Births

Births in the area have tended to fluctuate from year to year. However, 2022/23 was a particularly low birth year.

#### Rye and surrounding area births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	48
2023/24	68

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Rother District Council (RDC) 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 100 new homes are projected to be built in the area during the remainder of the existing Local Plan period 2025/26 to 2027/28. RDC 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

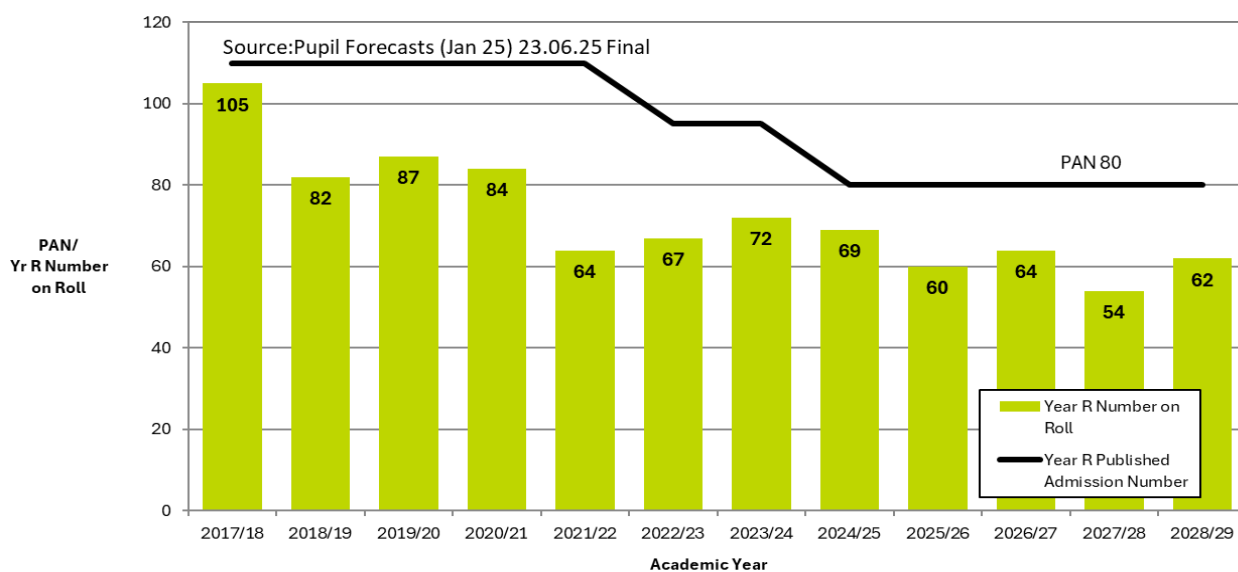
Lower births coupled with a movement of pupils away from Rye Community Primary School to the surrounding schools have resulted in intakes well below the combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of 80 for the area. Forecasts suggest that this trend is likely to continue in the coming years.

### Rye and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	69
2025/26	80	60
2026/27	80	64
2027/28	80	54
2028/29	80	62

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Rye and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



In 2024/25, surplus places in the area stood at 36% and could reach 42% by the end of the plan period. Two schools have surplus places of 25% or more.

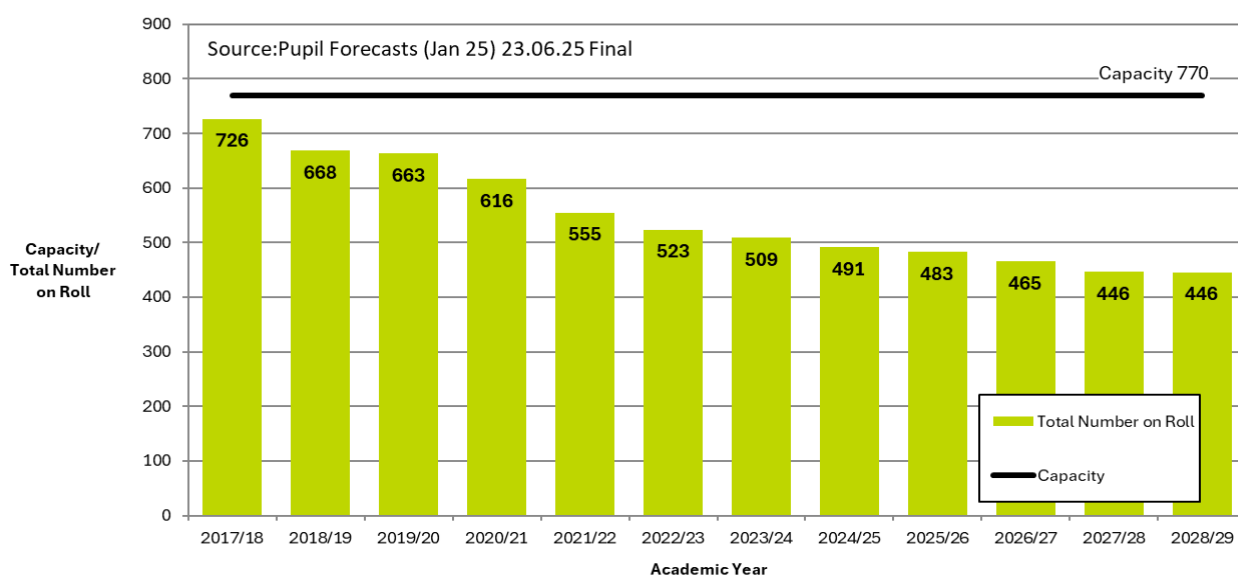
### Rye and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	770	726	44	6%
2018/19	770	668	102	13%
2019/20	770	663	107	14%
2020/21	770	616	154	20%
2021/22	770	555	215	28%
2022/23	770	523	247	32%
2023/24	770	509	261	34%
2024/25	770	491	279	36%
2025/26	770	483	287	37%
2026/27	770	465	305	40%
2027/28	770	446	324	42%
2028/29	770	446	324	42%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



### Rye and surrounding area total primary numbers



\*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 subsequently from 45 to 30. Accommodation has not been removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

The local authority is working with all small schools with large surpluses as part of our Small Schools Strategy and will take action where appropriate to address any challenges.

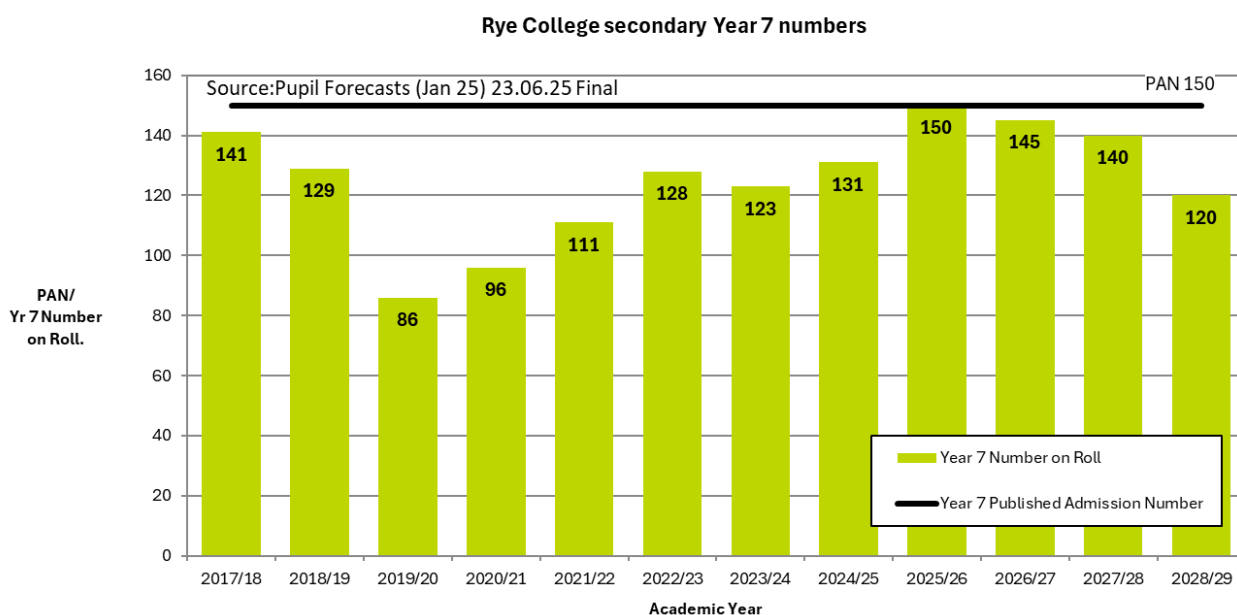
## Secondary places

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. The school has filled to its PAN in 2025/26, and intakes are expected to remain high in 2026/27 and 2027/28. From 2028/29 intakes are forecast to fall away owing to lower in-area numbers and lower demand from surrounding areas.

### Rye College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	131
2025/26	150	150
2026/27	150	145
2027/28	150	140
2028/29	150	120

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

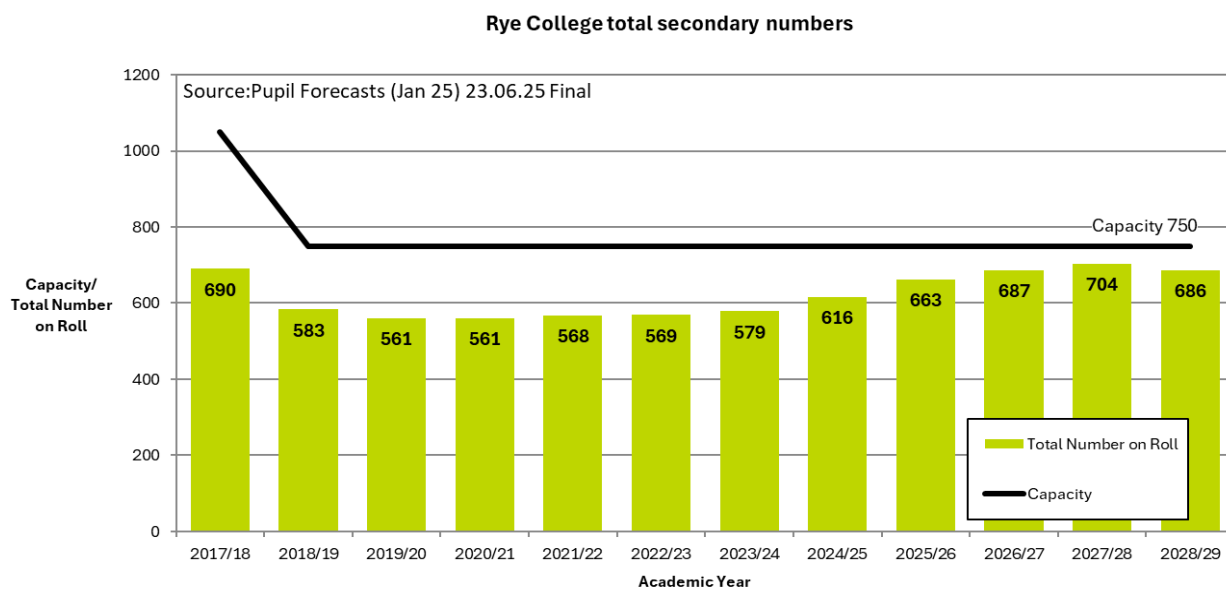


Total pupil numbers at Rye College are forecast to increase as a result of the higher intakes but will still be below the school's capacity of 750.

#### Rye College total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1050	690	360	34%
2018/19	750	583	167	22%
2019/20	750	561	189	25%
2020/21	750	561	189	25%
2021/22	750	568	182	24%
2022/23	750	569	181	24%
2023/24	750	579	171	23%
2024/25	750	616	134	18%
2025/26	750	663	87	12%
2026/27	750	687	63	8%
2027/28	750	704	46	6%
2028/29	750	686	64	9%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned for the area.

# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Robertsbridge Community College	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

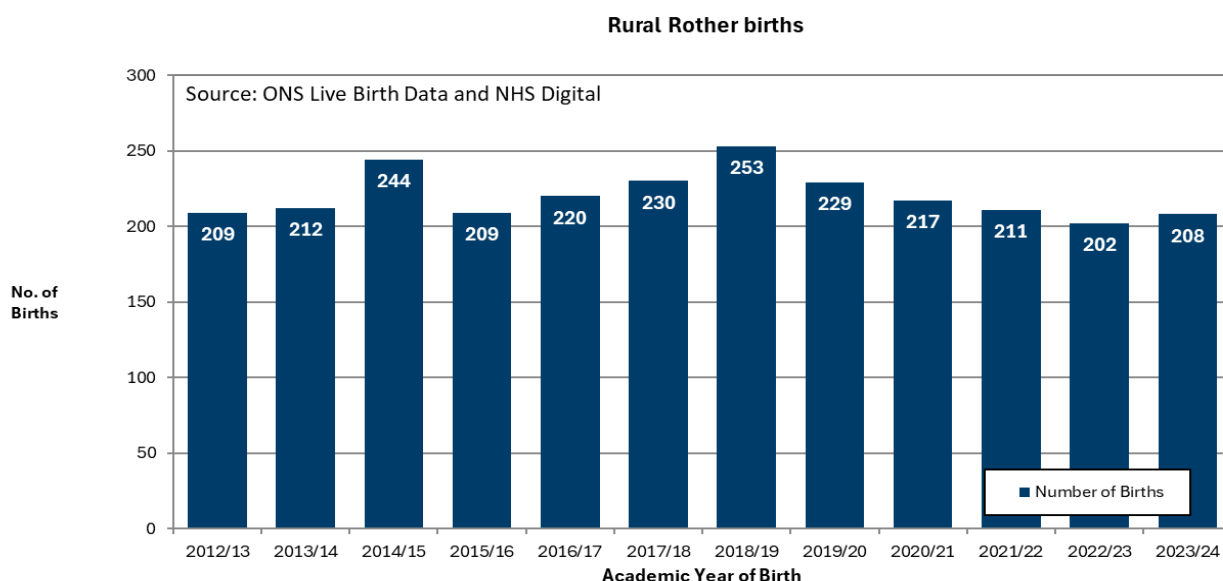
## Births

Births in the area have fallen in recent years, however, figures for 2023/24 are slightly up on 2022/23. Whether this is the start of an upturn or simply a blip is uncertain at this time.

**Rural Rother births from 2012/13 to 2023/24**

Academic year	Number of births
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	202
2023/24	208

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Rother District Council (RDC) 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 2025/26 to 2027/28. RDC 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.

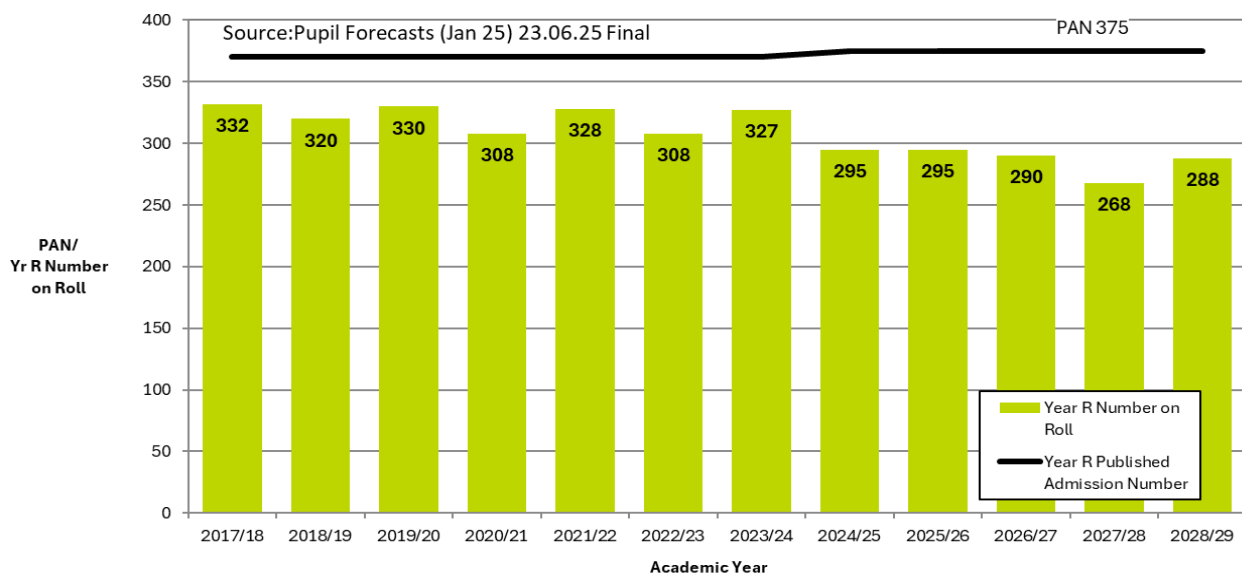
The following primary schools all take significant numbers of children from Hastings: Crowhurst CE Primary School, Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary School, Icklesham CE Primary School, Netherfield CE Primary School, Sedlescombe CE Primary School, and Westfield School. Falling pupil outflows from Hastings,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

#### Rural Rother primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	295
2025/26	375	295
2026/27	375	290
2027/28	375	268
2028/29	375	288

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Rural Rother primary Year R numbers



Surplus places for the area stood at 16% in 2024/25. By 2028/29 they are forecast to rise to 21%. Four schools had 25% or more surplus places in 2024/25.

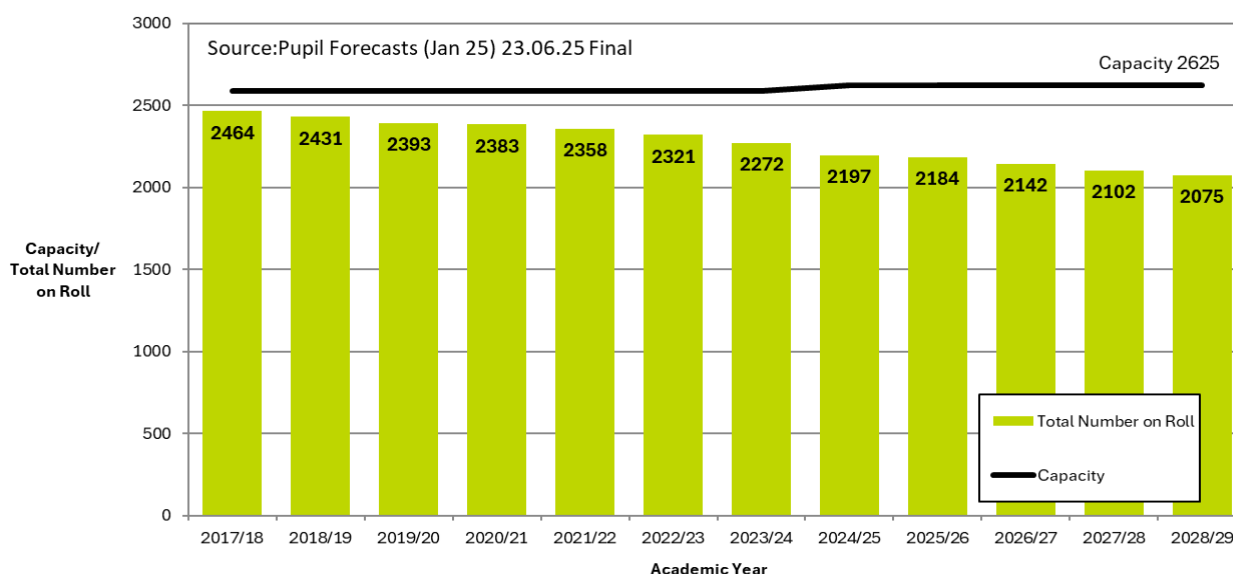
#### Rural Rother total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	2590	2464	126	5%

2018/19	2590	2431	159	6%
2019/20	2590	2393	197	8%
2020/21	2590	2383	207	8%
2021/22	2590	2358	232	9%
2022/23	2590	2321	269	10%
2023/24	2590	2272	318	12%
2024/25	2625	2197	428	16%
2025/26	2625	2184	441	17%
2026/27	2625	2142	483	18%
2027/28	2625	2102	523	20%
2028/29	2625	2075	550	21%

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 in 2024/25, three were local authority maintained, and one was an academy. The local authority is working with all small schools with large surpluses as part of our Small Schools Strategy. We will monitor the situation at the three maintained schools and take action where appropriate to address any challenges. Although decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with the trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

## Secondary places

Robertsbridge Community College received an Inadequate Ofsted Rating in April 2024 which has affected its popularity for the 2025/26 academic year, with Year 7 numbers significantly below its Published Admission Number (PAN). The school converted to an academy in March 2025 under the Aquinas Trust. It remains to be seen how long it will take for the school to regain its previous popularity. The school has enough places to meet in-area demand.

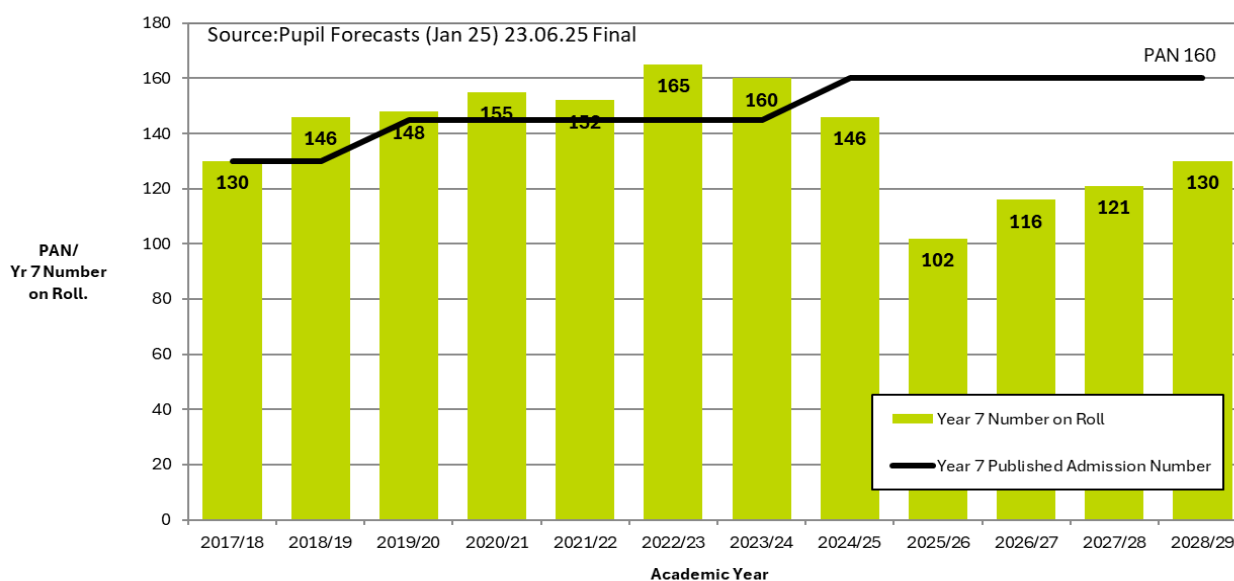
Robertsbridge Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
---------------	-----	----------------

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	146
2025/26	160	102
2026/27	160	116
2027/28	160	121
2028/29	160	130

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

#### Robertsbridge Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



Having been largely full in recent years, surplus places at the school stood at 8% in 2024/25. Largely based on the speculative Year 7 forecasts set, they are predicted to rise to 27% by 2028/29.

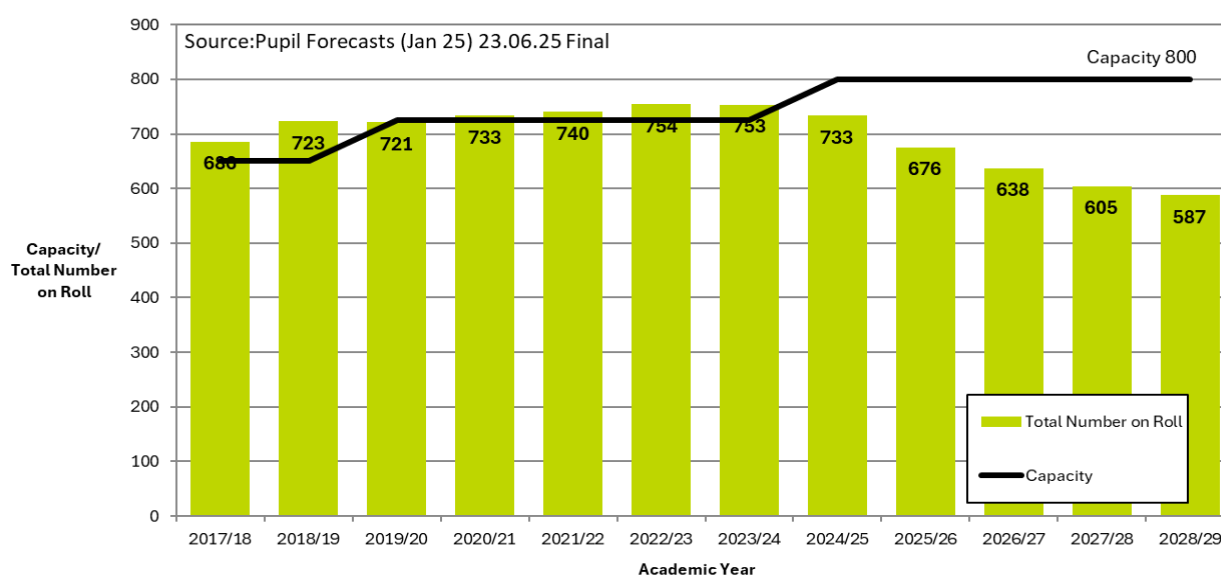


## Robertsbridge Community College total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	650	686	(36)	(6%)
2018/19	650	723	(73)	(11%)
2019/20	725	721	4	1%
2020/21	725	733	(8)	(1%)
2021/22	725	740	(15)	(2%)
2022/23	725	754	(29)	(4%)
2023/24	725	753	(28)	(4%)
2024/25	800	733	67	8%
2025/26	800	676	124	16%
2026/27	800	638	162	20%
2027/28	800	605	195	24%
2028/29	800	587	213	27%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

Robertsbridge Community College total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned.

# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Beacon Academy	11-18	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

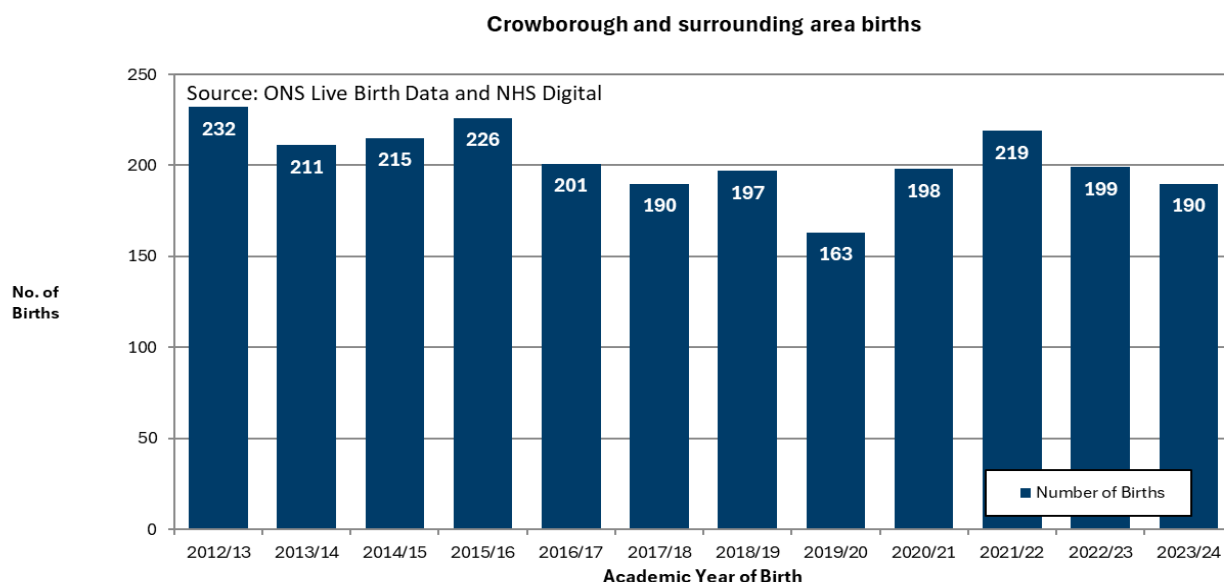
## Births

Births in the area have been largely consistent in recent years.

### Crowborough and surrounding area births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	199
2023/24	190

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 800 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 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.

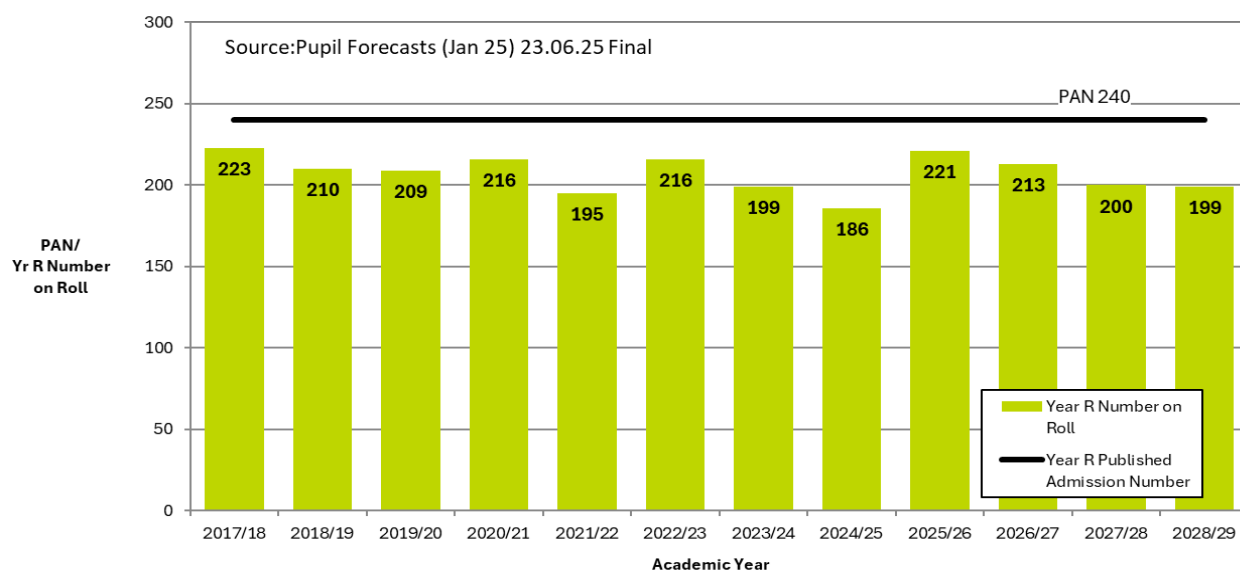
A number of children from the area currently attend surrounding schools, most notably High Hurstwood CE Primary School.

### Crowborough and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	221
2026/27	240	213
2027/28	240	200
2028/29	240	199

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Crowborough and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



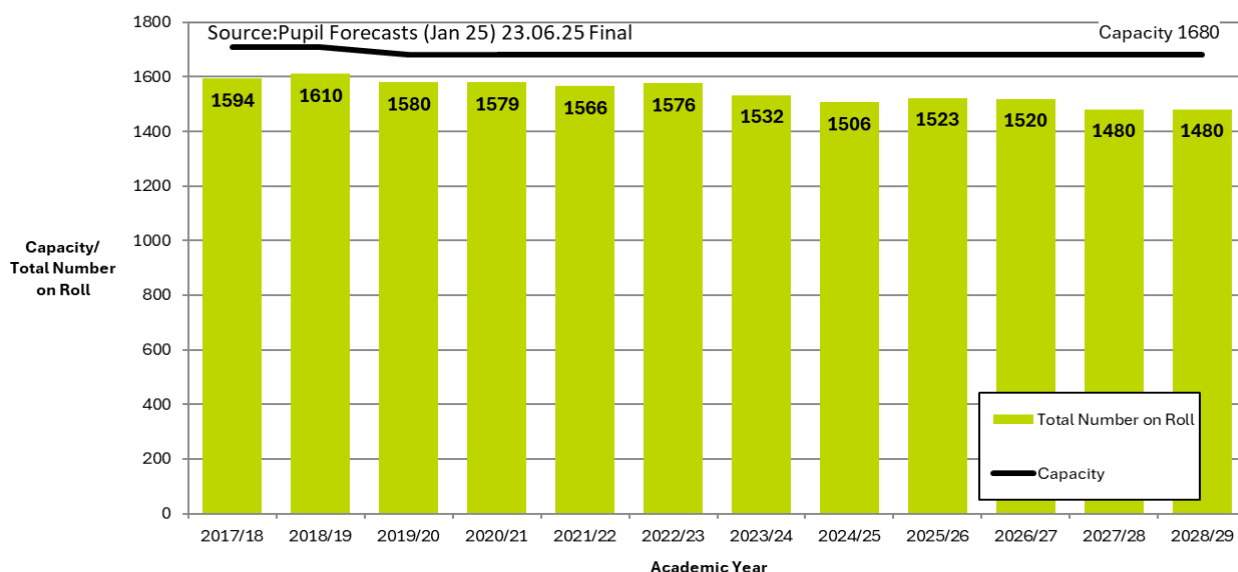
Overall pupil numbers in the area are forecast to fall away gradually during the plan period, with surplus places growing from 10% in 2024/25 to 12% by 2028/29. One school has surplus places of 25% or more.

### Crowborough and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1710	1594	116	7%
2018/19	1710	1610	100	6%
2019/20	1680	1580	100	6%
2020/21	1680	1579	101	6%
2021/22	1680	1566	114	7%
2022/23	1680	1576	104	6%
2023/24	1680	1532	148	9%
2024/25	1680	1506	174	10%
2025/26	1680	1523	157	9%
2026/27	1680	1520	160	10%
2027/28	1680	1480	200	12%
2028/29	1680	1480	200	12%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

**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 maintained schools in the area are largely full. The school with high surplus places is an academy. Although decisions on managing surplus capacity in an academy rests with the relevant academy trust, the local authority will work with the trust to explore potential solutions where appropriate.

## Secondary places

There are outflows of pupils from the local area to schools in Kent, including the Grammar schools. The village of Forest Row is in a joint school admissions area with Beacon Academy and Chailey School. Beacon Academy is the closer school to Forest Row. Many Forest Row children traditionally receive offers of places at Sackville School and Imberhorne School in East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Since 2019/20, Year 7 intakes to Beacon Academy have significantly exceeded the school's PAN of 250. From 2023/24, the school's admissions policy 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.

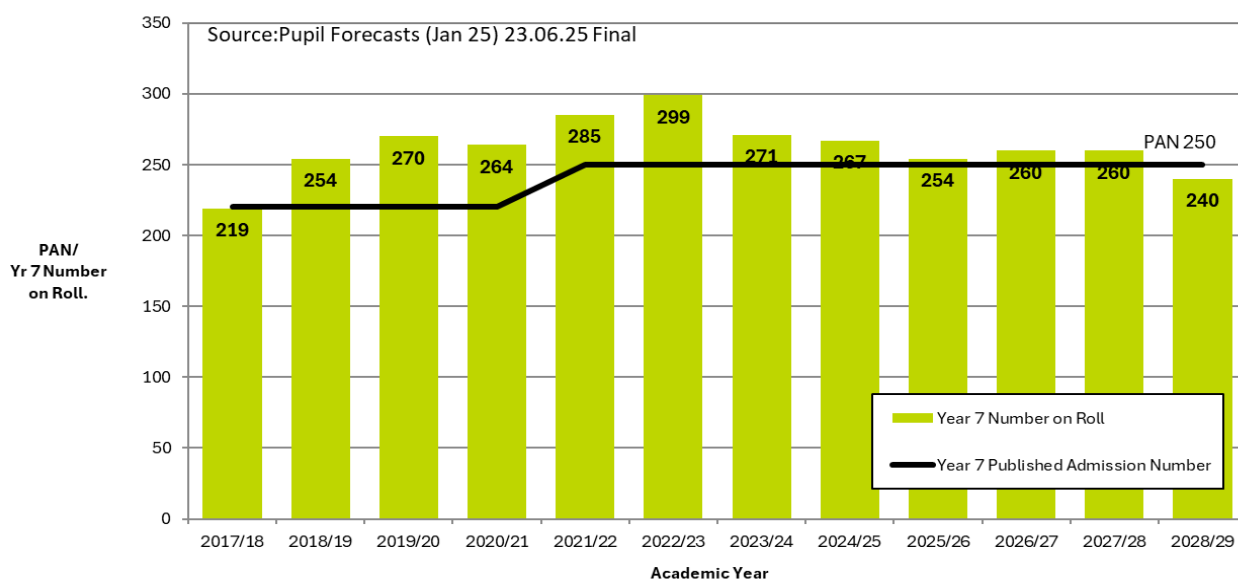
Numbers of pupils coming through primary schools in the area over the next few years are likely to be generally lower than in recent years. As a result, future Year 7 numbers are forecast not to be as high as they have been recently. However, in the short term it may still be difficult for the school to keep to its PAN of 250.

### Beacon Academy secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	267
2025/26	250	254
2026/27	250	260
2027/28	250	260
2028/29	250	240

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Beacon Academy secondary Year 7 numbers

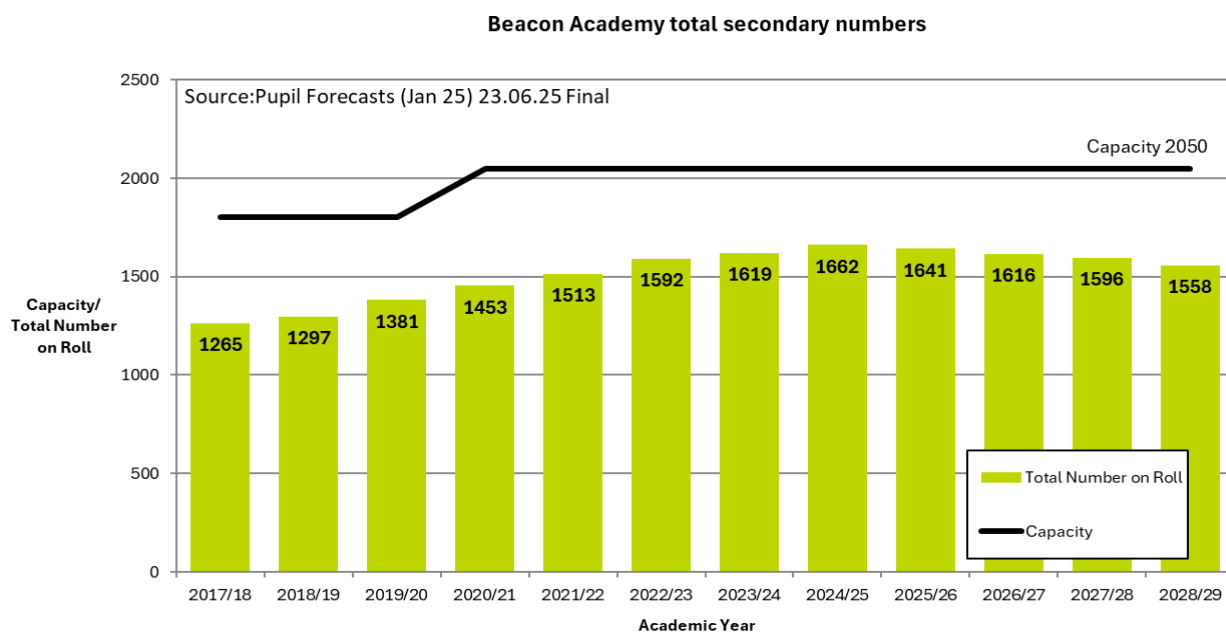


Overall pupil numbers at the school look to have peaked in 2024/25 and are predicted to gradually fall away during the plan period. As a result, surplus places, which stood at 19% in 2024/25 could increase to 24% by 2028/29.

### Beacon Academy total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1800	1265	535	30%
2018/19	1800	1297	503	28%
2019/20	1800	1381	419	23%
2020/21	2050	1453	597	29%
2021/22	2050	1513	537	26%
2022/23	2050	1592	458	22%
2023/24	2050	1619	431	21%
2024/25	2050	1662	388	19%
2025/26	2050	1641	409	20%
2026/27	2050	1616	434	21%
2027/28	2050	1596	454	22%
2028/29	2050	1558	492	24%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned.

# Hailsham and surrounding area

## Schools

There are six 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
Grovelands Community Primary School	2-11	Academy
Hawkes Farm Academy	4-11	Academy
Hellingly Community Primary School	4-11	Academy
Park Mead Primary School	4-11	Community
Thornton Grove Academy	3-11	Academy
White House Academy	4-11	Academy
<b>All-through</b>		
Hailsham Academy	2-18	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

## Births

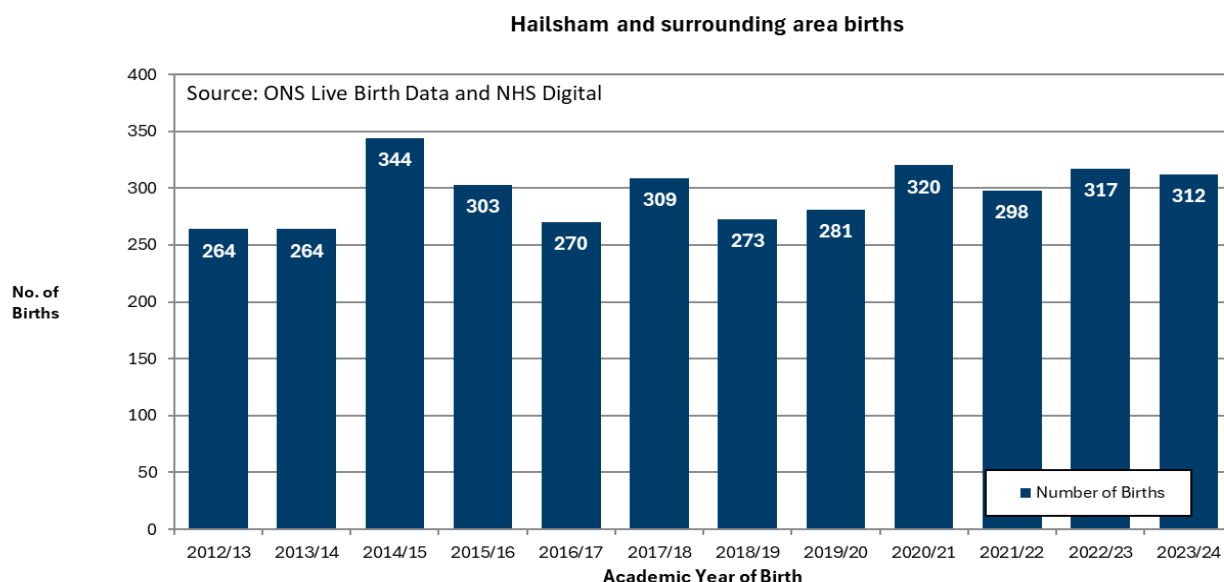
Births in the area have risen in recent years reflecting the significant number of new homes that have been built in Hailsham.

### Hailsham and surrounding area births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	317
2023/24	312

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital





## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 3,400 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 to 2039/40.

## Primary places

On 1 September 2025, Phoenix Academy and Burfield Academy merged to form a new primary school - Thornton Grove Academy - operating from the Phoenix site. This reduced the Published Admission Number (PAN) in the area from 345 places to 315.

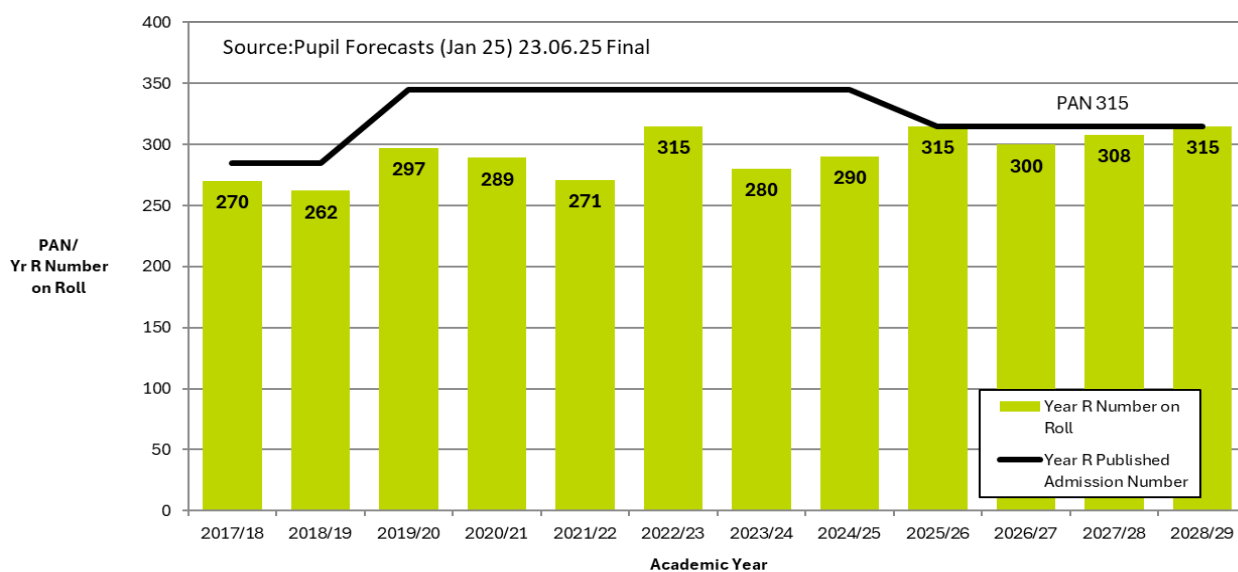
The lower PAN is forecast to be sufficient to meet demand up until the end of the decade. However, with the number of new homes planned for the area over this period, it is possible that the PAN could be exceeded in any of these years or beyond.

### Hailsham and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	290
2025/26	315	315
2026/27	315	300
2027/28	315	308
2028/29	315	315

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Hailsham and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



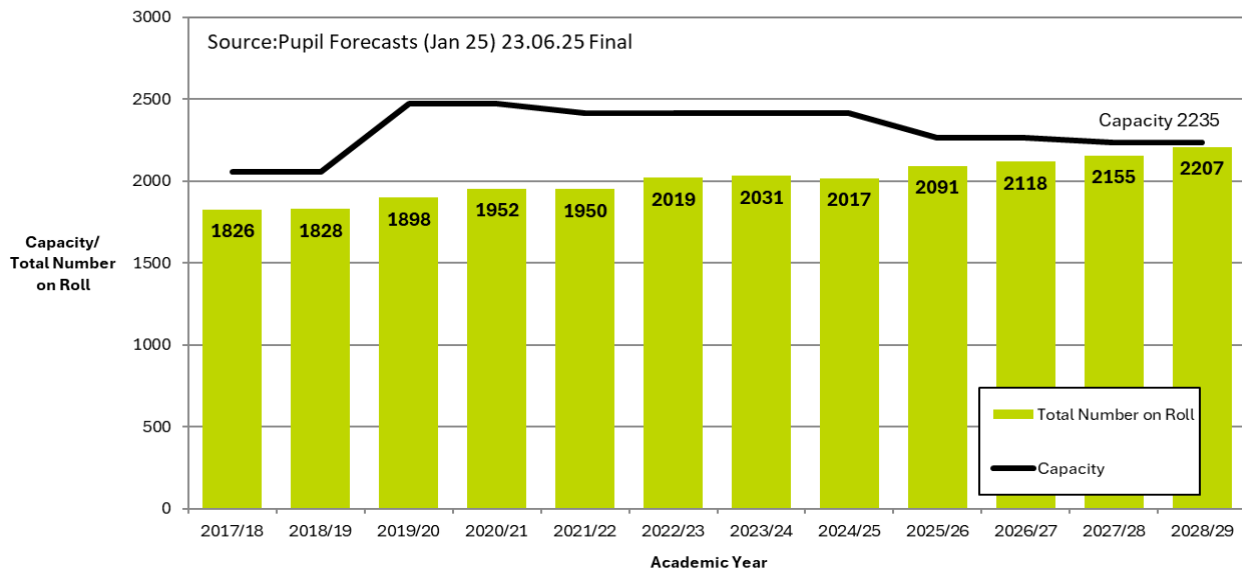
In 2024/25, surplus places in the town stood at 16%. With the loss of capacity resulting from Phoenix Academy and Burfield Academy merging, Hailsham Academy having cohorts in each of its primary year groups from 2025/26, and pupils arising from new housing, surplus places in the area are forecast to fall to 1% by 2028/29.

### Hailsham and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	2055	1826	229	11%
2018/19	2055	1828	227	11%
2019/20	2475	1898	577	23%
2020/21	2475	1952	523	21%
2021/22	2415	1950	465	19%
2022/23	2415	2019	396	16%
2023/24	2415	2031	384	16%
2024/25	2415	2017	398	16%
2025/26	2265	2091	174	8%
2026/27	2265	2118	147	7%
2027/28	2235	2155	80	4%
2028/29	2235	2207	28	1%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

Hailsham and surrounding area total primary numbers



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

No further primary school organisation changes are currently planned.

## Secondary places

As a result of rising numbers coming through primary schools and additional pupils generated by the volume of new housing being built in the town, there are higher numbers of in-area children than previously. However, 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 and this has had an impact on Year 7 intakes to Hailsham Academy.

In response to these lower levels of demand, the academy trust has taken the decision to lower the school's PAN from 300 to 240 from 2026/27. It remains to be seen whether 240 Year 7 places will be adequate to meet demand. The forecasts currently show the lowered PAN being exceeded in some of the coming years, but what happens in reality will depend heavily on future patterns of parental preference.

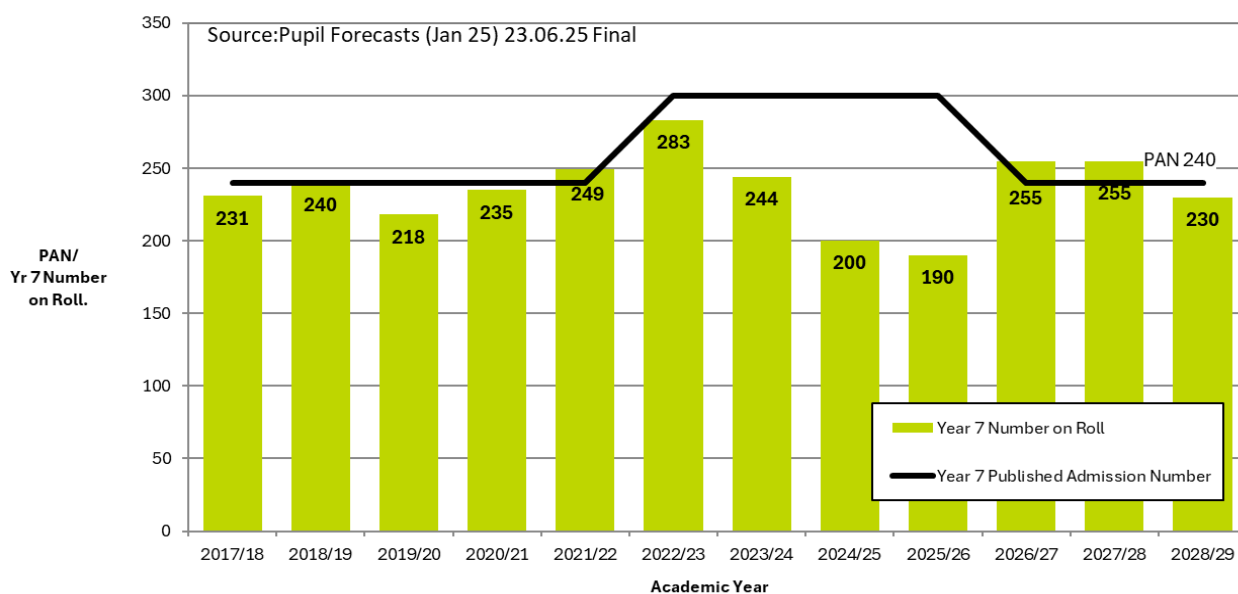
The number of new homes being built in the area will also have a significant bearing on future numbers at the school.

### Hailsham Academy secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	200
2025/26	300	190
2026/27	240	255
2027/28	240	255
2028/29	240	230

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Hailsham Academy secondary Year 7 numbers



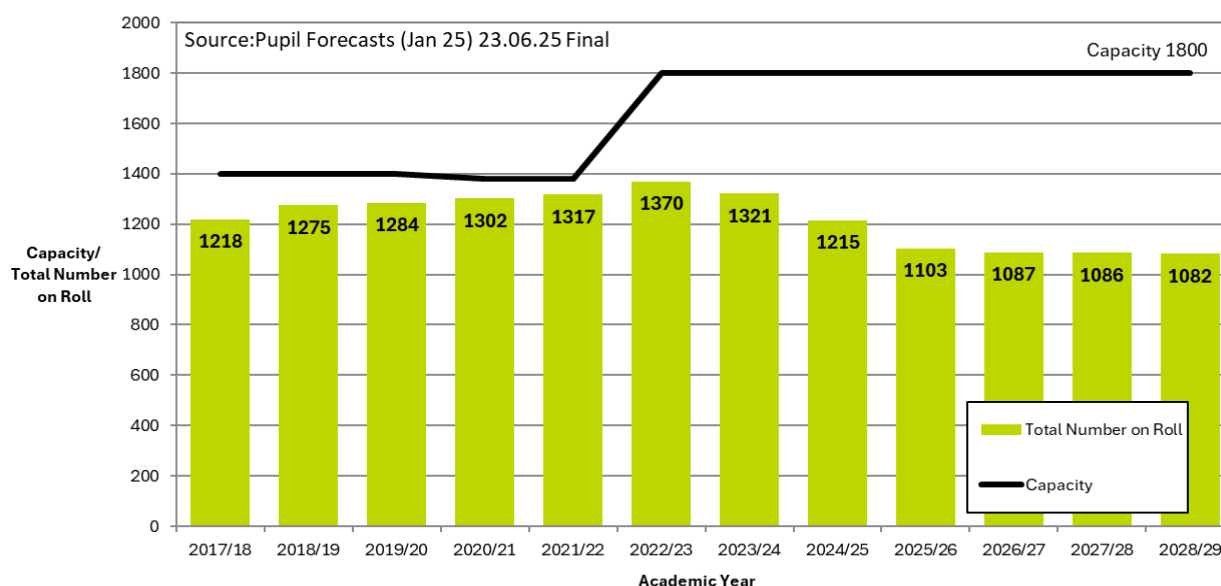
Overall pupil numbers at the school are forecast to fall in the plan period, with surplus places growing from 33% in 2024/25 to 40% by 2028/29.

### Hailsham Academy total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1400	1218	182	13%
2018/19	1400	1275	125	9%
2019/20	1400	1284	116	8%
2020/21	1380	1302	78	6%
2021/22	1380	1317	63	5%
2022/23	1800	1370	430	24%
2023/24	1800	1321	479	27%
2024/25	1800	1215	585	33%
2025/26	1800	1103	697	39%
2026/27	1800	1087	713	40%
2027/28	1800	1086	714	40%
2028/29	1800	1082	718	40%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Hailsham Academy total secondary numbers



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

Accommodation will not be removed at the school following its PAN reduction in 2026/27 and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers begin to rise again in the future.

On 1 September 2025, Hailsham Academy joined Mark Academy Trust, having previously been a single academy trust.

Hailsham Academy's sixth form is undergoing a phased closure. There is no Year 12 intake for 2025/26, and the sixth form will close completely on 31 August 2026.

# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Heathfield Community College	11-18	Community

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

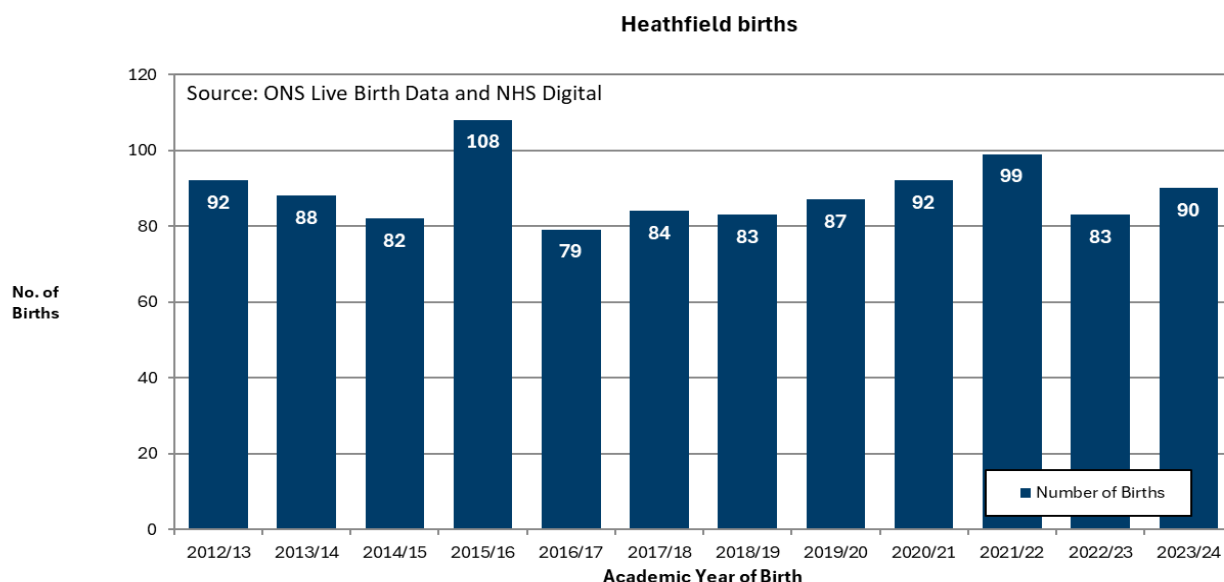
## Births

Births in the area have averaged 89 per annum over the last 12 years.

### Heathfield births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	83
2023/24	90

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 300 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 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 from schools in Hailsham.

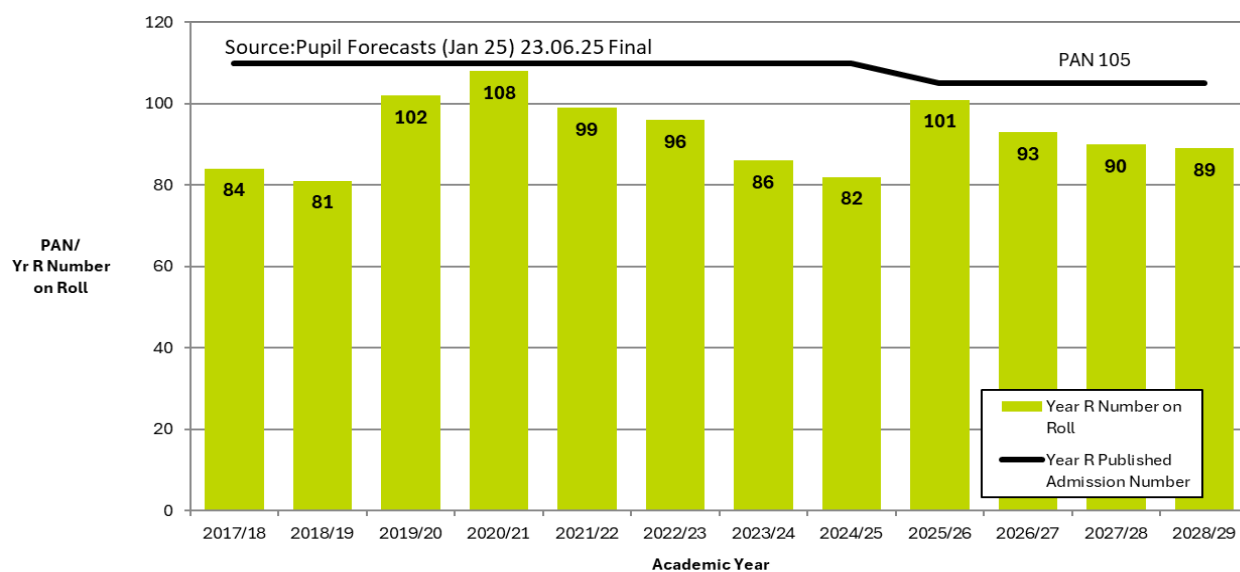
Reception (Year R) numbers in the area are forecast to remain within the reduced Published Admission Number (PAN) of 105 for the foreseeable future.

### Heathfield primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	82
2025/26	105	101
2026/27	105	93
2027/28	105	90
2028/29	105	89

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Heathfield primary Year R numbers



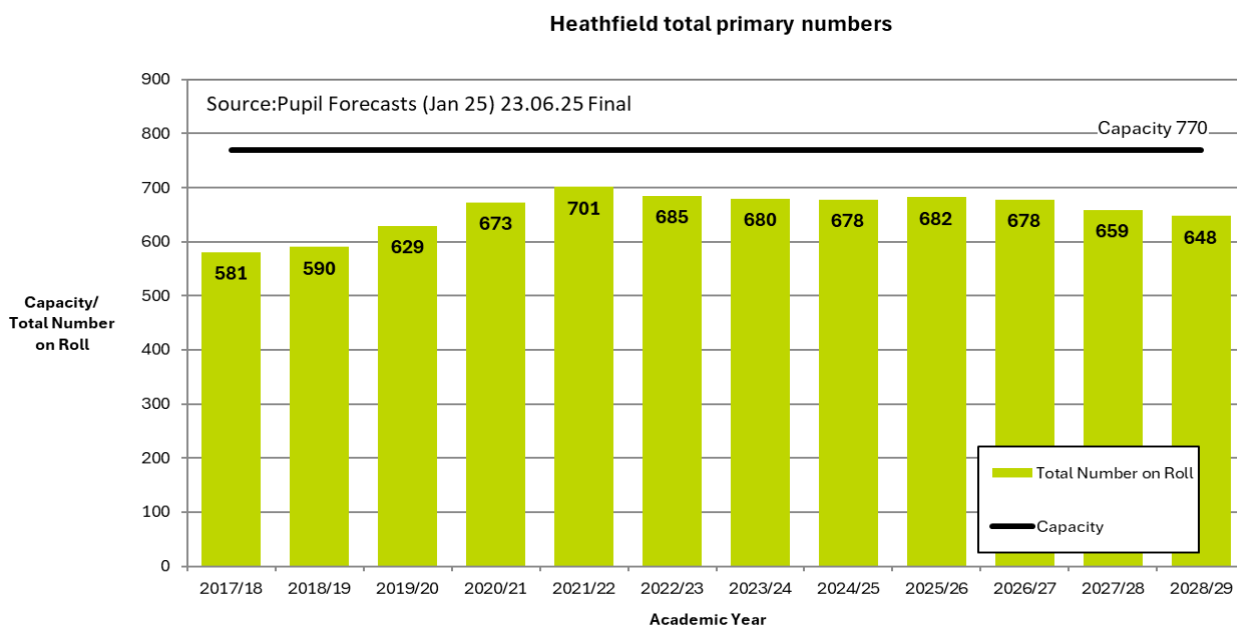
Overall pupil numbers should remain steady until 2027/28 when they are likely to fall away slightly. Surplus places, which stood at 12% in 2024/25, are forecast to grow to 16% by the end of the plan period. One school in the area has 25% or more surplus places.

### Heathfield total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	770	581	189	25%
2018/19	770	590	180	23%
2019/20	770	629	141	18%
2020/21	770	673	97	13%
2021/22	770	701	69	9%
2022/23	770	685	85	11%
2023/24	770	680	90	12%
2024/25	770	678	92	12%
2025/26	770	682	88	11%
2026/27	770	678	92	12%
2027/28	770	659	111	14%
2028/29	770	648	122	16%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final





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

The governing board of All Saints and St Richards CE Primary School took the decision to reduce its PAN from 20 to 15 with effect from 2025/26. Accommodation has not been removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers begin to rise again.

## Secondary places

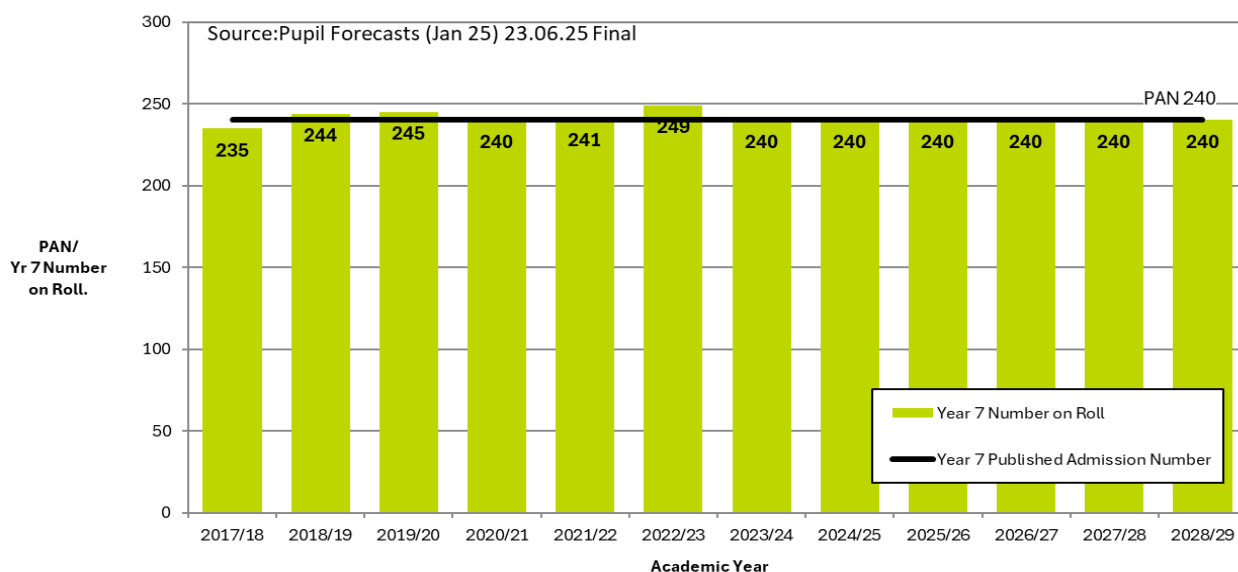
Parts of Heathfield Community College's admissions community area overlaps with those of Hailsham Academy, Uplands Academy and Robertsbridge Community College. The school takes significant numbers of pupils from Hailsham and the surrounding area. With inflows of pupils from these areas, it is forecast that the school will continue to fill to its PAN for the foreseeable future.

### Heathfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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
2028/29	240	240

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Heathfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



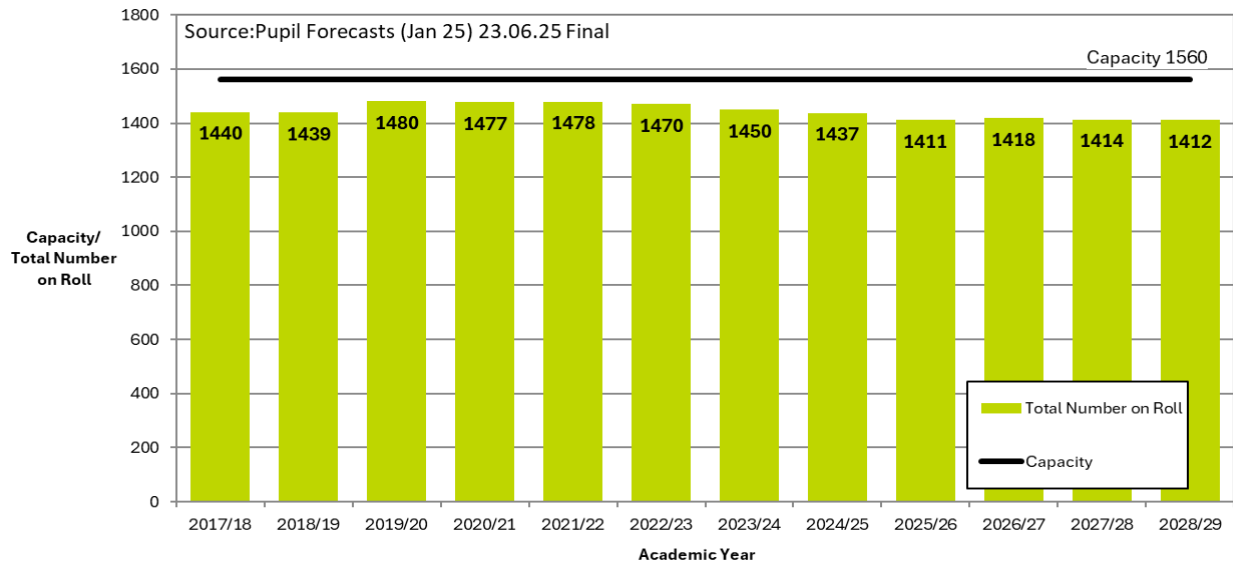
Heathfield Community College has sufficient places to meet in-area demand. The potential for the school admissions system to redirect out of area applicants back to Hailsham and other areas means that the school is unlikely to have to exceed capacity in future years. As a result, overall numbers at the school are expected to remain consistent until 2028/29, with surplus places of around 8%-10%. Spare places are mainly in the sixth form.

### Heathfield Community College total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1560	1440	120	8%
2018/19	1560	1439	121	8%
2019/20	1560	1480	80	5%
2020/21	1560	1477	83	5%
2021/22	1560	1478	82	5%
2022/23	1560	1470	90	6%
2023/24	1560	1450	110	7%
2024/25	1560	1437	123	8%
2025/26	1560	1411	149	10%
2026/27	1560	1418	142	9%
2027/28	1560	1414	146	9%
2028/29	1560	1412	148	10%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Heathfield Community College total secondary numbers



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

The local authority has recently agreed to expand Heathfield Community College's specialist facility for students with autism, subject to detailed design and planning. The facility's capacity will increase from 12 places to 20. It is intended to deliver the expansion in 2026/27.

# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
Polegate Primary School	2-11	Community
Willingdon Primary School	4-11	Community
<b>Secondary</b>		
Willingdon Community School	11-16	Community

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

## Births

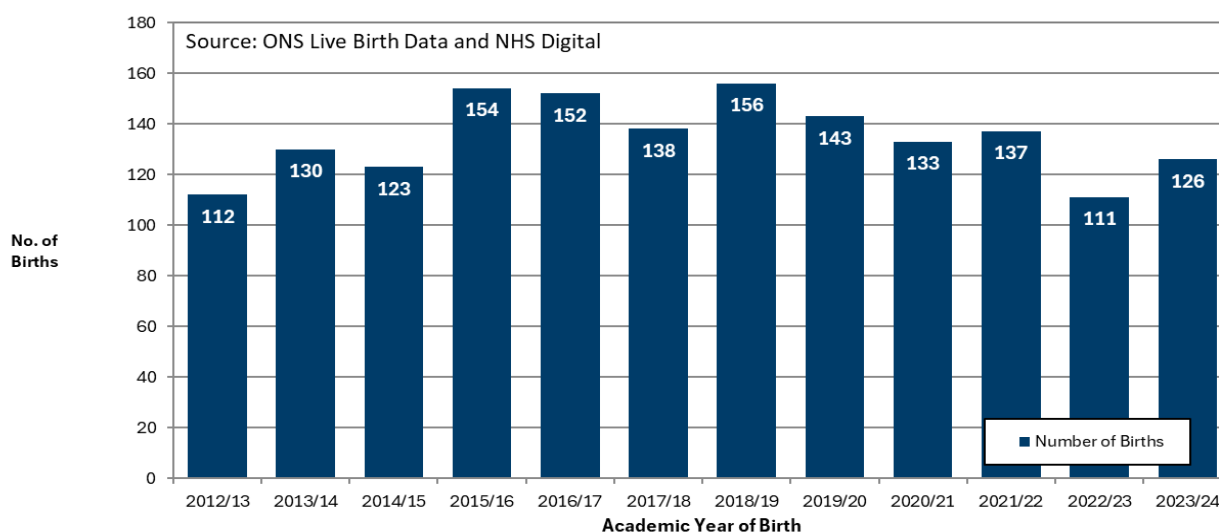
Following a low birth year in 2022/23, numbers rose again in 2023/24.

### Polegate and Willingdon births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	111
2023/24	126

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

### Polegate and Willingdon births



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,700 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 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.

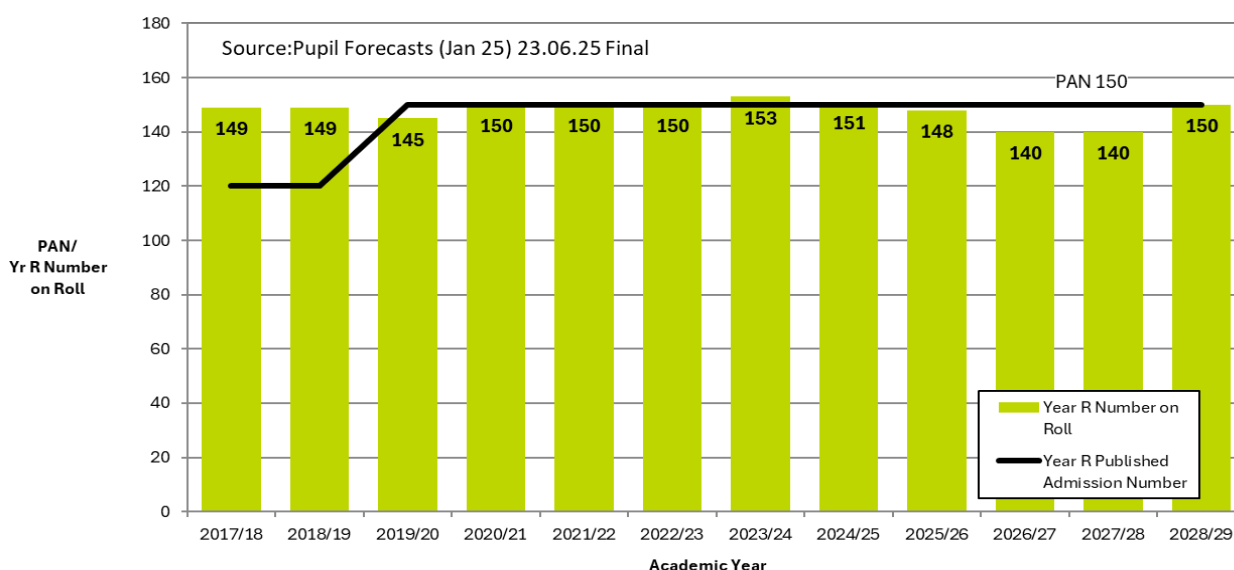
In the short term, birth and GP registration data points to reception (Year R) numbers remaining at or within the combined PAN of 150. However, the housing planned for the area, could lead to medium to long term pressures on places.

### Polegate and Willingdon primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	151
2025/26	150	148
2026/27	150	140
2027/28	150	140
2028/29	150	150

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Polegate and Willingdon primary Year R numbers



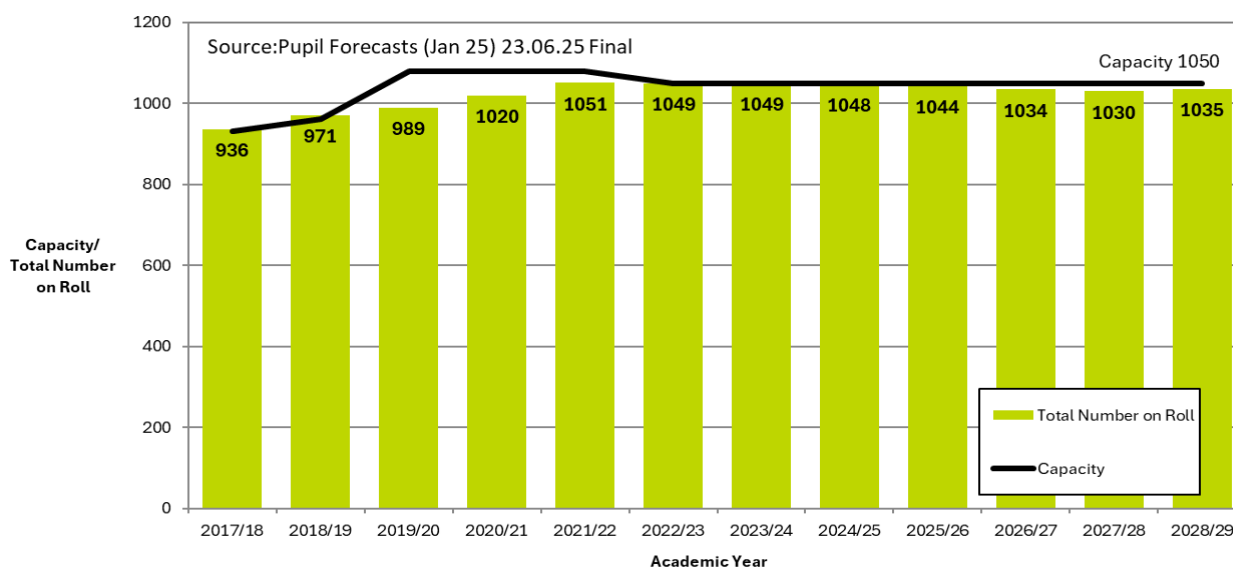
Total pupil numbers in the area should remain relatively consistent in the period to 2028/29, with surplus places of no more than 2%.

## Polegate and Willingdon total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	930	936	(6)	(1%)
2018/19	960	971	(11)	(1%)
2019/20	1080	989	91	8%
2020/21	1080	1020	60	6%
2021/22	1080	1051	29	3%
2022/23	1050	1049	1	0%
2023/24	1050	1049	1	0%
2024/25	1050	1048	2	0%
2025/26	1050	1044	6	1%
2026/27	1050	1034	16	1%
2027/28	1050	1030	20	2%
2028/29	1050	1035	15	1%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Polegate and Willingdon total primary numbers



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

No primary school organisation changes are currently planned.

## Secondary places

Linked to numbers coming through primary schools and the volume of recent and planned housing development in the Polegate, Willingdon 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 school exceeded its PAN of 210 by approximately 15 places in 2025/26 as a result of successful appeals.

Willingdon Community School has shared admissions 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 these schools.

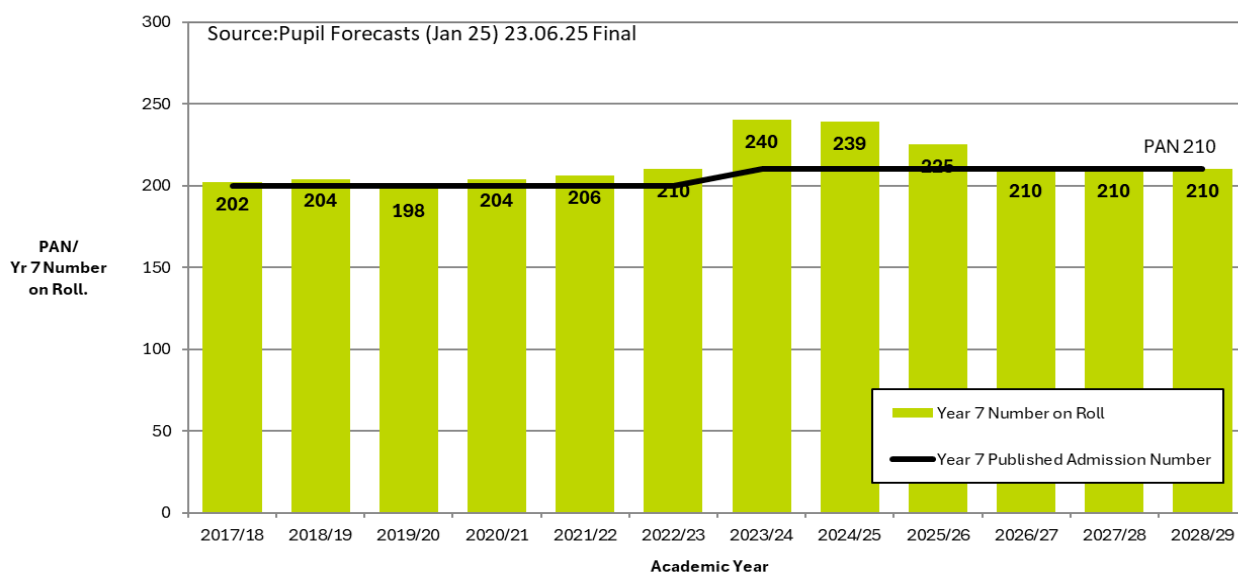


## Willingdon Community School secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	239
2025/26	210	225
2026/27	210	210
2027/28	210	210
2028/29	210	210

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Willingdon Community School secondary Year 7 numbers



The school is likely to remain at, or close to, capacity during the plan period, with very few, if any, surplus places.

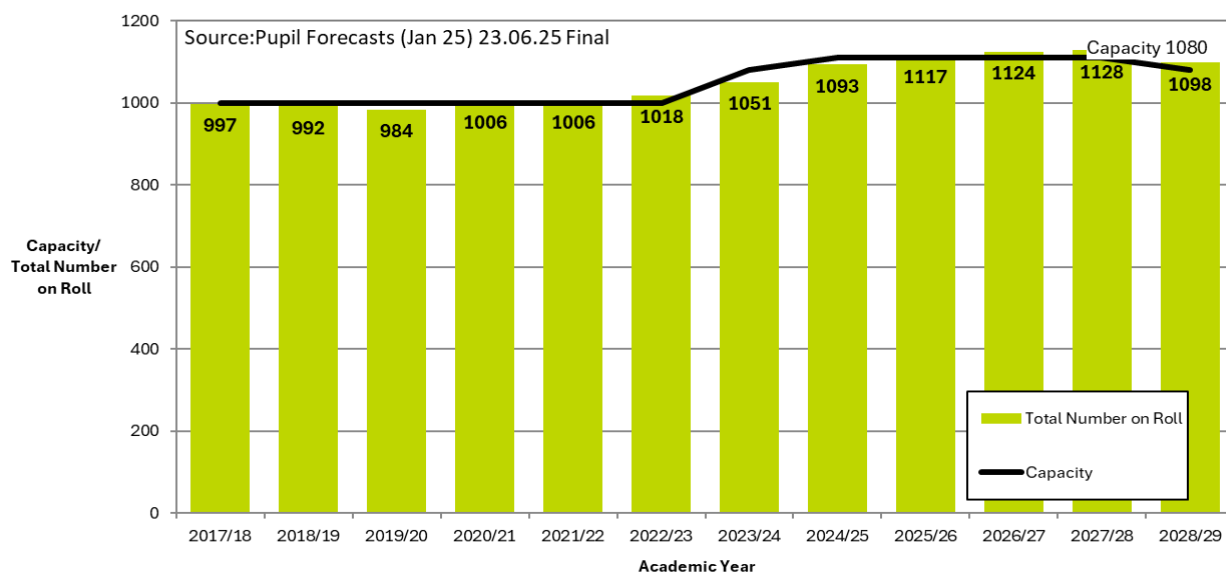


### Willingdon Community School total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1000	997	3	0%
2018/19	1000	992	8	1%
2019/20	1000	984	16	2%
2020/21	1000	1006	(6)	(1%)
2021/22	1000	1006	(6)	(1%)
2022/23	1000	1018	(18)	(2%)
2023/24	1080	1051	29	3%
2024/25	1110	1093	17	2%
2025/26	1110	1117	(7)	(1%)
2026/27	1110	1124	(14)	(1%)
2027/28	1110	1128	(18)	(2%)
2028/29	1080	1098	(18)	(2%)

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Willingdon Community School total secondary numbers



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

No secondary school organisation changes are currently planned but the local authority will monitor the local demand for places at the school and take action if necessary.

# 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	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Stone Cross School	4-11	Community

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

## Births

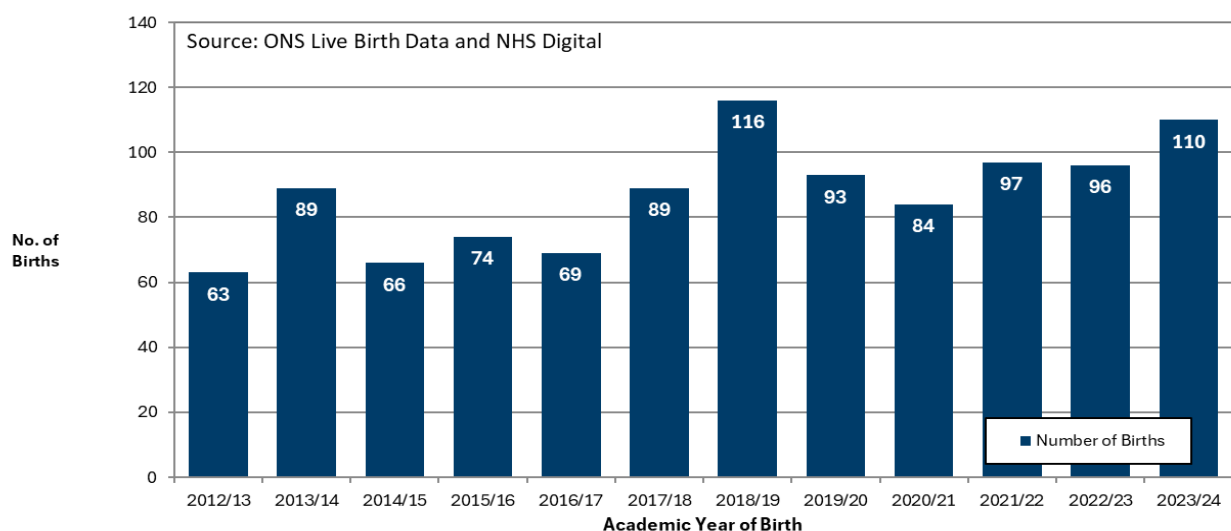
Births have generally been higher in recent years because of the volume of new homes to have been built in the area.

### Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	96
2023/24	110

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital

### Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham births



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,300 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 to 2039/40.

## Primary places

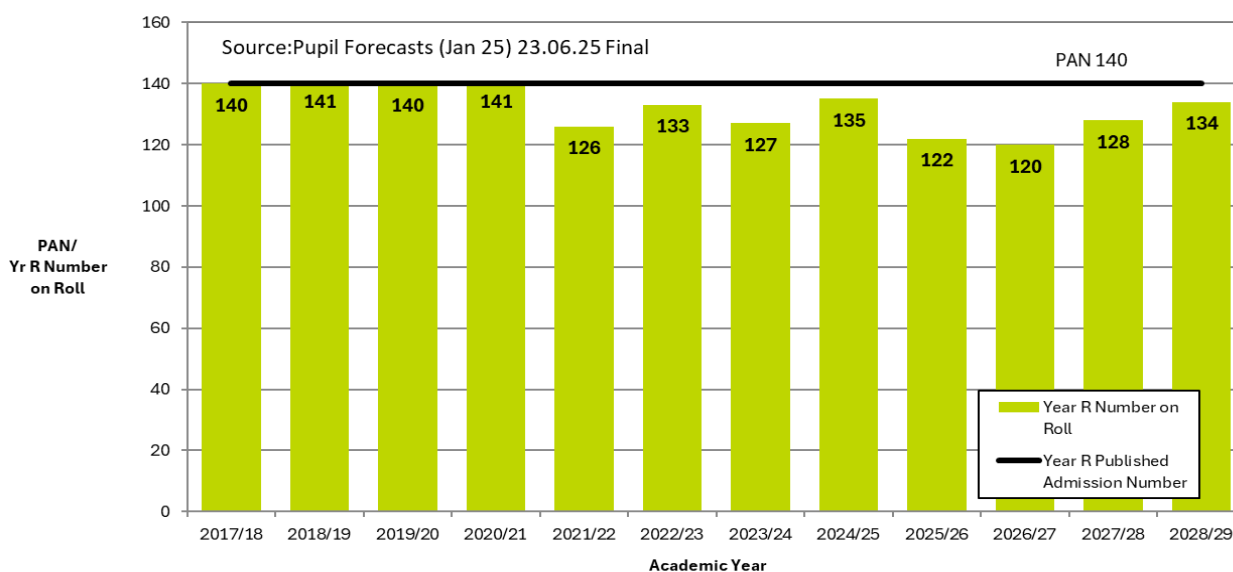
Recent house building in the area has resulted in larger numbers of in-area children coming through into reception (Year R). The three schools take significant numbers of children from the Eastbourne area. The school admissions system should be able to redirect some of this demand back to Eastbourne, 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.

### Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	135
2025/26	140	122
2026/27	140	120
2027/28	140	128
2028/29	140	134

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

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



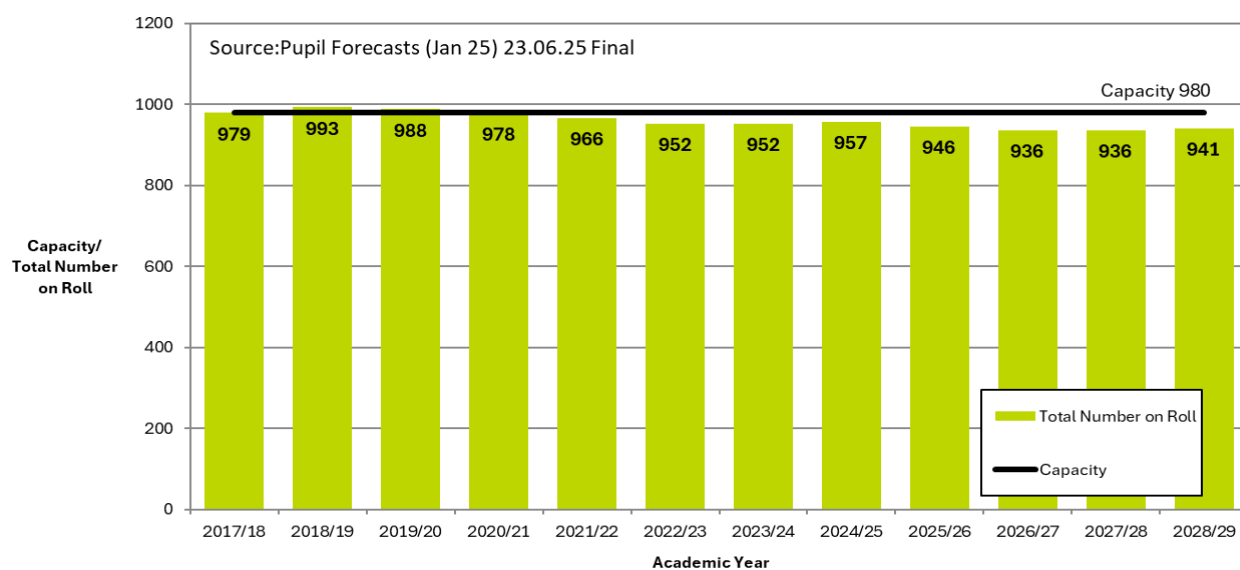
Overall pupil numbers in the three schools are expected to remain consistent until 2028/29, with surplus places averaging around 4%.

**Stonecross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham total primary numbers  
from 2017/18 to 2028/29**

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	980	979	1	0%
2018/19	980	993	(13)	(1%)
2019/20	980	988	(8)	(1%)
2020/21	980	978	2	0%
2021/22	980	966	14	1%
2022/23	980	952	28	3%
2023/24	980	952	28	3%
2024/25	980	957	23	2%
2025/26	980	946	34	3%
2026/27	980	936	44	5%
2027/28	980	936	44	4%
2028/29	980	941	39	4%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### 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

Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School lowered its age range from September 2025 to establish school-run nursery provision on site.

# 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*
<b>Primary</b>		
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
<b>Secondary</b>		
Uckfield College	11-18	Community

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

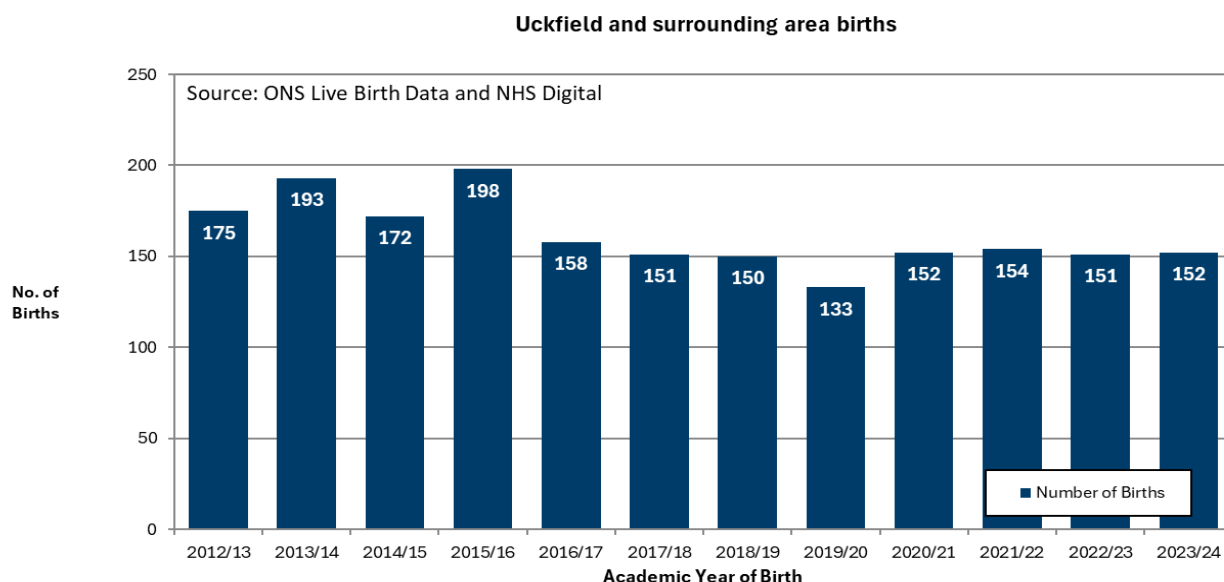
## Births

Births in the area have been largely consistent in recent years.

### Uckfield and surrounding area births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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
2023/24	152

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 1,600 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 to 2039/40.

## Primary places

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

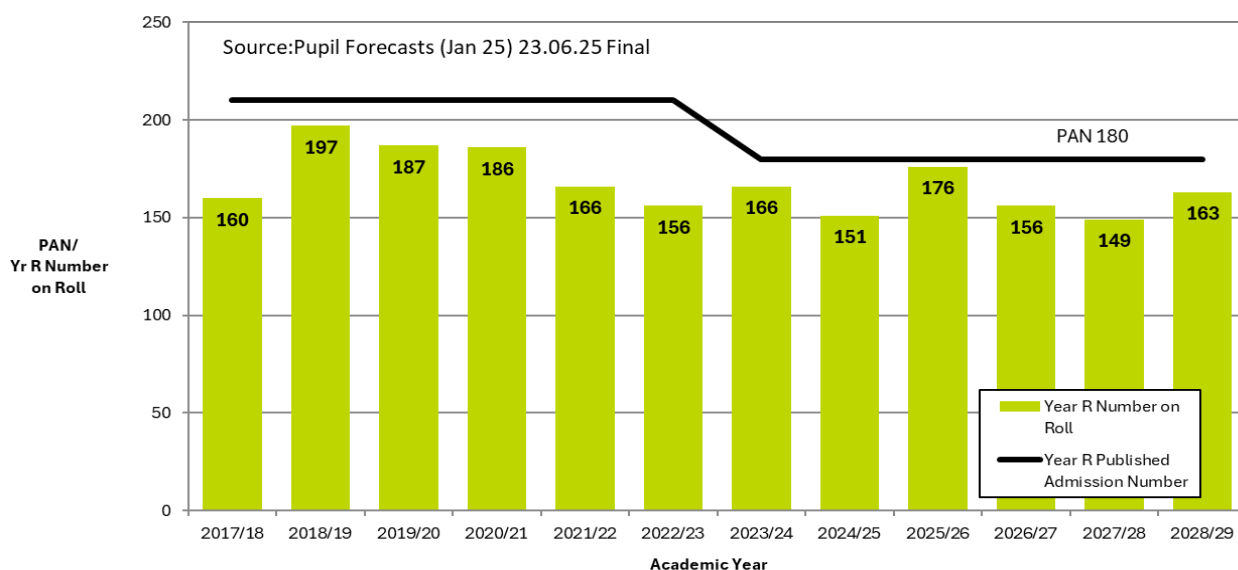
A number of children from the area currently attend surrounding schools, notably Bonners CE Primary School and Buxted CE Primary School.

### Uckfield and surrounding area primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	151
2025/26	180	176
2026/27	180	156
2027/28	180	149
2028/29	180	163

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Uckfield and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



Total primary numbers in the area are expected to decline gradually in the coming years, with surplus places growing from 3% in 2024/25 to 7% in 2028/29.

However, 1000 new homes are being built in the town on a housing development at Ridgewood Farm. If accompanied by a general upswing in births, this volume of development is likely to put pressure on school places in the area at some point in the future.

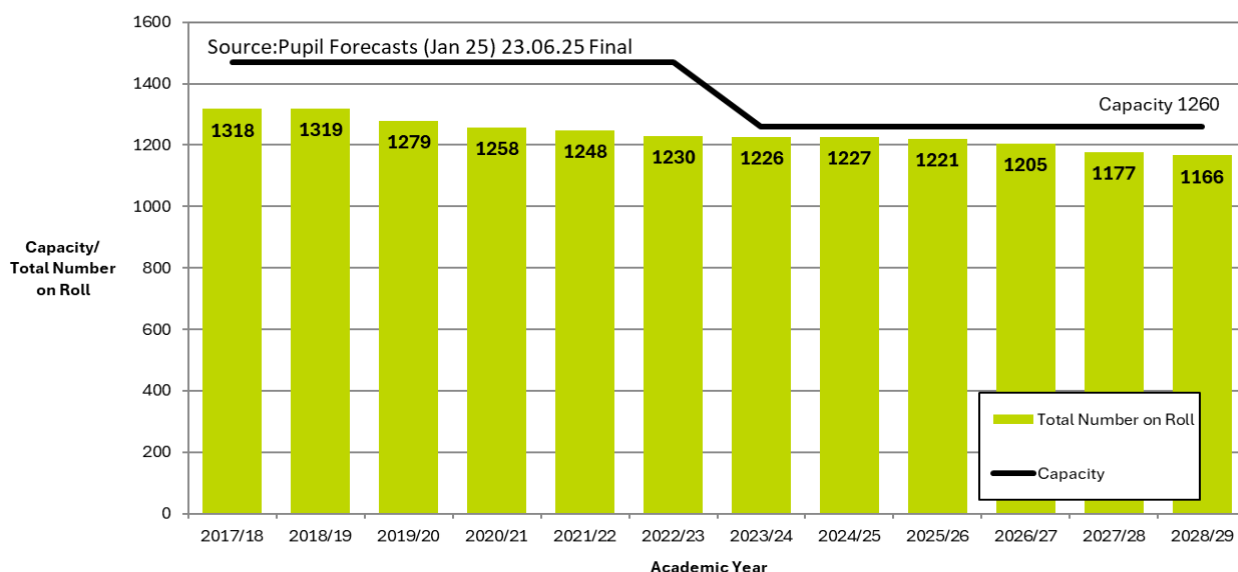
### Uckfield and surrounding area total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1470	1318	152	10%
2018/19	1470	1319	151	10%
2019/20	1470	1279	191	13%
2020/21	1470	1258	212	14%
2021/22	1470	1248	222	15%
2022/23	1470	1230	240	16%
2023/24	1260	1226	34	3%
2024/25	1260	1227	33	3%
2025/26	1260	1221	39	3%
2026/27	1260	1205	55	4%
2027/28	1260	1177	83	7%
2028/29	1260	1166	94	7%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



### 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

The local authority has an option agreement on land for a new school to serve the Ridgewood development site and will bring forward proposals to establish provision at the appropriate time. The timing of this will be largely 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

The popularity of Uckfield College has seen a recent rise, likely linked to the Outstanding Ofsted Grading in 2024. Based on recent parental preference patterns it is currently forecast that the school will fill to its PAN of 270 in most of the years to 2028/29.

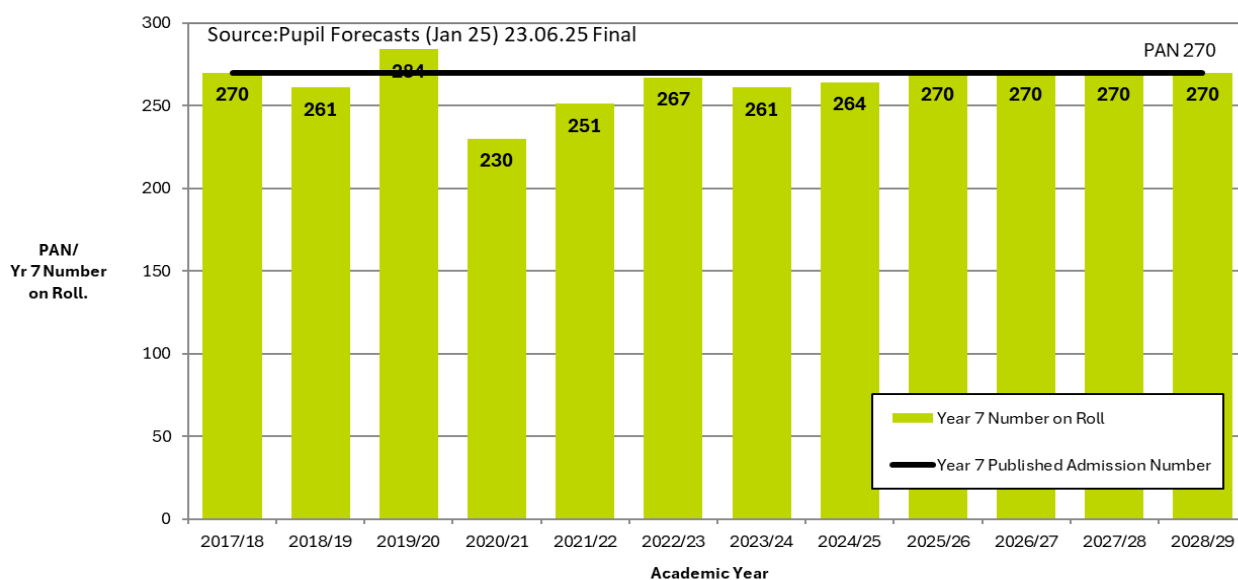
Parts of Uckfield College's admissions area overlap with those of King's Academy, Ringmer. There are inflows and outflows to and from the areas of Ringmer, Chailey and Crowborough. Pupils from the local area also access places at St Paul's Catholic College in West Sussex.

### Uckfield College secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	264
2025/26	270	270
2026/27	270	270
2027/28	270	270
2028/29	270	270

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25

### Uckfield College secondary Year 7 numbers



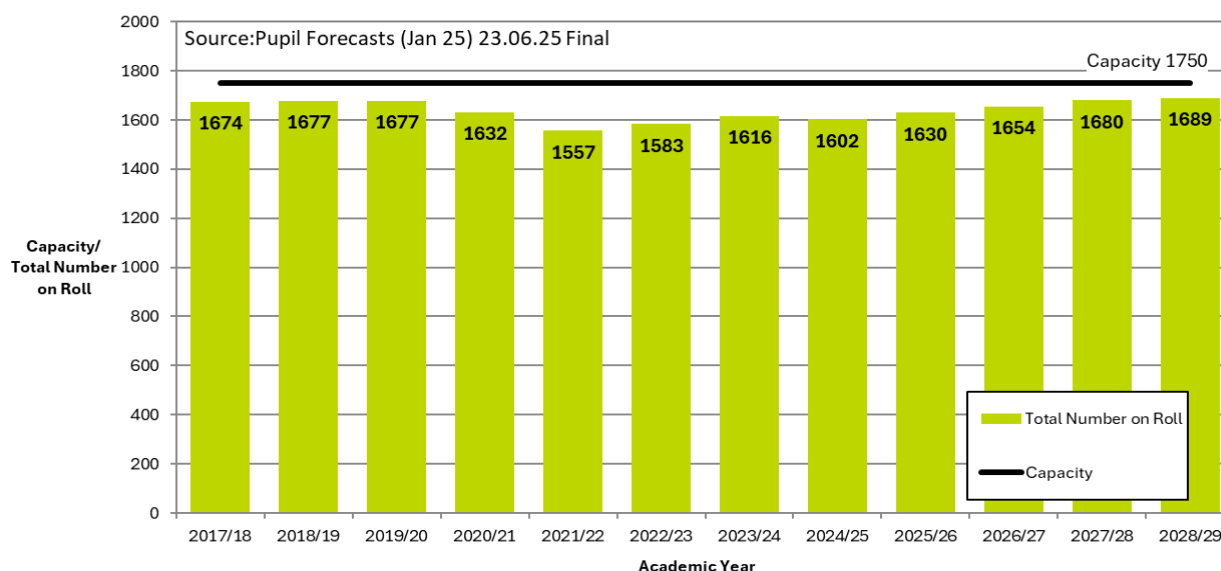
Overall pupil numbers at the school are forecast to grow gradually during the plan period. Surplus places, which stood at 8% in 2024/25, are expected to reduce to 3% by 2028/29.

### Uckfield College total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1750	1674	76	4%
2018/19	1750	1677	73	4%
2019/20	1750	1677	73	4%
2020/21	1750	1632	118	7%
2021/22	1750	1557	193	11%
2022/23	1750	1583	167	10%
2023/24	1750	1616	134	8%
2024/25	1750	1602	148	8%
2025/26	1750	1630	120	7%
2026/27	1750	1654	96	5%
2027/28	1750	1680	70	4%
2028/29	1750	1689	61	3%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Uckfield College total secondary numbers



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

The local authority is working with Uckfield College on a project to expand its specialist facility for students with autism, thereby increasing its capacity from 6 places to 12. The project is due to complete in autumn 2025.

# 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*
<b>Primary schools</b>		
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
<b>Secondary schools</b>		
Uplands Academy	11-16	Academy

\*School type correct on 1 October 2025

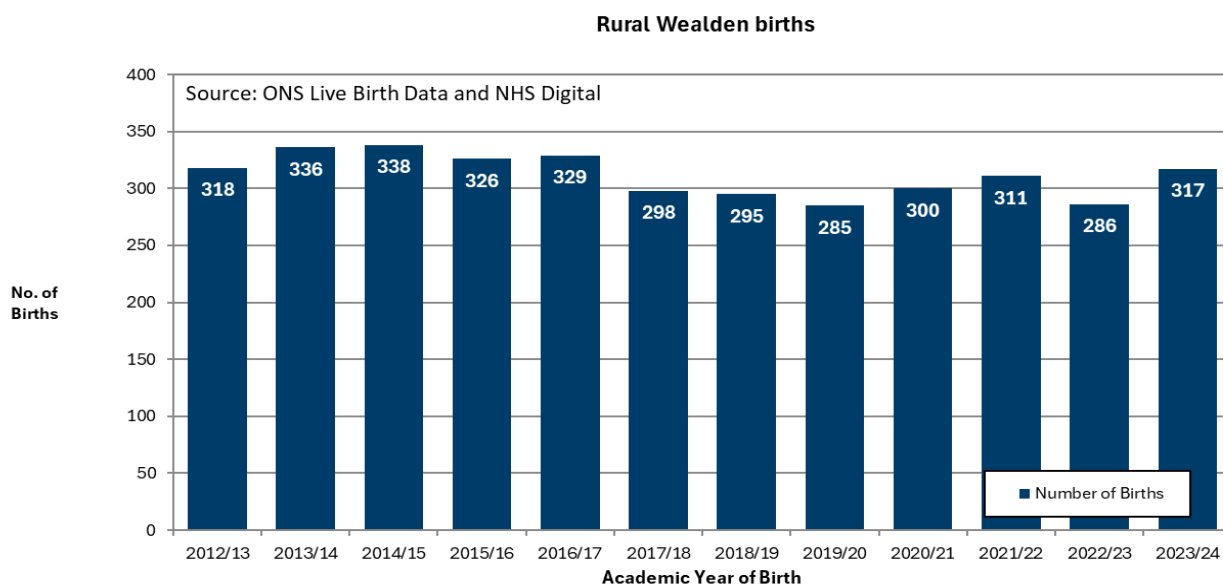
## Births

Births across the area have been relatively steady in the last seven years with an average of 299 per annum.

### Rural Wealden births from 2012/13 to 2023/24

Academic year	Number of births
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	286
2023/24	317

Source: ONS live birth data and NHS Digital



## Housing plans

Wealden District Council (WDC) 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. WDC has published a draft new Local Plan. This projects an estimated 4,200 new dwellings being built in the area in the period 2025/26 to 2039/40. 1,000 of these dwellings are proposed for Horam, 600 for Frant, 600 for East Hoathly with Halland, 400 for Buxted, 300 for Maresfield, and 200 for Herstmonceux.

## Primary places

The number of 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.

Linked to recent and planned new housing, in-area numbers requiring a school place in the Maynards Green Community Primary School admissions area are forecast to be high, particularly in 2026/27 and 2027/28. If the school is to keep to its PAN of 30, it is likely that the school admissions system will have to direct some in-area applicants to surrounding schools, notably in Heathfield. Further new housing is envisaged in the 2030s, and this could lead to shortfalls of places in the longer term.

Based on birth and GP registration data, Frant CE Primary School is forecast to be able to keep to its PAN of 15 over the Plan period. Much of the new housing planned for the area is on the fringes of Tunbridge Wells in Kent, and many if not most of these children, may be expected to seek places there. Further new housebuilding may increase pressure on places in the following decade.

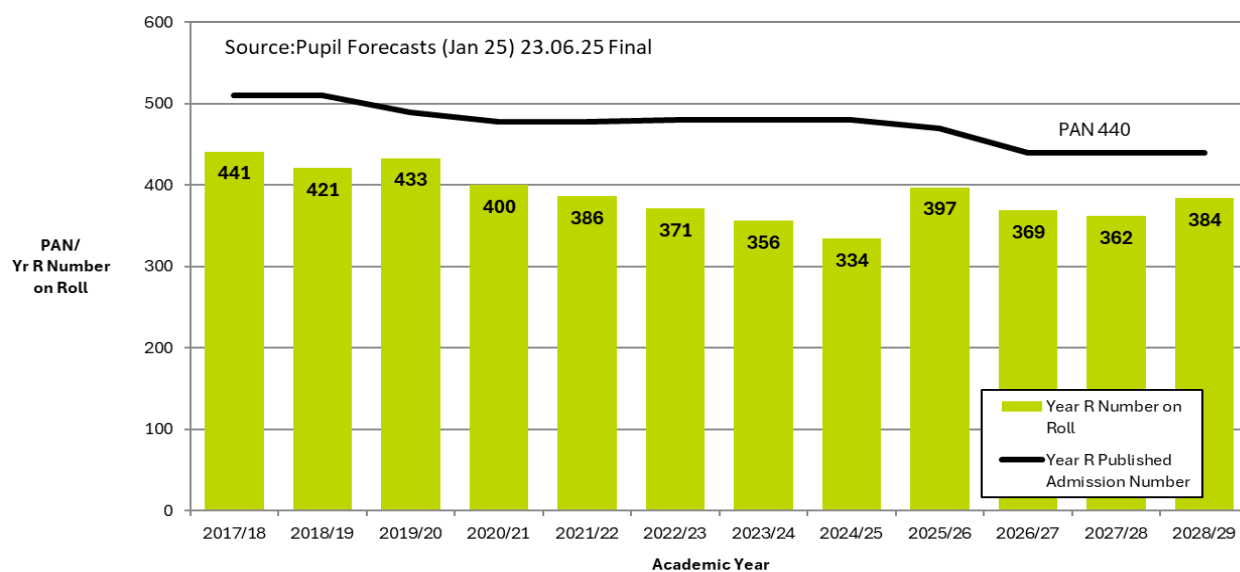
With the partial exception of 2028/29, birth and GP registration numbers in the East Hoathly CE Primary School admissions area are not particularly high. Therefore, pressures on Year R places from new house building in East Hoathly and Halland Parish may not occur until the 2030s when significant amounts of additional housing are proposed in the Draft Wealden Local Plan.

#### **Rural Wealden primary Year R numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Number on roll</b>
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	334
2025/26	470	397
2026/27	440	369
2027/28	440	362
2028/29	440	384

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Rural Wealden primary Year R numbers

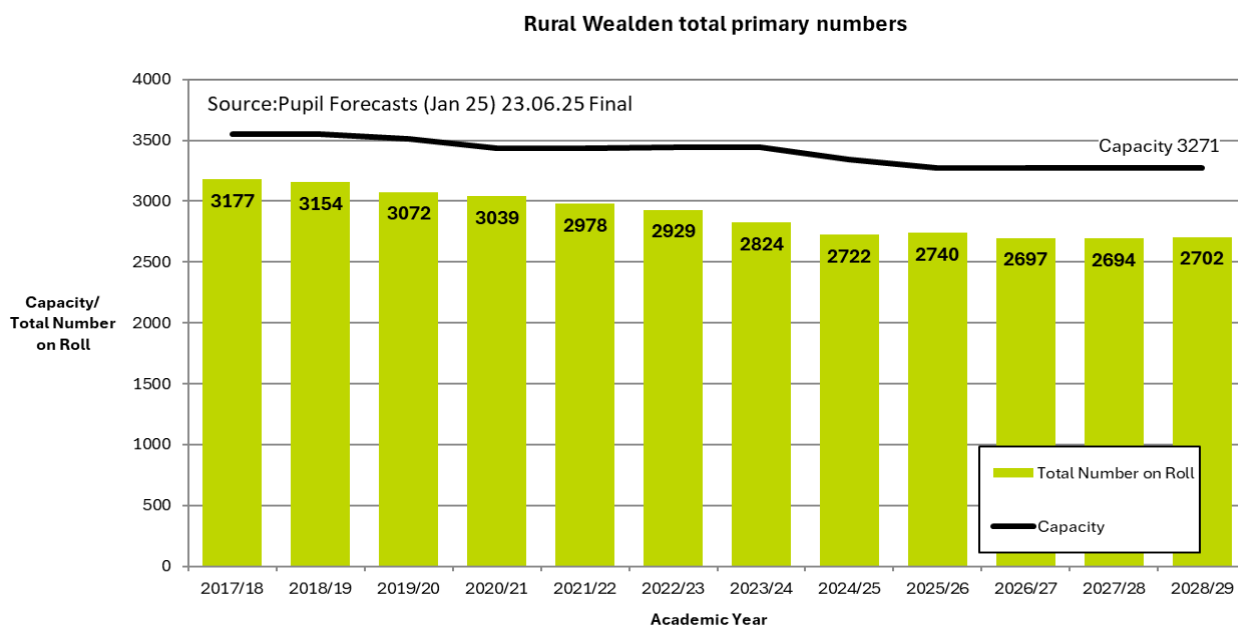


Overall pupil numbers in the area are forecast to remain fairly steady in the period to 2028/29, with surplus places of 17% by the end of the plan period. Eight schools have 25% or more surplus places.

### Rural Wealden total primary numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on Roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	3551	3177	374	11%
2018/19	3551	3154	397	11%
2019/20	3516	3072	444	13%
2020/21	3432	3039	393	11%
2021/22	3432	2978	454	13%
2022/23	3446	2929	517	15%
2023/24	3446	2824	622	18%
2024/25	3341	2722	619	19%
2025/26	3271	2740	531	16%
2026/27	3271	2697	574	18%
2027/28	3271	2694	577	18%
2028/29	3271	2702	569	17%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



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

The local authority is working with all small schools with large surpluses as part of our Small Schools Strategy. We will monitor the situation at the schools and take action to address any challenges where appropriate. For example:

- As a result of the PAN reduction at Mayfield CE Primary School from 2025/26, physical accommodation was removed from the school in summer 2025 thereby reducing the school's capacity from 210 places to 140 places.
- Forest Row CE Primary School lowered its age range with effect from 1 September 2024 to establish school-run nursery provision on site. As a result, the school's capacity reduced from 315 places to 210 places.
- The PANs at Wadhurst CE Primary School and Groombridge St Thomas' CE Primary School will reduce to 30 and 15 respectively from 2026/27. Accommodation will not be removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers begin to rise again.

## Secondary places

Part of Uplands Academy's admissions area overlaps with that of Heathfield Community College. The school takes significant numbers of children from across the border in Kent. The closure of High Weald Academy has resulted in increased demand from Kent pupils for Uplands Academy since 2022/23.

Uplands Academy's numbers are also affected by admissions and appeals to Kent Grammar Schools. Normally significantly more children from Kent take up places at Uplands Academy than move in the other direction. The school also takes pupils from the Robertsbridge Community College admissions area.

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, although the general trend in intake numbers may be gradually downwards.

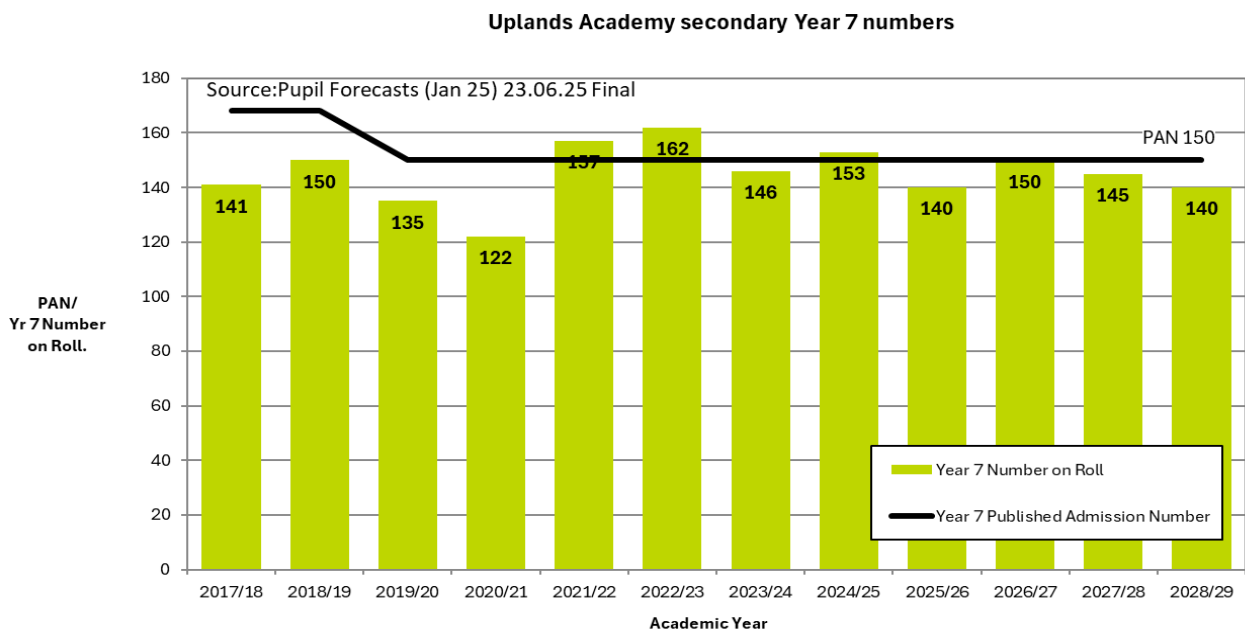


As most of this out of area demand is non-priority, it is not expected that the Uplands Academy will need to go over its PAN, unless it chooses to do so voluntarily. The school has sufficient places to accommodate in-area numbers.

#### Uplands Academy secondary Year 7 numbers from 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic year	PAN	Number on roll
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	153
2025/26	150	140
2026/27	150	150
2027/28	150	145
2028/29	150	140

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final



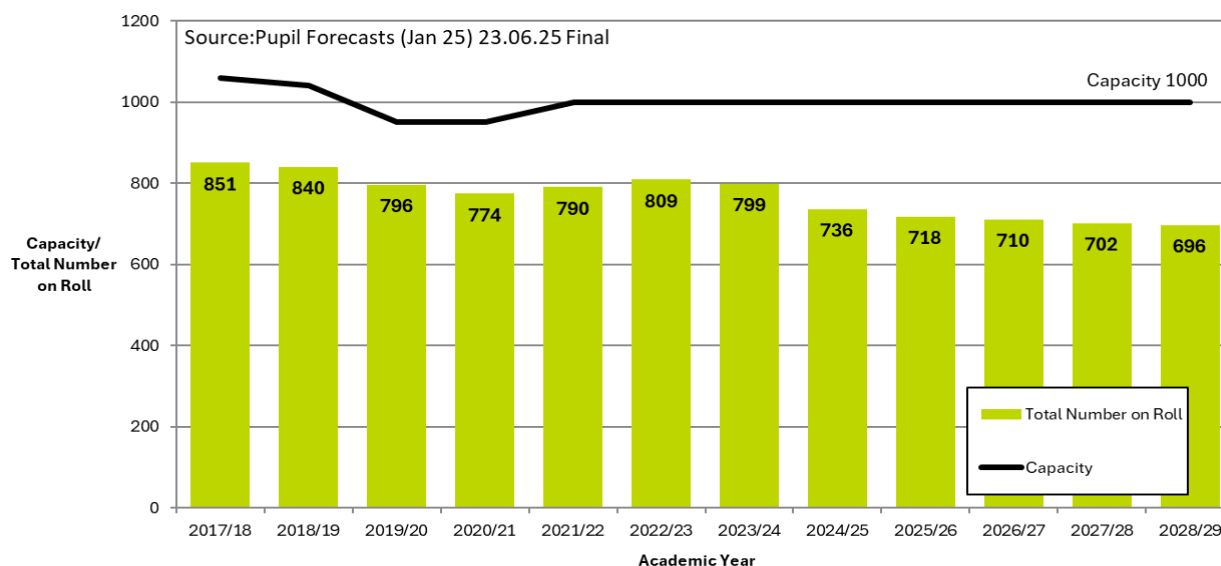
Surplus places, which stood at 26% in 2024/25, are forecast to rise to 30% by 2028/29. This is in part owing to the school's sixth form closing at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Accommodation has not been removed and will therefore distort surplus place figures at the school in future years.

## Uplands Academy total secondary numbers 2017/18 to 2028/29

Academic Year	Capacity	Number on roll	Surplus / (shortfall) of places	Surplus / (shortfall) %
2017/18	1060	851	209	20%
2018/19	1040	840	200	19%
2019/20	950	796	154	16%
2020/21	950	774	176	19%
2021/22	1000	790	210	21%
2022/23	1000	809	191	19%
2023/24	1000	799	201	20%
2024/25	1000	736	264	26%
2025/26	1000	718	282	28%
2026/27	1000	710	290	29%
2027/28	1000	702	298	30%
2028/29	1000	696	304	30%

Source: Pupil Forecasts (Jan 25) 23.06.25 Final

### Uplands Academy total secondary numbers



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

No further secondary school organisation changes are currently planned.

# Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

## Special schools

There are 13 maintained special schools in East Sussex, all of which are academies.

Special schools	Age range	Primary need designation	LA commissioned places 2025/26
Acre Wood Academy, Crowborough	4-19	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Severe Learning Difficulties Autistic Spectrum Disorder	146
Cuckmere House School, Seaford	5-16	Social Emotional and Mental Health Autistic Spectrum Disorder	97
Glyne Gap School, Bexhill	2-19	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Severe Learning Difficulties	126
Hazel Court School, Eastbourne	11-19	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Severe Learning Difficulties Autistic Spectrum Disorder	120
New Horizons, Hastings	5-16	Social Emotional and Mental Health Autistic Spectrum Disorder	98
Saxon Mount School, Hastings	11-16	Moderate Learning Difficulties Autistic Spectrum Disorder	165
St Mary's School, Horam	7-16	Social Emotional and Mental Health Autistic Spectrum Disorder	94
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	3-16	Autistic Spectrum Disorder Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	155
The Flagship School, Hastings	6-16	Social Emotional and Mental Health Autistic Spectrum Disorder	80
The Lindfield School, Eastbourne	11-16	Autistic Spectrum Disorder Moderate Learning Difficulties Speech, Language and Communication Needs	115
The Ropemakers Academy, Hailsham	4-16	Social Emotional and Mental Health	100
The South Downs School, Eastbourne	4-11	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Severe Learning Difficulties	160
Torfield School, Hastings	4-11	Autistic Spectrum Disorder Moderate Learning Difficulties	100

\* Correct on 1 October 2025

## Mainstream schools with specialist facilities

There are specialist facilities in 19 mainstream schools in East Sussex (9 primary and 10 secondary), catering for primary needs such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Physical Disabilities (PD).

School name	Designation	LA commissioned places 2025/26
<b>Primary schools</b>		
All Saints Church of England Primary School, Bexhill	Autistic Spectrum Disorder with associated Social Emotional and Mental Health and Speech, Language and Communication Needs	15
ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy, Hastings	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	15
Churchwood Primary Academy, Hastings	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Denton Community Primary School, Newhaven	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Grovelands Community Primary School, Hailsham	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	16
Manor Primary School, Uckfield	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Meridian Community Primary School, Peacehaven	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Wallands Community Primary and Nursery School, Lewes	Speech, Language and Communication Needs Autistic Spectrum Disorder	14
West St Leonards Primary Academy	Physical Disability Moderate Learning Difficulties	11
<b>Secondary schools</b>		
Bexhill High Academy	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Hailsham Academy	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	12
Heathfield Community College	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	12
Peacehaven Community School	Speech, Language and Communication Needs Autistic Spectrum Disorder	22
Priory School, Lewes	Specific Learning Difficulties Autistic Spectrum Disorder	12
Robertsbridge Community College	Specific Learning Difficulties Autistic Spectrum Disorder	12
The Eastbourne Academy	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	6
The Hastings Academy	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	6
The St Leonards Academy	Physical Disability Autistic Spectrum Disorder	12
Uckfield College	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	6

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.

## Demand for SEND provision

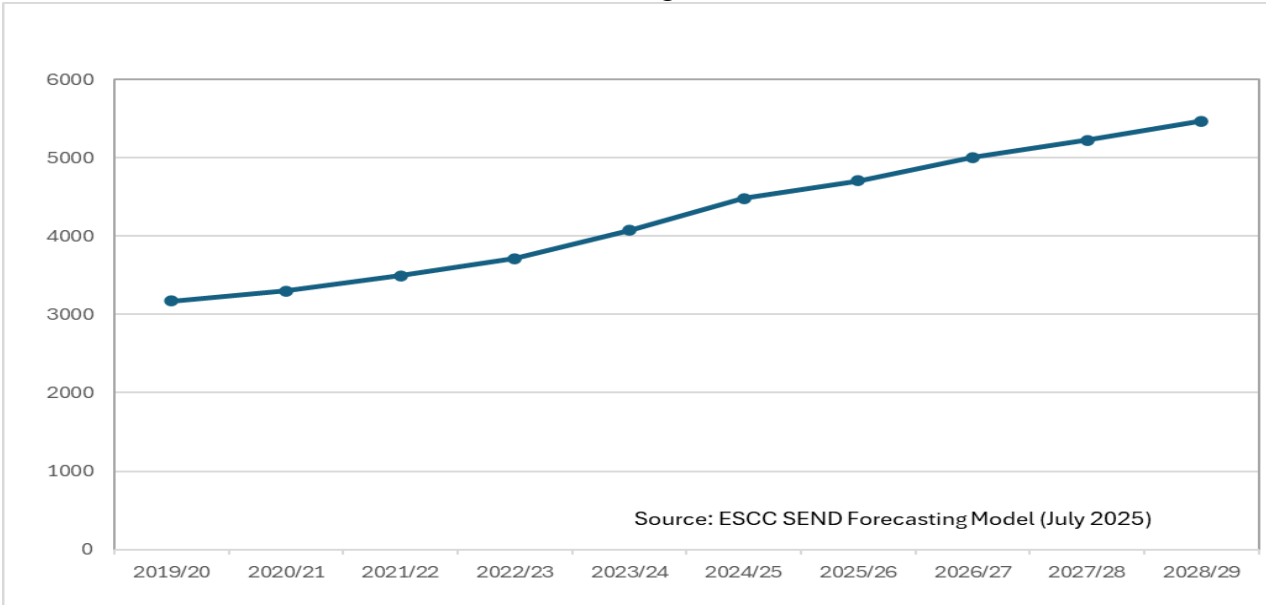
As with other local authorities nationally, the overall numbers of children and young people aged 4 to 25 with an EHCP has been growing significantly. In 2024/25, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an EHCP stood at 4,481. There were also 412 young people aged 19-25 who 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 22%, to nearly 5,500.

Overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs

Academic year	EHCPs
2019/20	3170
2020/21	3297
2021/22	3494
2022/23	3713
2023/24	4073
2024/25	4481
2025/26	4708
2026/27	5008
2027/28	5224
2028/29	5468

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2025)

Overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs



There has been a significant increase in parental demand for statutory plans and, alongside this, an increase in the requests for special school placements. Challenges with parental confidence in mainstream provision being able to meet the needs of children has had an impact on the number of requests for Education, Health and Care needs assessments and provision in the specialist sector.

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. There are no signs of this trend reducing.

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 Need. There has also been a growth in the number of children presenting with mental health needs that are impacting on school attendance, which has resulted in increases in demand in the area of Social Emotional and Mental Health needs. In the past year there has also been a jump in the number of children with a primary need of Moderate Learning Difficulties.

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

Key to primary need designations:

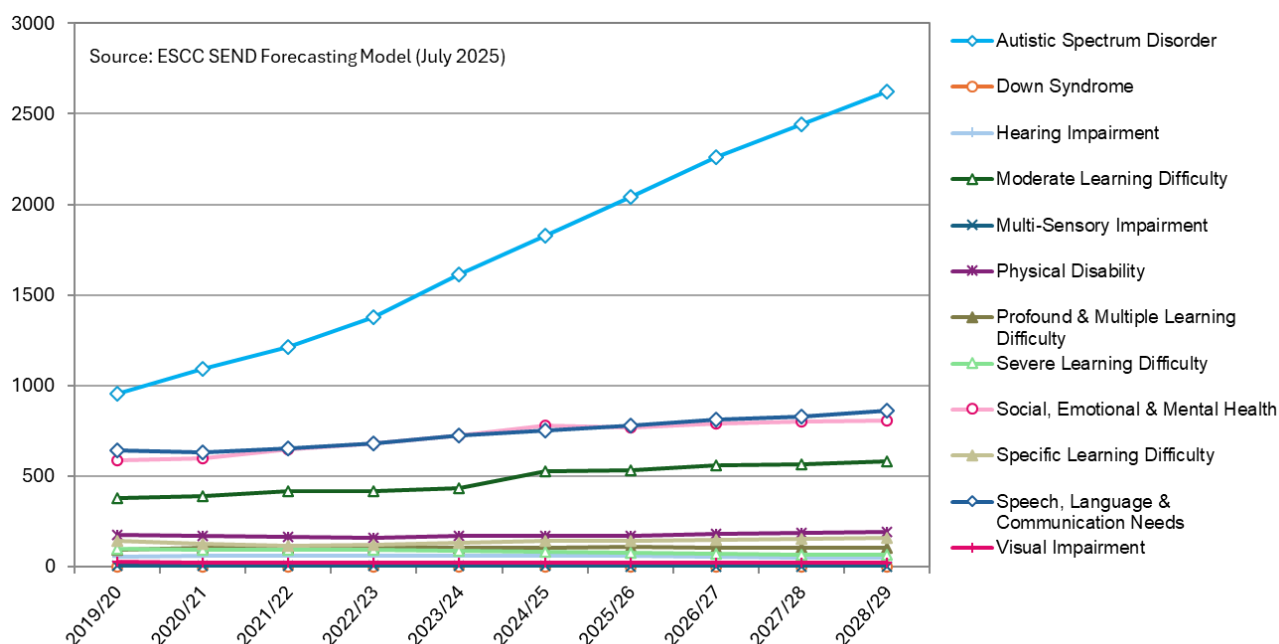
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
DS	Down Syndrome
HI	Hearing Impairment
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
MSI	Multi-sensory Impairment
PD	Physical Disability
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
SEMH	Social Emotional and Mental Health
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
VI	Visual Impairment

**EHCPs by primary need group (school aged children) from 2019/20 to 2028/29**

Need	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27	2027/ 28	2028/ 29
ASD	955	1091	1211	1375	1611	1830	2044	2262	2440	2624
DS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
HI	57	63	63	61	63	60	58	56	51	51
MLD	380	388	417	419	433	525	534	558	566	584
MSI	4	4	5	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
PD	178	170	165	157	168	172	170	179	186	190
PMLD	96	105	102	104	105	107	108	107	105	102
SLD	101	91	93	92	87	81	75	72	66	66
SEMH	587	600	648	682	725	781	770	789	804	807
SpLD	144	128	115	119	134	144	142	146	153	157
SLCN	642	633	653	680	723	754	780	815	830	864
VI	26	24	22	21	21	24	24	21	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3170</b>	<b>3297</b>	<b>3494</b>	<b>3713</b>	<b>4073</b>	<b>4481</b>	<b>4708</b>	<b>5008</b>	<b>5224</b>	<b>5468</b>

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2025)

**EHCPs by primary need group (school aged children) from 2019/20 to 2028/29**



In 2024/25, there were 2,071 East Sussex resident children and young people on roll in special schools. 1,907 were in schools in East Sussex and 164 were in schools in other authorities. 1,568 were in maintained provision (including academies) and 503 were in non-maintained and independent special schools. A further 225 East Sussex resident children and young people were in specialist facilities in mainstream schools.

The table and chart below show that, since 2020/21, the biggest need has been for places in maintained special schools and special 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 specialist facilities

Band D: Maintained special schools and special academies

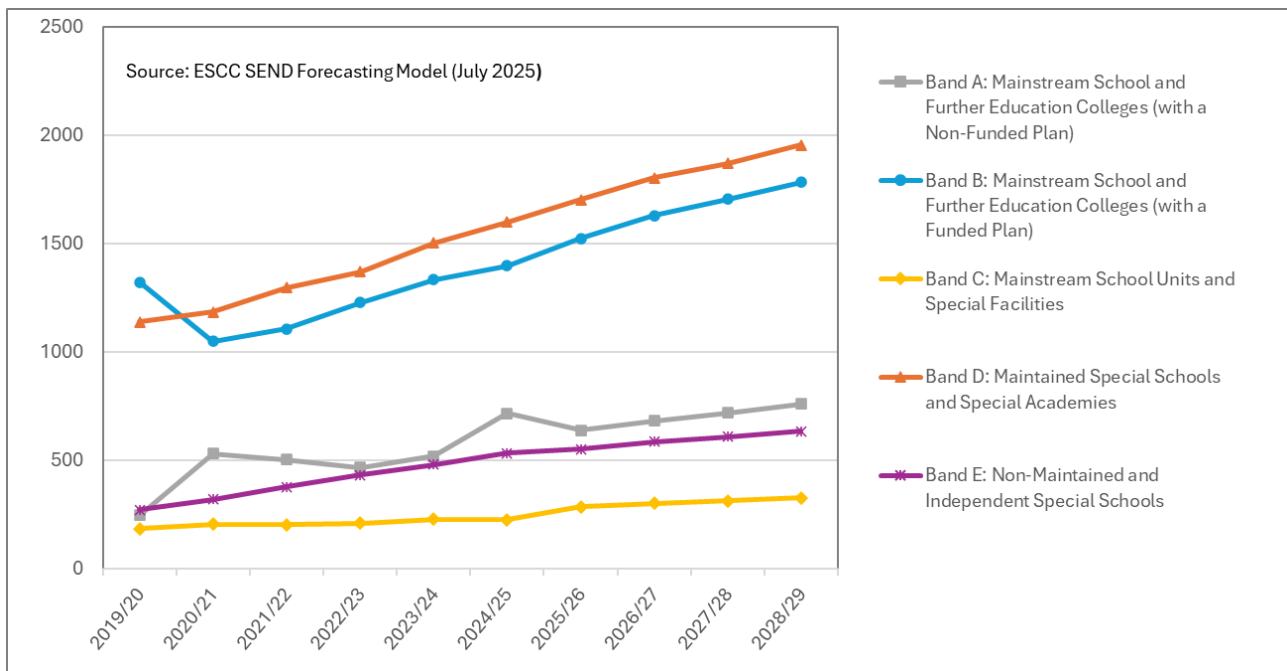
Band E: Non-maintained and independent special schools

#### EHCPs by type of provision needed

	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27	2027/ 28	2028/ 29
<b>Band A</b>	248	532	505	468	521	717	640	683	721	762
<b>Band B</b>	1323	1051	1108	1230	1335	1400	1525	1631	1706	1785
<b>Band C</b>	187	206	204	211	230	228	286	302	315	328
<b>Band D</b>	1139	1186	1298	1371	1505	1601	1704	1804	1871	1956
<b>Band E</b>	273	322	379	433	482	535	553	587	610	636
<b>Total</b>	<b>3170</b>	<b>3297</b>	<b>3494</b>	<b>3713</b>	<b>4073</b>	<b>4481</b>	<b>4708</b>	<b>5008</b>	<b>5224</b>	<b>5468</b>

Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2025)

## EHCPs by type of provision needed



The number of children and young people deemed to require a special school place has risen by over 600 (42%) in the past four years. The number of pupils placed in maintained special school places has risen by approximately 400 (35%); the number of places in independent and non-maintained special school places has risen by approximately 200, a 66% 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 available 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 and capacity of special school places from 2024/25 to 2028/29

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
<b>Capacity of places*</b>	1906	1936	1936	1936	1936
<b>Need for places** (No. of EHCPs)</b>	2364	2544	2694	2796	2921

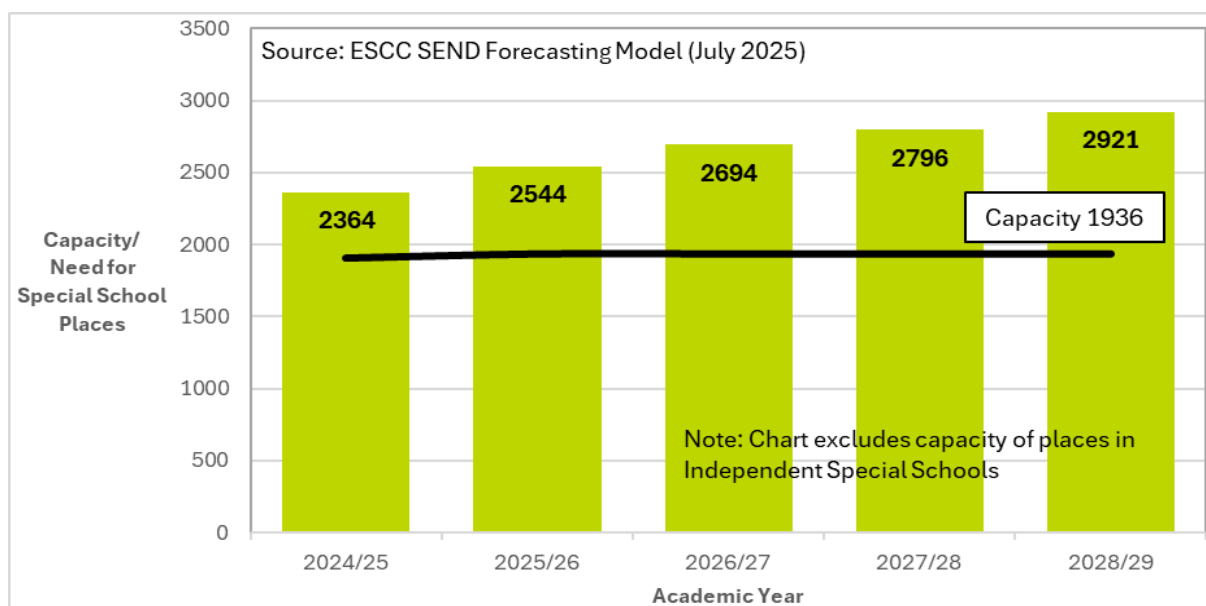
Source: ESCC SEND Forecasting Model (July 2025)

\*Capacity totals include maintained and non-maintained special schools and specialist facilities in mainstream schools, but excludes places in independent special schools

\*\* This includes the need for specialist facilities in mainstream schools



## Need for and capacity of special school places from 2024/25 to 2028/29



The local authority has to use high cost independent and non-maintained special school provision to meet the demand for specialist placements. This is because there is insufficient capacity in state run provision. If current placement trends continue over the period to 2028/29, the effective shortfall in state run specialist provision is forecast to increase by over 500 places.

Figures for 2024/25 show that 2.3% of all pupils in state-funded schools in East Sussex are in special schools. This compares to the national average for England of 2.0%. ([Schools, Pupils and Their Characteristics, Department for Education, 2025](#)).

## SEND place planning strategy

There is a broad offer of specialist provision across the county within the maintained, non-maintained and independent sectors with a comparatively high number of special school placements available when compared to the national average. The majority of places for our special schools are allocated at phase transfer (e.g. from primary Year 6 to secondary Year 7). The capacity for placements mid-year is a particular gap in provision as places are full at the start of the academic year.

In recent years the local authority has delivered new special school and mainstream specialist facility places, to help address the increasing demand for provision and to manage the high cost of placements in non-maintained and independent schools. This has included:

- 287 new special school places at: The Ropemakers Academy in Hailsham, The Flagship School in Hastings, and Summerdown School in Eastbourne.
- 72 new specialist facility places at seven mainstream schools (five primary and two secondary). The primary schools are: All Saints CE Primary School in Bexhill, Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings, Denton Community Primary School in Newhaven, Grovelands Community Primary School in Hailsham and Meridian Community Primary School in Peacehaven. The secondary schools are Priory School in Lewes and Robertsbridge Community College.
- 2 mainstream schools have extended the designation of their existing specialist facilities to include Autistic Spectrum Disorder to reflect the growing demand for

provision for children with autism. The schools are: Wallands Community Primary School in Lewes and Peacehaven Community School.

- Acre Wood Academy in Crowborough (formerly Grove Park School) extended its designation from 1 September 2025 to include Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Severe Learning Difficulties in addition to its previous designation of Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

Going forward, the local authority's SEND place planning strategy is focused on developing more specialist facilities in mainstream schools, supporting schools to be more inclusive and for children to be educated alongside their peers in their local communities. In the 2024/25 academic year we invited expressions of interest for new or expanded specialist facilities and have approved three new primary phase facilities, one new secondary phase facility and two expanded secondary school facilities:

- Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School: New specialist facility for 12 pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening January 2026.
- Ocklynge Junior School in Eastbourne: New specialist facility for 12 pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening January 2026.
- Uckfield College: Expansion of existing specialist facility from 6 to 12 places for pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening September 2025.
- Heathfield Community College: Expansion of existing specialist facility from 12 to 20 places for pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening date to be confirmed.
- Chyngton School: New specialist facility for 12 pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening date to be confirmed.
- Seaford Head School: New specialist facility for 12 pupils with a primary need classification of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Opening date to be confirmed.

We continue to work with schools to support new facilities in areas of need and to ensure progression routes between primary and secondary facilities. We continue to work with our special schools to ensure that their designation meets local needs, for example three schools with a designation of Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) have recently changed their designation to also include Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We are working with one of our special school trusts to pilot a satellite class at a local primary school. This would support inclusion whilst creating more capacity in our special schools.

The local authority is reorganising and expanding Acre Wood Academy's Church Road premises to increase capacity for secondary age students and create a school run nursery. Construction is due to commence in autumn 2025 with completion expected during the 2026/27 academic year. Secondary age students currently co-located at Beacon Academy in Crowborough will transition to their new accommodation for the start of the 2027/28 academic year. The new accommodation will benefit the school and pupils by bringing together primary and secondary provision on one site, supporting transition and making best use of the Church Road site. The new nursery will mean that children who need this provision can start at the school from 2 years old, ensuring a good start to their education.

We have also identified a need for more specialist provision for post-16 learners and are exploring with current special schools and post 16 providers how this can be best delivered.



# Alternative Provision

The local authority has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children, including those in need of alternative provision (AP) and to ensure that the alternative provision is suitable and good quality, as set out in the DfE guidance [Arranging Alternative Provision - guide for LAs and schools](#). AP is included as part of our SEND place planning strategy.

The local authority works with partners to ensure that there is sufficient and suitable AP and post-16 options for children and young people with SEND. This includes a focus on the range and quality of AP available in East Sussex and ensuring there are clear progression routes to post-16 education and training.

There is a range of AP available in East Sussex:

- The local authority fulfils its obligation to provide full-time education for all permanently excluded children by day 6 of a child's absence through the East Sussex Academy.
- The local authority commissions East Sussex Academy to provide tier 1 and tier 2<sup>1</sup> provision to schools.
- The AP Directory offers a range of AP for schools to commission from.
- Internal on-site AP delivered by schools.

In the 2024/25 academic year, the local authority commissioned 80 secondary places and 32 primary places for dual registered and day 6 provision. Take up was 100%.

In 2025/26 the local authority commissioned 220 places at the East Sussex Academy. This is a 96% increase on the number of places we commissioned in 2024/25. This is the first full year that the East Sussex Academy has been commissioned to deliver our day 6 provision. The provision will operate from three sites:

- East Sussex Academy, Hastings
- East Sussex Academy, Hailsham
- East Sussex Academy, Newhaven

Throughout the year we will continue to review how the AP commissioning is meeting need and if there are sufficient places available across the county.

The AP Directory has 26 providers on it. In 2024/25 schools commissioned 96 places<sup>2</sup> from the Directory. Feedback from schools show that there are some gaps in provision for Key Stage 1 providers and provision in some of our rural areas. We continue to work with schools and providers to encourage new providers to apply for the Directory where required.

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<sup>1</sup> **Tier 1:** Targeted support within school to support pupils at risk of exclusion to stay in mainstream education.

**Tier 2:** Time-limited placements in alternative provision with the expectation to return to their mainstream schools.

<sup>2</sup> Based on AP Directory School Survey results from 44 secondary schools and 31 primary schools.

## Post-16 Provision

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 in Years 12 and 13 (ages 16 and 17) is a key element of these duties, as is promoting effective participation.

In fulfilling these duties, the Council provides support to schools and post-16 education training providers to ensure our young people can make a successful post-16 transition to a destination of their choice.

We work with providers to ensure that the post-16 provision offer meets 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
- commissioning the Youth Employability Service to provide information, advice and guidance to vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment, or training or at risk of not being so

### Current Post-16 provision in East Sussex

There are a number of different options for post-16 study in East Sussex including:

- Schools with sixth forms
- Special schools with post-16 provision
- General Further Education Colleges (GFE)
- Sixth form colleges
- Independent learning providers
- Private training providers including apprenticeship providers
- Specialist provision for young people with an EHCP

The tables below list the schools and colleges offering post-16 provision in East Sussex. There are five schools with sixth forms, three special schools with sixth forms and four post-16 colleges:

Schools with Sixth Forms	
School Name	Location
Beacon Academy	Crowborough
Hailsham Academy*	Hailsham
Heathfield Community College	Heathfield
Seaford Head School	Seaford
Uckfield College	Uckfield

\*Sixth Form provision is due to close from September 2026

Special Schools with Sixth Forms	
School Name	Location
Glyne Gap School	Bexhill
Acre Wood Academy	Crowborough
Hazel Court School	Eastbourne

Post-16 Colleges	Location	Type
College Name		
Bexhill College	Bexhill	Sixth Form College
DV8 Bexhill	Bexhill	Creative College
East Sussex College	Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes	GFE College
Plumpton College	Plumpton	Land based College

For more information about post-16 provision in East Sussex, visit our local offer at [College, Courses and Education | East Sussex Local Offer](#).

## Demand for Provision

Demand for provision is more complex for the post-16 age group due to the increased breadth of learner choice compared to those of statutory school age. Availability of opportunities such as apprenticeships and supported internships are dictated by the labour market and as such can fluctuate creating unexpected pressures in other areas of provision.

Recent growth in demand for EHCPs is also increasing the pressure on providers offering specialist programmes designed for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

The following table provides a breakdown of the numbers of young people in education employment or training and those not in education, employment or training as at June 2025.

Cohort group	Cohort size	In education, employment or training	Not in education, employment or training
Year 12s (16 years)	6057	5818 (96%)	239 (4%)

Year 13s (17 years)	5915	5564 (94%)	351 (6%)
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The local authority will work with education and training providers alongside local employers to ensure that all young people are encouraged and supported to participate in education and training leading towards sustained employment.

## Post-16 Destinations

The post-16 destinations of our students are tracked in line with our statutory reporting duties. According to the 2024 Annual Activity data (1 November 2024), 90% of our Year 11 students progressed to further study in post-16 settings. The following table outlines the distribution of students across various course type.

Post-16 Destination	Percentage of Year 11 Students
<b>Total progressing to further study</b>	<b>90%</b>
A Levels	36%
Level 2 courses	25%
Level 3 courses	19%
Level 1 courses	11%
T Levels	5%
Entry Level	3%
Special Needs and other courses	1%

The number of places available at level 2 continues to be a provision gap. The number of training providers in East Sussex has decreased considerably over the past few years due to the ceasing of European Social Fund support and short term, Covid related funding. Work with the Department for Education and post-16 providers has been ongoing for several years to ensure that provision is developed in response to demand to ensure that young people have an offer for post-16 learning that meets their needs and aspirations.

## Post-19 SEND

In the 2024/25 academic year there were 482 young people with EHCPs aged 19-25 in post-16 education. Most of these young people were enrolled on courses at level 2 and below, with a quarter enrolled at level 3. There is an identified need for the local authority to work with providers to develop post-16 SEND provision to meet demand for places. This includes ensuring progression routes for young people with SEND into college and progression routes for young people aged 16-25 with profound multiple learning difficulties that promote preparation for adulthood.

# Appendix 1: Individual school capacities and forecast numbers on roll

## Primary school capacities and forecast numbers on roll (NOR)

Eastbourne primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Bourne Primary School	420	406	391	377	367
Gildredge House (primary phase)	392	421	420	420	420
Heron Park Primary Academy	420	283	267	247	231
Langney Primary Academy	420	422	414	407	408
Motcombe Infants' School	360	227	213	205	180
Oakwood Primary Academy	420	257	244	251	257
Ocklynge Junior School	840	713	670	634	647
Parkland Infant School	180	180	177	176	179
Parkland Junior School	240	240	241	240	240
Pashley Down Infant School	270	241	248	270	270
Roselands Infants' School	270	250	237	222	223
Shinewater Primary School	420	361	333	298	273
St Andrew's CE Infants School	270	230	218	194	194
St John's Meads CE Primary School	218	173	161	157	153
St Thomas à Becket Catholic Primary School	420	445	444	444	444
Stafford Junior School	360	374	372	372	356
The Cavendish School (primary phase)	420	422	421	421	420
The Haven CE Methodist Primary School	420	407	391	372	356
Tollgate Community Junior School	360	356	350	356	335
West Rise Primary School	630	624	614	606	602
<b>Total</b>	<b>7750</b>	<b>7031</b>	<b>6827</b>	<b>6669</b>	<b>6555</b>



Hastings primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
All Saints CE Junior Academy	240	227	232	227	233
ARK Blacklands Primary Academy	630	629	630	630	628
Ark Castledown Primary Academy	420	354	349	326	306
ARK Little Ridge Primary Academy	420	433	432	430	427
Christ Church CE Primary and Nursery Academy	420	385	371	350	328
Churchwood Primary Academy	210	196	193	186	182
Dudley Infant Academy	180	173	174	178	173
Hollington Primary School	420	245	232	216	191
Ore Village Primary Academy	420	243	226	204	179
Robsack Wood Primary Academy	420	341	335	320	301
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	210	202	198	190	183
Sandown Primary School and Nursery	420	419	419	420	418
Silverdale Primary Academy	630	622	622	620	617
St Leonard's CE Primary Academy	420	418	422	422	418
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	210	201	199	191	183
St Paul's Church of England Academy	630	605	598	583	565
The Baird Primary Academy	420	278	268	261	252
West St Leonards Primary Academy	420	420	422	411	406
<b>Total</b>	<b>7140</b>	<b>6390</b>	<b>6319</b>	<b>6165</b>	<b>5991</b>

Lewes and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Iford & Kingston CE Primary School	210	170	164	156	156
South Malling CE Primary School	210	205	205	204	205
Southover CE Primary School	420	286	261	240	230
Wallands Community Primary School	420	266	256	249	234
Western Road Community Primary School	210	211	211	211	211
<b>Total</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1036</b>

The Havens - Newhaven primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Breakwater Academy	210	148	135	139	143
Denton Community Primary and Nursery School	210	207	211	210	208
Harbour Primary and Nursery School	420	412	414	417	420
High Cliff Academy	210	154	155	166	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>943</b>

The Havens - Peacehaven primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery	420	421	424	425	424
Peacehaven Heights Academy	420	333	332	315	316
Telscombe Cliffs Academy	630	492	484	447	407
<b>Total</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>1148</b>

Seaford primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Annecy Catholic Primary School	210	184	176	165	158
Chyngton School	420	340	308	276	252
Cradle Hill Community Primary School	630	619	610	594	587
Seaford Primary School	420	397	379	355	340
<b>Total</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>1337</b>

Rural Lewes primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Barcombe CE Primary School	140	127	124	126	128
Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School	140	106	96	85	88
Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School	168	200	201	204	201
Firle CE Primary School	105	56	56	55	53
Hamsey Community Primary School	105	98	91	90	90
Newick CE Primary School	210	212	213	205	206
Plumpton Primary School	140	138	137	136	141
Ringmer Primary and Nursery School	315	289	296	297	301
Wivelsfield Primary School	240	223	227	231	233
<b>Total</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>1450</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1428</b>	<b>1441</b>

<b>Bexhill and surrounding area primary schools</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
All Saints CE Primary School	210	221	220	218	217
Catsfield CE Primary School	105	104	104	105	106
Chantry Community Primary School	210	197	201	206	209
Glenleigh Park Primary Academy	525	323	348	308	319
King Offa Primary Academy	420	375	376	372	378
Little Common School	630	626	632	632	634
Ninfield CE Primary School	157	138	133	131	130
Pebsham Primary Academy	210	198	200	202	206
St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	210	209	210	211	213
St Peter and St Paul CE Primary School	420	420	421	421	423
<b>Total</b>	<b>3097</b>	<b>2810</b>	<b>2844</b>	<b>2804</b>	<b>2834</b>

<b>Battle Primary School</b>	<b>Capacity 2023/24</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Battle and Langton CE Primary School	420	422	435	446	448

<b>Rye and surrounding area primary schools</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Peasmarsh CE Primary School	105	71	69	70	72
Rye Community Primary School	420	191	184	162	167
St Michael's CE Primary School	105	79	71	72	64
St Thomas' CE Aided Primary School	140	142	142	143	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>446</b>

<b>Rural Rother primary schools</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Beckley CE Primary School	105	90	90	88	81
Bodiam CE Primary School	105	75	71	75	73
Brede Primary School	140	95	89	87	90
Burwash CE School	175	158	151	153	149
Crowhurst CE Primary School	105	92	88	83	77
Dallington CE Primary School	105	113	107	106	106
Etchingham CE Primary School	105	100	99	95	97
Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary School	210	190	191	187	192

Rural Rother primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Hurst Green CE Primary School and Nursery	140	112	114	116	116
Icklesham CE Primary School	105	99	100	100	102
Netherfield CE Primary School	140	123	126	120	119
Northiam CE Primary School and Nursery	140	114	120	117	122
Salehurst CE Primary School	210	152	138	138	133
Sedlescombe CE Primary School	210	206	204	195	189
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	105	82	81	74	73
Stonegate CE Primary School	105	97	98	99	101
Ticehurst and Flimwell CE Primary School	210	107	102	101	95
Westfield School	210	181	173	170	161
<b>Total</b>	<b>2625</b>	<b>2184</b>	<b>2142</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>2075</b>

Crowborough and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Ashdown Primary School	420	403	401	399	397
Jarvis Brook Primary School	210	95	100	84	89
Rotherfield Primary School	210	205	205	207	206
Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary School	420	396	391	375	369
St John's CE Primary School	210	207	209	206	210
St Marys Catholic Primary School	210	216	213	210	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>1480</b>

Hailsham and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Grovelands Community Primary School	630	640	639	639	637
Hailsham Academy (primary phase)	420	417	422	424	424
Hawkes Farm Academy	420	336	348	364	413
Hellingly Community Primary School	210	201	206	212	212
Park Mead Primary School	105	85	89	93	92
Thornton Grove Academy	270	217	212	214	220
White House Academy	210	195	201	209	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>2415</b>	<b>2091</b>	<b>2118</b>	<b>2155</b>	<b>2207</b>

Heathfield primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
All Saints' and St Richard's CE Primary School	140	88	91	83	80
Cross-in-Hand CE Primary School	420	386	379	367	359
Parkside Community Primary School	210	208	208	209	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>648</b>

Polegate and Willingdon primary schools	Capacity 2023/24	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Polegate Primary School	630	627	615	611	614
Willingdon Primary School	420	417	419	420	421
<b>Total</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>614</b>

Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Hankham Primary School	140	111	114	124	130
Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School	420	412	401	391	387
Stone Cross School	420	423	420	421	423
<b>Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>941</b>

Uckfield and surrounding area primary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Framfield CE Primary School	105	88	87	82	80
Harlands Primary School	210	214	214	212	211
Little Horsted CE School	105	93	92	88	87
Manor Primary School	420	415	411	402	402
Rocks Park Primary School	210	213	212	212	210
St Philip's Catholic Primary School	210	199	189	181	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1166</b>

Rural Wealden	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Alfriston School	105	82	80	79	77
Blackboys CE Primary School	140	135	139	141	143
Bonners CE School, Maresfield	105	100	96	95	90
Buxted CE Primary School	210	194	193	193	205

<b>Rural Wealden</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Chiddingly Primary School	105	106	105	106	105
Danehill CE Primary School	105	90	86	81	81
East Hoathly CE Primary School	105	76	78	84	94
Five Ashes CE Primary School	56	53	52	50	53
Fletching CE Primary School	105	80	80	82	90
Forest Row CE Primary School	210	170	171	175	174
Frant CE Primary School	105	102	102	108	112
Groombridge St Thomas' CE Primary School	210	133	121	121	112
Herstmonceux CE Primary School	205	207	213	214	215
High Hurstwood CE Primary School	105	96	96	96	98
Laughton Community Primary School	105	80	83	88	92
Mark Cross CE Primary School	105	90	89	86	86
Mayfield CE Primary School	140	147	141	141	136
Maynards Green Community Primary School	210	206	209	210	211
Nutley CE Primary School	105	64	60	59	58
Punnetts Town Community Primary School	105	100	98	92	86
St Mark's CE Primary School, Hadlow Down	105	54	49	43	44
St Mary the Virgin CE Primary School, Hartfield	105	80	75	72	69
St Michael's Primary School	105	71	61	53	44
Wadhurst CE Primary School	315	226	221	225	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>3271</b>	<b>2740</b>	<b>2697</b>	<b>2694</b>	<b>2702</b>

## Secondary school capacities and forecast numbers on roll (NOR)

Eastbourne secondary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Gildredge House (secondary phase)	840	748	744	738	732
Ratton School	1215	1201	1201	1211	1210
St Catherine's College	1040	1071	1064	1063	1055
The Cavendish School (secondary phase)	1000	900	907	906	906
The Eastbourne Academy	900	775	763	732	704
The Turing School	945	800	828	828	799
<b>Total</b>	<b>5940</b>	<b>5495</b>	<b>5507</b>	<b>5478</b>	<b>5406</b>

Hastings secondary schools	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
ARK Alexandra Academy	2100	1376	1334	1296	1231
The Hastings Academy	900	821	833	837	836
The St Leonards Academy	1500	1332	1347	1369	1380
<b>Total</b>	<b>4500</b>	<b>3529</b>	<b>3514</b>	<b>3502</b>	<b>3447</b>

Lewes and surrounding area	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Priory School	1160	1176	1176	1175	1168

The Havens	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Peacehaven Community School	900	897	889	877	870
Seahaven Academy	900	719	678	660	614
<b>Total</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1616</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>1484</b>

Seaford	Capacity	NOR 2025/26	NOR 2026/27	NOR 2027/28	NOR 2028/29
Seaford Head School	1575	1457	1432	1423	1401

<b>Rural Lewes</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Chailey School	900	868	885	898	902
King's Academy Ringmer	1080	681	709	715	697

<b>Bexhill and surrounding area</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Bexhill High Academy	1650	1425	1417	1433	1433
St Richard's Catholic College	1000	1028	1022	1012	1008
<b>Total</b>	<b>2650</b>	<b>2453</b>	<b>2439</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>2441</b>

<b>Battle</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Claverham Community College	1150	1152	1154	1155	1153

<b>Rye and surrounding area</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Rye College	750	663	687	704	686

<b>Rural Rother</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Robertsbridge Community College	800	676	638	605	587

<b>Crowborough and surrounding area</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Beacon Academy	2050	1641	1616	1596	1558

<b>Hailsham and surrounding area</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Hailsham Academy (secondary phase)	1800	1103	1087	1086	1082

<b>Heathfield</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Heathfield Community College	1560	1411	1418	1414	1412



<b>Polegate and Willingdon</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Willingdon Community School	1110	1117	1124	1128	1098

<b>Uckfield and surrounding area</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Uckfield College	1750	1630	1654	1680	1689

<b>Rural Wealden</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NOR 2025/26</b>	<b>NOR 2026/27</b>	<b>NOR 2027/28</b>	<b>NOR 2028/29</b>
Uplands Academy	1000	718	710	702	696

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