

Pupil Forecasting and School Places

1. Introduction

1.1 School place planning predictions are derived mainly from the Local Authority’s pupil forecasting model. The model produces forecasts of the number of children and young people in state funded primary and secondary schools in East Sussex (including maintained schools, free schools and academies).

1.2 The model forecasts pupil numbers:

- Countywide
- For each district and borough
- For each primary and secondary school place planning area (based largely on admissions areas)
- For each individual primary (including infant and junior) and secondary school

1.3 In producing pupil forecasts a number of key factors are taken into account. For the purposes of this report these include:

- Existing and planned capacities of school places as well as published intake numbers
- Existing numbers of pupils in schools (from pupil census data)
- Births (from ONS data) and resulting primary reception year intakes
- GP registration data
- Parental preference for primary reception year
- Additional pupils arising from new housing development in each area

1.4 In the absence of live birth data, longer term predictions are based on ESCC’s Policy Based Population Projections of future births.

2. Accuracy of forecasts

2.1 The Council’s forecasts achieve a good standard of accuracy and compare well to other local authorities. For instance the accuracy of the one year ahead total primary number on roll forecast for the last four years is as follows:

One year forward primary number on roll forecast	
Academic Year	Accuracy
2012/13	+ 0.5%
2013/14	+ 0.4%
2014/15	+ 0.4%
2015/16	+ 0.1%

2.1 Note that the Council’s forecasts tend to err on the high side.

3 Pupil yield from new housing development

3.1 The pupil forecasts allow for the impact of families with school aged children moving into new housing and creating additional demand across all academic year groups.

3.2 The Council's primary pupil yield factors are as follows:

Pupil yield per new dwelling by property type and size	Houses 2 bed+	Flats 2 bed+	All 1-bed
Primary school yields	0.25	0.0375	0.00

3.3 Pupil yield factors are based on the surveys of residents of new housing development. In 2014 and 2015 the Council commissioned consultants Cognisant Research to undertake a study to review its pupil yield factors. The Cognisant Survey involved a mixture of face to face interviews and self-completion questionnaires with a sample of over 1000 households living in newly built housing across East Sussex.

3.4 This survey found the following 'direct' pupil yields.

Direct pupil yields per new dwelling by property type and size (Cognisant Survey)	Houses 2 bed+	Flats 2 bed+	All 1-bed
Primary school yields	0.32	0.16	0.01

3.5 However, the survey also found that many families who had moved into new housing had not changed their children's school. Cognisant were commissioned to undertake a further analysis of the survey data to take account of this fact. The study also allowed for the possibility that when households move to a new dwelling, the dwelling they vacate could potentially be occupied by a family with children (a phenomenon known as backfill).

3.6 This study resulted in the following 'net yields' per dwelling:

Net yields per new dwelling by property type and size (Cognisant Studies)	Houses 2 bed+	Flats 2 bed+	All 1-bed
Primary school yields	0.23	0.11	0.06

3.7 For houses (the dwelling type where most school aged children are to be found) the net yield analysis not only resulted in a lower primary pupil yield than the direct yield analysis, the net yield was also lower than the existing yield factor for housing.

3.8 While in many respects the net yield analysis represents a more sophisticated calculation of pupil yield, in view of the risk that it may underestimate the true level of pupil yield, Children's Services Senior Management Team decided to continue using the Council's existing pupil yields which give a slightly higher pupil yield for houses. This means our forecasts will over estimate pupil numbers rather than under estimate.

3.9 Note that the entire pupil yield from new housing development will not impact on schools all in one year. It will be spread over a number of years and academic year groups. In consequence, some school places used by some children arising from the new housing will be vacated and, therefore, available to later children arising from the new housing.

4. Future forecasts in the Local Area

4.1 For the purposes of this report the live birth data for Newhaven and the surrounding parishes of South Heighton, Iford, Kingston Piddinghoe, Rodmell and Southease have been combined as the figures in some years for the individual parishes are too small to be included from a data protection perspective.

4.2 It should be noted that the average annual birth rate in the Rodmell and Southease Parish in the period 2001/02 (reception year intake 2006/07) to 2010/11 (reception year intake 2015/16) was only 3.4. In the period 2011/12 (reception year intake 2016/17) to 2014/15 (reception year intake 2019/20) the average annual birth rate was even lower at 2.5.

4.3 The table below looks at the historical relationship between births and primary reception year intakes in the Newhaven schools, Iford and Kingston CE Primary School and Rodmell CE Primary School over the last seven years. Children choosing to travel from Peacehaven and Seaford to attend Rodmell CE Primary School average out at less than two per year and have therefore been excluded from this analysis. The Local Authority's pupil forecasts for Peacehaven and Seaford indicate there will be sufficient reception year places in each town to meet future demand.

Births v reception intakes (Newhaven and the surrounding parishes of South Heighton, Iford, Kingston, Piddinghoe, Rodmell and Southease)	2004/05 (2009/10 intake)	2005/06 (2010/11 intake)	2006/07 (2011/12 intake)	2007/08 (2012/13 intake)	2008/09 (2013/14 intake)	2009/10 (2014/15 intake)	2010/11 (2015/16 intake)
Combined live births (from ONS data)	148	159	164	183	171	174	181
Reception year intakes	136	140	153	179	153	174	176

4.4 As the table illustrates, generally there has been a lower uptake of school places than births in the area reflecting either children moving away before they reach school age, parents choosing schools outside of the local area or opting to send their children to the independent sector.

4.5 Pupil forecasts for the following academic year (2016/17) are based on admissions allocations on National Offer Day and allow the Local Authority to make a firm prediction on numbers.

4.6 Pupil forecasts for the following three academic years (2017/18 to 2019/20) use actual birth data, GP registrations at 31 August 2015. The forecasts take account of the historic relationship between births and GP registrations and the resulting reception year numbers (reception year numbers tend to be lower) but also make an allowance for additional children moving into the area and requiring a reception year place as a result of new housing development.

4.7 The table below provides the birth and GP registration data and the admissions allocations (where applicable) for the next four academic years for the area.

Births and GP registrations (Newhaven and the surrounding parishes of South Heighton, Iford, Kingston, Piddinghoe, Rodmell and Southease)	2016/17 (2011/12 births)	2017/18 (2012/13 births)	2018/19 (2013/14 births)	2019/20 (2014/15 births)
Combined live births (from ONS data)	191	164	162	178
GP registration data at 31 August 2015	213	167	171	161
Admissions allocations April 2016	214	n/a	n/a	n/a

4.8 Longer term forecasts are based on ESCC's Policy Based Population Projections which take account of the impact of planned new housing development on future levels of births. Forecasts based on longer term population projections are naturally less certain than forecasts benefitting from actual data on school admissions, live births or GP registrations.

4.9 Based on all of the data outlined above, the Local Authority has produced a forecast of future primary reception year intakes in the area. The table below illustrates the forecasts.

Primary reception year forecast	PAN	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Rodmell CE Primary School	9	4	5	7	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Newhaven schools	150	180*	131	135	140	133	133	134	139	139	139	140	140	140	140	140
Iford and Kingston CE Primary School	30	30	25	28	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Totals	189	214	161	170	179	172	172	173	178	178	178	179	179	179	179	179

* Includes a bulge reception year intake of 60 at Newhaven Academy

4.10 From around 2023/24 the demographic based forecasts indicate that places might be tight in the area as a result of ongoing housing development in Newhaven (assuming Rodmell CE Primary School were to close in August 2017). If at any point in the future temporary shortfalls were to appear in the Newhaven area as a result of housing developments in Newhaven, there is capacity at other schools in the town to provide one off bulge classes if required.

5. School places available in the local area

5.1 The table below sets out the predicted number of spaces available in other schools in the local area were Rodmell CE Primary School to close on 31 August 2017. The information is based on year group numbers provided by the schools in May and June 2016 rolled forward two academic years. Reception and Year 1 numbers are based on the intake forecasts set out in Table 3 above.

Space available at alternative schools	Predicted number on roll by year group 2017/18							
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Rodmell CE Primary School								
Pupil numbers by year group	5	4	8	9	6	4	4	40
Iford & Kingston CE Primary School								
Pupil numbers by year group	25	30	30	31	29	26	25	196
Year Group PANs	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210
Spaces available	5	0	0	0	1	4	5	14
Newhaven schools								
Pupil numbers by year group	134	180	138	142	129	153	126	1002
Year Group PANs	150	180	150	150	150	150	120	1050
Spaces available	16	0	12	8	21	0	0	57
Peacehaven schools								
Pupil numbers by year group	201	231	192	221	207	214	195	1461
Year Group PANs	210	240	210	240	210	210	210	1530
Spaces available	9	9	18	19	3	0	15	73
Seaford schools								
Pupil numbers by year group	230	237	235	235	237	218	215	1607
Year Group PANs	240	240	270	240	240	210	210	1650
Spaces available	10	3	35	5	3	0	0	56

Source: Data provided by schools to the Admissions Team in May/June 2016

Pupil numbers for Reception to Year 4 are rolled forward for 2017/18 (e.g. current Year 4 is shown as Year 6 in 2017/18)

Pupil numbers for Reception and Year 1 are taken from the provisional intake forecasts for 2016/17 and 2017/18

Year group PANs have been adjusted to take account of existing and proposed bulge classes.

- 5.2 The Local Authority believes there will be sufficient places available in other schools in the area for children from Rodmell CE Primary School were it to close, although a shortfall of places might occur in Years 1, 5 and 6 in Newhaven depending on where children live. This would need to be addressed in collaboration with the other schools in the area.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The majority of children attending Rodmell CE Primary School do not live within the local area to the school. Only 19% of pupils attending the school at the January 2016 census came from the community area. The significant majority of children living in the community area choose to attend other local schools. No child allocated a reception year place for September 2016 lives in the school's community area.
- 6.2 Even if Rodmell CE Primary School were to fill to capacity it would remain a very small school (63 places). There are insufficient pupils in the community area now, and predicted for the future, to sustain an educationally and financially viable primary school in the long term without relying on attracting pupils from areas closer to other schools.