

East Sussex County Council

School Organisation Plan

2023 to 2027



EDUCATION
EAST SUSSEX
TOGETHER FOR EXCELLENCE
AND INCLUSION



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Executive summary

The School Organisation Plan, which covers the period 2023 to 2027, is a 4-year rolling plan that is updated annually. It sets out how East Sussex County Council (the local authority), in accordance with its statutory duty, seeks to ensure there are sufficient primary, secondary and special school places in the right locations to meet demand.

The document contains information on:

- the current pattern of school provision across the county.
- forecasts of future school numbers.
- our plans to meet the need for additional 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 and can lead to rising as well as declining pupil numbers. Increases in demand can lead to the establishment of new schools or the expansion of existing schools. Decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in places through changes to admission arrangements or the rationalisation of provision.

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

Over the plan period there will continue to be areas of growing demand for school places, primarily linked to the rising number of children and young people with an Education, Health, and Care Plan. However, there will also be areas with a declining demand, including in the rural areas of East Sussex. Some schools will face challenges associated with falling rolls which can create budget pressures and impact on decisions of school leadership and organisation.

We work closely with local planning authorities, developers, school leaders, governors, academy trusts, the Diocese of Chichester and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton to ensure there are the right numbers 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 sufficient 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.

The introduction of the Academies Act in 2010 makes it possible for all maintained schools to become academies. On 1 September 2023 there were 79 academies in East Sussex (42% of all schools). All new schools to have been established in East Sussex since 2010 have opened as an academy in line with government policy.



Hailsham Community College

Policies and strategies

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

Excellence for All

[Excellence for All](#) sets out our vision to improve outcomes for all children and young people in East Sussex.

Our partnership infrastructure remains the key local mechanism for delivering the shared ambitions set out in the Excellence for All strategy. We continue to work collaboratively to build capacity for improvement, drive innovation and ensure the very best education for our children and young people.

Alongside the ambitions and priorities set out in Excellence for All, the Primary Board and the Secondary Board set out their vision each year:

'We share a collective responsibility to improve outcomes for all young people in East Sussex. Our ambition is to become an excellent school system with no child or school/academy left behind, where all young people receive a high quality of education and are prepared for success in life whatever they choose to do'.

Admission arrangements

All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements are determined by admissions authorities. East Sussex County Council is the admissions authority for community schools and voluntary controlled church schools. The governing boards of voluntary aided church schools, 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, which is not the same as choosing the school where their child will attend. Parents and carers in East

Sussex are invited to indicate up to 3 preferences when applying for a school place for their child.

For September 2023, the local authority was able to offer a place at a preferred school to 98.5% of primary reception (Year R) applicants, 98.7% of junior Year 3 applicants and 97% of secondary Year 7 applicants. There is more information about [applying for a school place on the on the local authority website.](#)

Childcare Sufficiency Duty

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

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

A new Childcare Sufficiency Duty report for 2024/25 will be published in early 2024 and will take account of the expansion of the current Early Years Education entitlement funding streams being implemented from April 2024.

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

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

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

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

You can view the [East Sussex SEND Strategy here](#).

Post-16 education and training

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

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

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

The growth of the East Sussex economy is a key strategic priority and the strategic board for skills, [Skills East Sussex](#), helps drive this work through a strong partnership of local employers, post-16 education, training providers and schools. This includes a focus on securing good quality careers advice through local [East Sussex Careers Hub](#) activities, embedding the Enterprise Advisors Network, the provision of [Careers East Sussex](#); an e-prospectus and online application platform, a Work Experience Service for schools and

the commissioning of a Youth Employability Service to provide support for young people who are not in education, employment or training or at risk of not being so.

National framework

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



The local perspective

Population

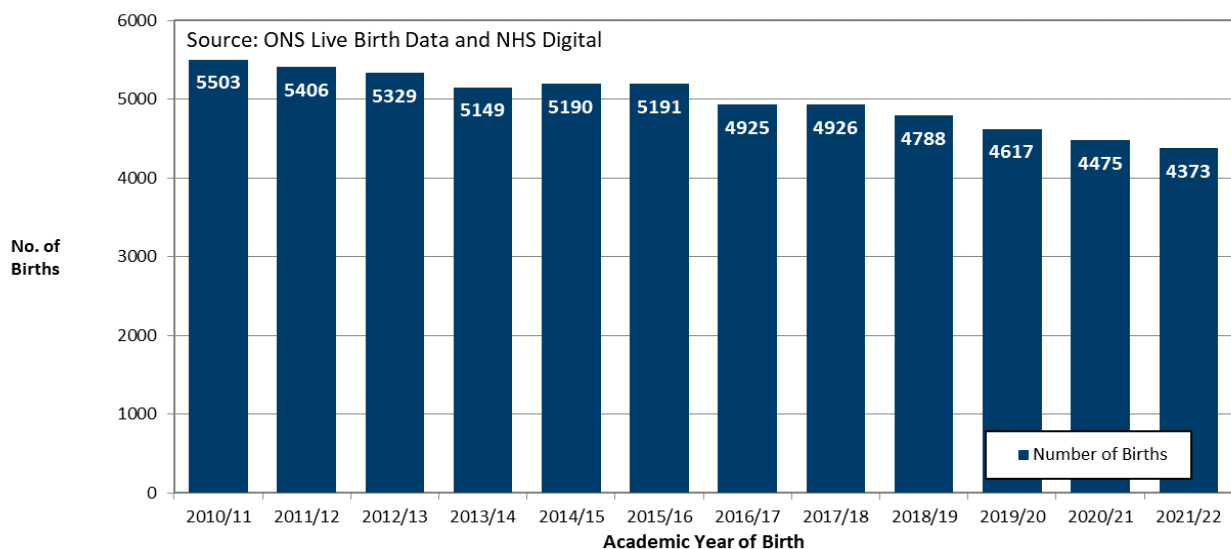
The overall population in East Sussex has grown steadily, rising from 492,000 in 2001 to 546,000 in 2021 (Source: 2001 and 2021 Censuses).

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 2020 to 28% in 2025 and 30% by 2030 (Source: ESCC Policy Based Population Projections April 2022).

Births in East Sussex peaked at around 5,500 in academic year 2010/11. Since then, countywide births have fallen to below 4,400 in 2021/22, although the 2021/22 birth totals are provisional and subject to revision. Based on historic patterns of 11-13 year cycles of peaks and troughs, it is anticipated that birth numbers will begin to recover soon, but it is not clear whether 2021/22 marks the lowest point in the cycle.

East Sussex births

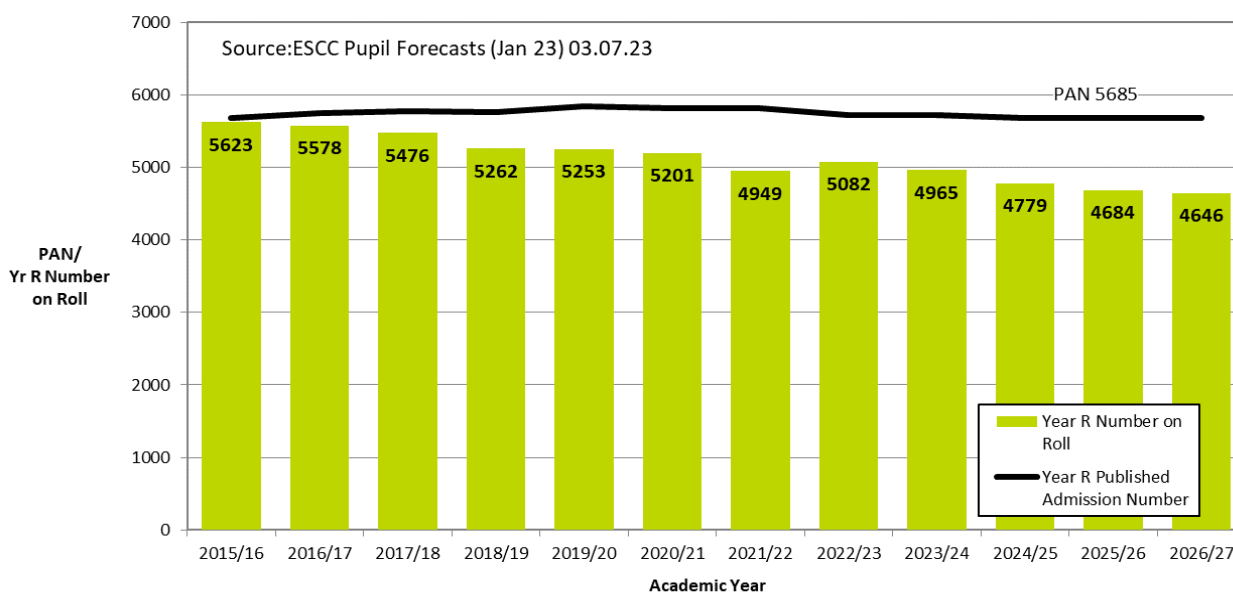


Pupil numbers

The fall in countywide births is reflected in falling primary reception (Year R) intake numbers, which are forecast to generally fall in coming years, at least until 2026/27. The local authority’s pupil forecasting model is showing numbers recovering beyond this point. However, intake forecasts beyond 2026/27 are based on demographic projections of future births rather than actual live birth or GP registration data. Looking at previous cycles of births and reception intakes, it is very possible that we may not see a recovery in Year R numbers until later in the decade and high Year R numbers across the county generally until the 2030s.

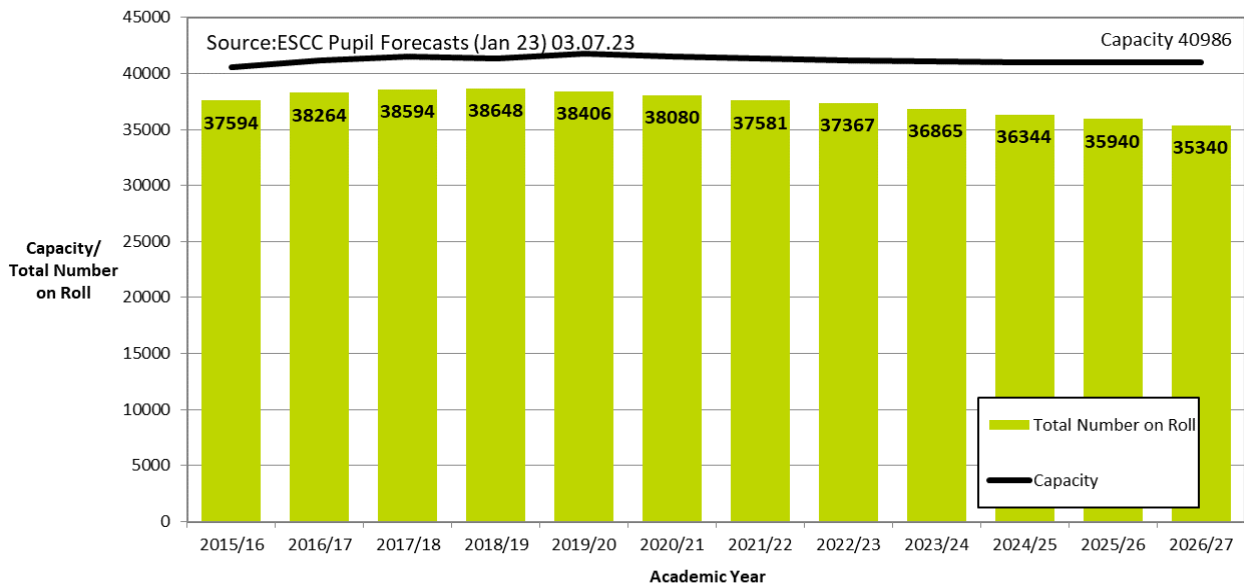
In areas of the county such as Hailsham and Bexhill, where high volumes of new housing have been built/are planned, Year R numbers may rise sooner than in other parts of East Sussex.

East Sussex primary Year R numbers



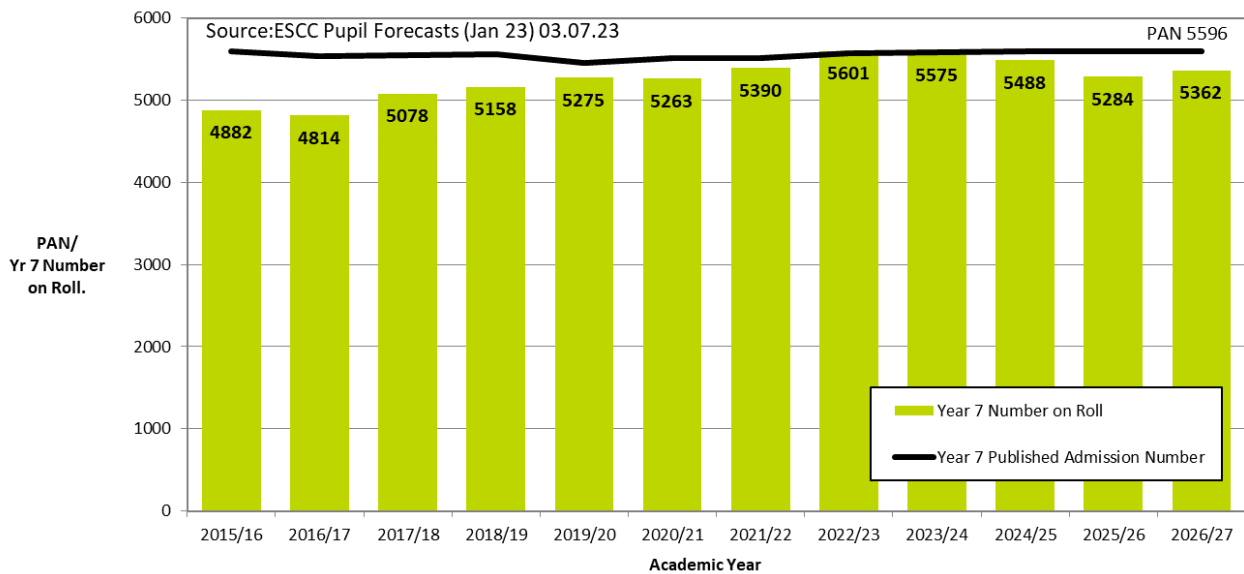
Total numbers on roll in primary schools peaked in 2018/19 and are now in decline. In 2022/23 surplus places overall were 9% of capacity, although this margin varies from area to area. By 2026/27, overall surplus places are forecast to increase to 14% of capacity.

East Sussex total primary numbers



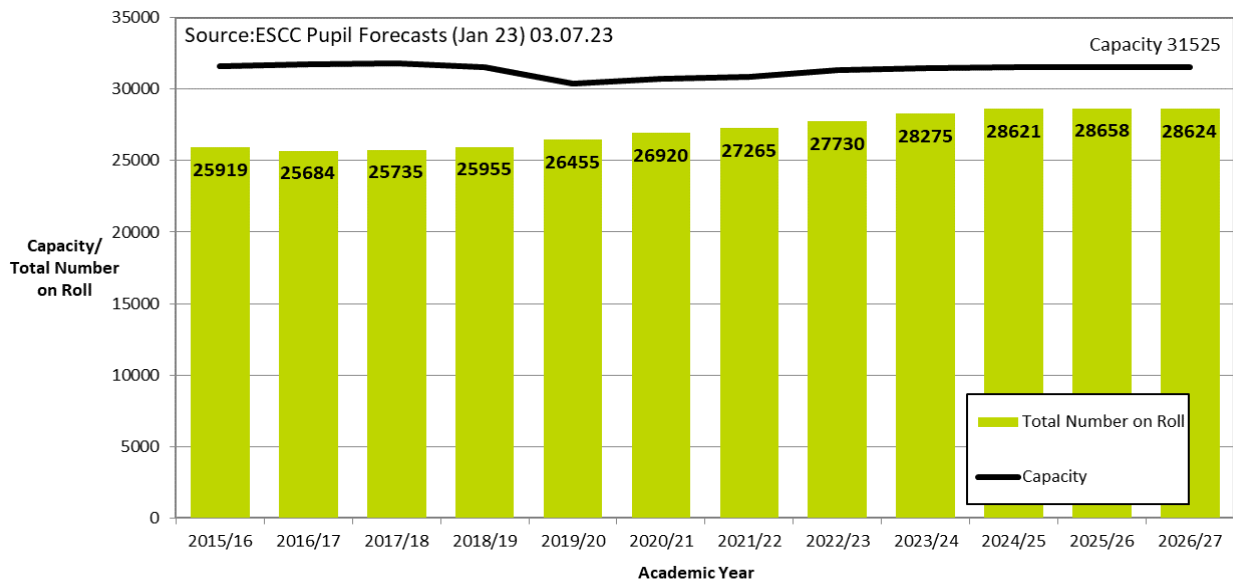
Earlier high numbers in primary schools have been reflected in rising secondary Year 7 school intakes in recent years. It is possible that Year 7 numbers may have peaked in 2022/23 and will now start to gradually decline.

East Sussex secondary Year 7 numbers



Total numbers on roll in secondary schools are expected to peak around 2025/26. Overall surplus places, at 12% countywide in 2022/23, are predicted to reduce to 9% by 2026/27.

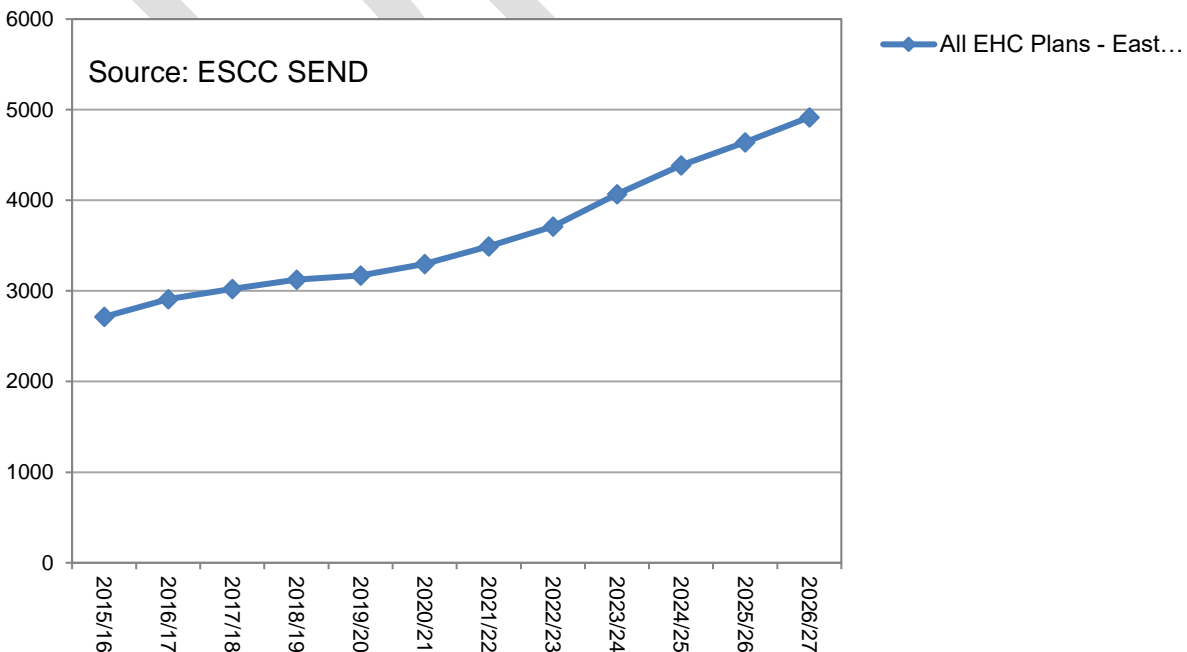
East Sussex total secondary numbers



In 2022/23, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) stood at 3,713. There were also 530 young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who need continued support to transition to adulthood. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the local authority saw a 46% increase in the number of new EHCPs being issued when compared to the previous 12 months.

Over the next four years, the local authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow by around 32%, to stand at approximately 4,900.

School age children with Education, Health and Care Plans



Cross-border movement

At primary school level (across all year groups) East Sussex imports around 400 children from the neighbouring authorities of Kent, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove and exports approximately 900 children to these same authorities.

At secondary school level (across all year groups) East Sussex imports approximately 700 children from the neighbouring authorities of Kent, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove and exports approximately 1,500 children to these same authorities. Kent Grammar schools represent a particular ‘pull factor’ for East Sussex children.

Schools in East Sussex

On 1 September 2023 there were 174 state funded mainstream schools and 15 special schools and alternative provisions in East Sussex. These range from local authority-maintained schools to academies and free schools. The following table provides a breakdown of the different types of school in East Sussex.

School Type	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Academy (inc free school)	Totals
Infant (4-7)	3	1			3	7
Junior (7-11)	2				4	6
Primary (4-11)	34	39	20	2	40	135
All-through (4-16/18)					3	3
Secondary (11-16/18)	6		1	1	15	23
Special	1				12	13
Alternative provision					2	2
Totals	46	40	21	3	79	189

Note:

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

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

- There are 110 local authority-maintained schools in East Sussex and 79 academies and free schools. Of the maintained schools, 46 are community schools, 61 are church schools and three are foundation schools.

- Of the 79 academies, 76 are part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) while three are single academy trusts (SATs).
- Of the 61 local authority-maintained church schools, 40 are voluntary controlled and 21 are voluntary aided. Of the voluntary aided schools, 13 are Church of England and eight are Catholic. A number of academies are also church schools.
- There are 13 formal federations in East Sussex made up of 33 primary schools.
- According to the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2022, 61 of the 135 primary schools in the county (45%) are classified as rural. The 13 linked infant and junior schools are all located in urban areas, mainly Eastbourne.
- There are specialist facilities at 19 mainstream schools in East Sussex (nine primary and ten secondary), catering for primary needs such as autism, speech language and communication needs, moderate learning disability and physical disability.

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



Ropemakers Academy, Hailsham

School organisation in East Sussex

Introduction

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

The guiding principles underlying our approach are:

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

School planning areas

For school planning purposes, East Sussex is split into:

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

planning area contains two schools, one of which (a Catholic school) has a much wider catchment area than the town.

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

Pupil forecasting

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

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

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

Based on the January 2023 actual numbers on roll our primary pupil forecasts are accurate to -1.0% one year ahead and 0.3% three years ahead. Our secondary pupil

forecasts are accurate to 0.6% one year ahead and 2.2% three years ahead. We have a track record of accurate forecasting, derived from sound methodology and the accuracy of our forecasts compare well to other local authorities.

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

The local authority's special educational needs and disability (SEND) forecasting model predicts future numbers of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and numbers in maintained and independent non-maintained special schools. The forecasts take account of the following factors:

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

Academisation

The introduction of the Academies Act in 2010 makes it possible for all maintained schools to become academies. On 1 September 2023 there were 79 academies in East Sussex (42% of all schools). All new schools to have been established in East Sussex since 2010 have opened as an academy in line with government policy.

Of the 79 academies in East Sussex:

- three are infant schools (43% of the total number of infant schools in East Sussex)
- four are junior schools (67%)
- 40 are primary schools (30%)
- three are all-through schools (100%)
- 15 are secondary schools (65%)
- 14 are special schools and alternative provisions (93%).

76 academies (96%) are part of a multi academy trust (MAT), with three (4%) belonging to a single academy trust (SAT).

At the May 2023 school census, 54% of pupils in East Sussex were on roll in an academy:

- 15,743 primary school pupils (41%)
- 4,216 all-through school pupils (100%)
- 15,596 secondary school pupils (64%)
- 1,185 special school (excluding alternative provision) pupils (90%).

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

The Education White Paper 'Opportunity for All' was published on 23 March 2022, the White Paper set out the government's aim that *'by 2030 all children will be taught in a family of schools that are in a strong MAT or plan to join one.'* The White Paper proposed to bring in new powers to enable local authorities to apply for an academy order for one of their schools through new legislation in 'The Schools Bill'. The Schools Bill was withdrawn from its process through parliament in December 2022. Whilst the ambition of the government is for all schools to become academies there are no new legal powers to facilitate this.

The local authority worked with the Primary and Secondary Boards to agree a joint strategic approach on how academisation can support our shared ambition to create a

strong school system in the county that will deliver improved and sustained outcomes for children and young people. The local authority has set out, jointly with the Boards, our belief that strong trusts with the right leadership, accountability and capacity to support improvement have a critical part to play in building this system, although we also believe there are other forms of partnerships which with the right governance and accountability can do the same e.g., federations.

East Sussex has been identified by the Department for Education (DfE) as an Education Investment Area (EIA). As an EIA the area is prioritised for developing an education system led by high-quality trusts to transform underperforming schools within the area. The DfE published a [trust development statement](#) for East Sussex in March 2023 setting out the priorities for trust development within the area. These priorities are consistent with the principles we have agreed locally.

Creating new places

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

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

- prioritise the expansion of good and outstanding schools
- consider the pattern of parental preference and local demand for places
- consider the diversity of provision
- consider transport patterns to reduce travel times to schools wherever possible
- consider safe routes to schools
- where there is demand for both school and early years places, the local authority will consider providing additional accommodation designed to ensure a seamless transition between nursery and reception (Year R)
- support new free schools where their location will help relieve pressure on places

- where possible, only enlarge schools where it creates or sustains round forms of entry as the preferred model of organisation
- ensure value for money.

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

Capital funding

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

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

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

In some instances, the local authority can also secure development contributions through the negotiation of Section 106 agreements. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between local authorities and developers; these are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations. In recent years, the local authority has been successful in securing funding from Section 106 agreements and the CIL towards the provision of school places.

Surplus places

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

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

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

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

At the May 2023 school census, 21 primary schools in East Sussex had 25% or more surplus places. This reflects the falling reception (Year R) intake numbers being seen across the county. Conversely, with secondary school intake (Year 7) numbers at their peak, only three secondary schools had 25% or more surplus places.

Reviews of provision

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

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

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

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

- the position of a headteacher becomes unexpectedly vacant
- a school is placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate
- a school has remained in an Ofsted category of requires improvement for the last two inspections
- a school becomes eligible for intervention by the local authority
- a school 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. 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 shortfalls or surpluses in capacity 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.

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.

Eastbourne

Schools

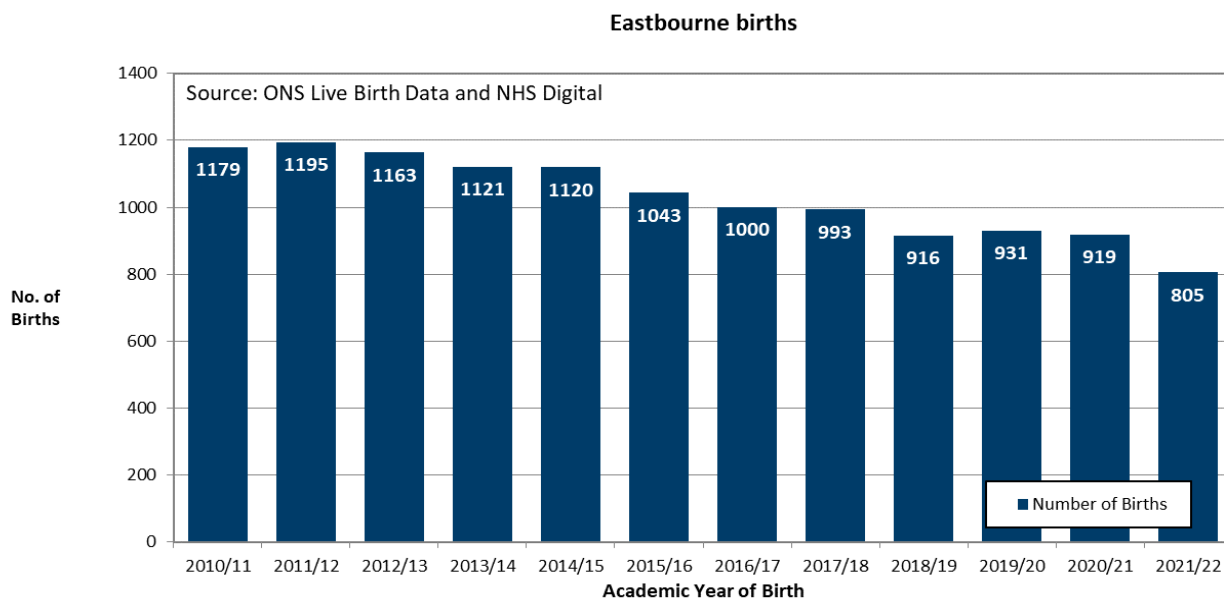
There are 19 primary schools in the area, six of which are infant schools and five are junior schools. There are two all-through schools (primary and secondary) and four secondary schools. Five schools have nursery provision.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary schools		
Bourne Primary School	3-11	Community
Heron Park Primary Academy	4-11	Academy
Langney Primary Academy	2-11	Academy
Motcombe Infants' School	4-7	Community
Oakwood Primary Academy	3-11	Academy
Ocklynge Junior School	7-11	Academy
Parkland Infant School	4-7	Academy
Parkland Junior School	7-11	Academy
Pashley Down Infant School	4-7	Community
Roselands Infants' School	4-7	Academy
Shinewater Primary School	3-11	Academy
St Andrew's Church of England Infants School	4-7	Voluntary Controlled
St John's Meads Church of England Primary School	4-11	Academy
St Thomas A Becket Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Stafford Junior School	7-11	Academy
The Haven Church of England Methodist Primary School	4-11	Academy
Tollgate Community Junior School	7-11	Community
West Rise Community Infant School	4-7	Community
West Rise Junior School	7-11	Community
All-through schools		
Gildredge House	4-19	Academy
The Cavendish School	2-16	Academy
Secondary schools		
Ratton School	11-16	Academy
St Catherine's College	11-16	Academy
The Eastbourne Academy	11-16	Academy
The Turing School	11-16	Academy

* School type correct on 1 September 2023

Births

Births in Eastbourne continue to fall from a peak of 1,195 in 2011/12.



Housing plans

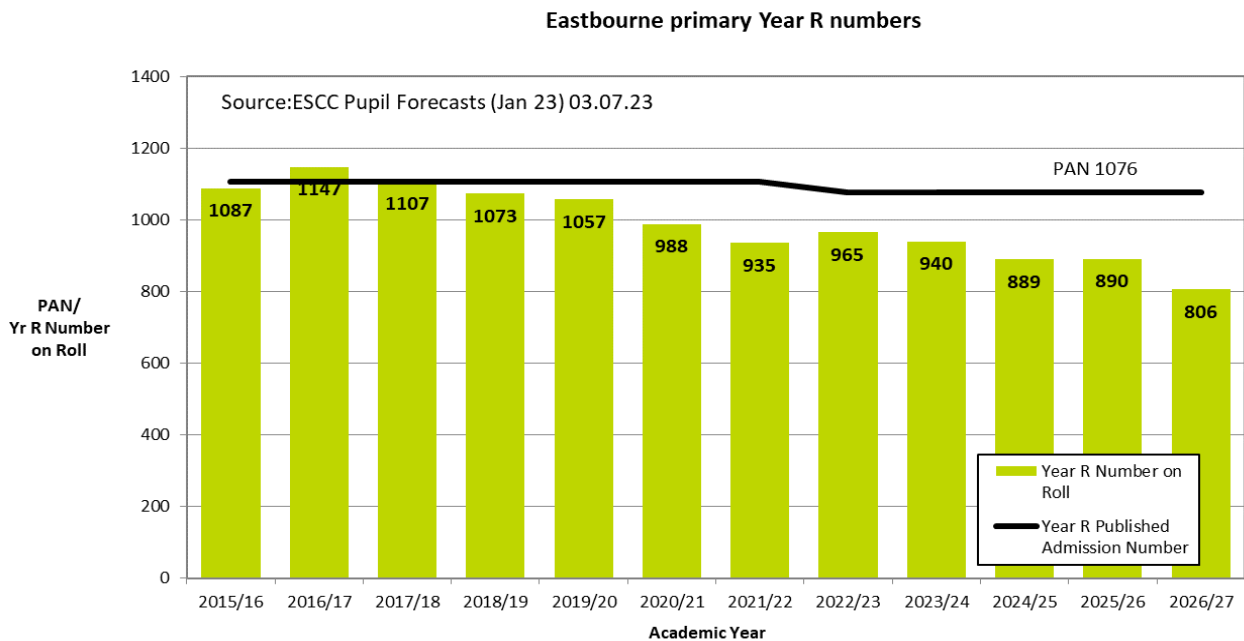
Eastbourne Borough Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 1,600 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2026/27. Eastbourne Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in Eastbourne may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

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

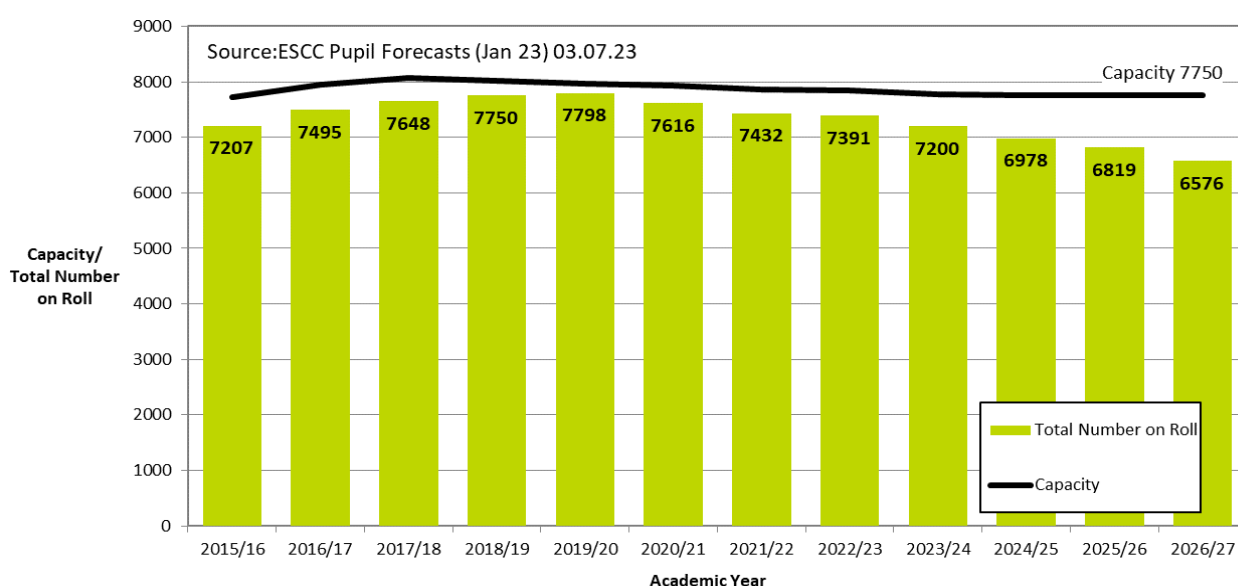
Many Eastbourne children attend schools in the surrounding area including Polegate Primary School and Willingdon Primary School, Stone Cross School, Hankham Primary School and Pevensey and Westham CE Primary School.

The majority of these schools are full or close to full. High levels of new housing (recent and planned) will put additional pressure on places at these schools. The permanent expansion of Polegate Primary School from 420 places to 630 places from 2019/20 has helped to alleviate these pressures. Nevertheless, rising in-area numbers are likely to result in some demand from Eastbourne children being redirected by the school admissions system into the town.



Falling intakes will have a knock-on effect on total numbers on roll. Surplus places, which stood at 5% in 2022/23, are predicted to rise rapidly to around 15% by 2026/27. Three schools in the area have 25% or more surplus places.

Eastbourne total primary numbers



Two of the three schools with significant surplus places are academies. Therefore, a decision on reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at either or both schools to manage surplus places rests with the academy trust. The local authority reduced the PAN at Motcombe Infants School from 120 to 90 with effect from the 2022/23 academic year to help manage surplus places in the school. Accommodation has not been removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

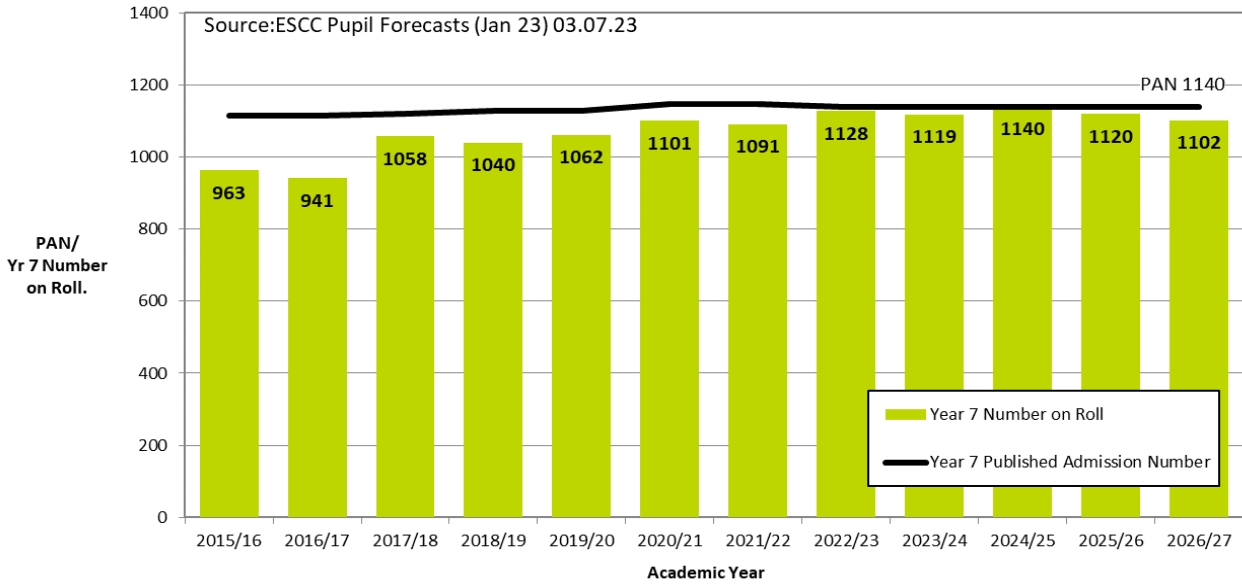
Secondary places

Based on the numbers coming through primary schools, intakes into Year 7 are forecast to remain high until at least 2025/26. A small shortfall against PAN is currently forecast for 2023/24 and might be possible again in 2024/25.

From 2026/27 or 2027/28, Year 7 numbers in Eastbourne are likely to fall away, leaving increasing numbers of spare places.

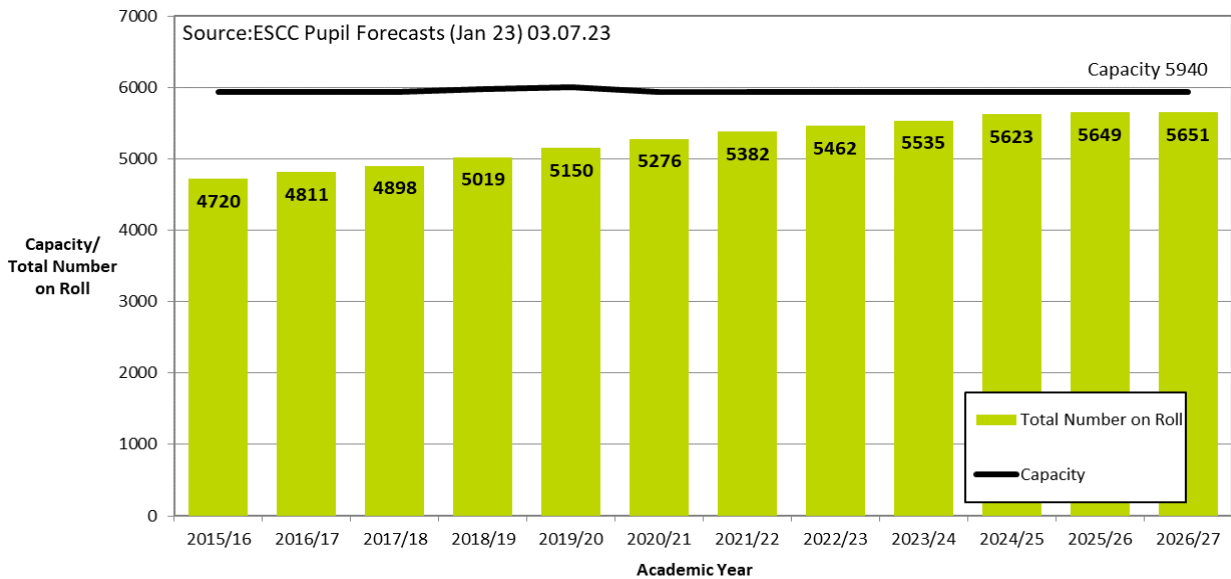
The Eastbourne area sees outflows of Catholic children to St Richard's Catholic College in Bexhill and some inflows from Bexhill and Hailsham. There are also significant inflows from and outflows to Willingdon Community School.

Eastbourne secondary Year 7 numbers



In line with larger Year 7 intakes, total secondary numbers in the Eastbourne schools have been rising and are expected to reach around 5,650 by 2026/27. As a result, surplus places in the area are likely to fall from 8% in 2022/23 to 5% by the end of the plan period. One school in the area has 25% or more surplus places. However, with Year 7 intakes currently high, this may fall below 25% as early as 2023/24.

Eastbourne total secondary numbers



The local authority has worked closely with Willingdon Community School on a strategy to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the wider Eastbourne and Willingdon area to

accommodate the high Year 7 numbers. Please refer to the Polegate and Willingdon planning area for more details.



DR

Hastings

Schools

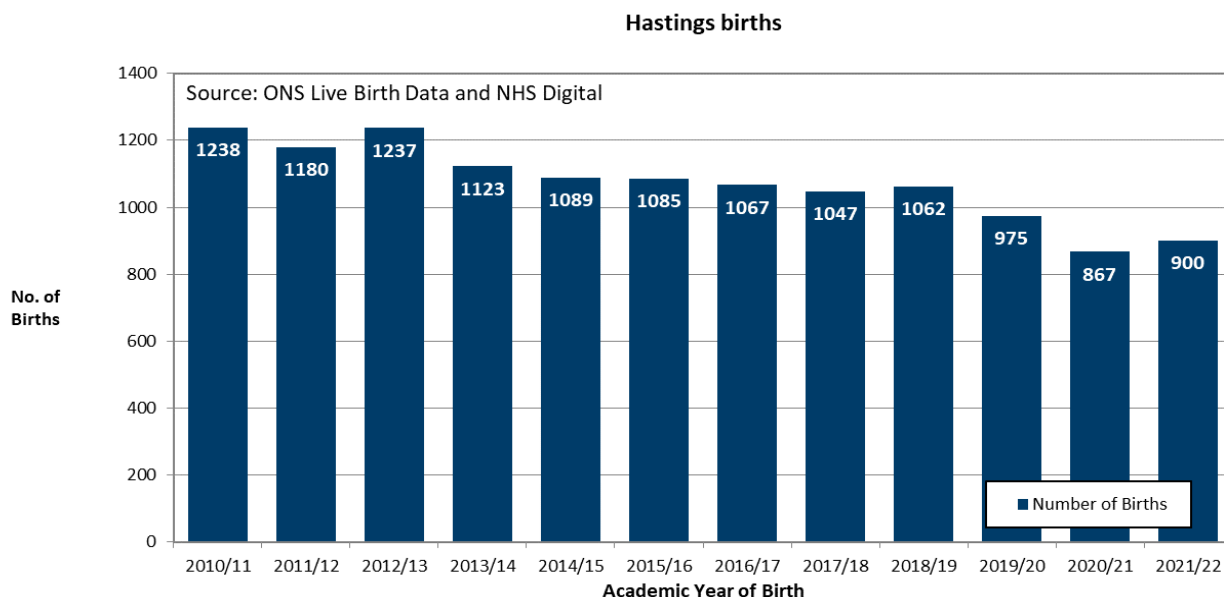
There are 18 primary schools in the area and three secondary schools. Of the 18 primary schools, one is an infant school, and one is a junior school. Nine of the primary schools have nursery provision. One secondary school has sixth form provision.

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

* School type correct on 1 September 2023

Births

Births in Hastings continue to fall from a peak of 1,238 in 2010/11.



Housing plans

Hastings Borough Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 1,900 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2027/28. Hastings Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in Hastings may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

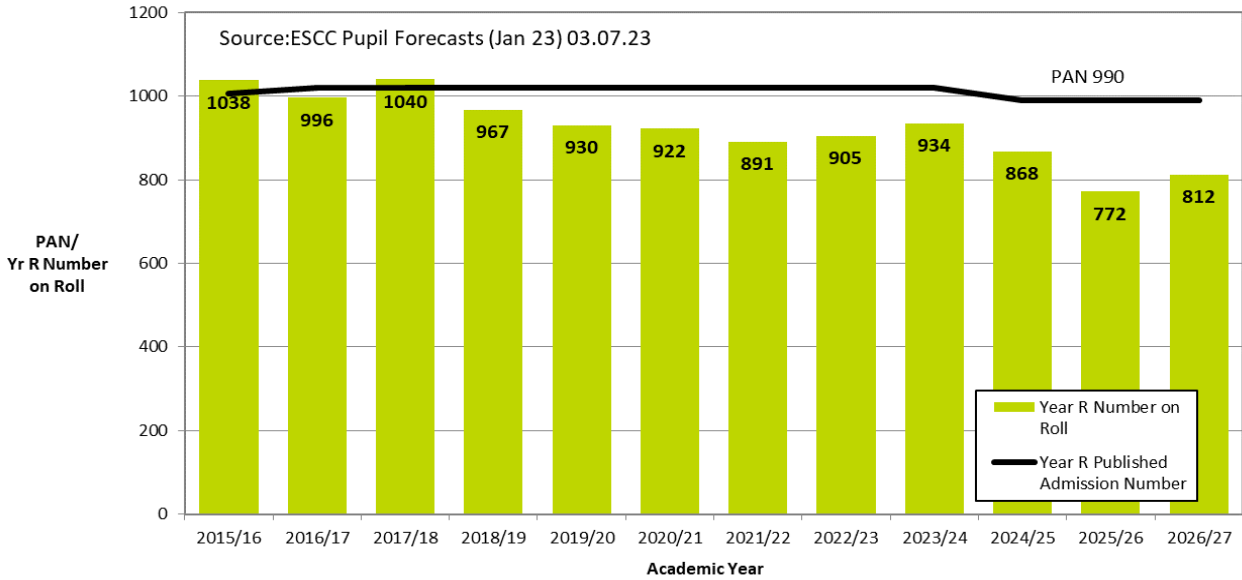
Primary places

Reception (Year R) intakes in Hastings are forecast to remain well below the current Published Admission Number (PAN) of schools in the town into the latter part of the decade.

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

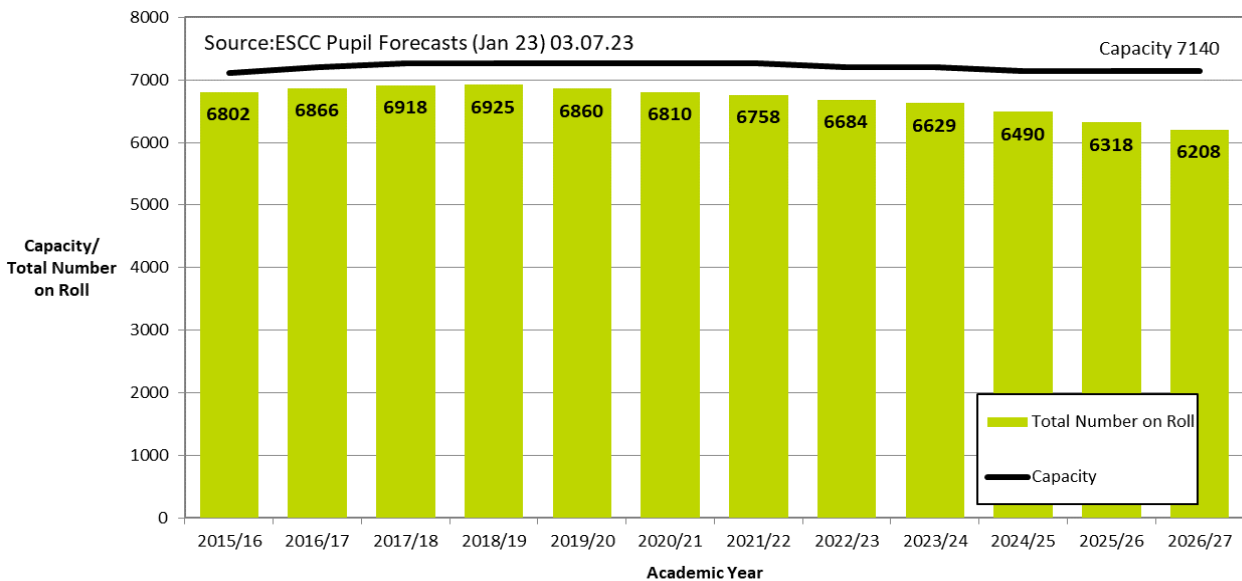
School, and Westfield School. Most of these schools are full or close to full. However, going forward, lower levels of demand from Hastings may see numbers in some of these surrounding schools falling.

Hastings primary Year R numbers



Lower intakes are predicted to result in higher numbers of surplus places in the town, which are forecast to rise from 7% in 2022/23 to 13% by 2027/28.

Hastings total primary numbers



The majority of surplus places in the town are within the 15 academies. The three maintained schools are largely full. A decision on reducing the PAN at any of the academies to manage surplus places rests with the respective academy trusts.

As an example, the University of Brighton Academies Trust took a decision in early 2023 to reduce the PAN at Hollington Primary Academy from 60 to 30 with effect from 2024/25 to manage surplus places in the school (since 1 September 2023, the school has been part of the Pioneer Academy Trust). Accommodation will not be removed and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

Secondary places

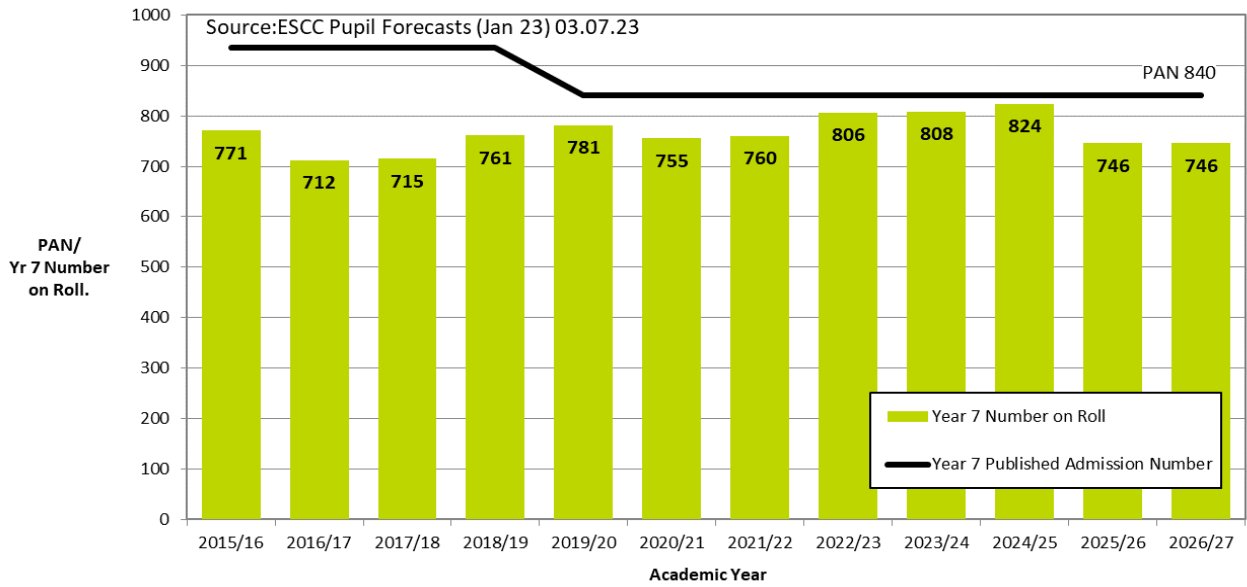
Significant numbers of Hastings children seek places in surrounding schools such as Bexhill High Academy and St Richard's Catholic College and Claverham Community College, Rye College, and Robertsbridge Community College.

Linked to higher numbers coming through primary schools, current demand for Year 7 places is high. The decision by Bexhill High Academy to reduce its PAN from 330 to 300 from 2021/22, has led to fewer children from Hastings gaining admission to the school, with a knock-on increase in demand for places in Hastings schools.

As a result, Year 7 numbers in the area are likely to be high up to and including 2024/25, although the combined PAN of 840 is forecast to be sufficient. However, in 2024/25, this could depend on continued high outflows of Hastings children to surrounding schools.

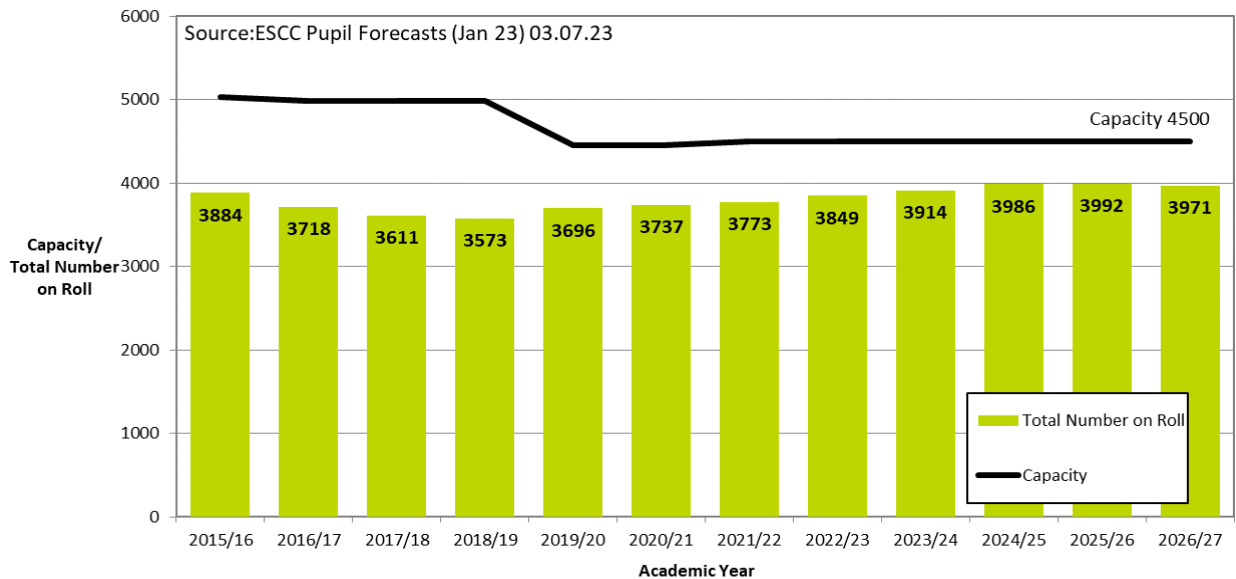
From 2025/26, Year 7 intakes are forecast to fall away, leaving growing numbers of surplus places.

Hastings secondary Year 7 numbers



Surplus places in the area are forecast to fall from 14% in 2022/23 to 12% by 2025/26. One school in the area currently has 25% or more surplus places. As a result of higher Year 7 intakes in the area, surplus places at the school should fall under 25% in 2023/24.

Hastings total secondary numbers



Lewes and surrounding area

Schools

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

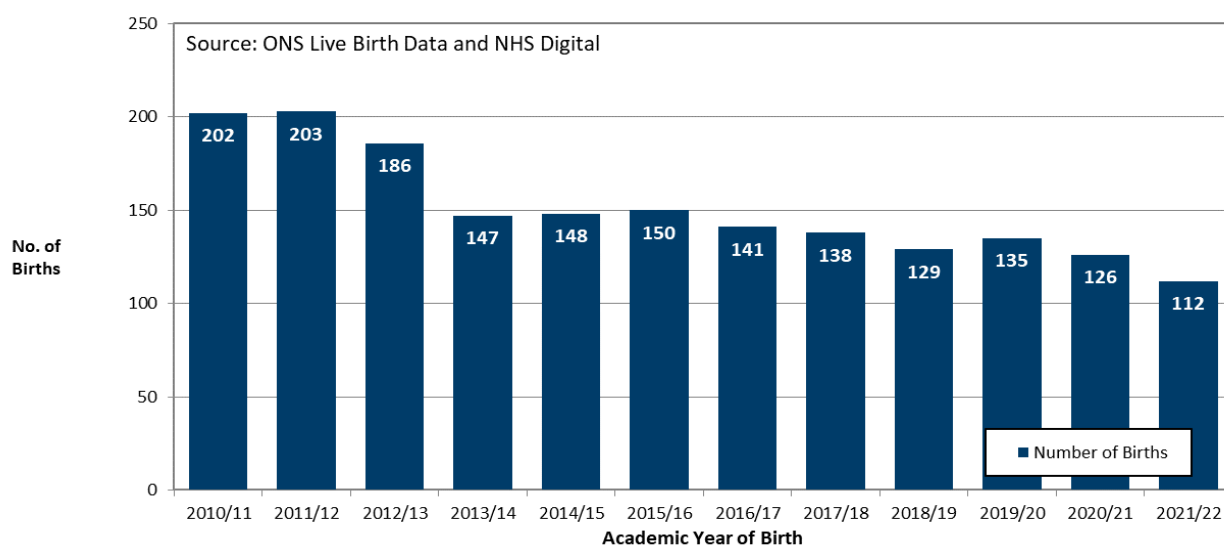
School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
St Pancras Catholic Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
South Malling CofE Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Controlled
Southover CofE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Wallands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

* School type correct on 1 September 2023

Births

Births in the area continue to fall and have been particularly low since 2013/14.

Lewes and surrounding area births



Housing plans

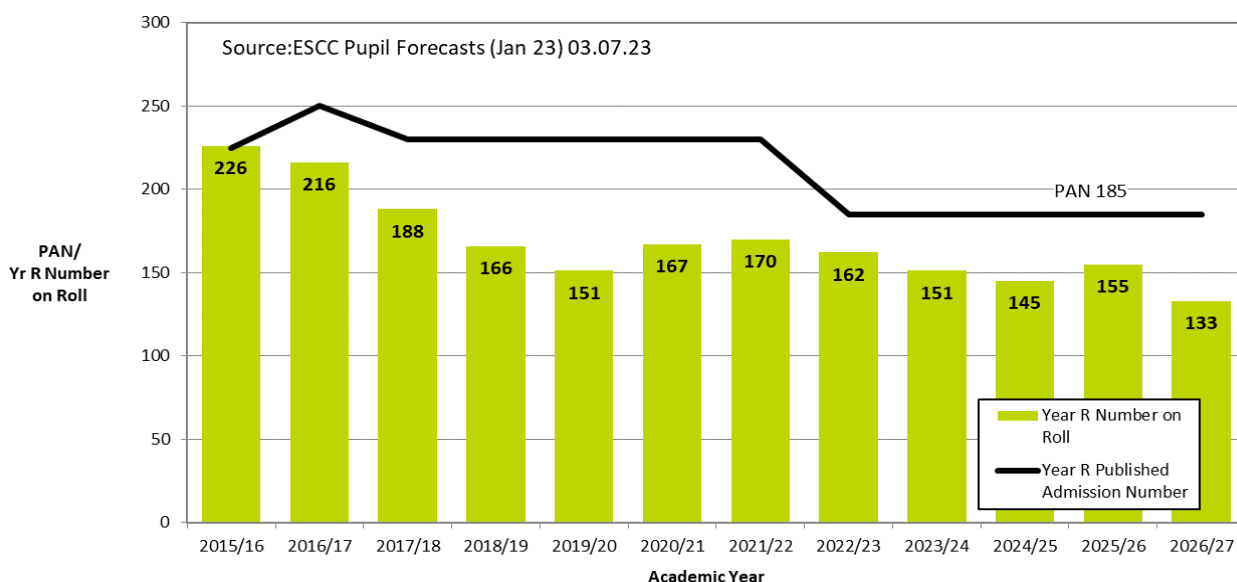
Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 800 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2029/30. Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are currently preparing new Local Plans. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

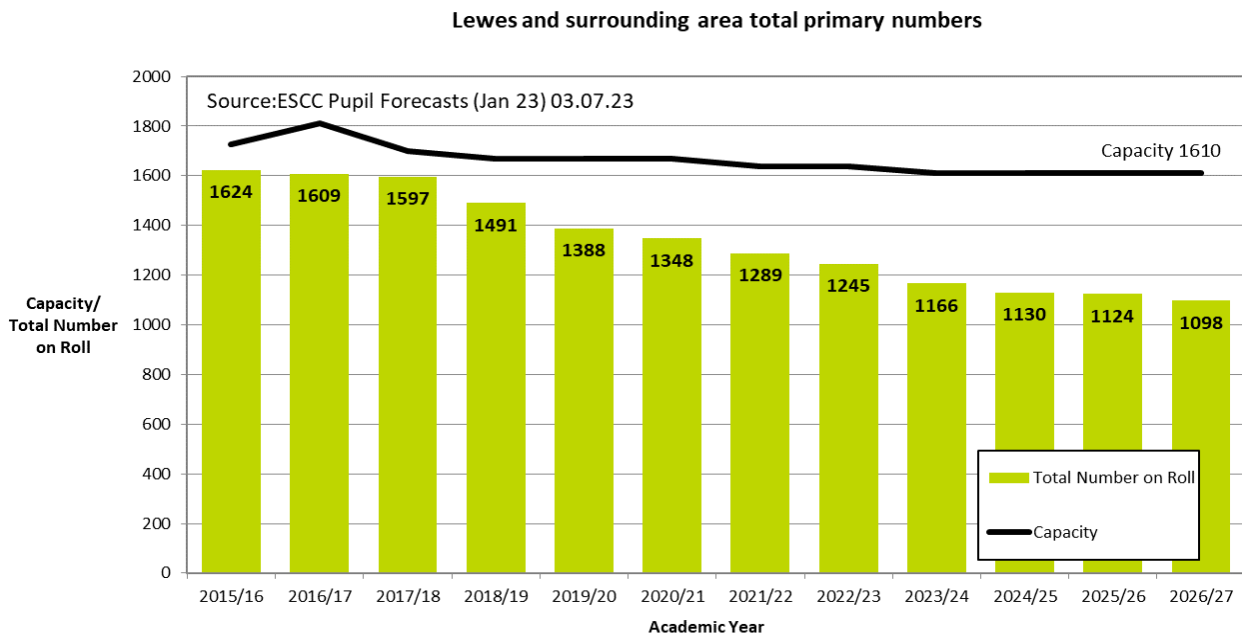
Based on birth and GP registration data, Reception (Year R) numbers in the area are expected to remain low until at least 2026/27.

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



Lower intakes are leading to higher numbers of surplus places in the area, rising from 25% in 2022/23 to potentially 32% by 2026/27. Three schools in the area have 25% or more surplus places.



As a result of falling Year R numbers and reduced demand for places at both schools, the local authority approved a reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Southover CE Primary School (from 60 to 45) and Wallands Community Primary School (from 60 to 30) to take effect from the 2022/23 academic year. Accommodation has not been removed from either school and can be brought back into use if pupil numbers start to rise again.

Due to concerns about the long term viability of St Pancras Catholic Primary School, the governing board, supported by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, began a consultation in May 2023 on a proposal to close the school with effect from 31 August 2024. Following the consultation, the governing board agreed to continue with the statutory closure process by publishing a statutory proposal in September 2023. This was followed by a four-week representation period. The local authority, as the responsible body, will make a final decision on the proposed closure at a Lead Member decision making meeting in November 2023.

In the longer term, despite 800 new homes being planned for the period to 2029/30, the demographic based projections of future births are currently indicating there will be

sufficient Year R places available to meet demand. However, it is possible that, if there is a general upswing in births over the next few years, the added impact of the new housing could lead to Year R numbers being significantly higher in the latter half of the decade than forecasts currently show.

Secondary places

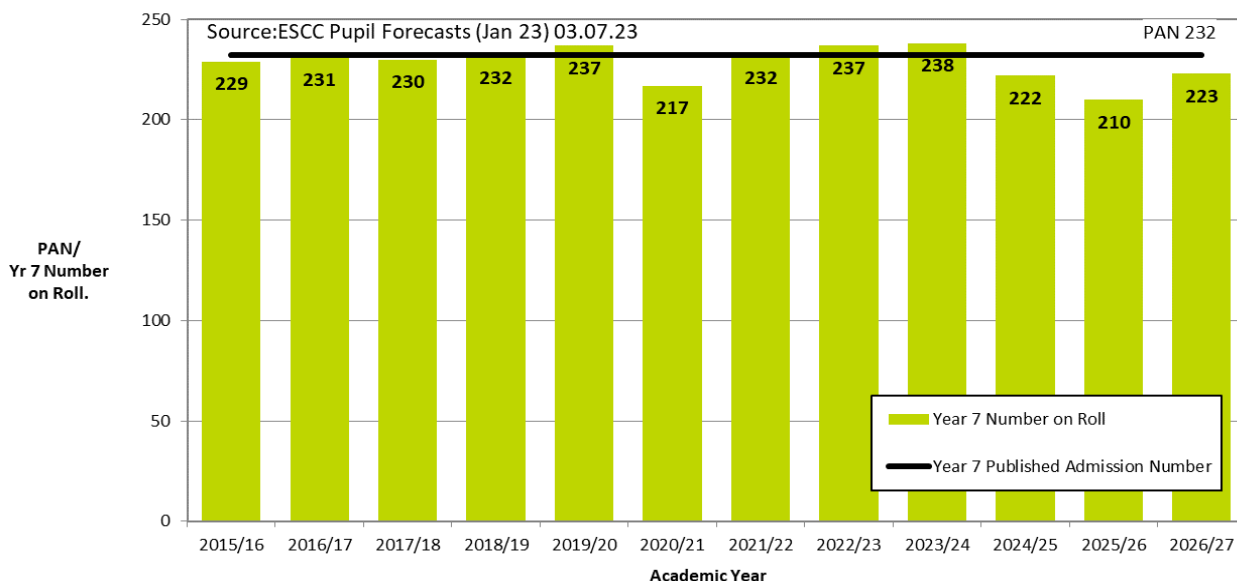
Part of Priory School’s admissions area is a joint admissions area with that of King’s Academy Ringmer.

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

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

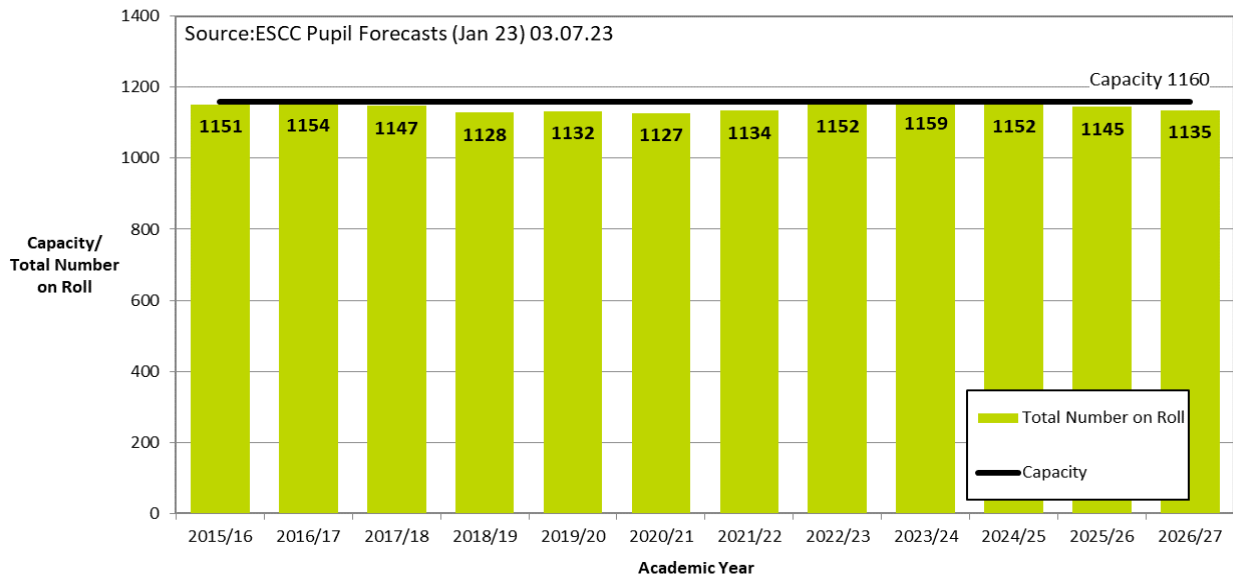
Priory School may slightly exceed its PAN of 232 in 2023/24. This is a result of the school allocating extra places to cater for demand from out of area, specifically to help alleviate pressures in the Havens area.

Lewes and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



From 2024/25, numbers of in-area children coming into Year 7 will fall away significantly. Future Year 7 numbers at Priory School will depend heavily on the extent to which demand from out of area, particularly from Brighton and Hove, bridges the gap between the demand from local children and Priory’s PAN.

Lewes and surrounding area total secondary numbers



The Havens

The Havens area covers both Newhaven and Peacehaven.

Schools

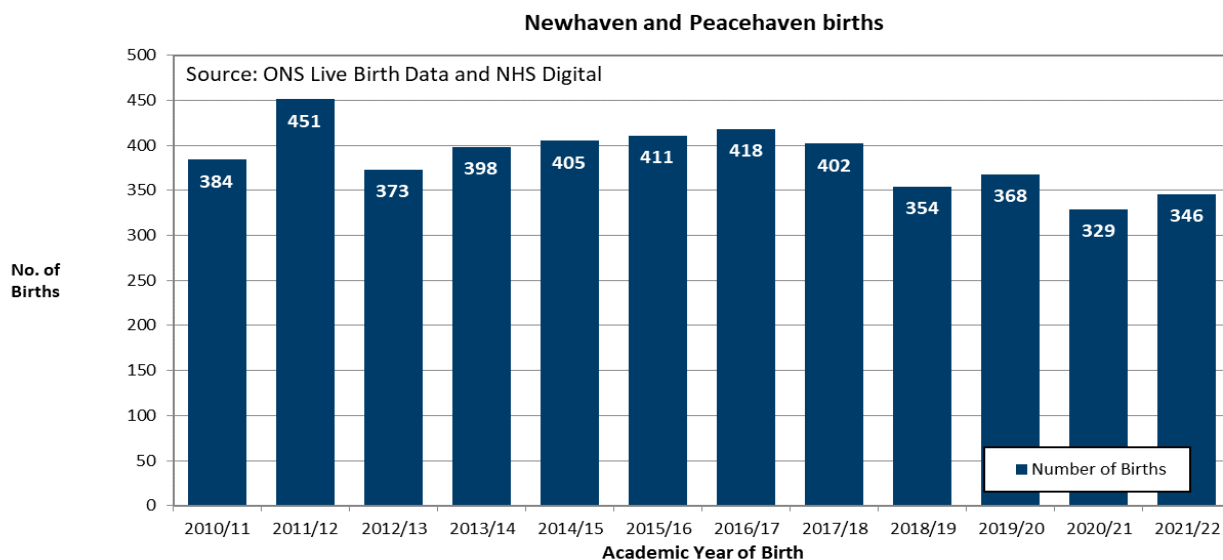
There are four primary schools in Newhaven. In Peacehaven, there are three primary schools, all with nursery provision. There are two secondary schools in the Havens area, one in each town.

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

* School type correct on 1 September 2023

Births

Births in the area have continued to decline in recent years, since their peak in 2011/12.



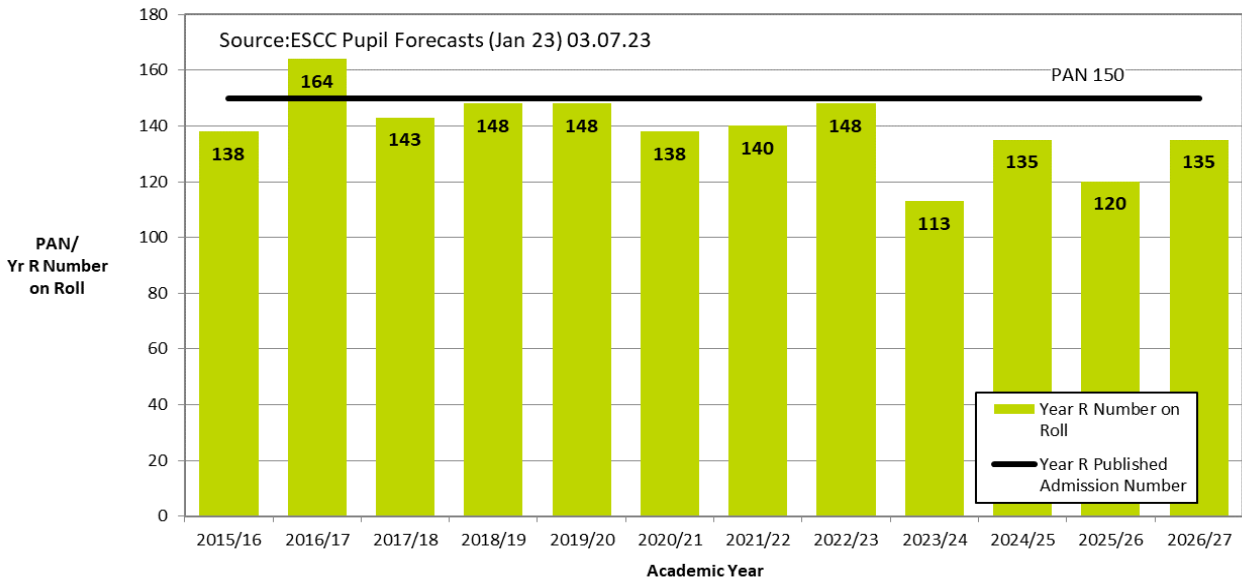
Housing plans

Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 2,300 new homes remain to be built in the Havens area during the Local Plan period to 2029/30. Lewes District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places (Newhaven)

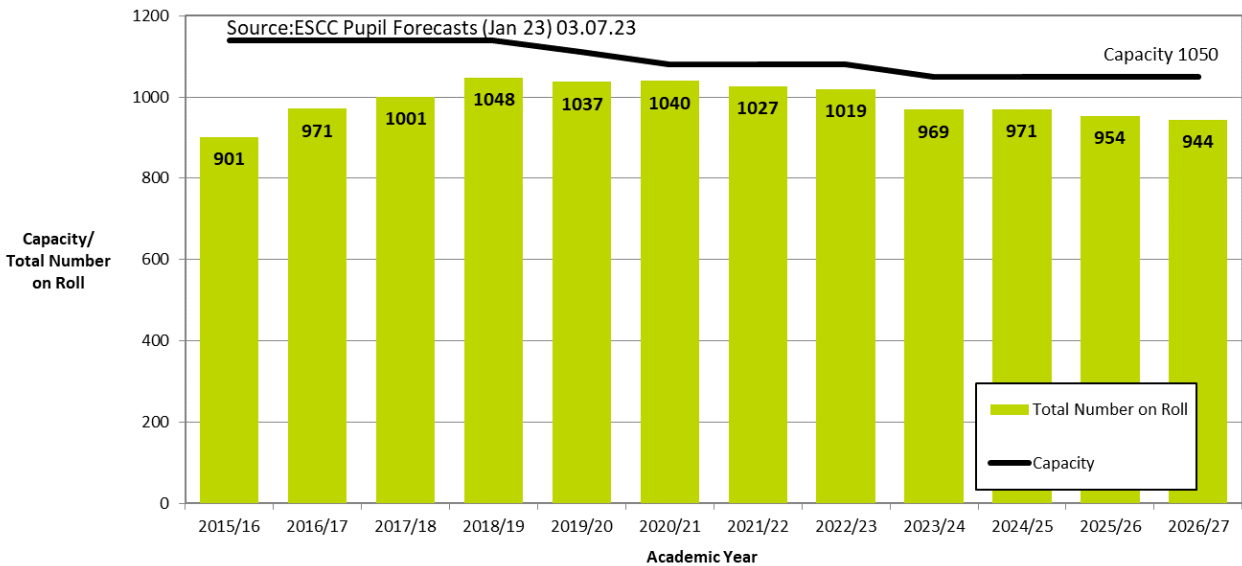
In recent years, reception (Year R) numbers have tended to be close to full. However, owing to fewer children coming into primary schools and higher than usual outflows to Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, 2023/24 is likely to see a significant downturn in intake numbers. Based on birth and GP registration data, and assuming current preference patterns continue, intake numbers are forecast to stay comfortably below the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the area at least until 2026/27.

Newhaven primary Year R numbers



In 2022/23 there was 6% surplus capacity in the town. By 2026/27 this is expected to have risen to 10%.

Newhaven total primary numbers



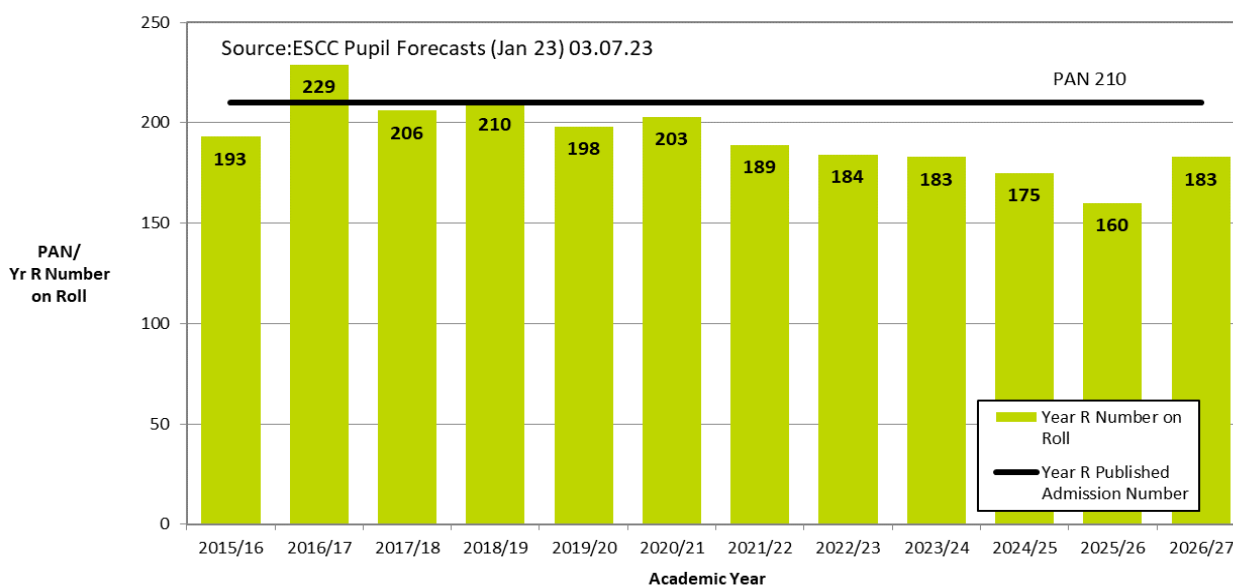
Pressures at Year R and on overall primary school places may resurface in future years as a result of planned house building in the town to 2029/30.

Primary places (Peacehaven)

Live birth and GP data and, for the longer term, demographic projections indicate that Year R numbers in Peacehaven are likely to be well below the PAN of 210 for the foreseeable future.

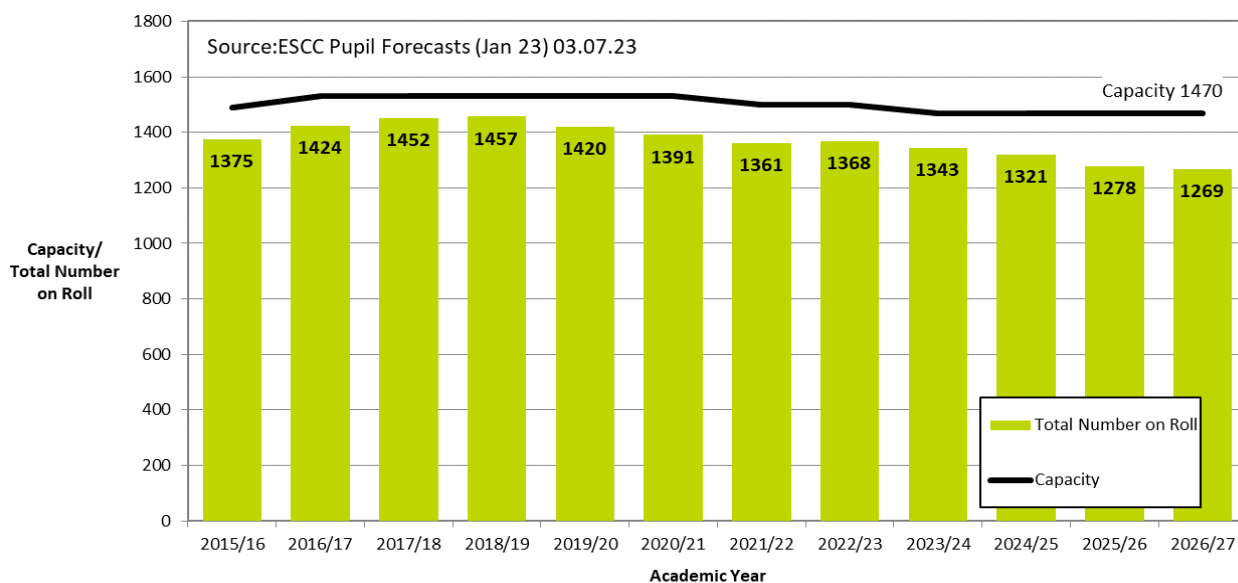
Saltdean Primary School in neighbouring Brighton and Hove is traditionally the school of preference for children who live in East Saltdean which is on the East Sussex side of the border. Traditionally around 20 to 30 East Sussex children per year group obtain a place at Saltdean Primary School. East Sussex children who require a place at the school generally secure one. 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



In 2022/23, surplus places in Peacehaven stood at 8%. By 2026/27, this could have risen to 14%.

Peacehaven total primary numbers



The local authority will continue to monitor the increasing level of surplus places in the area.

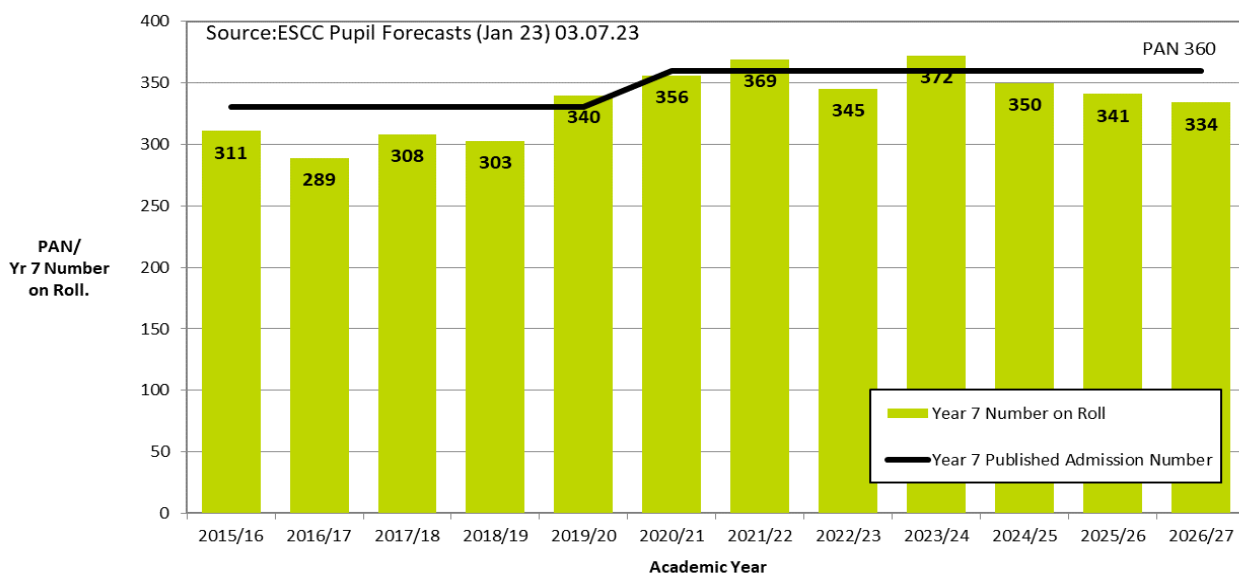
Secondary places

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.

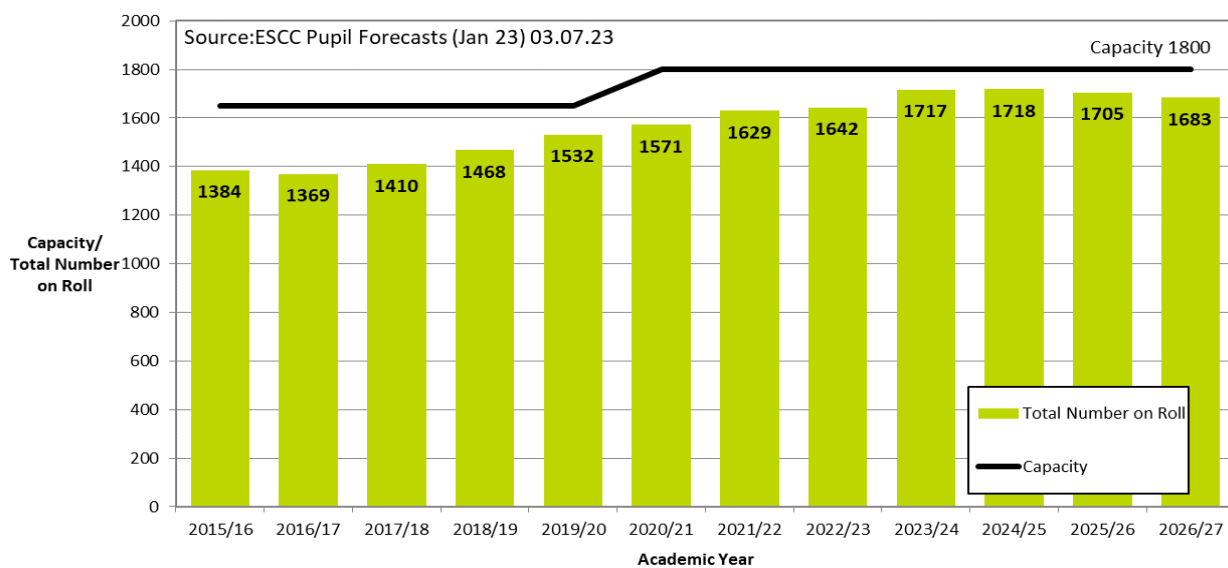
Both Peacehaven Community School and Seahaven Academy have experienced pressures on Year 7 places in recent years. For 2023/24, despite both Priory School and Seaford Head School both agreeing to take numbers over PAN to help alleviate pressures in the Havens, the combined PAN of 360 is forecast to be marginally exceeded.

The Havens secondary Year 7 numbers



Intakes may be lower in the years from 2024/25. Surplus capacity in the area, at 9% in 2022/23, is expected to reach 7% by 2026/27.

The Havens total secondary numbers



Seaford

Schools

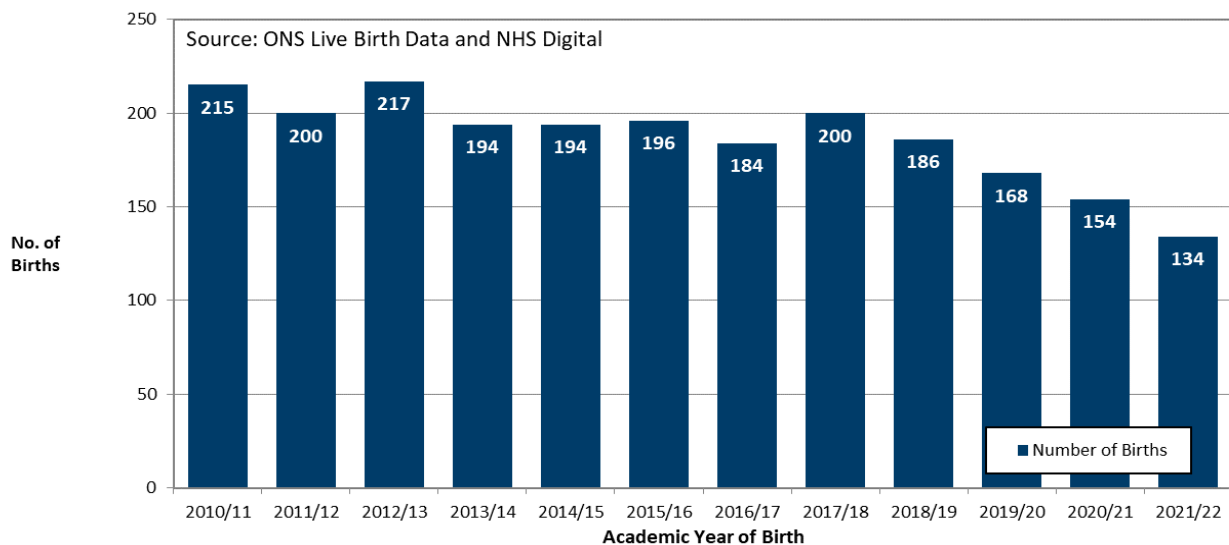
There are four primary schools in the area and one secondary school with a sixth form.

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

Births

Births in Seaford continue to fall from a peak of 217 in 2012/13. The last three years have seen particularly low births.

Seaford births



Housing plans

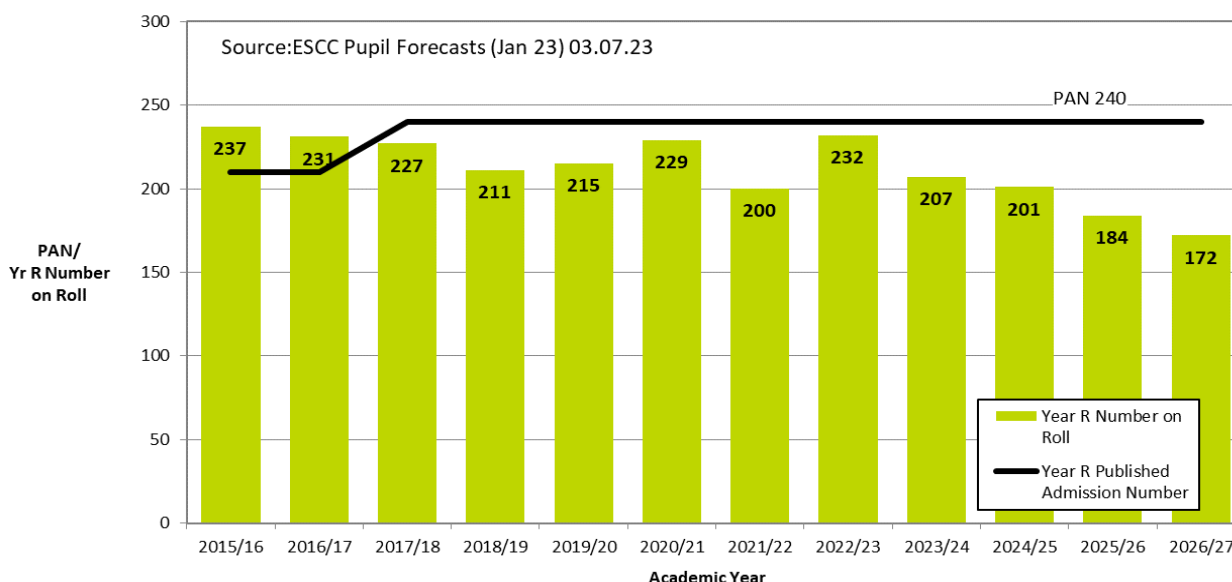
Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 500 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2029/30. Lewes District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

Reception (Year R) intakes to the Seaford primary schools are predicted to be below the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the foreseeable future.

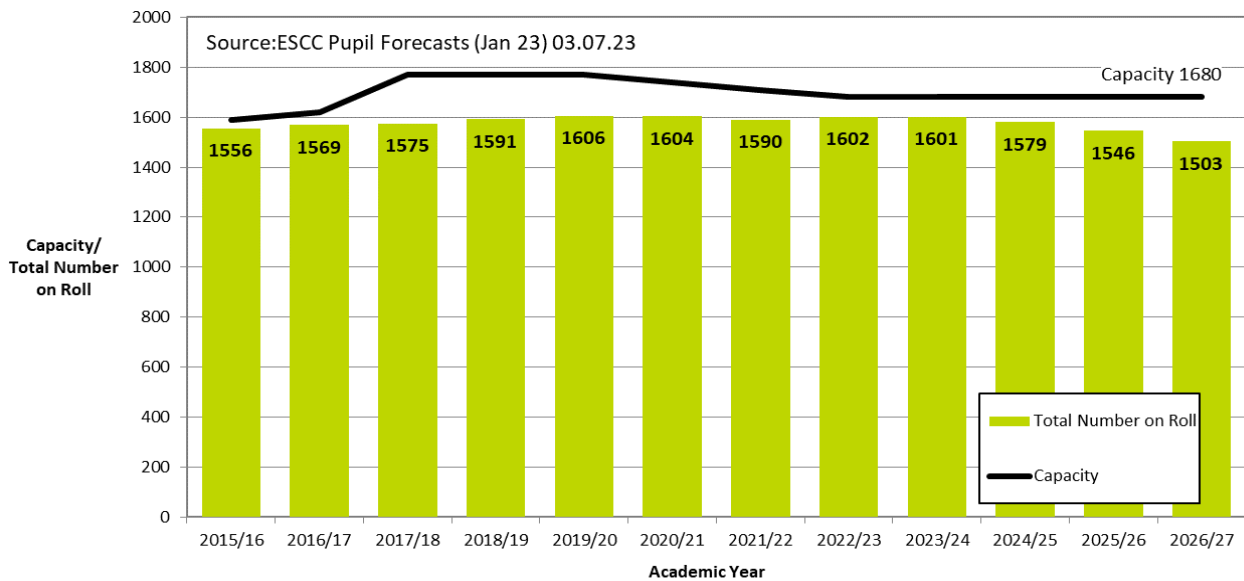
While the predicted general upswing in births through the decade may lead to higher Year R numbers in Seaford in the latter part of the 2020s, the relatively modest levels of new housing currently planned for the town raises a question mark as to whether intake numbers are likely to recover to levels consistently over 210.

Seaford primary Year R numbers



Lower intakes will lead to higher numbers of surplus places in the town, potentially rising to 11% by 2026/27.

Seaford total primary numbers



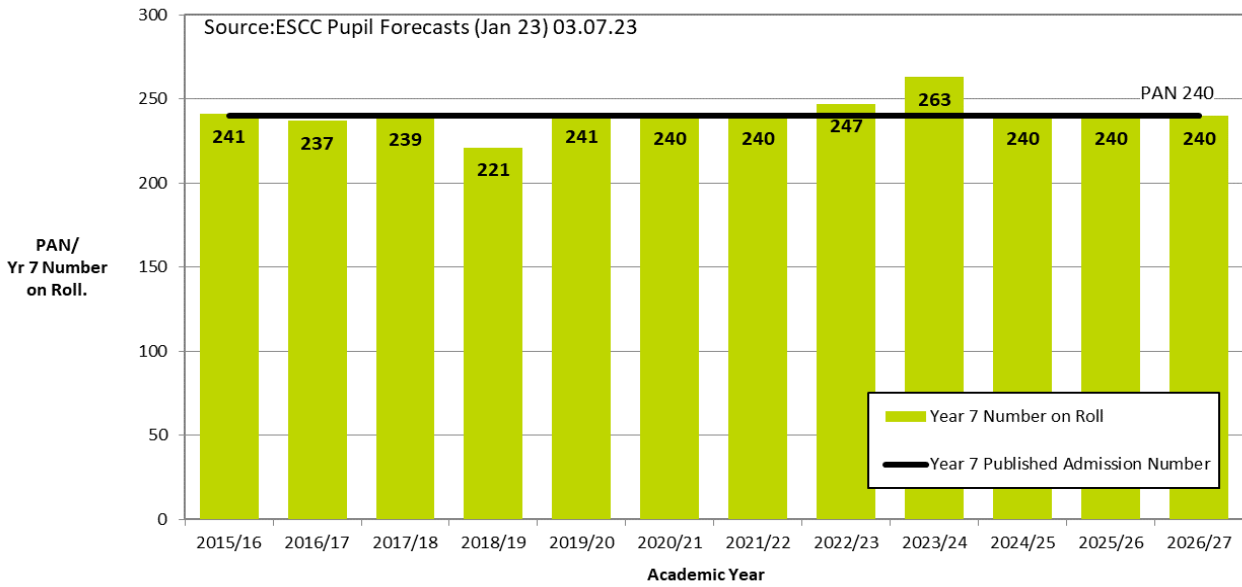
The local authority will continue to monitor the increasing level of surplus places in the area.

Secondary places

In 2023/24, Seaford Head School agreed to exceed its PAN of 240 to help alleviate pressures in the neighbouring Havens place planning area.

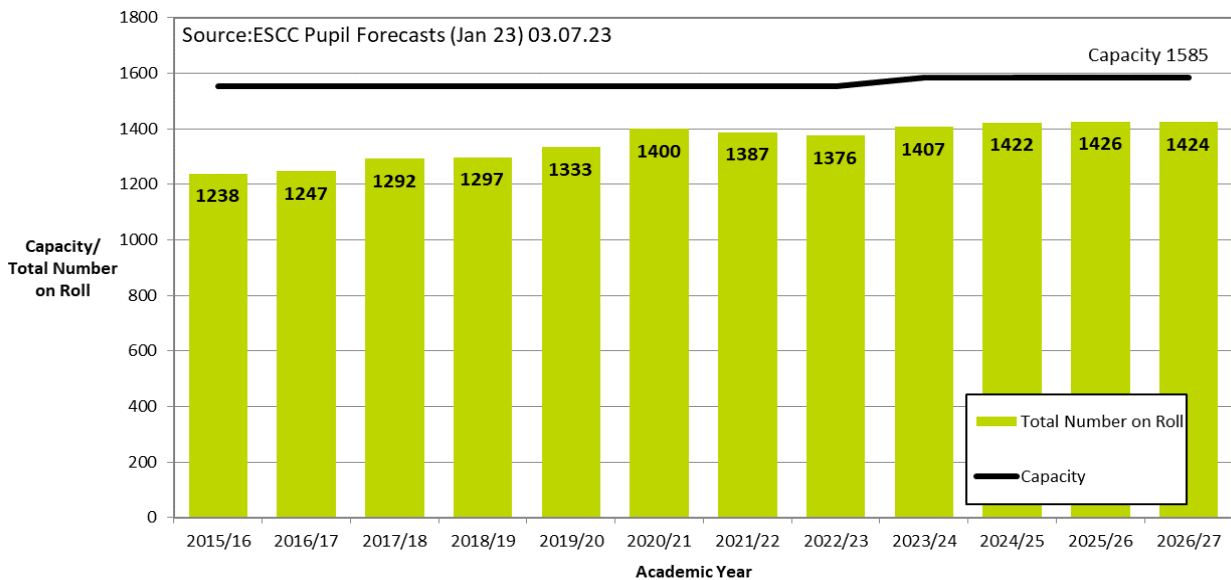
Although the school continues to be oversubscribed, it is forecast to be able to keep to its PAN in future years. This will entail the school admissions system redirecting non-priority out of area applicants to Seahaven Academy and Peacehaven Community School in the Havens place planning area. The school has taken the decision to reduce its PAN to 232 with effect from 2024/25.

Seaford Head secondary Year 7 numbers



Surplus capacity at the school is likely to reduce during the plan period, from 12% in 2022/23 to 10% by 2026/27.

Seaford Head School total secondary numbers



In supporting the school to admit a larger intake in 2023/24, the local authority installed a temporary classroom on site during summer 2023, temporarily increasing capacity at the school by 30 places.

Rural Lewes

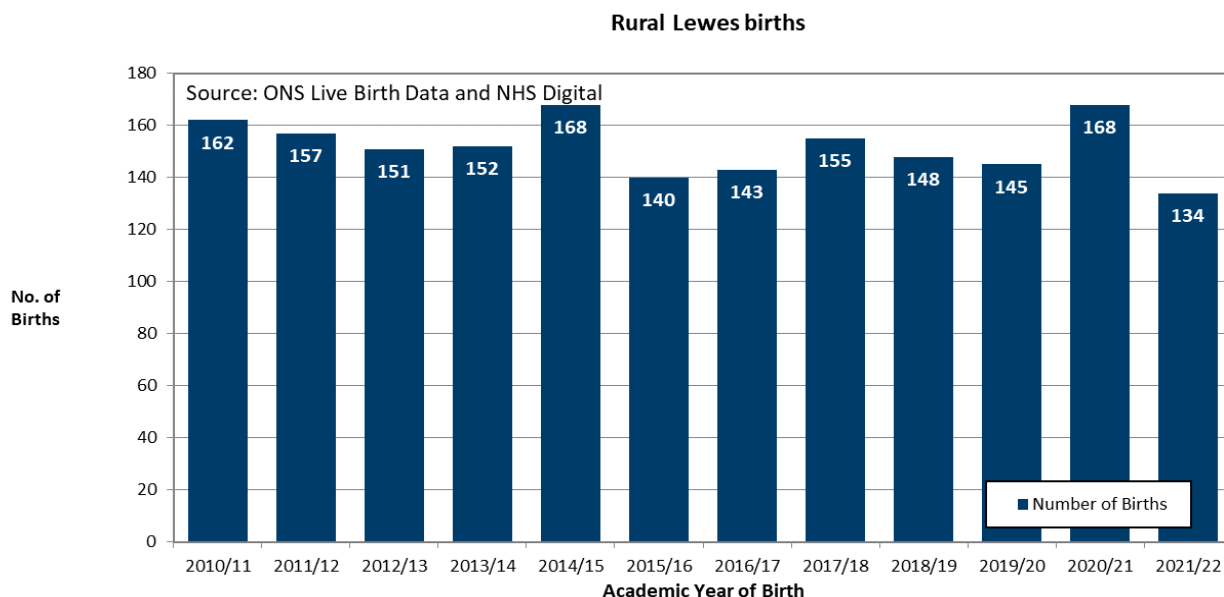
Schools

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

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

Births

Having been relatively steady in recent years, births in the area rose in 2020/21 to a level last seen in 2014/15. Births subsequently fell again in 2021/22.



Housing plans

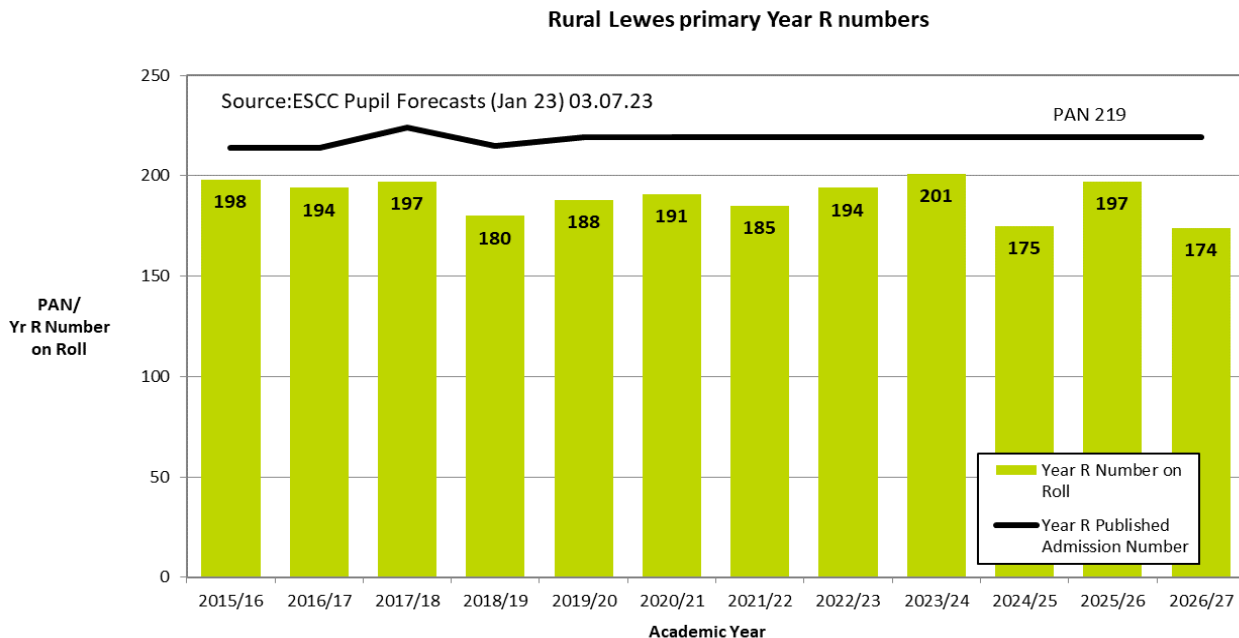
Lewes District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 700 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2029/30, of which approximately 300 are in Ringmer Parish. Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are currently preparing new Local Plans. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

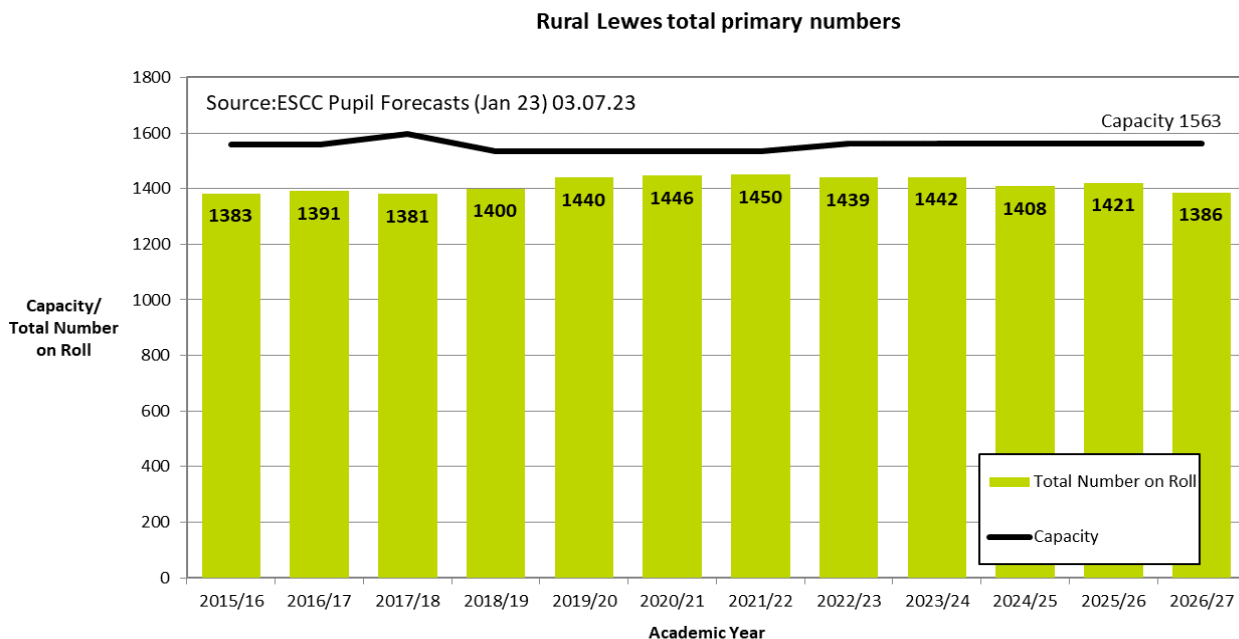
The 219 reception (Year R) places in the area are forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for the foreseeable future.

However, the picture will vary between individual school areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year, since 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 year-on-year to accommodate these fluctuations.



Surplus places in the area are expected to grow from 8% in 2022/23 to 11% by 2026/27. One school in the area has more than 25% surplus places.



Despite its expansion in 2017/18, Wivelsfield Primary School is already full, and its Published Admission Number (PAN) was exceeded in 2022/23. It is not currently forecast

to be exceeded again, but recent new housing at Wivelsfield Green and either side of the East Sussex / West Sussex Border in Hayward’s Heath and Burgess Hill is likely to place additional pressure on places over the short to medium term.

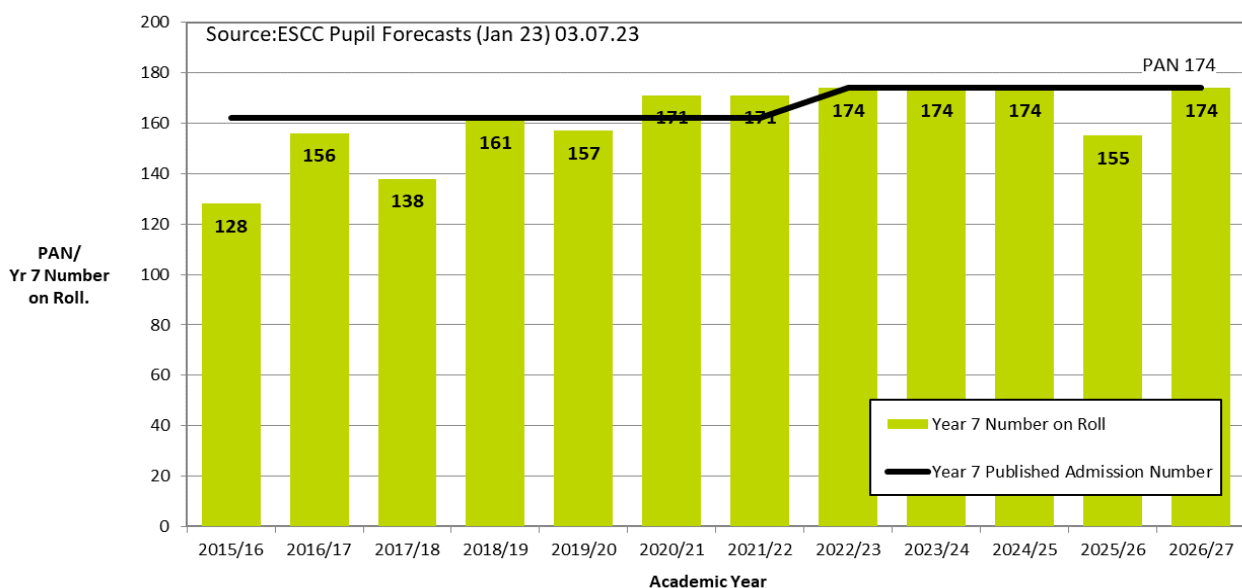
The local authority will monitor the increasing level of surplus places in the area.

Secondary places (Chailey School)

Demand from West Sussex, particularly with the large volume of housing being built in Burgess Hill, should allow Chailey School to generally be able to fill to its PAN of 174 in most of the years to 2027/28, with 2025/26 likely to be the exception.

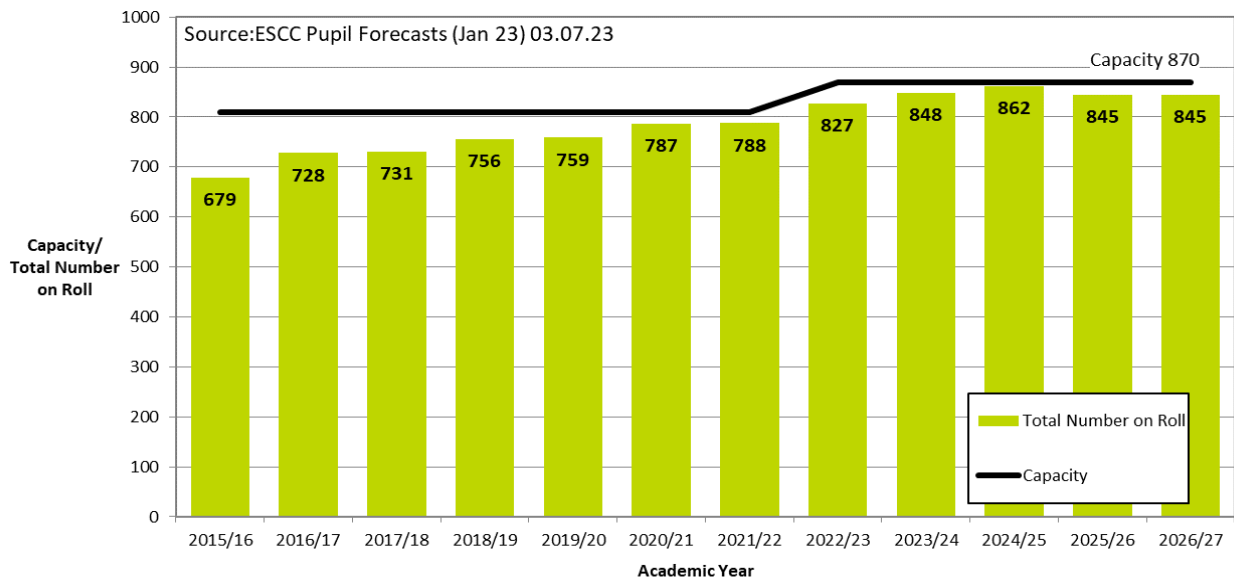
Although the village of Ditchling is in a joint admissions area between Chailey School and Priory School, it is also in the admissions area of Downlands Community School in Hassocks, West Sussex. Traditionally children from the village have attended Downlands, which is their nearest school.

Chailey School secondary Year 7 numbers



Total numbers on roll are expected to be close to Chailey School’s capacity of 870 in the coming years.

Chailey School total secondary numbers

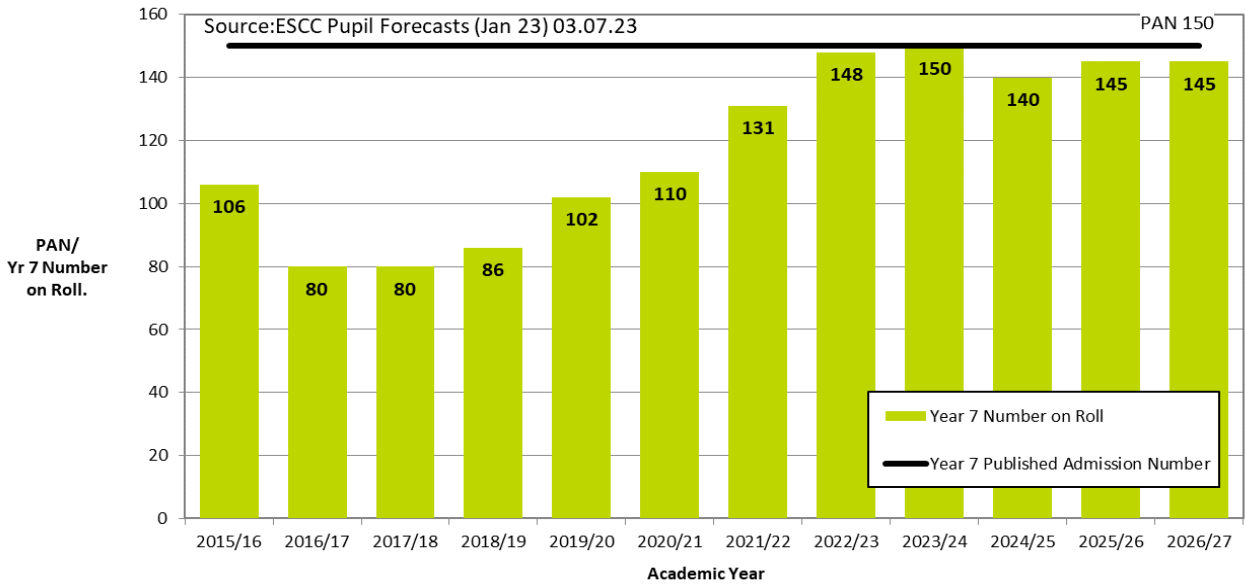


Secondary places (Kings Academy Ringmer)

Except for the joint school admissions area with Priory School, Kings Academy Ringmer’s community area does not include a town. Traditionally the school has relied on attracting significant numbers of applicants from other areas, notably from the joint area with Priory School and Hailsham Community College.

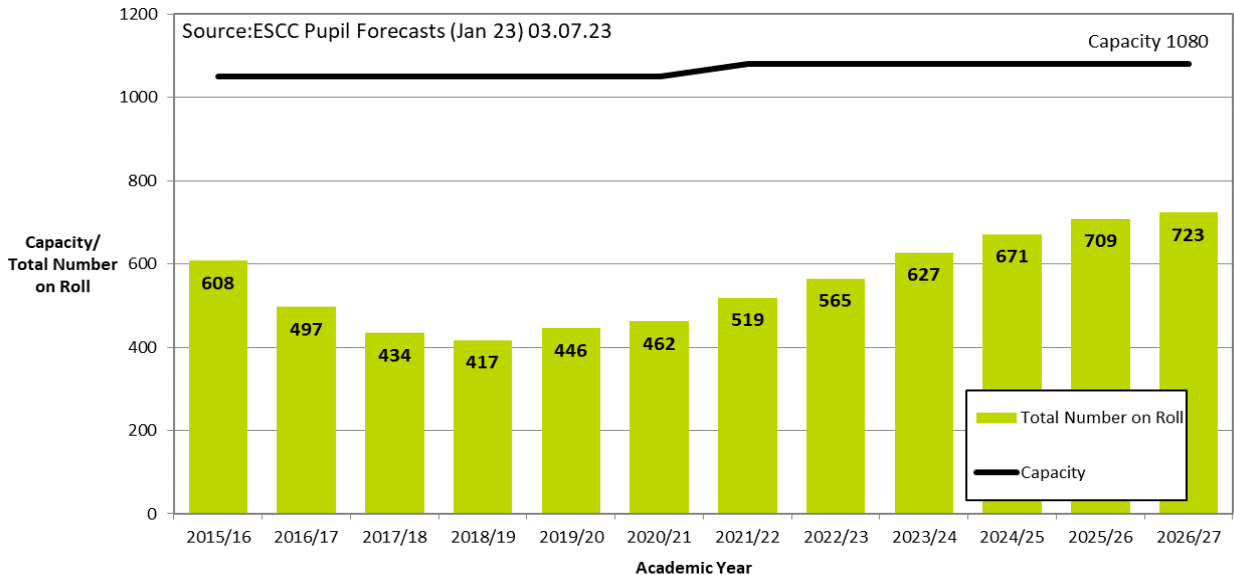
King’s Academy Ringmer nearly filled to PAN in 2022/23 and, depending on parental preference patterns in relation to surrounding schools, could continue to have high intake numbers in the short to medium term. However, whether these numbers are achieved will partly depend on the school experiencing larger inflows from other planning areas, notably Hailsham and surrounding area.

King's Academy Ringmer secondary Year 7 numbers



In 2022/23, Kings Academy Ringmer had 48% surplus places. This is in part owing to accommodation remaining on site following a previous PAN reduction from 180 to 150 and the school’s former sixth form remaining closed. Surplus capacity is expected to have fallen to 33% by 2026/27.

King's Academy Ringmer total secondary numbers



Bexhill and surrounding area

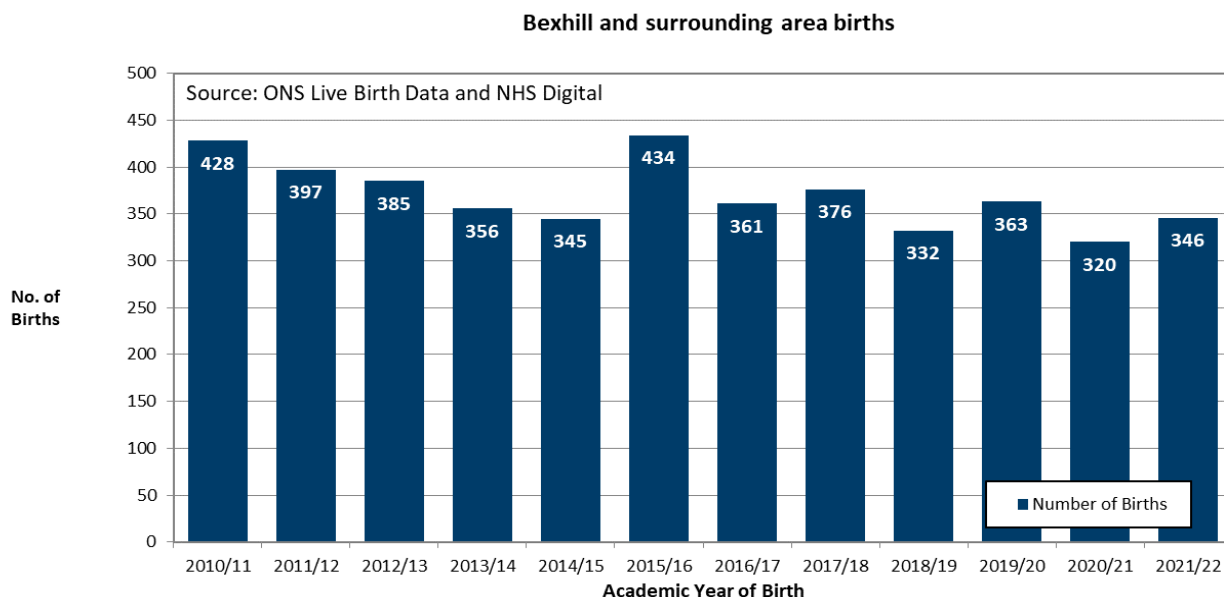
Schools

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

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

Births

Births in Bexhill have remained relatively steady for a number of years, barring the peaks in 2010/11 and 2015/16.



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 1,700 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

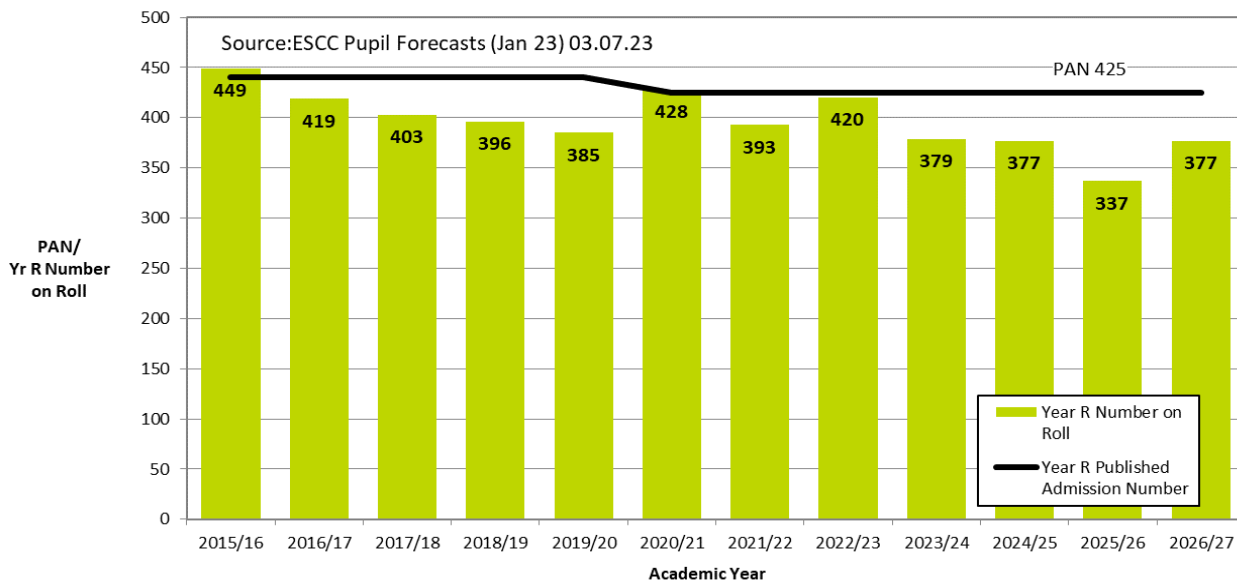
Primary places

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

However, a general upswing in future births, coupled with the high volume of new housing planned for the area, including a significant amount on land north of Pebsham, could result in reception (Year R) shortfalls towards the end of the decade.

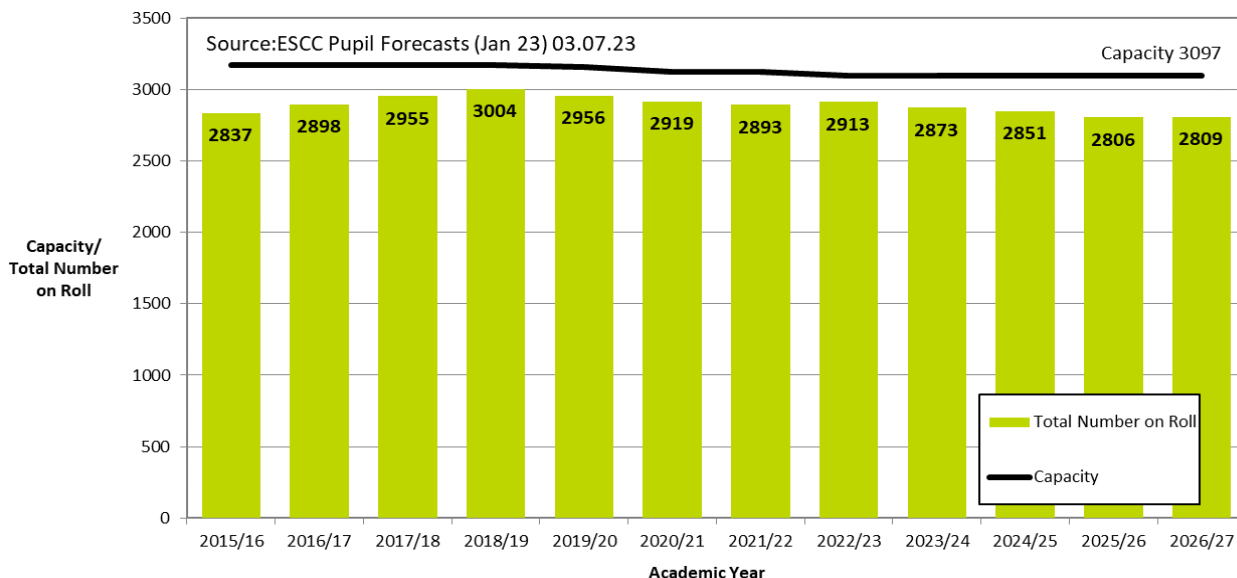
Some primary schools in the area experience inflows of children from Hastings. There are also outflows to surrounding schools including Battle and Langton CE Primary School.

Bexhill and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



In 2022/23, surplus places stood at 6% of capacity. By 2026/27, this figure is predicted to have grown to 9%. One school in the area had 25% or more surplus places.

Bexhill and surrounding area total primary numbers



The local authority has an option agreement on land for a new school within the development site north of Pebsham and will bring forward proposals to create provision to serve the development at the appropriate time. To a large extent the timing of this

will be dependent upon when the school site is transferred by the developer to the local authority and the demand for places in the area at that time.

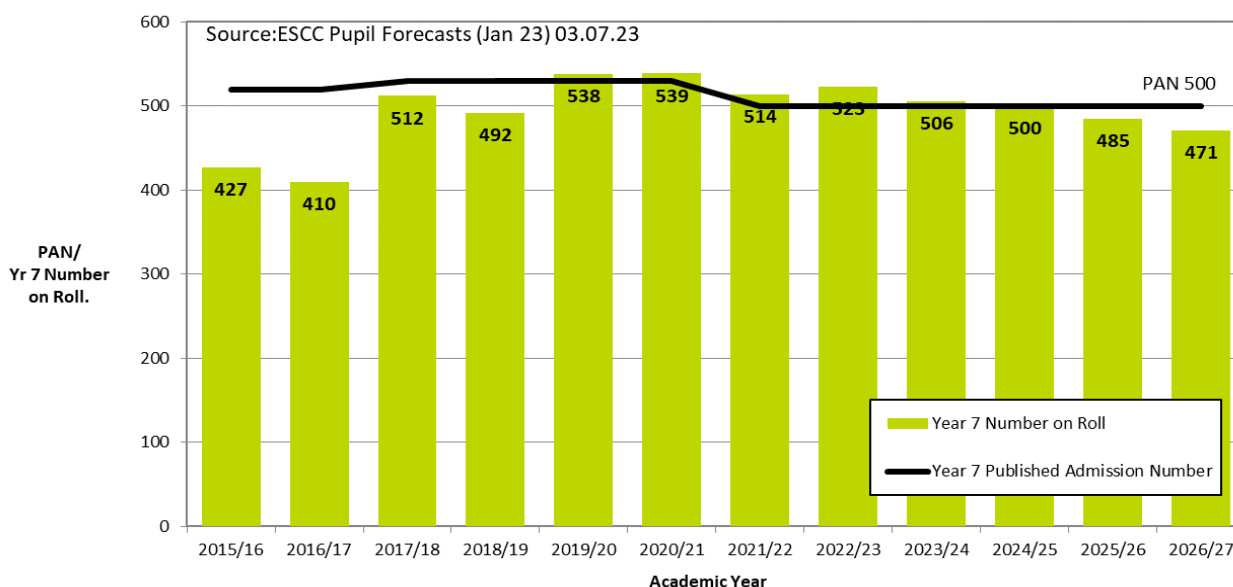
Secondary places

Bexhill High Academy has a PAN of 300. St Richard’s Catholic College has a PAN of 200, giving a combined formal PAN of 500 for the town.

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.

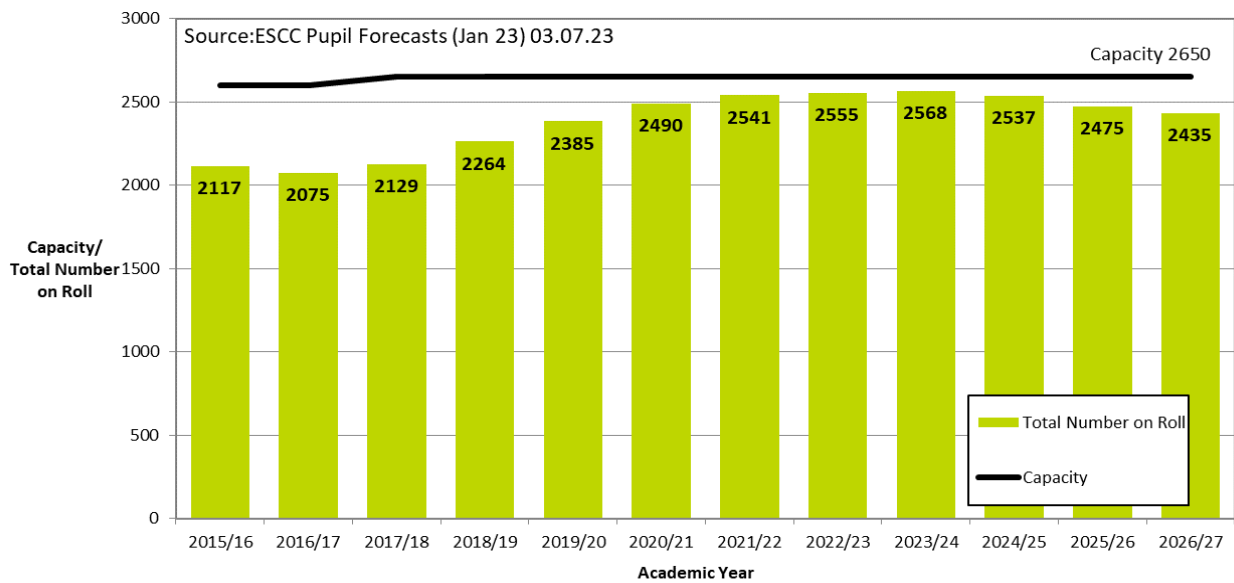
For 2023/24, St Richards was able to accommodate all on-time Catholic applications within its formal PAN and this is likely to be the case over the coming years. Both schools are forecast to be full to PAN in 2023/24 and again in 2024/25. In 2025/26 and 2026/27 there may be Year 7 spaces at Bexhill High Academy.

Bexhill and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



Surplus capacity in the area is predicted to increase from 4% in 2022/23 to 8% by 2026/27.

Bexhill and surrounding area total secondary numbers



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



Polegate School

Battle

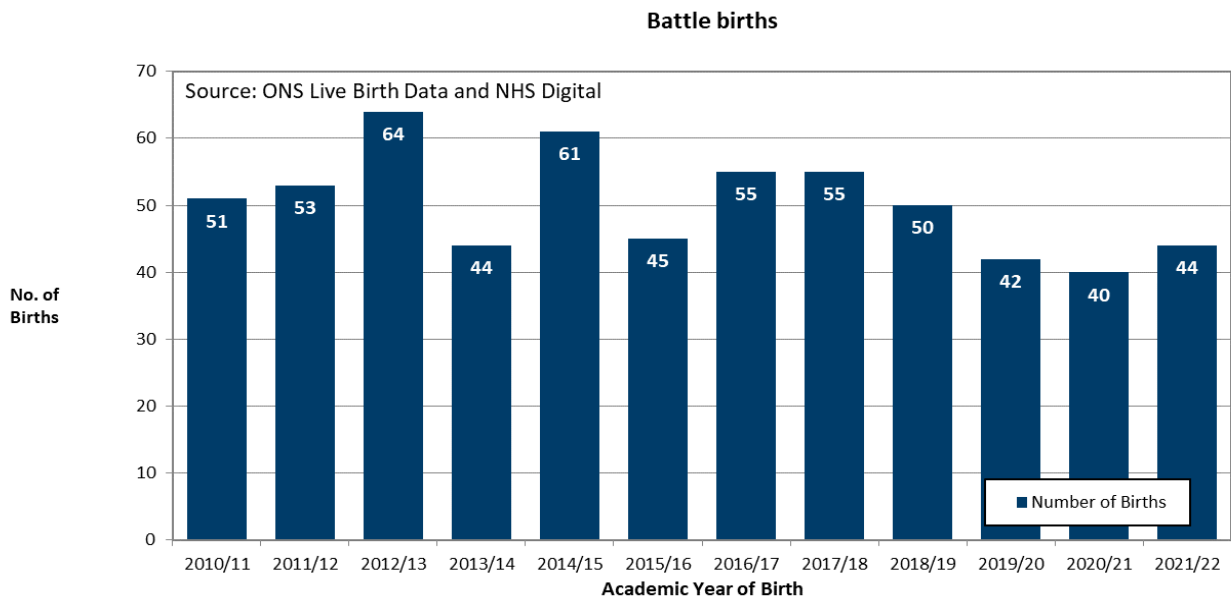
Schools

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

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

Births

Births in the area continue to decline, with each of the last three years in the low 40s.



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 500 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan

period to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

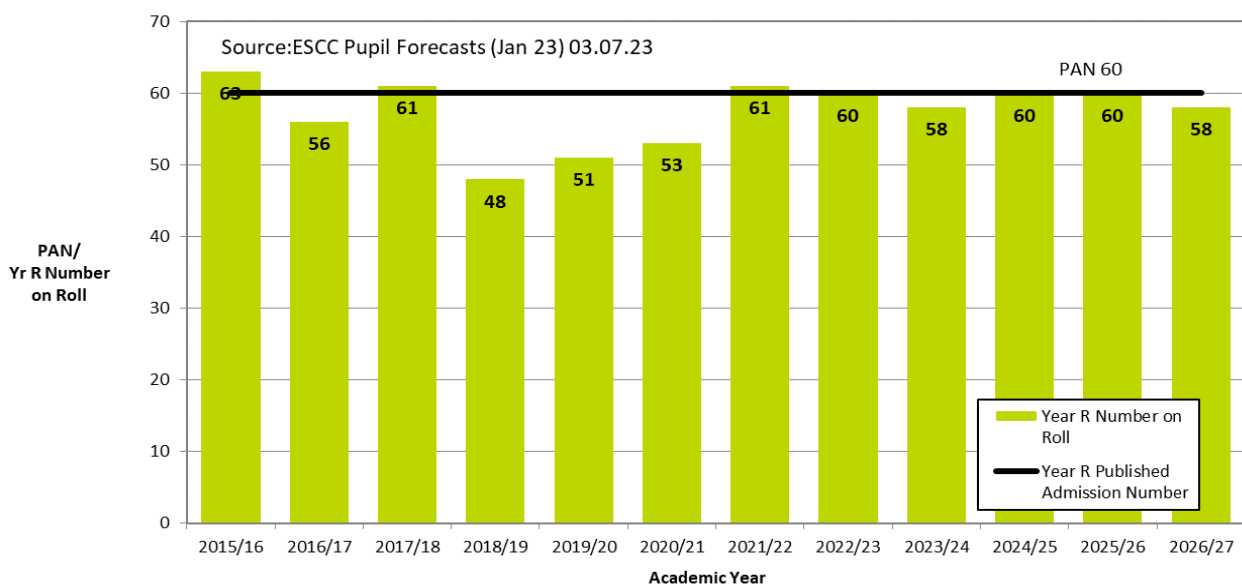
Primary places

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

The school takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also inflows from Bexhill and the surrounding area.

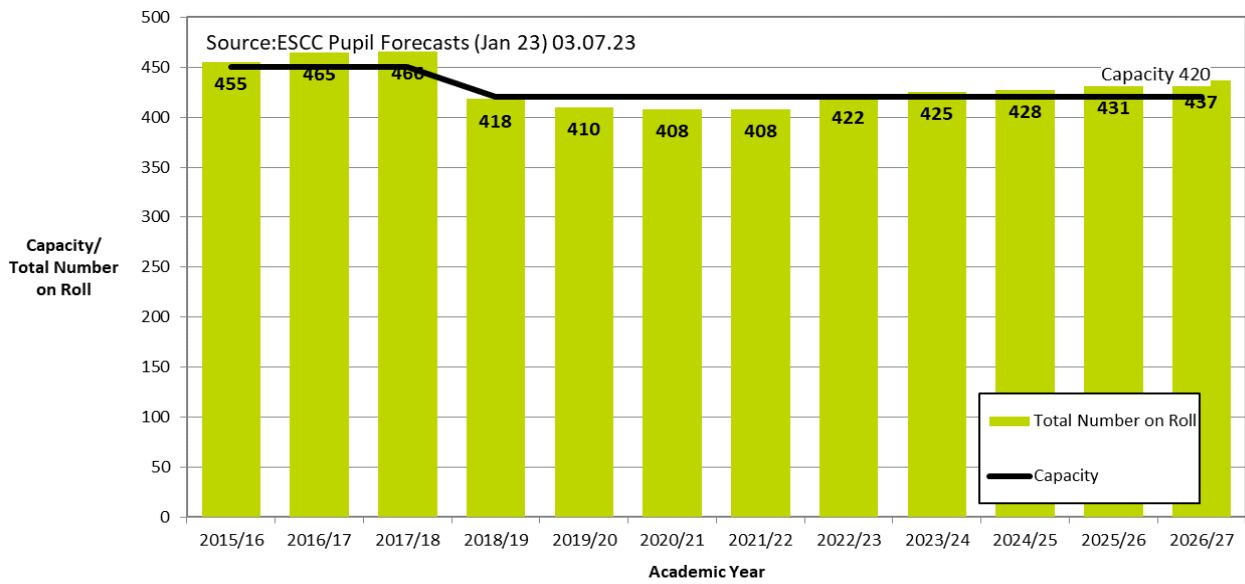
Any future increases in local demand should be able to be offset by the school admission system restricting inflows of children from other areas, notably Hastings, where necessary.

Battle primary Year R numbers



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

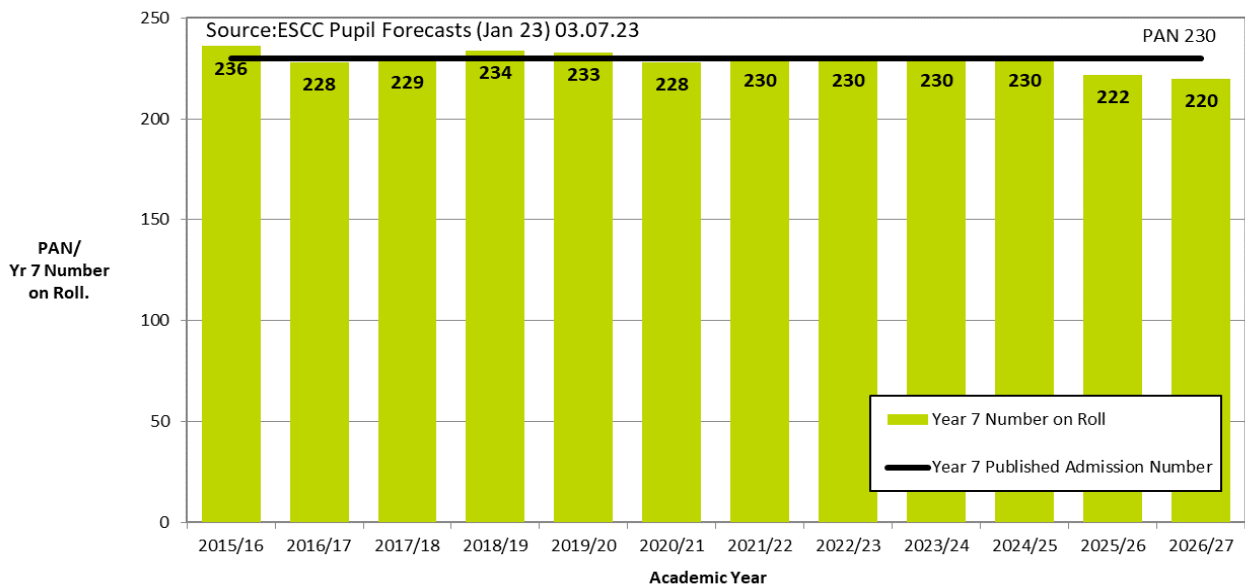
Battle total primary numbers



Secondary places

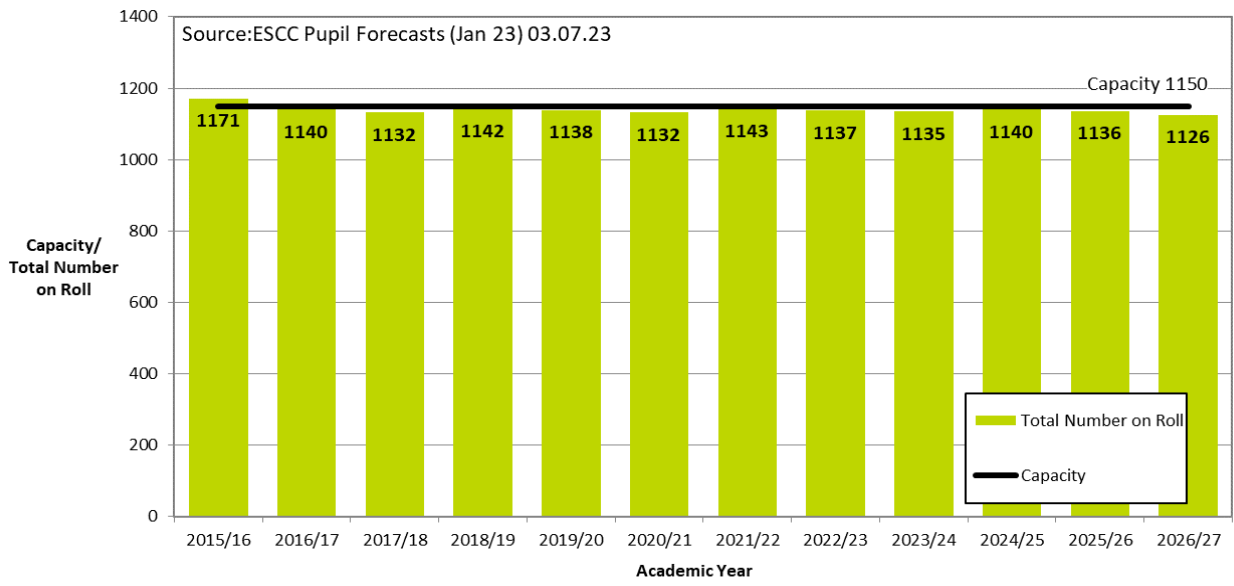
Claverham Community College takes significant numbers of children from Hastings and Bexhill. There are outflows of children from Battle to Robertsbridge Community College.

Claverham Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



The school has sufficient capacity to meet in-area demand. Provided it continues to be popular with out of area children it is likely to be close to full in most years.

Claverham Community College total secondary numbers



Wivelsfield Primary School

Rye and surrounding area

Schools

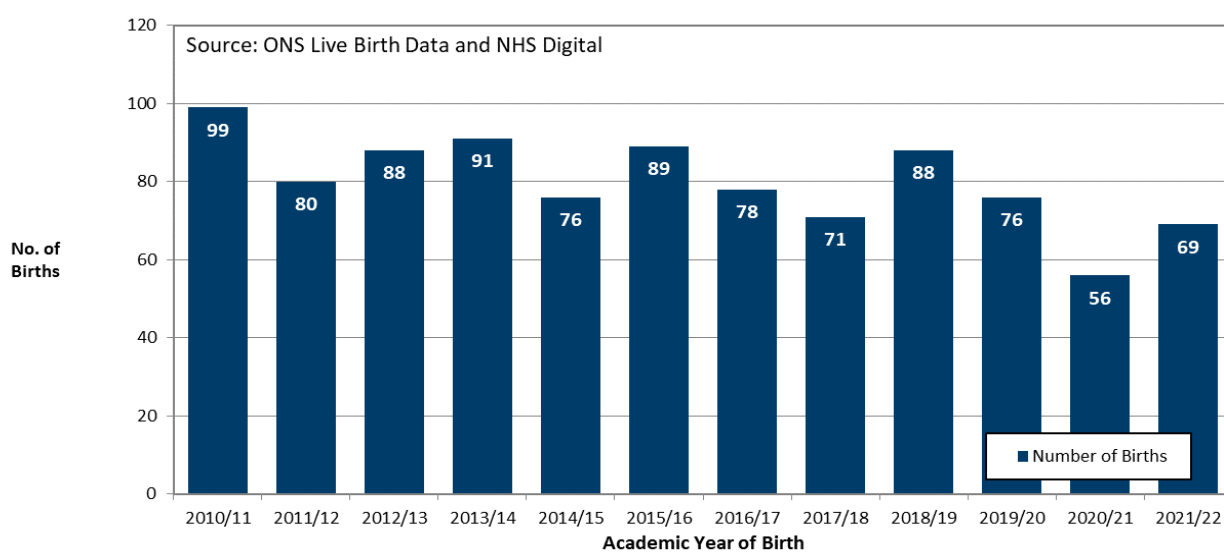
There are four primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

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

Births

Births in the area tend to fluctuate from year to year, but overall, the trend has been downward since 2010/11. Births in 2020/21 were particularly low.

Rye and surrounding area births



Housing plans

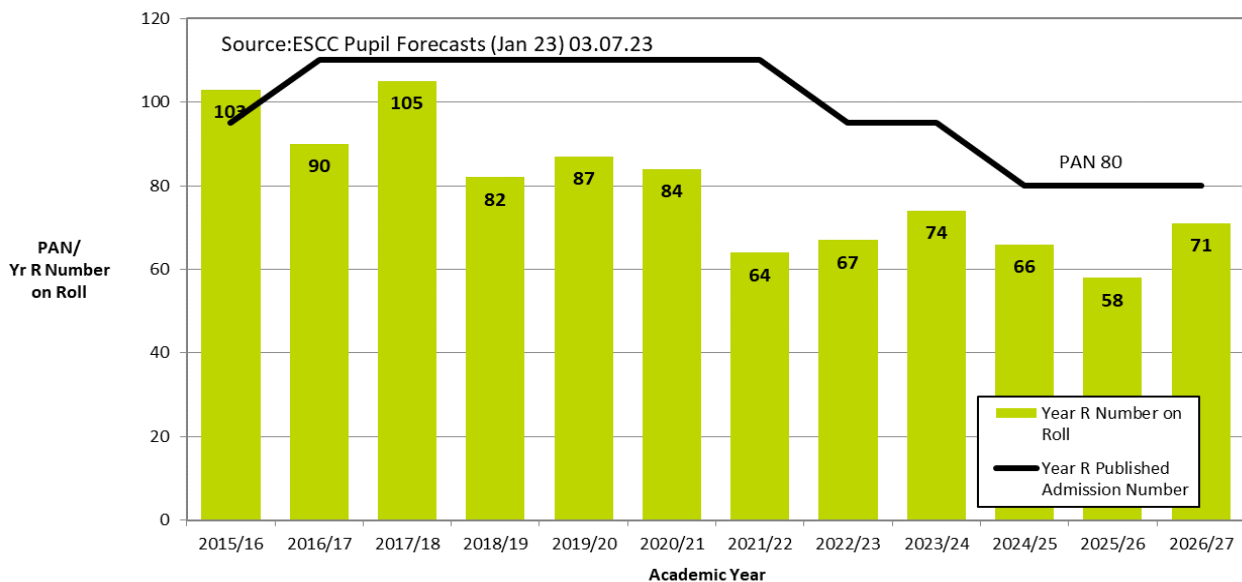
Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 200 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2027/28. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

In recent years there has been a movement of pupils away from Rye Community Primary School to the three surrounding schools. This has impacted on pupil numbers at the school, which are low when compared to its capacity.

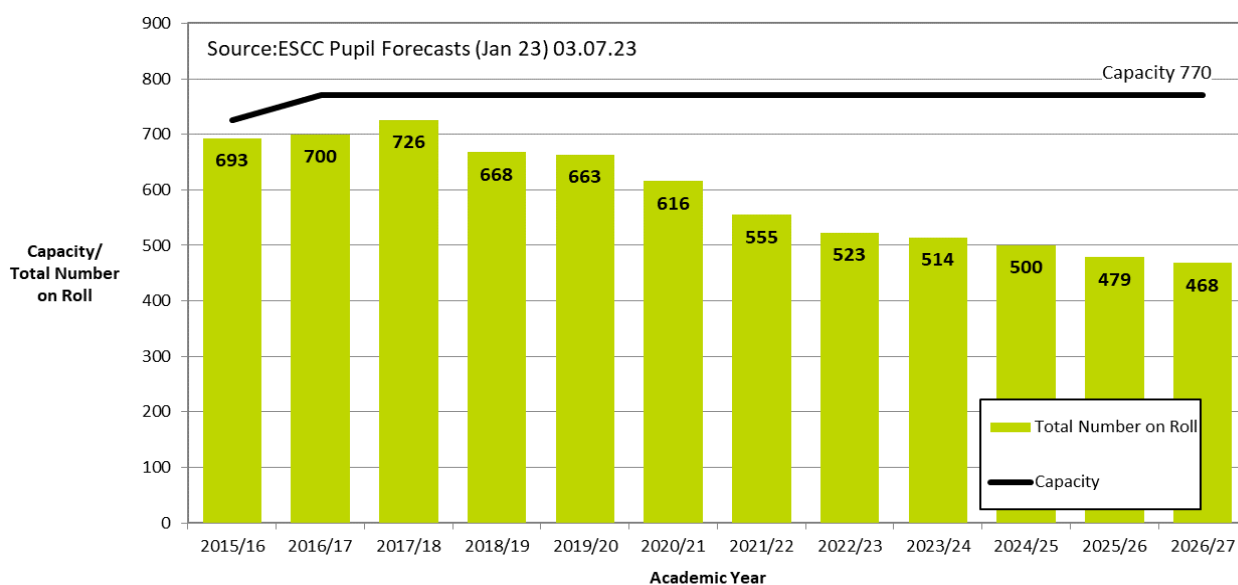
Lower births in the area have resulted in intakes well below the current combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of 95 for the four schools.

Rye and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



If intake numbers turn out to be as low as forecast, by 2026/27 surplus places in the area could be as high as 39% of capacity. Two schools in the area have 25% or more surplus places.

Rye and surrounding area total primary numbers



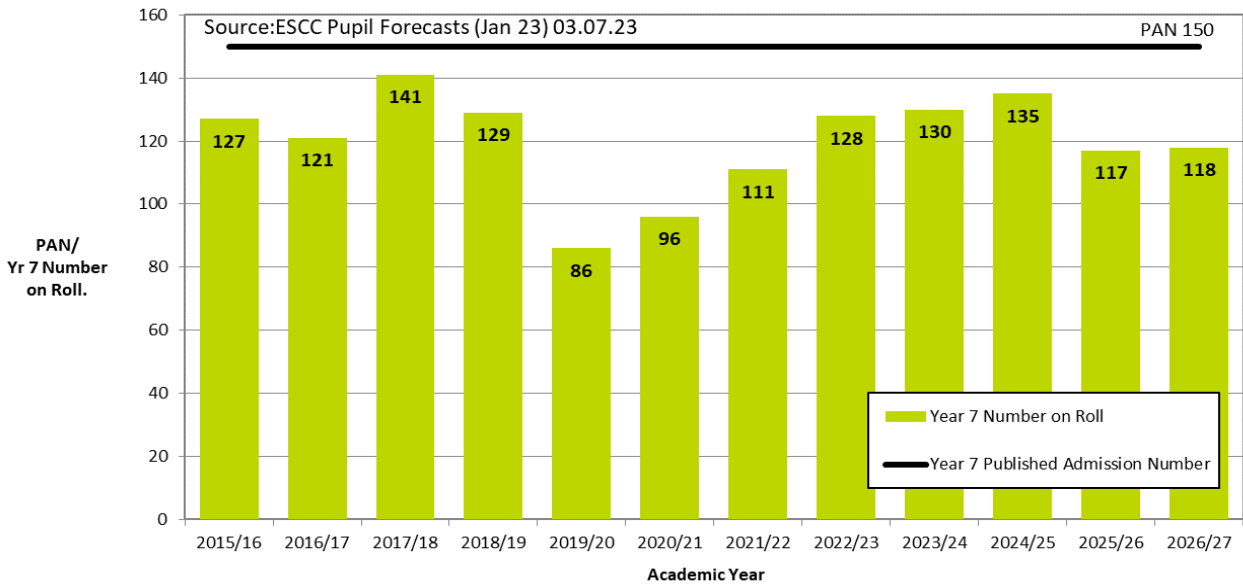
Reflecting the lower demand for places at Rye Community Primary School, the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust took a decision earlier this year to reduce the PAN at the school from 45 to 30 with effect from 2024/25 to manage surplus places in the school. Accommodation will not be removed and can be brought back into use when pupil numbers start to rise again.

Secondary places

Rye College traditionally has in-area numbers well below its PAN and has relied on attracting children from Hastings and across the border in Kent, notably Homewood School.

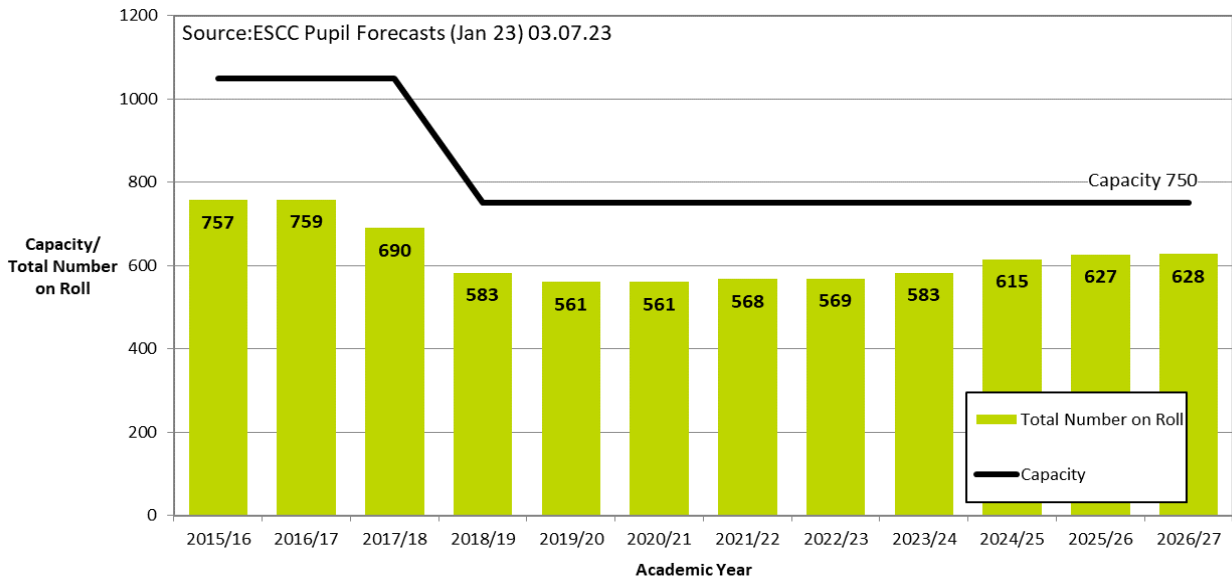
Higher in-area numbers in Hastings and pressures and PAN reductions in schools in Kent mean that Rye College's Year 7 intake numbers are forecast to be reasonably high until 2024/25. Beyond that point, lower numbers coming through Year 6 in the area and in Hastings could result in lower Year 7 intakes.

Rye and surrounding area secondary Year 7 numbers



With higher Year 7 intakes in recent years and forecast until at least 2024/25, the level of surplus places at Rye College should fall from 24% in 2022/23 to 16% by the end of the plan period.

Rye and surrounding area total secondary numbers



Rural Rother

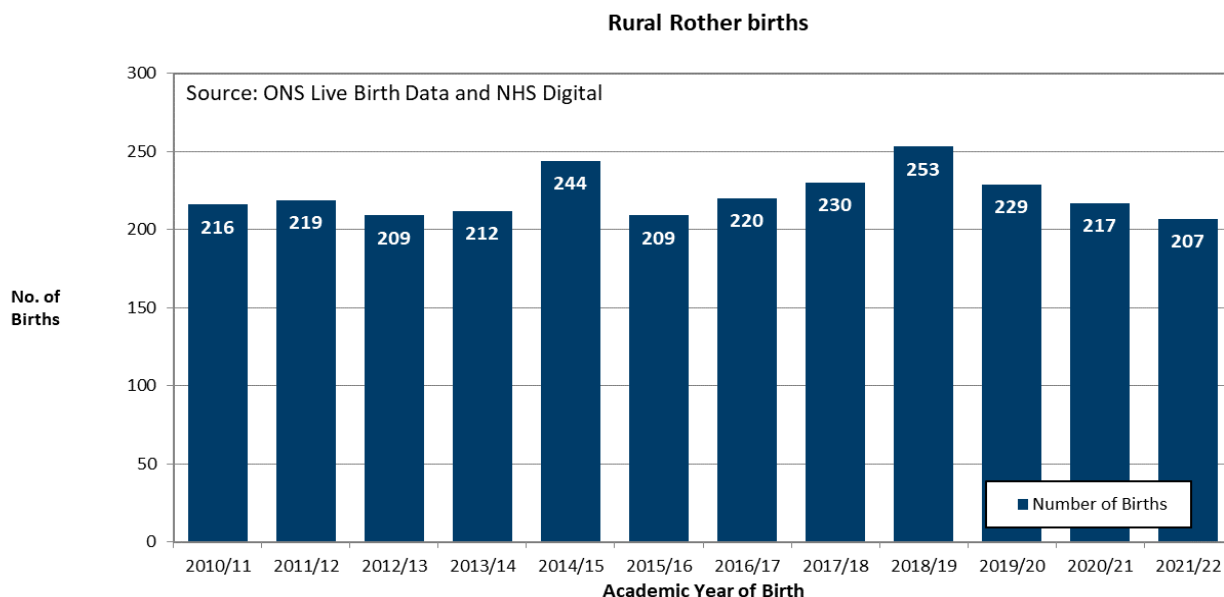
Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Beckley Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Bodiam Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Brede Primary School	4-11	Community
Burwash CofE School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Crowhurst CofE 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 CofE 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 CofE Primary School	4-11	Academy
Staplecross Methodist Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Stonegate Church of England Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Ticehurst and Flimwell Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Westfield School	4-11	Community
Secondary		
Robertsbridge Community College	11-16	Community

Births

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



Housing plans

Rother District Council provides the local authority with housing growth data on an annual basis which feeds into our pupil forecasts and means we can make assumptions about the likely pupil yield from new and planned housing developments. In January 2023, an estimated 800 new homes remain to be built in the area during the Local Plan period to 2027/28. Approximately 200 of these are in Robertsbridge and 100 in Westfield Parish. Rother District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

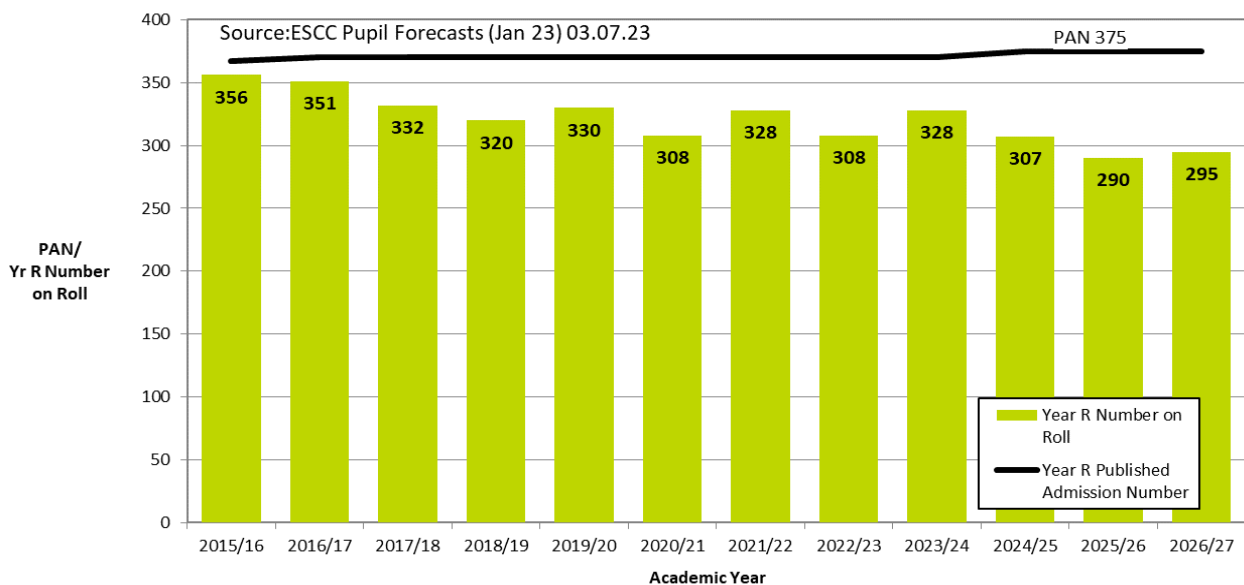
The 375 reception (Year R) places in the area are forecast to be sufficient to meet demand for the foreseeable future. However, the picture will vary between individual rural areas. Intake numbers in rural schools can fluctuate significantly from year to year since the size of the cohorts of children living in small geographical areas sometimes

differs markedly from one age group to the next. Normally schools can organise year-on-year to accommodate these fluctuations.

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

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

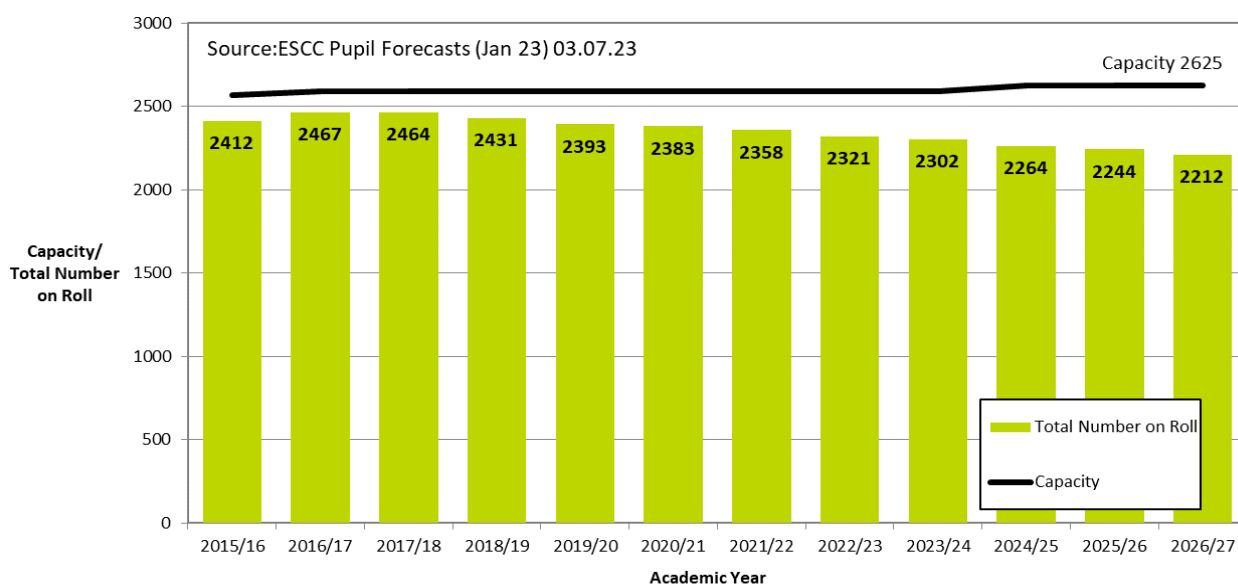
Rural Rother primary Year R numbers



Surplus places in the area are likely to grow from 10% in 2022/23 to 16% by 2026/27.

Two schools in the area have 25% or more surplus capacity.

Rural Rother total primary numbers



The local authority will continue to monitor the increasing level of surplus places in the area.

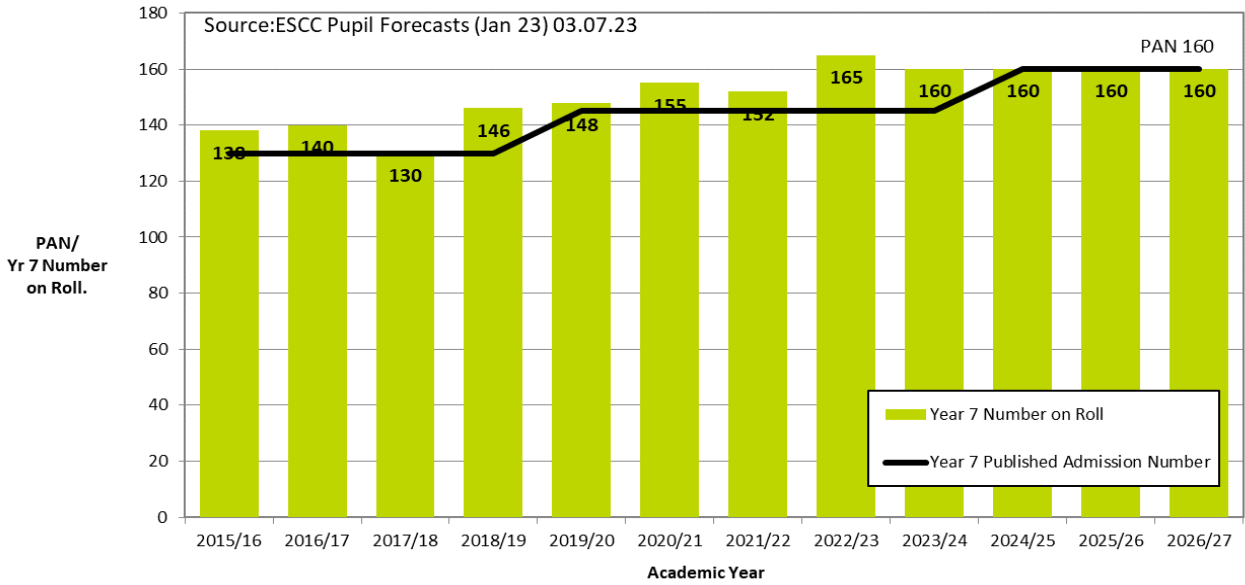
Secondary places

Robertsbridge Community College takes significant numbers of children from Hastings. There are also net inflows of children from Battle and the surrounding area and net outflows to Uplands Academy.

The school has more than sufficient places to meet in-area demand. For 2022/23 and 2023/24, the school went over its PAN to help alleviate pressures from other areas, notably Hastings and Kent.

Based on current preference patterns, it is forecast that Year 7 will be full or close to full for the foreseeable future, but this to a large extent hinges on its continuing popularity with out of area applicants.

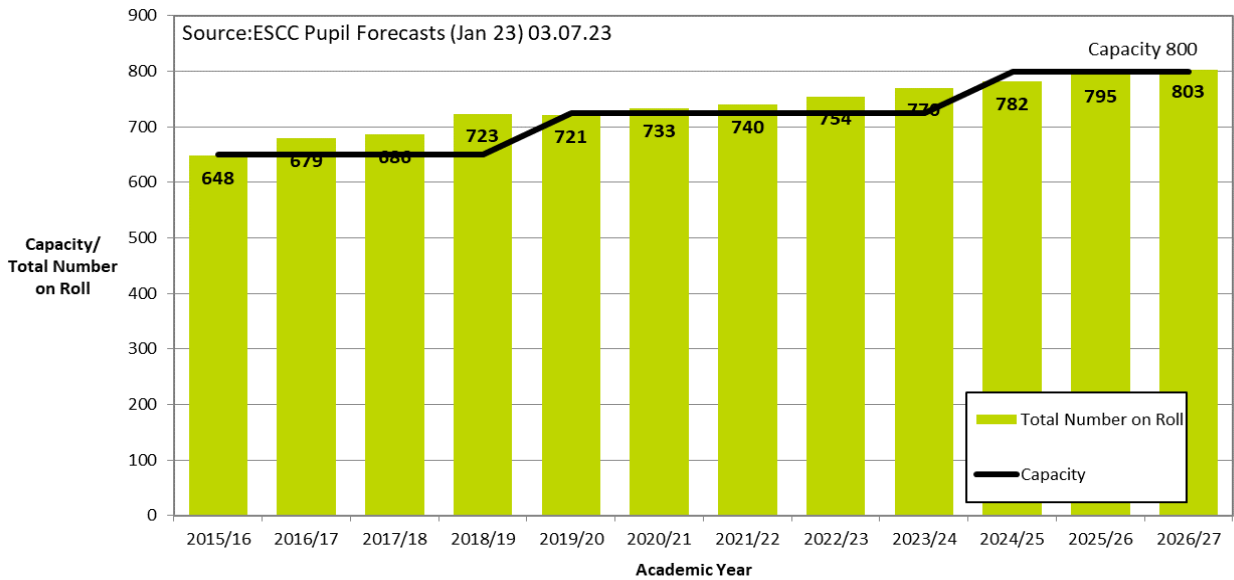
Robertsbridge Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



Reflecting its current popularity, the local authority has approved an increase to the school’s PAN from 145 to 160 to take effect from the 2024/25 academic year.

The school is forecast to be at or close to capacity in the coming years.

Robertsbridge Community College total secondary numbers



Crowborough and surrounding area

Schools

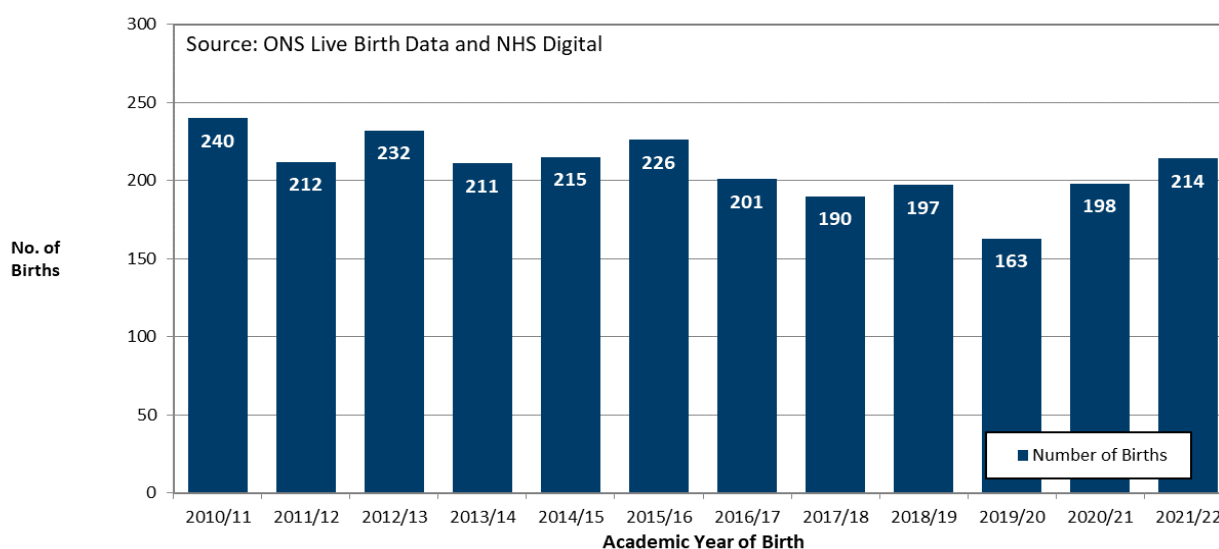
There are six primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision. The secondary school has a sixth form.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Ashdown Primary School	4-11	Community
Jarvis Brook Primary School	2-11	Academy
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
Rotherfield Primary School	4-11	Community
Secondary		
Beacon Academy	11-18	Academy

Births

Births in the area have tended to fluctuate year-on-year, although the overall trend has been downwards since 2010/11. 2019/20 was a particularly low year for births.

Crowborough and surrounding area births



Housing plans

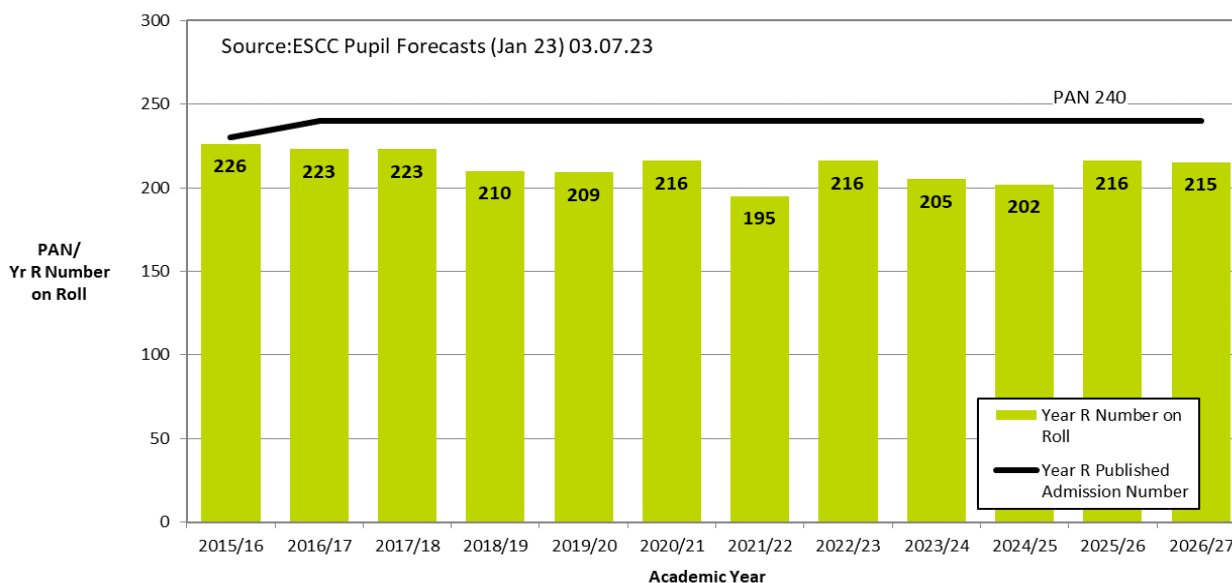
Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

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.

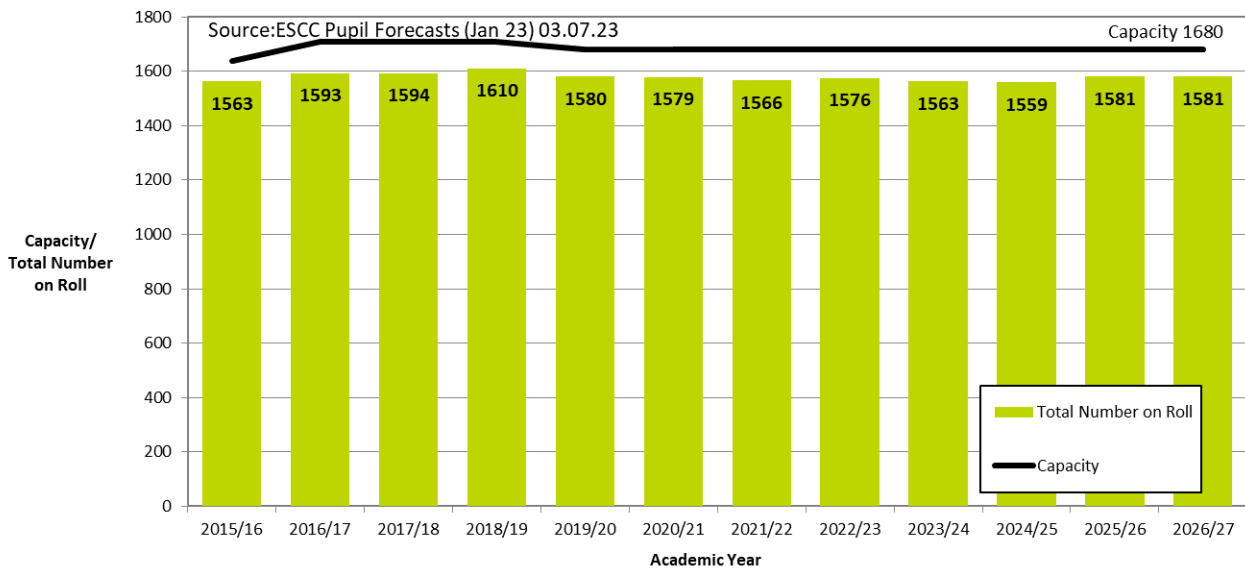
A number of children from the area currently attend surrounding schools, most notably High Hurstwood CE Primary School.

Crowborough and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



Surplus places in the area currently stand at 6% of capacity and are unlikely to change significantly over the plan period. One school in the area has 25% or more surplus places.

Crowborough and surrounding area total primary numbers



Secondary places

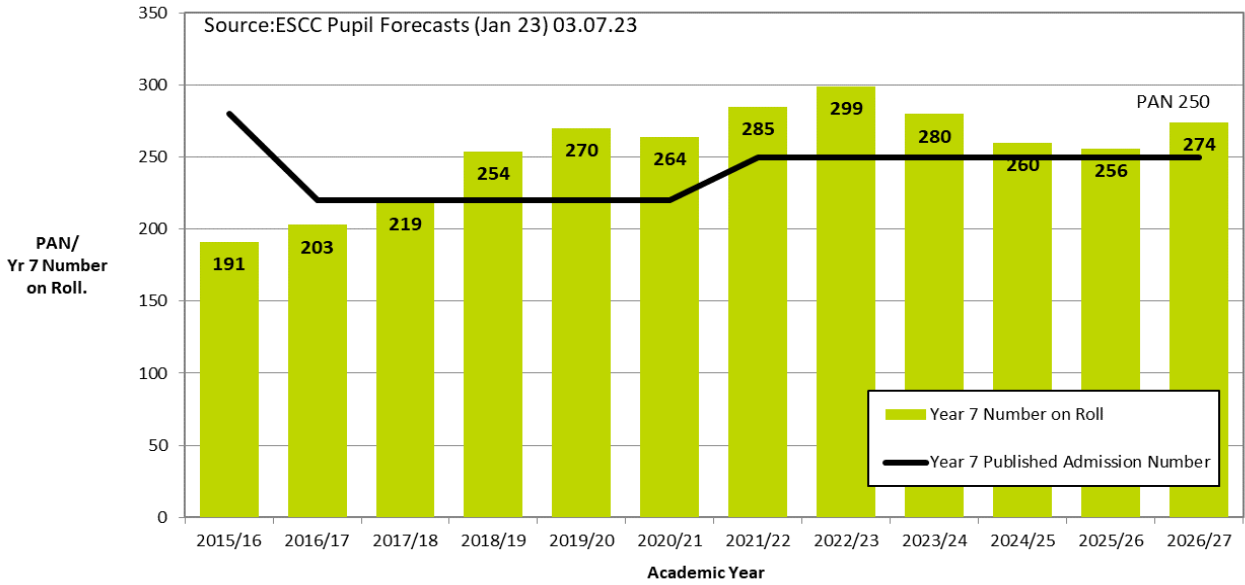
A number of children from the village of Forest Row, in the joint admissions area for Beacon Academy and Chailey School, traditionally receive offers of places at Sackville School and Imberhorne School in East Grinstead, West Sussex. Rising pressure for places at those schools could mean more pupils requiring a place at Beacon Academy or at Chailey School. Beacon Academy is the closer school to Forest Row. However, numbers coming through Forest Row CE Primary are declining, with the cohorts leaving Year 6 in future predicted to be under 30.

Some children from Beacon Academy's area obtain places at Kent Grammar schools.

Beacon Academy increased its PAN to 250 in 2021/22. Even so, Year 7 numbers continue to exceed the PAN. The school's admissions policy for 2023/24 changed so priority is only given to siblings of children at the school who live 'in-area' rather than all siblings. This may help limit the numbers the school has to accommodate.

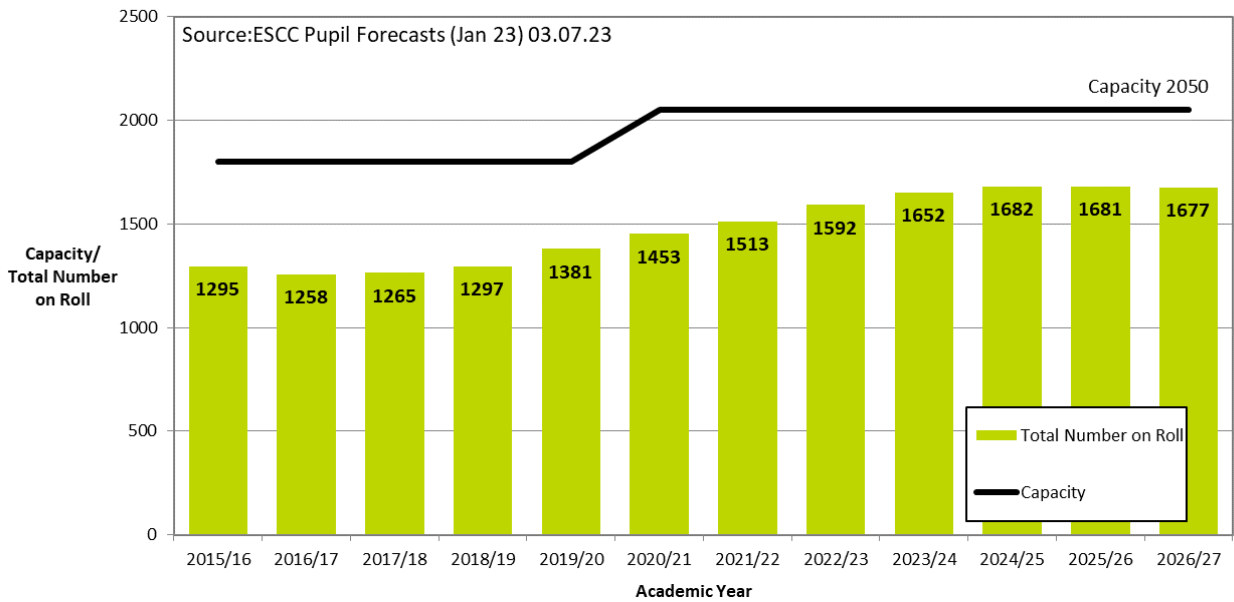
Nevertheless, while Year 7 numbers are not expected to be as high as they have been recently, due to Beacon Academy's popularity, in the short to medium term it may be difficult for the school to keep to a PAN of 250.

Beacon Academy secondary Year 7 numbers



Reflecting the higher Year 7 intakes, overall pupil numbers have increased notably at the school in recent years. In 2022/23, there were 23% more pupils on roll than in 2015/16.

Beacon Academy total secondary numbers



Hailsham and surrounding area

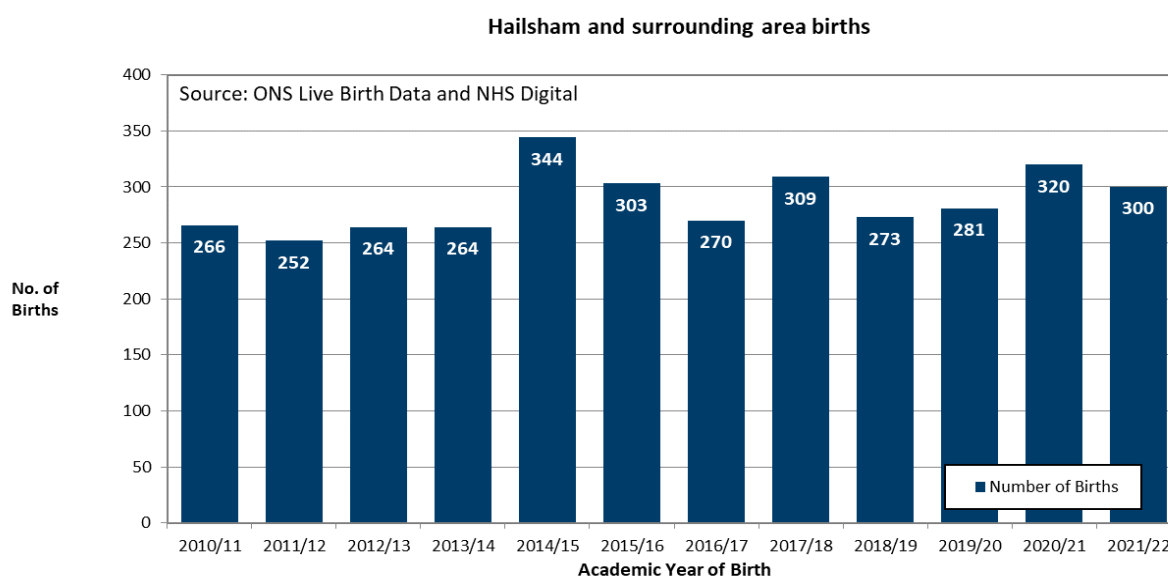
Schools

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

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

Births

Although fluctuating year-on-year, births in the area have generally been higher in recent years, reflecting the significant number of new homes that have been built in Hailsham in recent years.



Housing plans

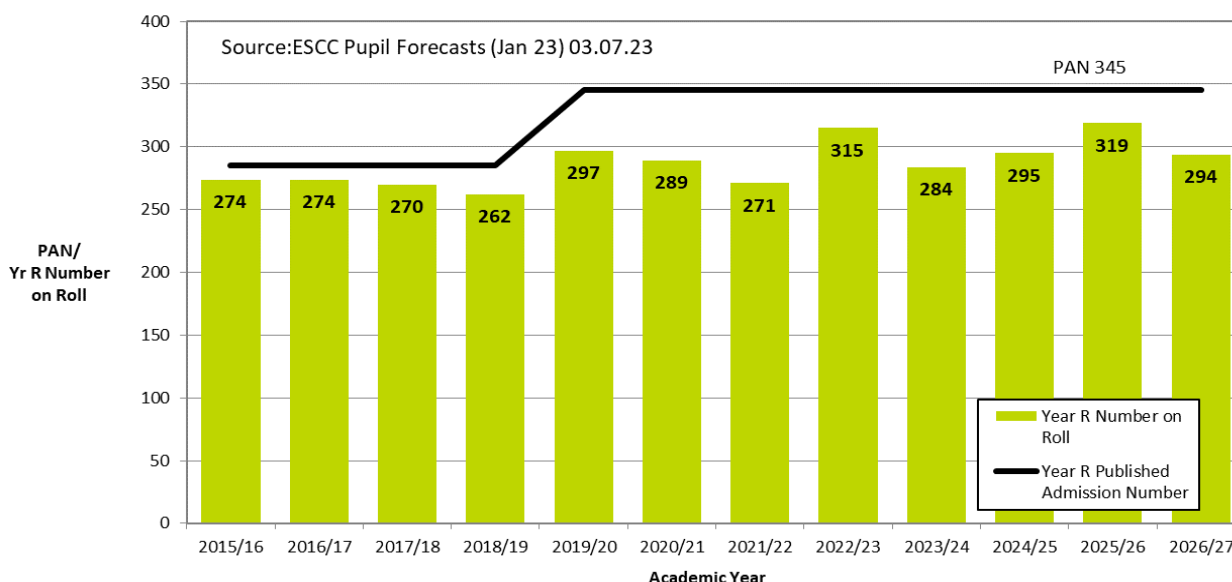
Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

Around 2,200 units of new housing have been completed in Hailsham over the past ten years, and this has significantly boosted pupil numbers in the area. However, high numbers of Hailsham families continue to opt for places in surrounding schools, notably Herstmonceux CE Primary School, Chiddingly Primary School, and schools in the Heathfield area. Therefore, reception (Year R) intakes in Hailsham have not been as high as originally predicted.

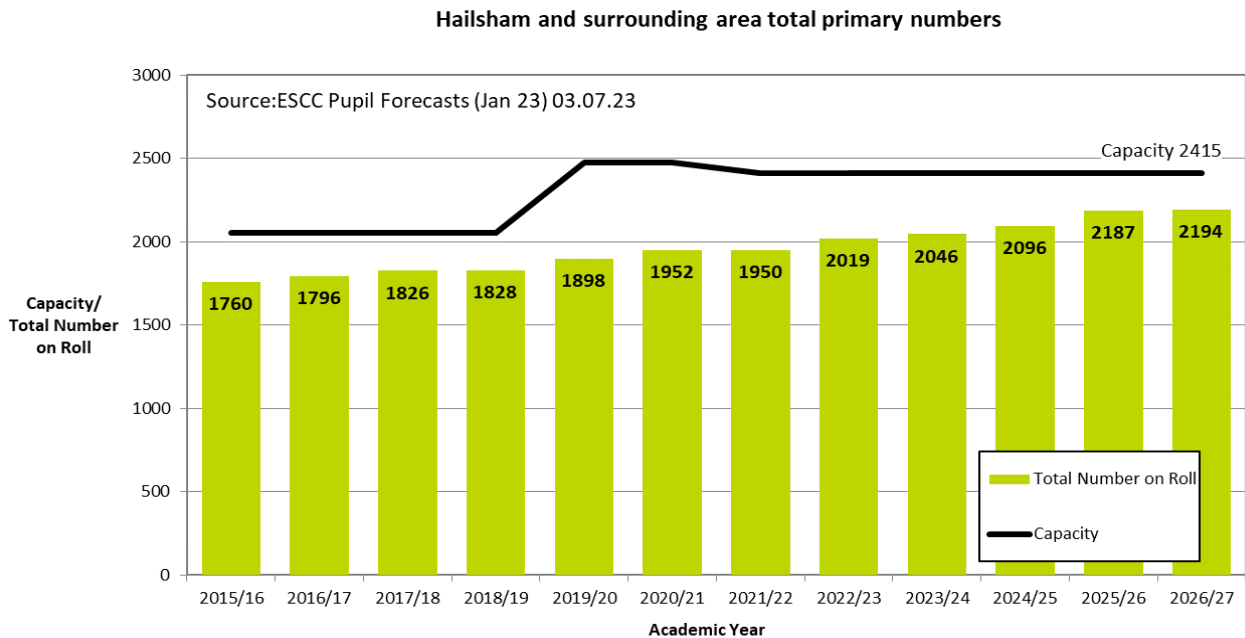
Once the general demographic trend for births turns upward again, we may well see a follow-on upward trend in Year R numbers in the area, but the timing of this is difficult to predict.

Hailsham and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



In 2022/23, surplus places in the town stood at 16%. However, this figure is inflated by the primary phase of Hailsham Community College which opened in 2019 with Year R

intakes only. Currently there are cohorts in Year R to Year 4. It will be 2025/2026 before the school has a cohort in each year group. One other school in the area has 25% or more surplus places.

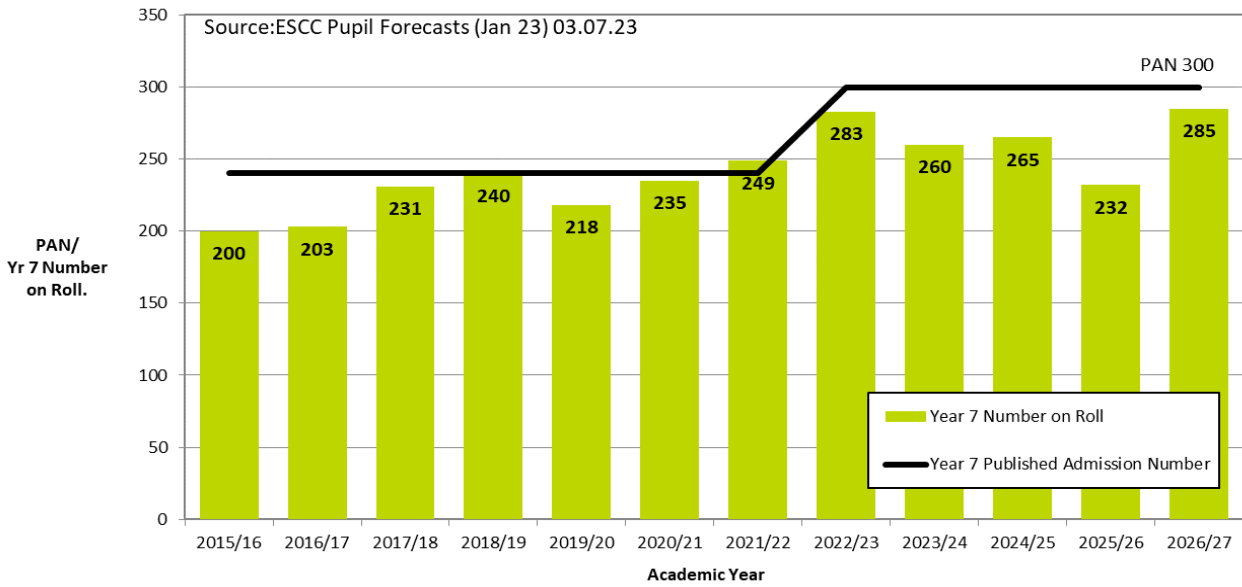


Secondary places

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

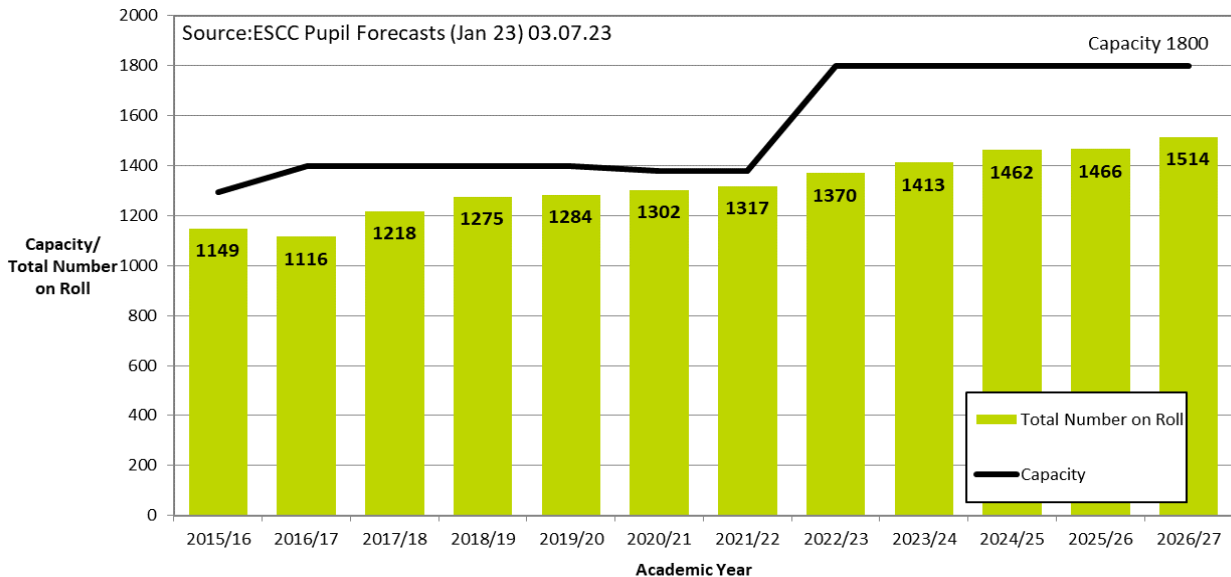
A substantial number of children from the area take up places at surrounding schools, notably Heathfield Community College, Kings Academy Ringmer, Willingdon Community School and schools in Eastbourne. Therefore, the exact magnitude of Year 7 intakes to Hailsham Community College will be heavily dependent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

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust secondary Year 7 numbers



Surplus places stood at 24% of capacity in 2022/23. However, this figure is inflated by the recent expansion of the school’s secondary phase with larger intakes filling from Year 7. By 2026/27, it is predicted that surplus places will have fallen to 16% of capacity.

Hailsham Community College Academy Trust total secondary numbers



Heathfield

Schools

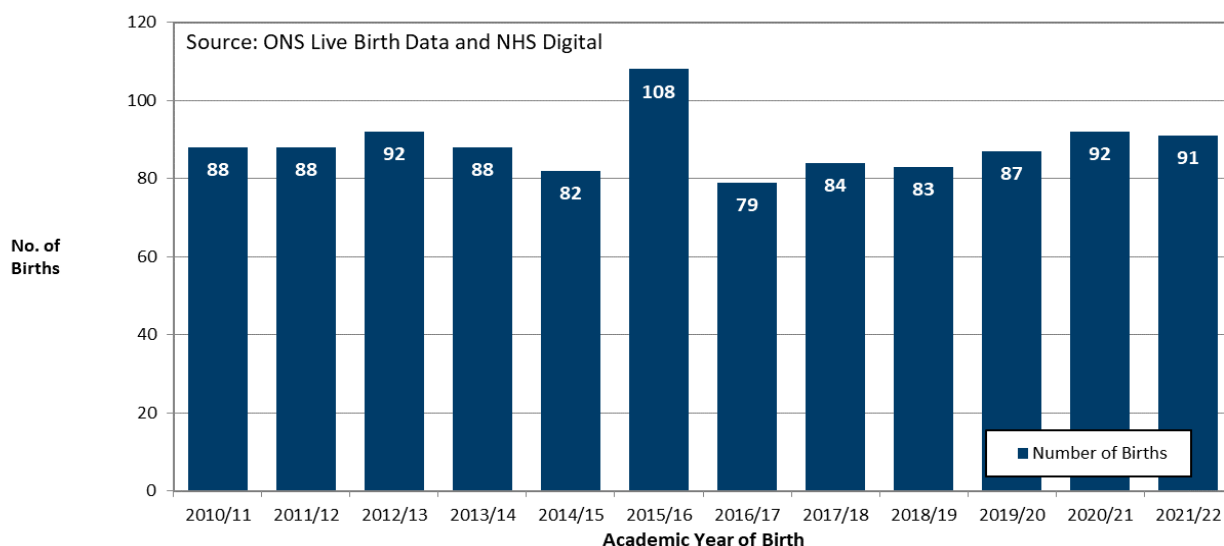
There are three primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision. The secondary school has a sixth form.

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

Births

Apart from in 2015/16, births in the area have remained largely consistent for several years.

Heathfield births



Housing plans

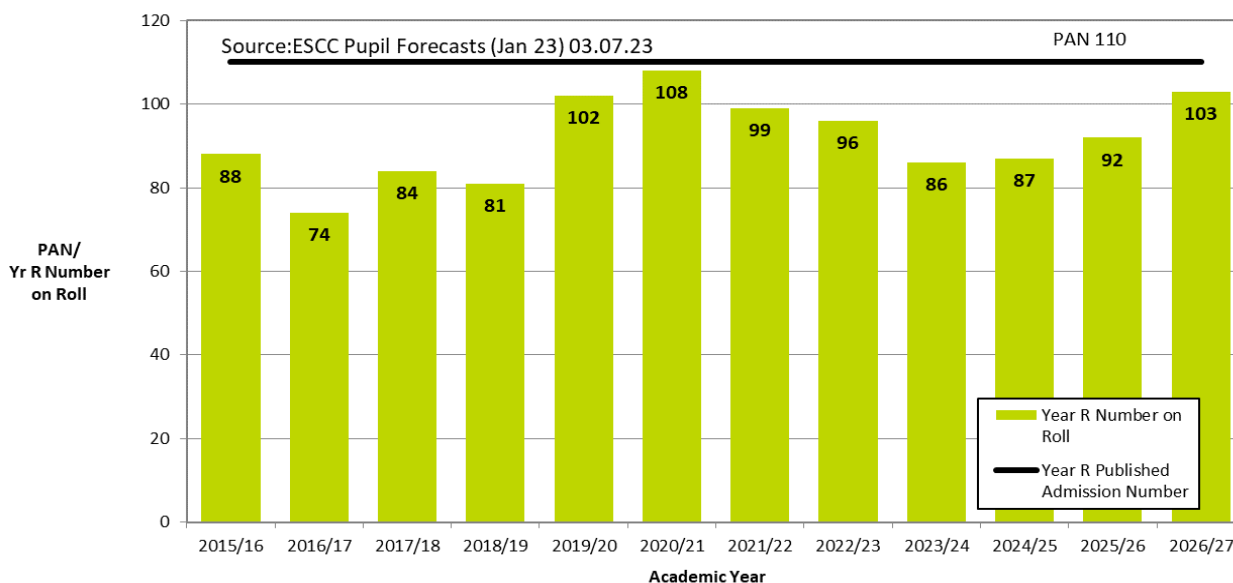
Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

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

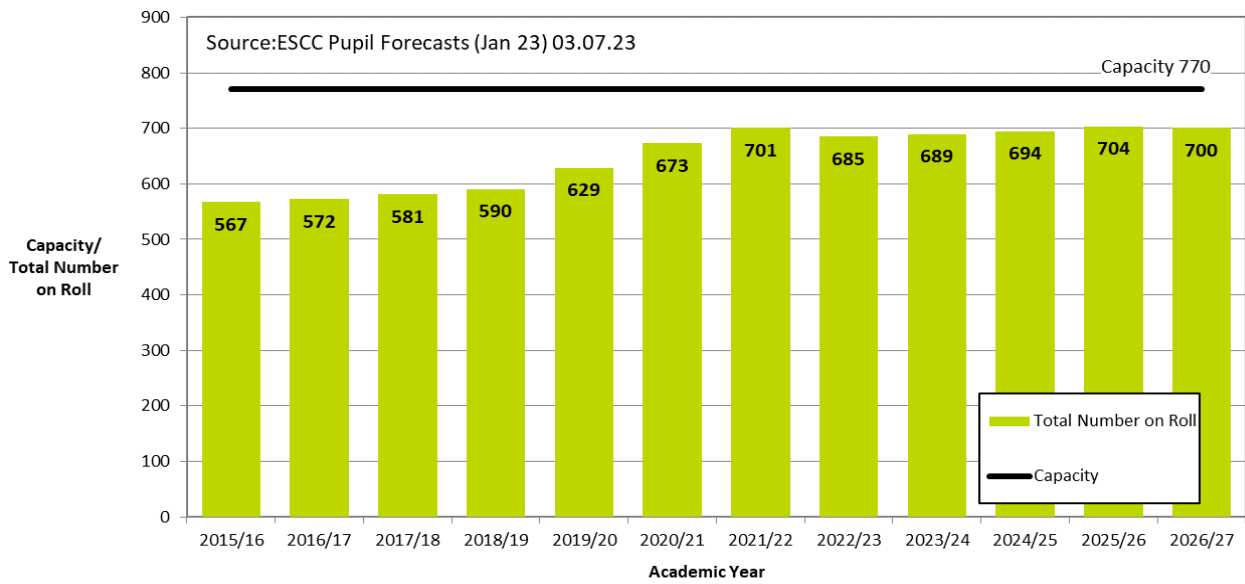
Reception (Year R) numbers in Heathfield are forecast to remain within the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 110 for the foreseeable future.

Heathfield primary Year R numbers



Surplus places in the area are predicted to be between 9% and 10% of capacity for the duration of the plan period. One school has 25% or more surplus places.

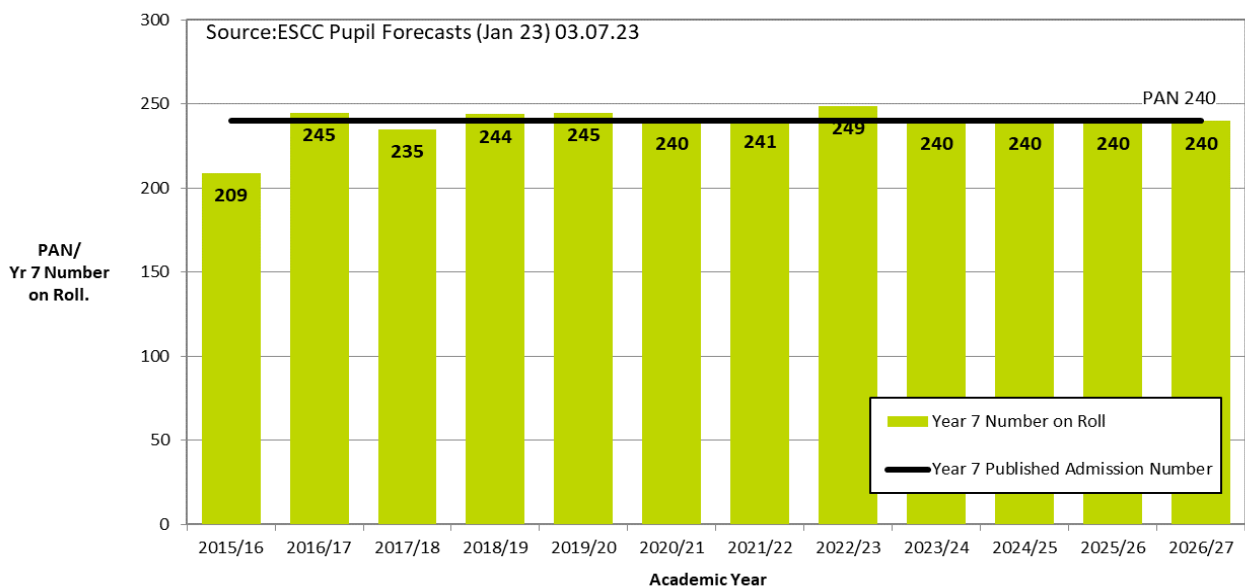
Heathfield total primary numbers



Secondary places

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

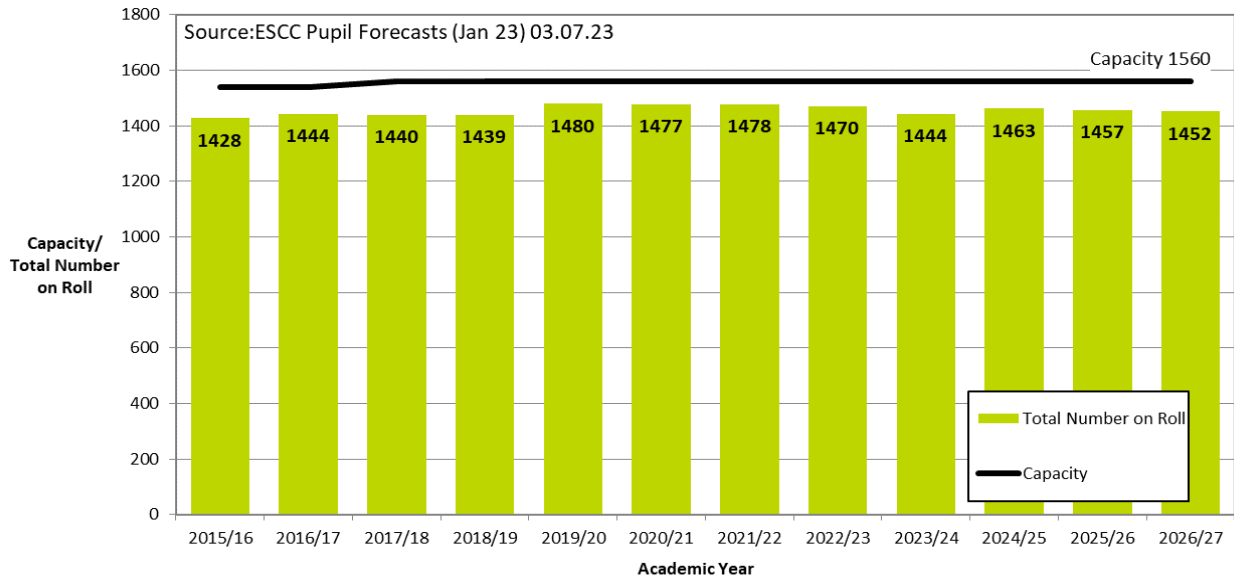
Heathfield Community College secondary Year 7 numbers



Heathfield Community College has sufficient capacity to meet in-area demand. The potential for the school admissions system to redirect out of area applicants back to

Hailsham and other areas means that the school is unlikely to have to exceed its PAN in future years and will remain close to capacity with around 7% surplus places.

Heathfield Community College total secondary numbers



Polegate and Willingdon

Schools

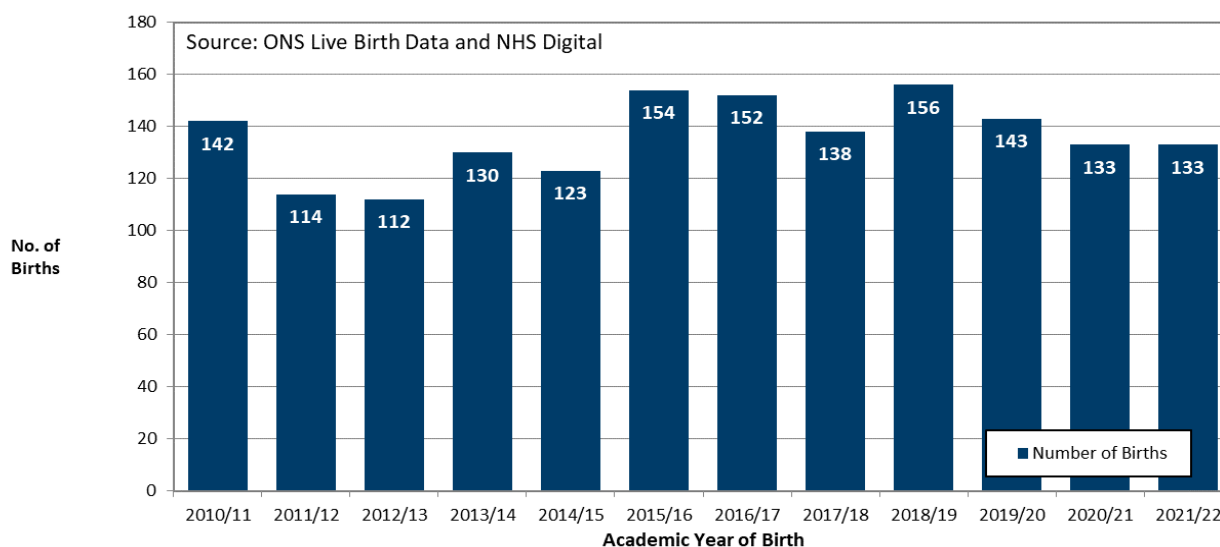
There are two primary schools in the area and one secondary school. One primary school has nursery provision.

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

Births

Births in the area peaked in 2018/19 and have since begun to fall.

Polegate and Willingdon births



Housing plans

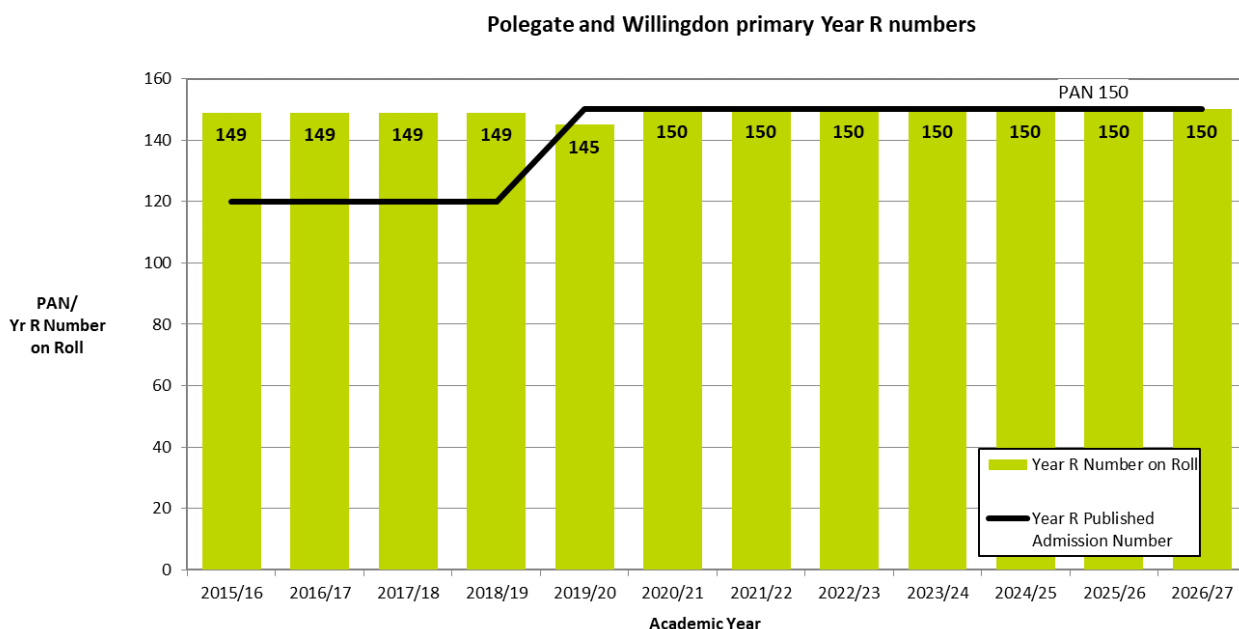
Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result,

future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

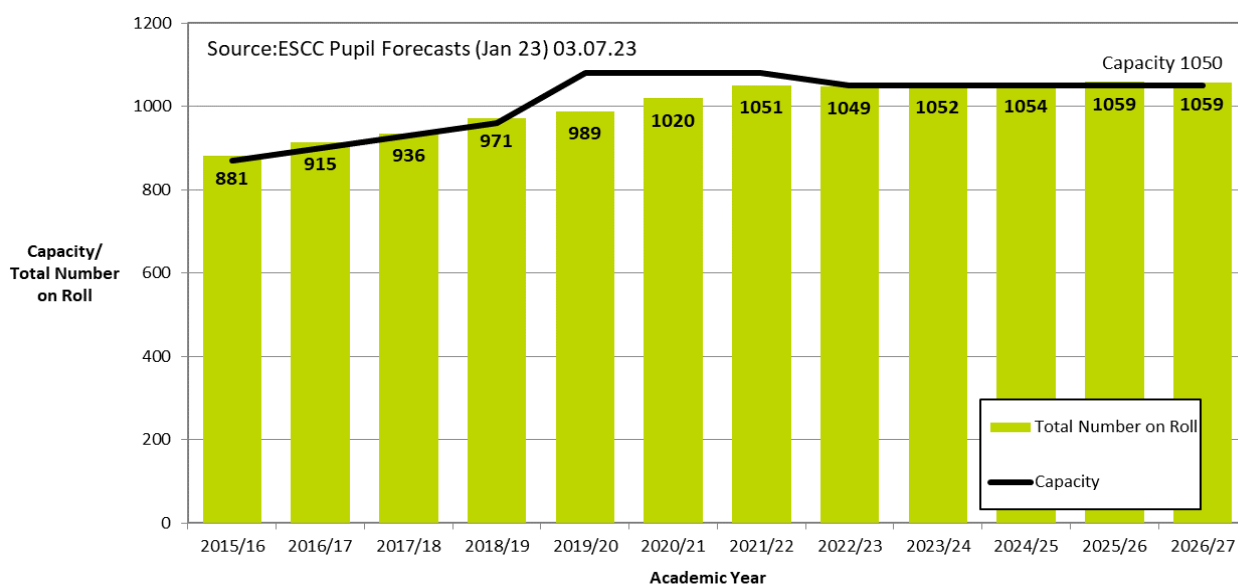
There are significant flows of children to and from Polegate Primary School and Willingdon Primary School and schools in Eastbourne.

In the last seven years, high in-area numbers of reception (Year R) children linked to recent housing development has resulted in Year R totals at or around 150. Birth and GP registration data points to similar Year R numbers going forward to 2026/27.



Both Polegate Primary School and Willingdon Primary School are forecast to be at, or close to, capacity for the duration of the plan period.

Polegate and Willingdon total primary numbers

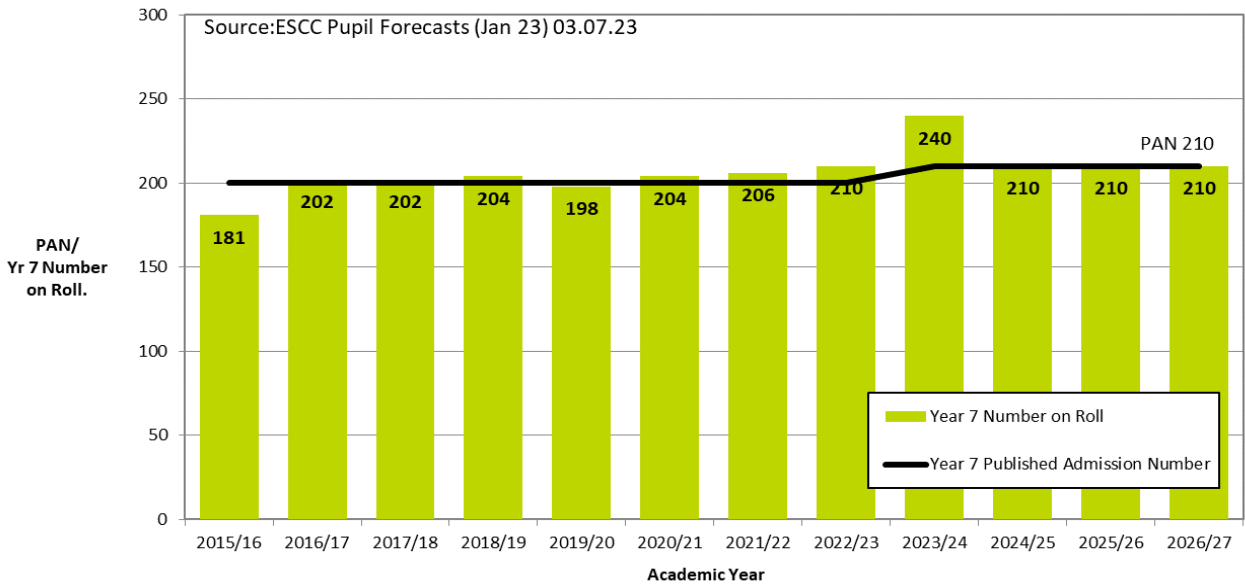


Secondary places

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

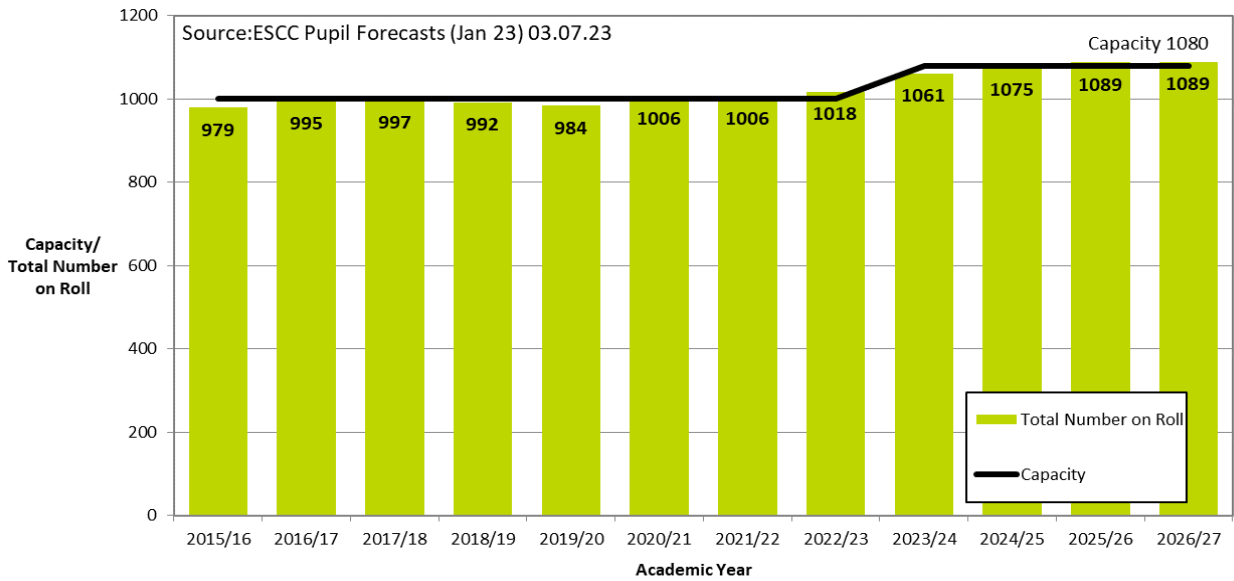
To address the increasing pressure on places at the school, the local authority approved a permanent increase to its PAN from 200 to 210, effective from 2023/24. In addition, we agreed with the school that it would temporarily admit up to 240 in 2023/24 to ensure there is sufficient immediate capacity in the wider Eastbourne and Willingdon area to accommodate the predicted high Year 7 numbers. Although not currently shown in the forecast, this will be repeated in 2024/25.

Willington Community School secondary Year 7 numbers



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

Willington Community School total secondary numbers



Stone Cross, Hankham, Pevensey and Westham

Schools

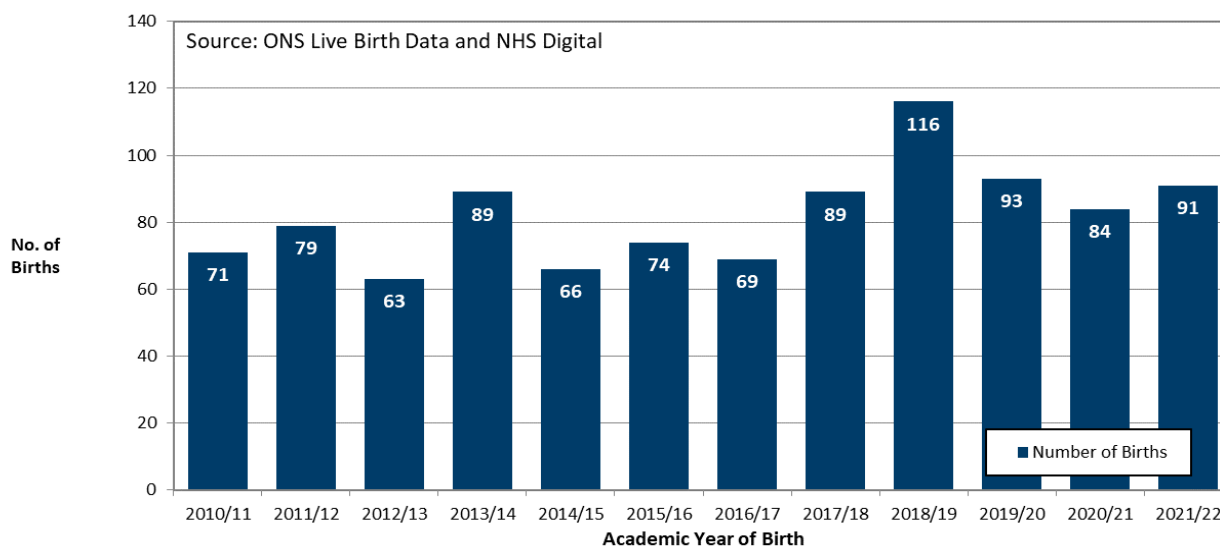
There are three primary schools in the area.

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

Births

Births in the area tend to fluctuate year-on-year, although numbers in recent years have been generally higher, linked to the volume of new housing in the area.

Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham births



Housing plans

Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result,

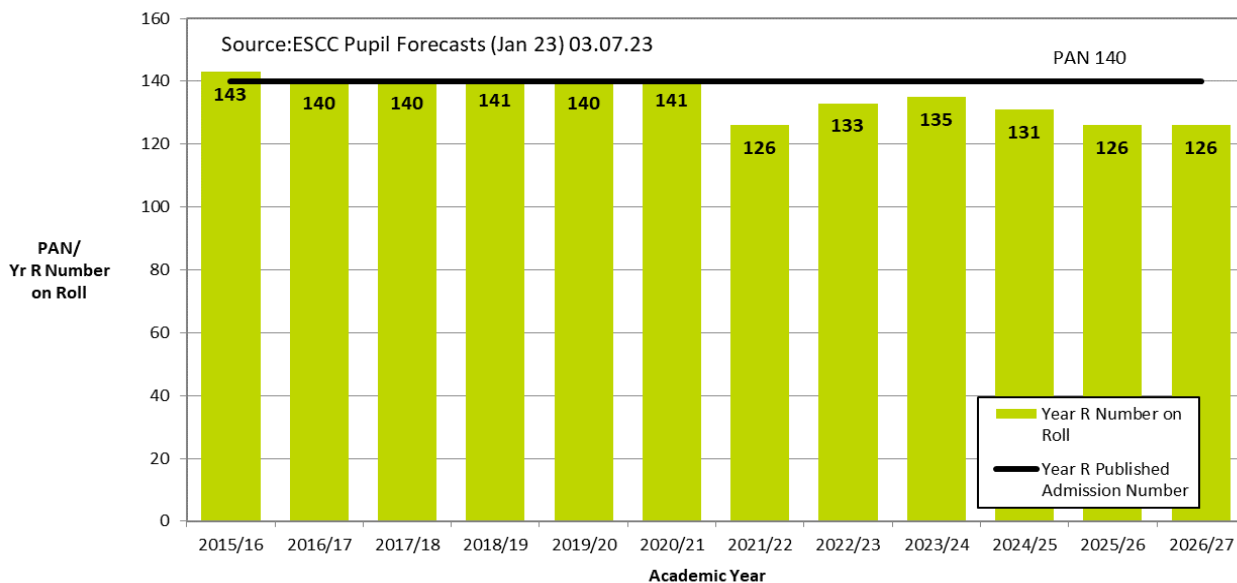
future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

The past seven years have witnessed the building of nearly 700 dwellings in the area and this is resulting in larger numbers of in-area children coming through into reception (Year R).

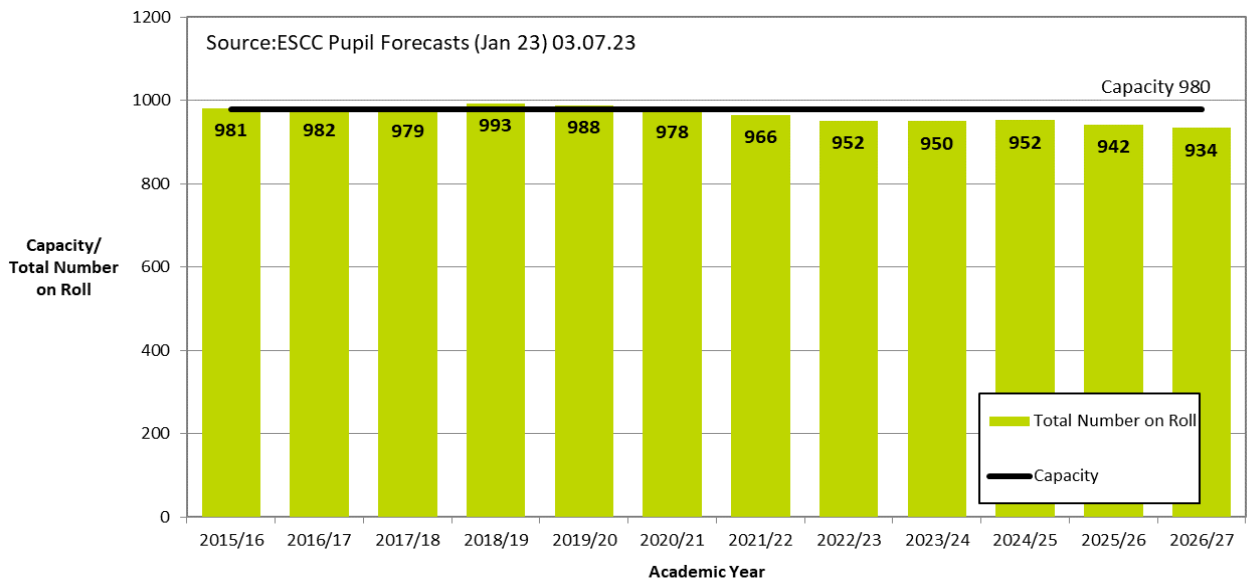
The three schools take significant numbers of children from Eastbourne. In the short to medium term, the school admissions system should be able to redirect some of this demand back to Eastbourne, where future intake numbers are predicted to decline because of falling births, thereby ensuring sufficient places for local children.

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



The three schools, which have largely been full to now, are forecast to have a small number of spare places (5% of capacity) by 2026/27.

Stone Cross, Hankham and Pevensey and Westham total primary numbers



Uckfield and surrounding area

Schools

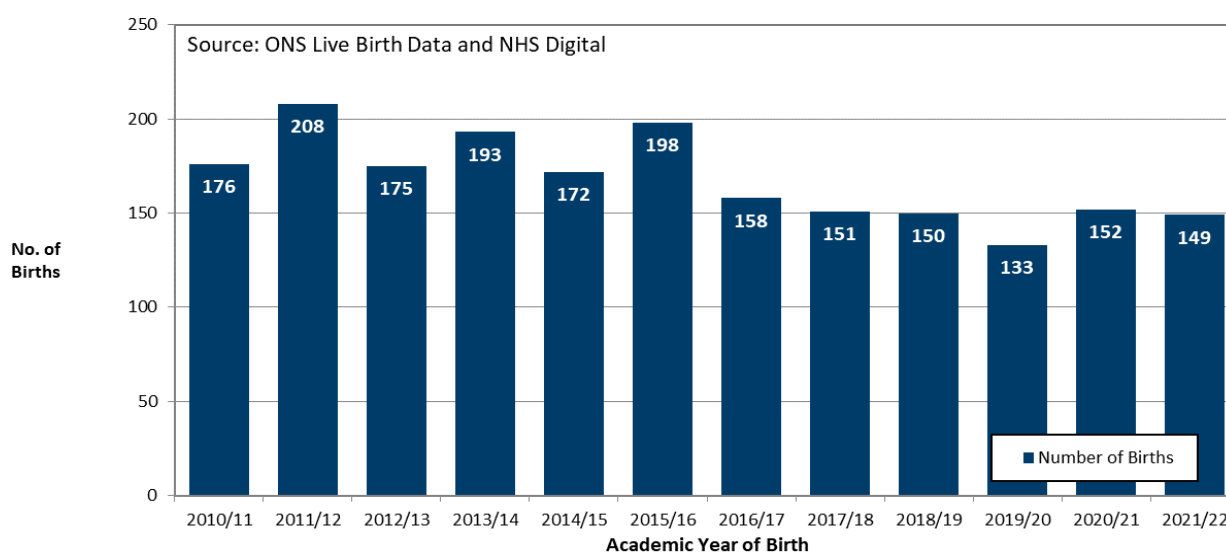
There are seven primary schools in the area and one secondary school. 1 primary school has nursery provision, and the secondary school has a sixth form.

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Harlands Primary School	2-11	Community
Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	4-11	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
Framfield Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Little Horsted Church of England Primary School	3-11	Voluntary Aided
Secondary		
Uckfield College	11-18	Community

Births

Births in Uckfield have fallen significantly in recent years, with 2019/20 being particularly low.

Uckfield and surrounding area births



Housing plans

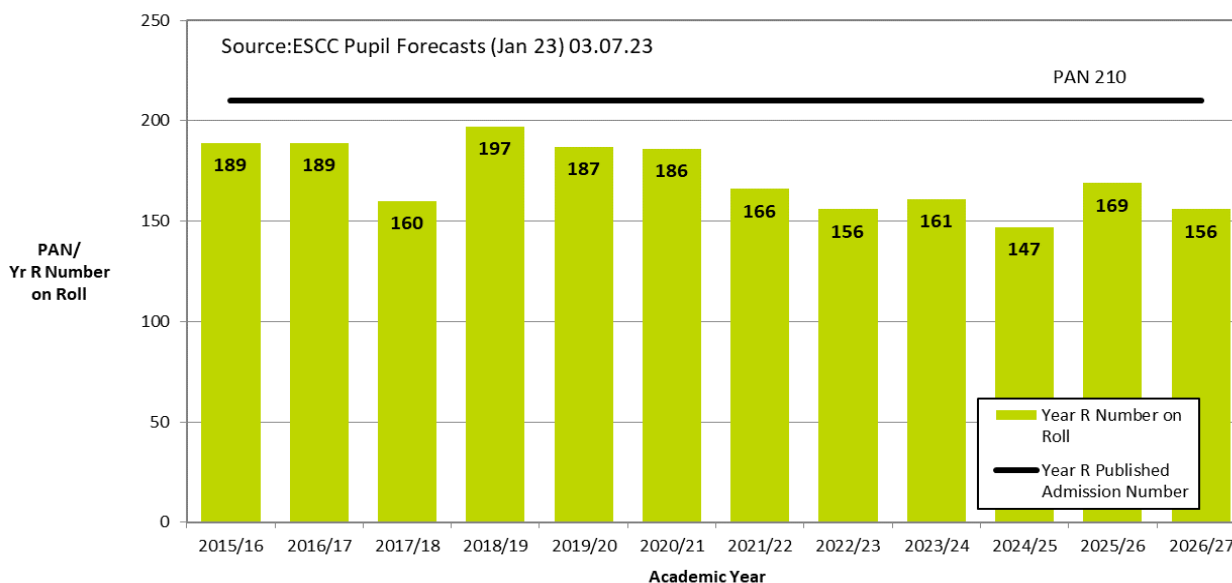
Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

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

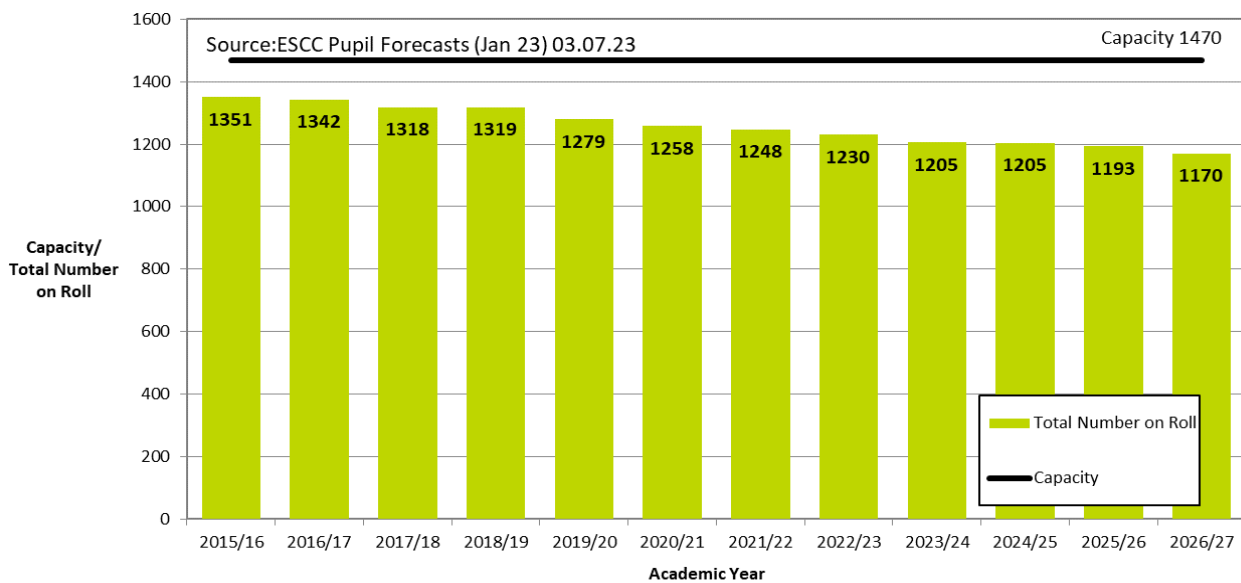
Live birth and GP registration data are currently suggesting reception (Year R) numbers remaining low until at least 2026/27.

Uckfield and surrounding area primary Year R numbers



Surplus places in the area stood at 17% in 2022/23. Currently there is one school with more than 25% surplus places.

Uckfield and surrounding area total primary numbers



Following a period of consultation, the local authority's Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability took a decision on 11 September 2023 to publish a statutory proposal relating to the closure of Holy Cross CE Primary School. In recent years, the school has faced many challenges relating to leadership, retention of staff, quality of provision and low pupil numbers. At the start of the 2023/24 academic year there were 13 children on roll. The statutory proposal was published on 22 September 2023 and was followed by a four-week period of representation. A final decision on the proposal will be taken at the Lead Member meeting on 14 November 2023. If approved, the school would close on 31 December 2023.

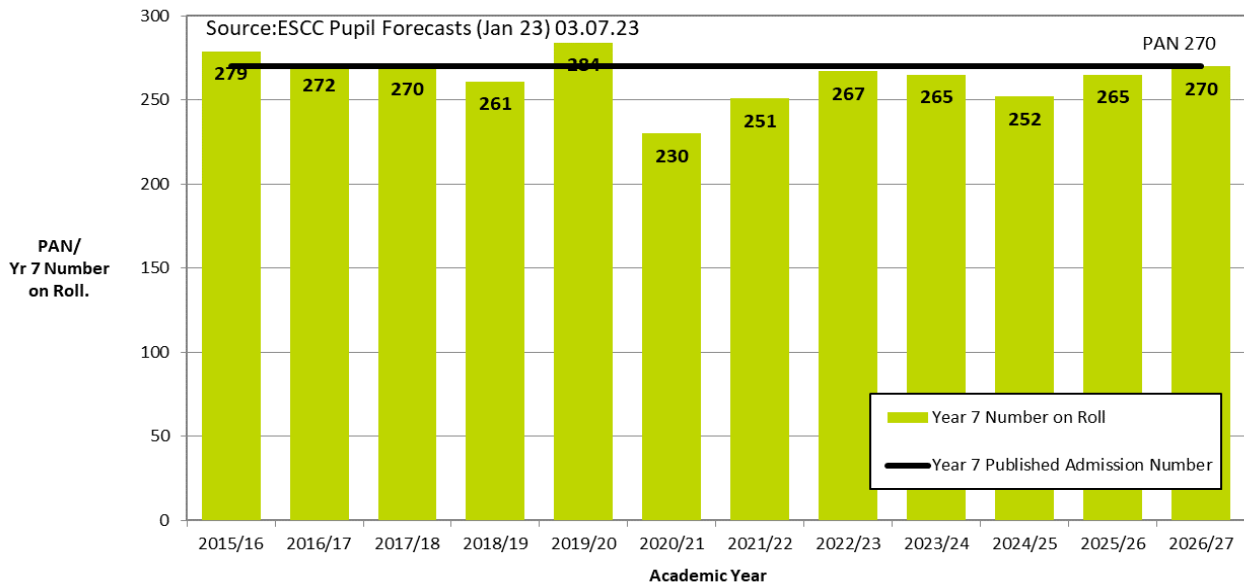
In the medium to long term, the development of 1,000 new homes at Ridgewood Farm, Uckfield is likely to generate a significant number of school age children. The local authority has an option agreement on land for new school provision to serve the development site and will bring forward proposals at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

Secondary places

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

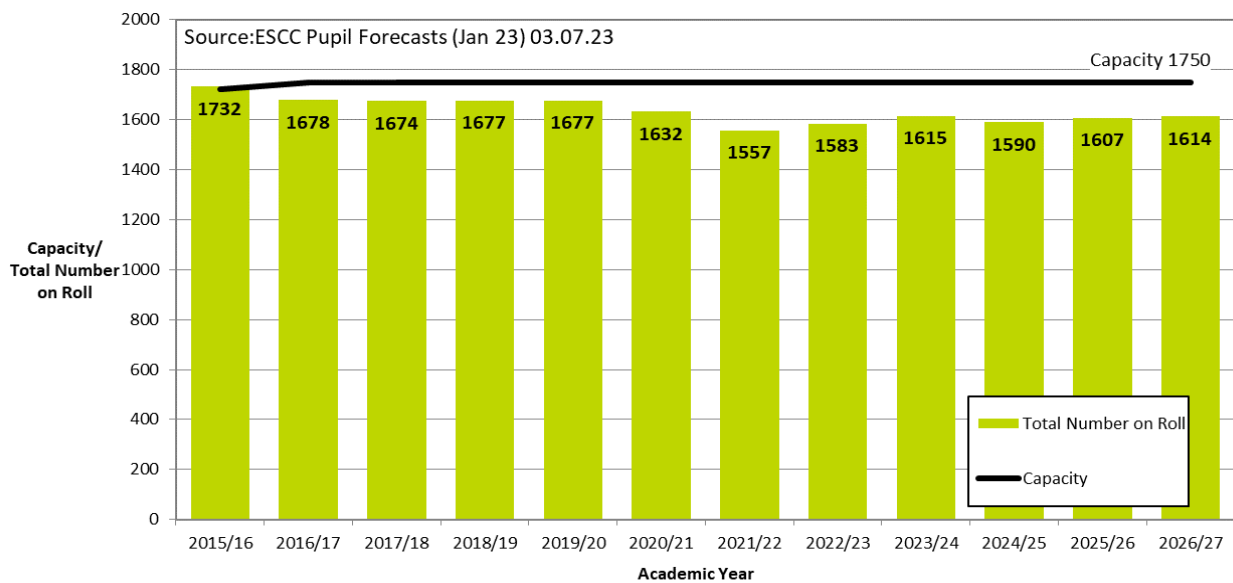
In the coming years, in-area numbers coming through primary schools will fluctuate. Actual Year 7 intake numbers each year will depend on the relative popularity of Uckfield College and schools in other areas.

Uckfield College secondary Year 7 numbers



Overall numbers on roll at Uckfield College are forecast to remain steady over the period to 2026/27, with surplus capacity of around 8%.

Uckfield College total secondary numbers



Rural Wealden

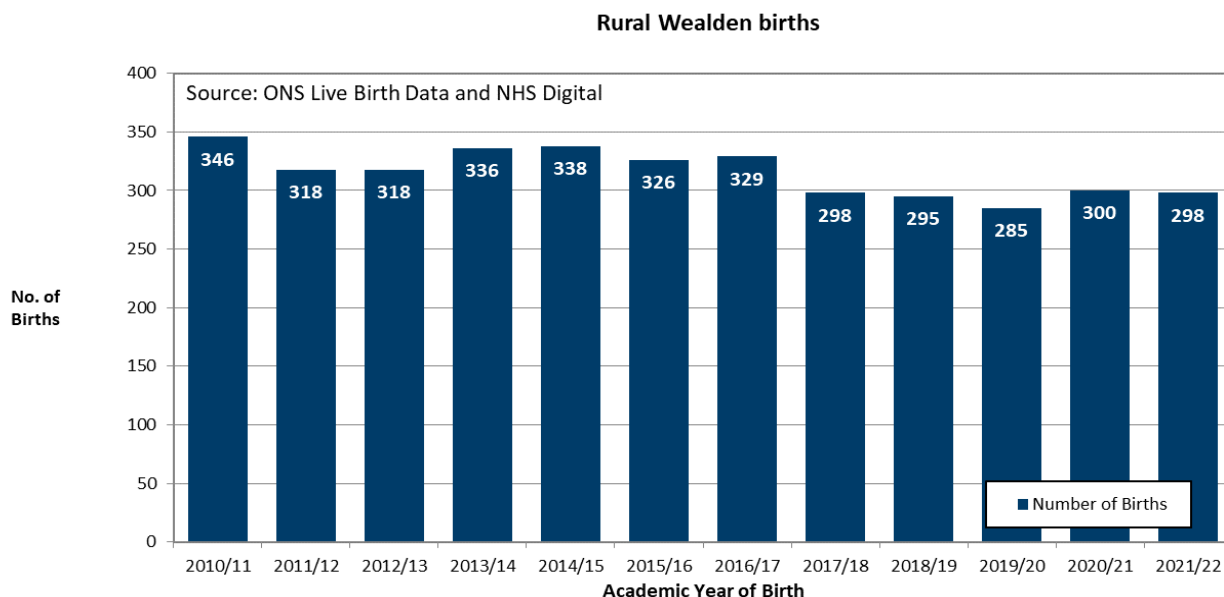
Schools

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

School name	Age range	School type*
Primary		
Alfriston School	4-11	Community
Blackboys Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Aided
Bonnors CofE School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Buxted CofE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Chiddingly Primary School	4-11	Community
Danehill Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
East Hoathly CofE Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Five Ashes CofE Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Fletching Church of England Primary School	4-11	Voluntary Controlled
Forest Row Church of England Primary School	4-11	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 CofE Primary School	2-11	Voluntary Controlled
Secondary		
Uplands Academy	11-18	Academy

Births

Births across rural Wealden have been lower in recent years than levels previously seen in the area.



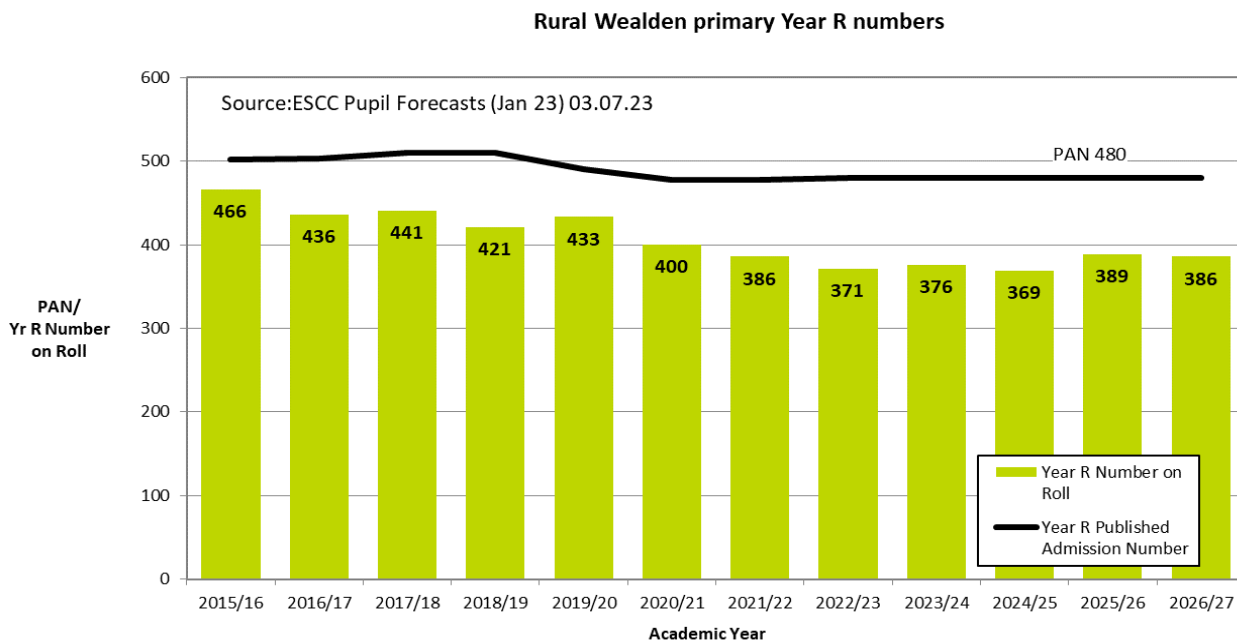
Housing plans

Wealden District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, at this time there are no published strategic housing totals for the various areas of the district. As a result, future pupil projections in the area may change, particularly in the period beyond that covered by this School Organisation Plan.

Primary places

The 480 reception (Year R) places in 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 year-on-year to accommodate these fluctuations.

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

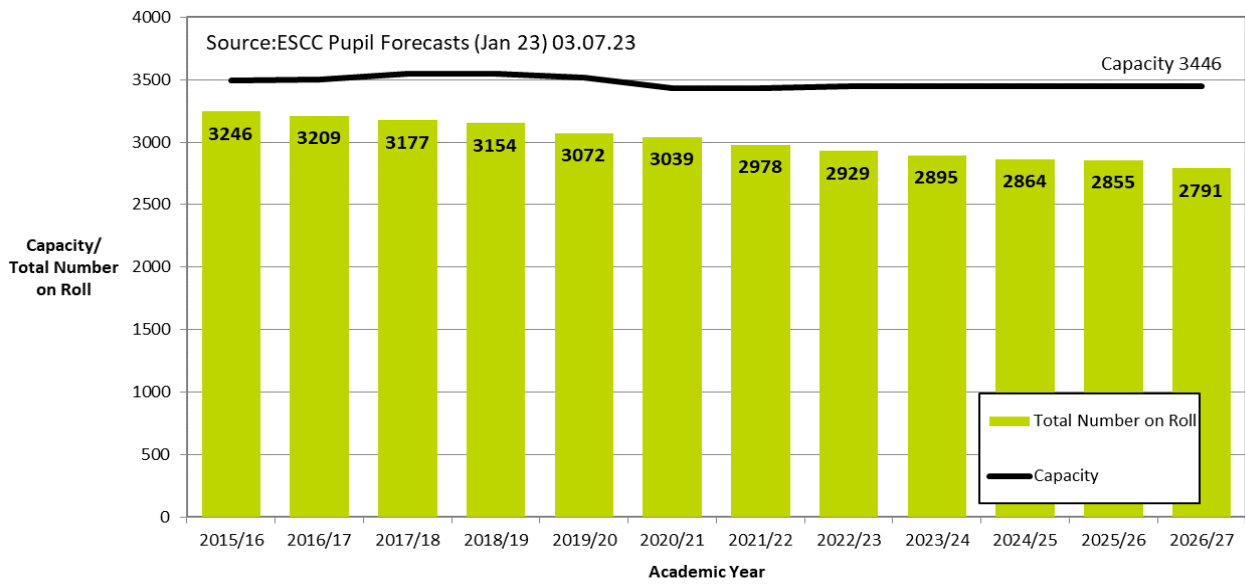


Linked to new housing, in-area numbers requiring a school place in the Maynards Green Community Primary School community area in 2026/27 are forecast to be over 40. If the school is to keep to its PAN of 30, it is likely that the school admissions system will have to direct some in-area applicants to surrounding schools, notably in Heathfield.

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

In 2022/23, surplus places across in the area stood at 14% of capacity. By 2026/27 it is forecast that the figure will have risen to 19%. Four schools have 25% or more surplus places.

Rural Wealden total primary numbers



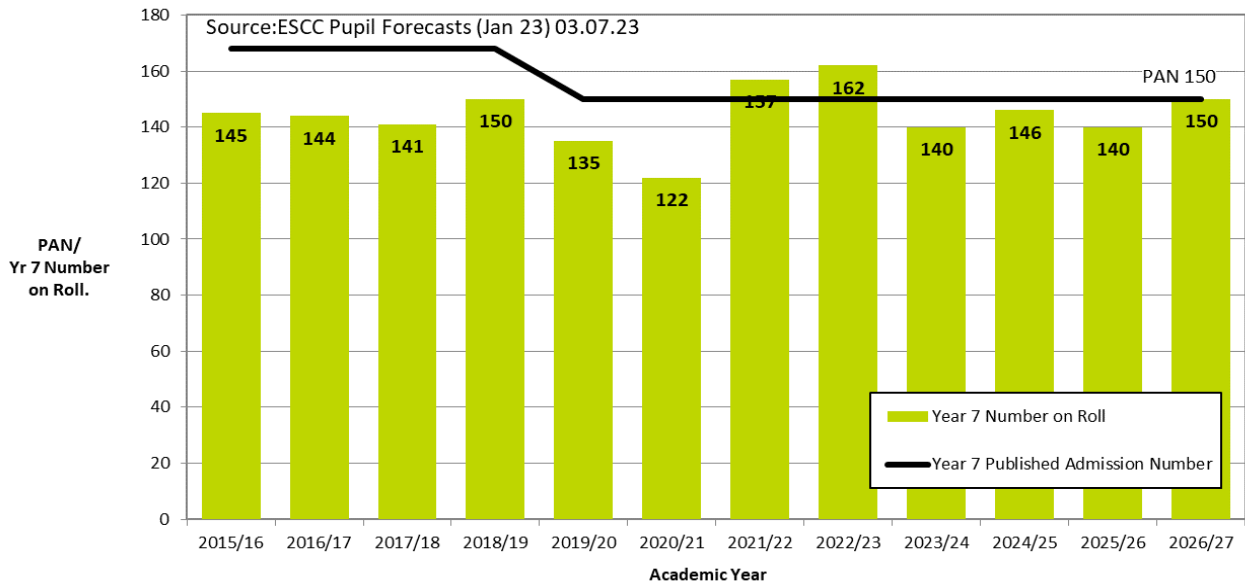
The local authority will continue to monitor the increasing level of surplus places in the area.

Secondary places

Uplands Academy has sufficient places to accommodate in-area numbers, with a large part of demand coming from out of area pupils, especially from neighbouring Kent. The closure of High Weald Academy resulted in a large increase in demand from Kent pupils for the school in 2022/23, which agreed to go over PAN to accommodate.

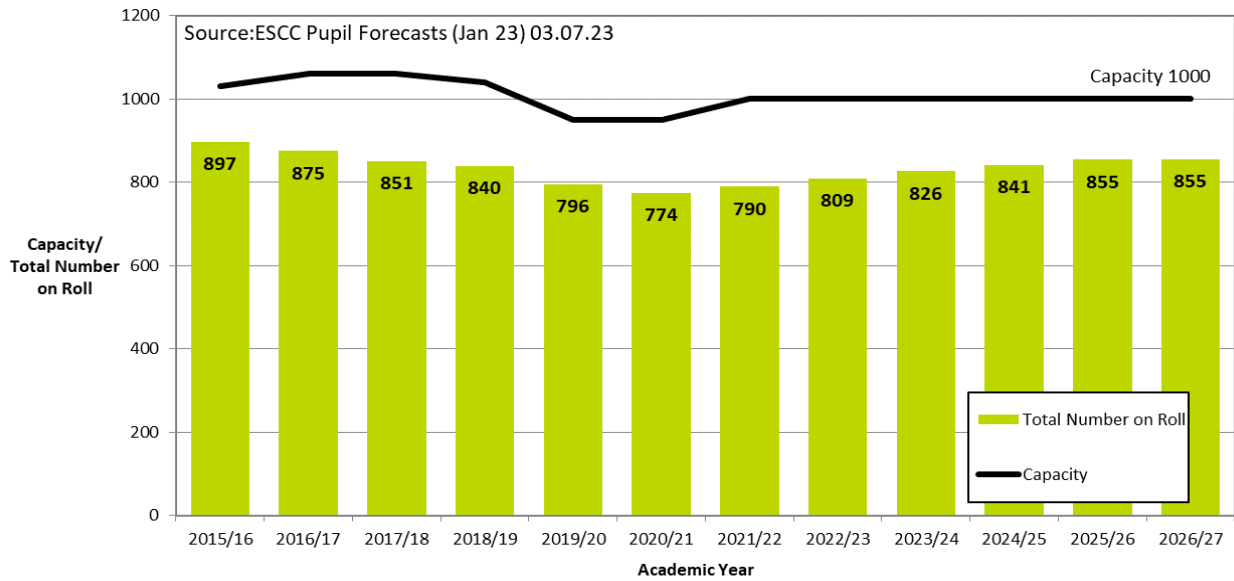
It is assumed that these higher inflows will continue to some extent, resulting in the school being forecast to be full or close to its PAN in forthcoming years. As, for school admissions purposes, most of this out of area demand is non-priority, it is not expected that the school will need to go over PAN.

Uplands Academy secondary Year 7 numbers



In 2022/23, surplus places stood at 19% of capacity. By the end of the plan period this figure is likely to have reduced to 14%.

Uplands Academy total secondary numbers



Special educational needs and disability (SEND)

Special schools and alternative provision

There are 13 state special schools in East Sussex and two alternative provisions. There are also 12 independent special and independent non-maintained special schools in the county.

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

* Correct on 1 September 2023

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

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

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

Education, Health, and Care Plans

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

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

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

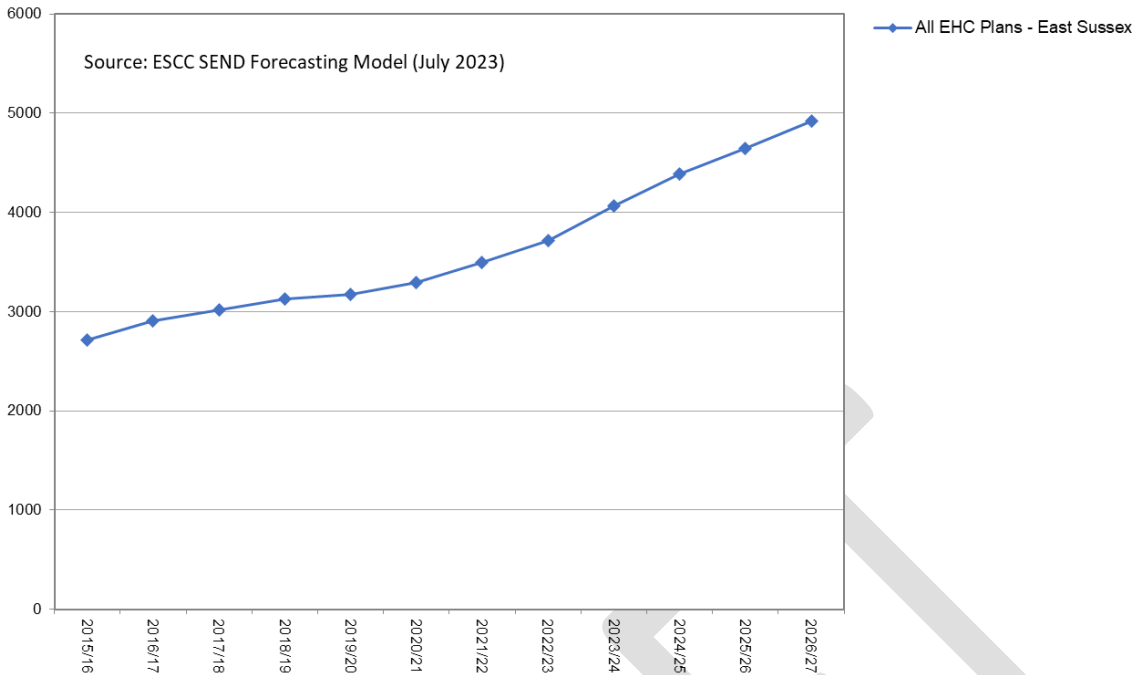
Demand for SEND provision

The overall numbers of children and young people aged 4 to 25 with an EHCP has been rising steeply. There are a variety of reasons for this including parental demand, changes in SEND legislation, changes in policy, changes in diagnostic practice and the impact of the covid pandemic.

In 2022/23, the number of school aged children (aged 4-18) in East Sussex with an EHCP stood at 3,713. There were also 530 young people aged 19-25 with an EHCP who need continued support to transition to adulthood. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the local authority saw a 46% increase in the number of new EHCPs being issued when compared to the previous 12 months.

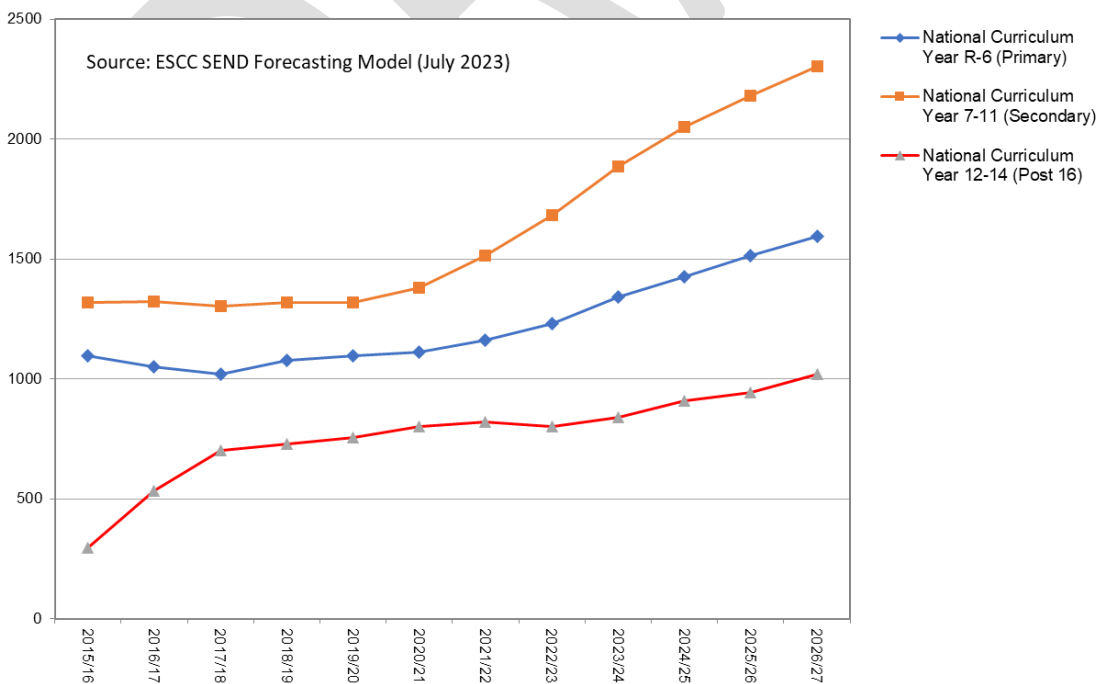
Over the next four years, the local authority forecasts that overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs will grow by around 32%, to stand at approximately 4,900.

Overall numbers of school aged children with EHCPs



The recent rise in numbers have been partly fuelled by changes in SEND legislation which have greatly increased the number of young people aged 16+ with EHCPs following the 2014 education reforms. Challenges with parental confidence in mainstream provision being able to meet the needs of children has also had an impact on the number of requests for EHCP needs assessments.

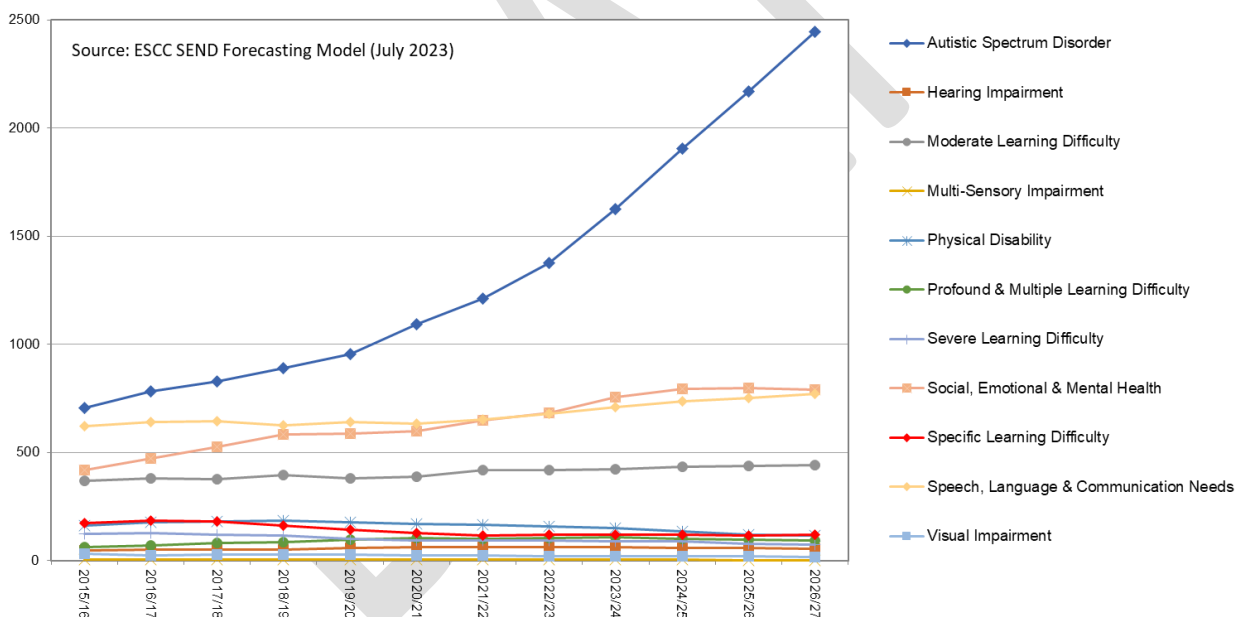
EHCPs by phase of education



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

There has also been a post Covid upturn in the number of plans being issued with a primary need classification of Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). It is predicted that this will have at least a short-term upward impact on the numbers of children and young people in these need groups requiring specialist educational provision. 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 this area. Numbers in other need groups are relatively stable.

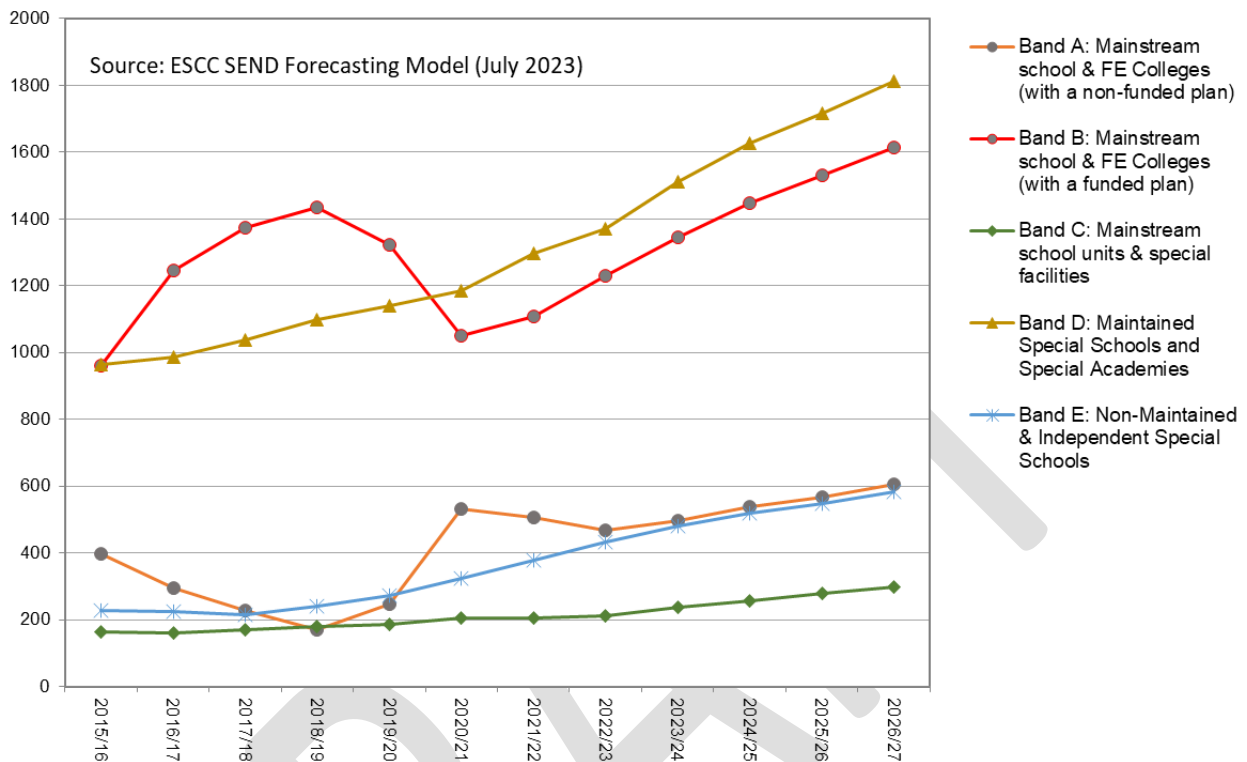
EHCPs by primary need group



In 2022/23, there were 1,790 East Sussex resident children on roll in special schools, of which 1,652 were in schools in East Sussex and 138 were in schools in other authorities. 1,359 children were in maintained and academy provision and 431 were in non-maintained independent special schools. A further 213 East Sussex residents were in specialist facilities in mainstream schools.

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

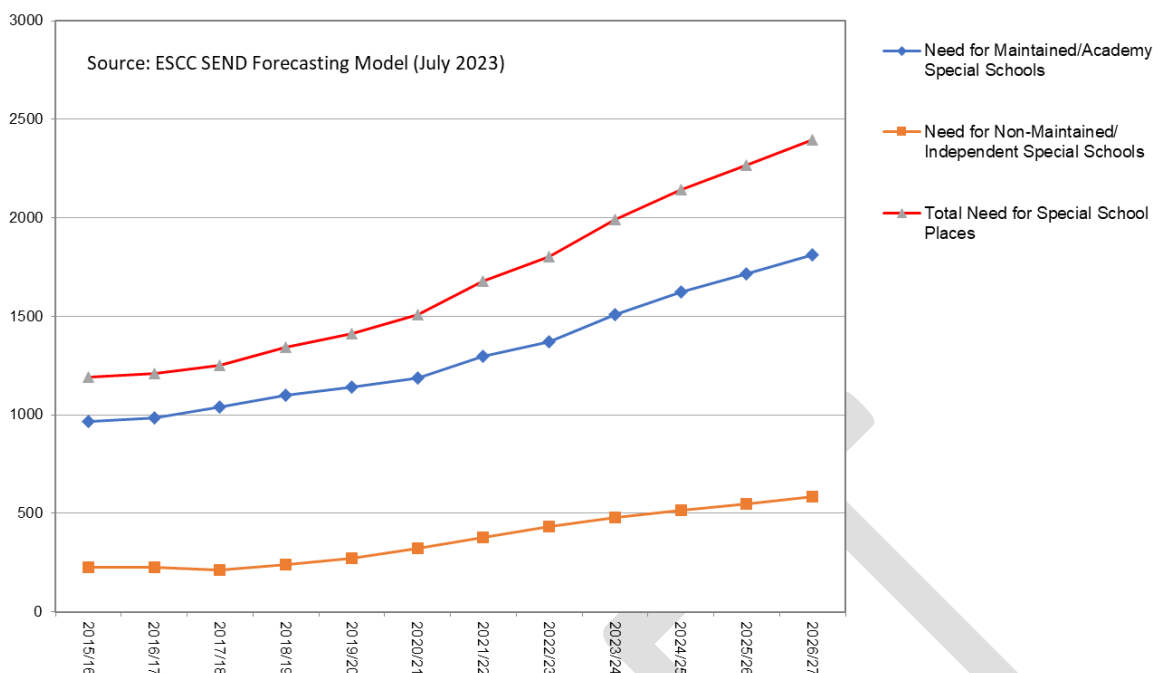
EHCPs by Type of Provision Needed



The numbers assessed as requiring a special school place have risen by 460 (35%) over the past four years. The need for maintained and academy special school places has risen by approximately 270 (25%). The number of pupils requiring non-maintained independent special school places has risen by approximately 190, an 80% increase on the 2018/19 total.

We are forecasting a further increase in demand of around 600 or 33% for special school places over the period to 2026/27.

Need for Special School Places



SEND place planning strategy

In recent years, the local authority has taken action to address the increasing demand for special school and specialist facility places and manage the high cost of placements in non-maintained independent schools. Working closely with the DfE, schools and academy trusts in East Sussex, 381 new special school and alternative provision places have opened in the county, together with new 72 specialist facility places at seven mainstream schools (four primary and two secondary). In addition, two mainstream schools have extended the designation of their existing specialist facilities to reflect the growing need for ASD places.

New special school and alternative provision places:

- The Workplace, Bexhill**
 Alternative Provision for 94 children and young people aged 11-16 with behavioural issues and children at risk of exclusion. Opened in September 2020.
- The Ropemaker's Academy, Hailsham**
 A special school for 80 children and young people aged 4-16 with SEMH needs. Opened in September 2020.

- **The Flagship School, Hastings**

A special school for 72 children and young people aged 7-16 with high functioning ASD and social, behavioural and communication difficulties. Opened in September 2021.

- **Summerdown School, Eastbourne**

A special school for 84 children and young people aged 4-16 with ASD, and 51 children and young people aged 3-16 with PMLD. Opened in September 2022.

New specialist facility places in mainstream schools:

- **Churchwood Primary Academy, Hastings**

Primary specialist facility for eight children with ASD. Opened in September 2019.

- **Grovelands Community Primary School, Hailsham**

Primary specialist facility for eight children with ASD. Opened in April 2019 and expanded to 16 places from September 2023.

- **Priory School, Lewes**

Secondary specialist facility for 12 children with SpLD and associated educational needs. Opened in September 2020.

- **Robertsbridge Community College**

Secondary specialist facility for 12 children with SpLD and associated educational needs. Opened in September 2020.

- **All Saints CE Primary School, Bexhill**

Primary specialist facility for eight children with ASD and associated SEMH and SLCN. Opened in September 2022.

- **Denton Community Primary School, Newhaven**

Primary specialist facility for eight children with ASD. Opened in September 2023.

- **Meridian Community Primary School, Newhaven**

Primary specialist facility for eight children with ASD. Opened in September 2023.

Looking ahead, the local authority recently consulted on a proposal to reorganise and expand Grove Park School, in Crowborough. The proposal is in three parts:

- To lower the school's age range from 4-19 to 2-19 to establish nursery provision for eight full-time equivalent (fte) two and three year olds.
- To enlarge the premises at the Church Road site to accommodate secondary and sixth form pupils currently co-located at Beacon Academy, in Crowborough (ending that arrangement).
- To increase the number of places for secondary and sixth form pupils. This would take the total number of places available at the school for primary, secondary and sixth form to 152.

The local authority is currently assessing the design and deliverability of the project and will make a final decision on the proposal during the 2023/24 academic year.

In addition, we are exploring opportunities for more special school provision in the county to meet the increasing need for places. We have also identified a need for more specialist provision for post-16 learners and will be exploring with current special schools and providers how this can be best delivered.

Where appropriate, the local authority would also like to see more children and young people with EHCPs supported in their local mainstream schools where a child's needs could be met in a specialist facility that includes suitable access to mainstream provision. Specialist facilities provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an EHCP naming a specific primary special educational need. Pupils within the facility are on the roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the Published Admission Number (PAN).

With this in mind, we are currently considering opportunities to expand existing specialist facilities and establish new specialist facilities at mainstream primary and secondary schools for 2024/25 and in future years.