

School Organisation & Capital Planning Plan

2025-2030

June 2024

A great place to live and work.

April 2025

School Organisation and Capital Planning

Children & Families

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Areas of growth and additional places planned

In Central Bedfordshire as of April 2025 there are 125 schools, comprising 66 Lower Schools, 31 Primary Schools, 11 Middle Schools, 6 Upper Schools, 6 Secondary Schools, 1 Extended Middle School and 4 Extended Secondary Schools. Central Bedfordshire is a large, predominately rural area with different demands and pressures across many communities.

Within these schools, at the point of the 2024 Autumn School Census there were 21,755 pupils in lower/primary schools, 6,765 pupils in middle schools and 17,130 in upper/secondary schools (number on roll) in Central Bedfordshire schools. This is an increase of 85 lower/primary and an increase of 520 middle/upper/secondary pupils from the previous Autumn School Census (2023). This increase in the number of children in Central Bedfordshire is predicted to continue with the delivery of the new housing developments set out in the adopted Local Plan (2015 to 2035).

There can be challenges that can impact on the number of new school places required; the pupil yield coming through from new housing developments do not always support an immediate need of a school. Also, the available capacity does not always align to an area of growth or the required year groups.

This document plan sets out principles and policies for how we will address these different challenges across a very large administrative area, by assessing the capacity and pressures in individual cluster areas. A high level summary of the impact of school places in each planning area or “cluster” is set out in the table below:

| Cluster area | Lower/Primary | Middle/Secondary/Upper |
|--------------|---|--|
| Harlington | <p>The Harlington Cluster forms part of the project to support CBC schools transition to 2-tier. Although a date for the Harlington cluster to transition has not been determined, the expected pressure for new pupil places as a consequence of new housing is from 2029 onwards therefore timing around when schools in this cluster transition to 2-tier is crucial.</p> <p>In the longer term this area is expected to need 9FE of new lower school places. This could be delivered through 10FE of planned provision as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2FE School site in Harlington – Site secured on the Land to the West of Midland Mainline Railways • A new 2FE Primary School in Barton Le Clay • Two new 2FE Primary Schools in North of Luton | <p>This area is expected to need 10.3FE of new middle school places and 9.4FE of upper school places beyond 2029. However, this is subject to transition to a 2-tier model as the provision planned within new development areas is secondary school only. There is only land secured within North of Luton for a 7FE secondary school which would leave a potential shortfall if the cluster is still 3-tier.</p> <p>New secondary school places could be delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 7FE secondary school in North of Luton – Expected 2028-2029 • Transition of Arnold Academy, Parkfield Middle and Harlington Upper Schools to an agreed secondary age model |

| Cluster area | Lower/Primary | Middle/Secondary/Upper |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 3FE Primary School also in North of Luton | |
| Shefford and Stotfold | <p>This area is expected to be able to accommodate the need for school places up to 2029 within the life of this plan. However, beyond 2029 there is expected to be a need for 7.5FE of new Lower/Primary School places. This is expected to be delivered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 2FE Primary School - Land at Chase Farm & Land West/NE of High Street (East) – Expected 2026/2027 Two new 2FE Primary Schools -East of Arlesey – Review FE of schools required to potentially two new 3FE A new 2FE Primary School site in Shefford | <p>Shefford and Stotfold are in the process of reviewing transition to two tier system. It is expected that there is a demand of 5.4FE of places on top of existing year 7 capacity. However, the cluster has 13FE of capacity from year 9 and above that can be used to meet this demand. On average the demand for places before 2029 is 30.4FE which equates to a need for approximately four 8FE Secondary schools.</p> <p>Beyond 2029 and depending on the delivery of new housing there could be the need for an additional secondary school. However, it is also worth noting that the number of pupils in the lower/primary age groups is reducing, which could reduce demand in the older year groups. This will need to be reviewed in future iterations of this plan due to the longer-term impact of a falling birth rate moving through the system into secondary age.</p> |
| Leighton and Linslade | <p>In the longer term, beyond 2029 this area is expected to need 2.72FE of new lower school places. This is expected to be delivered through 4FE of options for new provision as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site secured for a new 2FE primary school at Clipstone Park. Site secured for a new 2FE primary school at Chamberlains Barn. | <p>Beyond 2029, this area is expected to need 5.42FE of new middle school and 8.52FE of new upper school places, although the upper school pressure will be reduced by Fulbrook extending its age range to offer 4FE within this cohort.</p> <p>The balance of new provision between 4/6FE will need to be balanced against the long term need for places in the south of the cluster when it transitions to a 2 tier system. The options/implications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places could be secured through expansion of the existing upper schools (Cedars and Vandyke) with the long-term view to having 2 secondary schools to serve the town |

| Cluster area | Lower/Primary | Middle/Secondary/Upper |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places could be provided at a new site in the Clipstone development for a new secondary school, but its location close to Vandyke • The smaller size could be a risk when the smaller cohorts begin to transfer through the lower schools |
| Dunstable and Houghton Regis | <p>To meet primary school place needs there will be a requirement to increase the number of primary places before 2029. Figures show that an additional 3.9FE will be required. Beyond 2029 it is expected that a further 8.5FE will be required, totalling 12.4FE of which sites have been secured to deliver 6/7FE of places as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site secured for a 2/3FE primary school at Bidwell West. • 1FE expansion at Tithe Farm Primary School. • Site secured for a 3FE primary school at East of Houghton Regis. <p>Unfortunately, previous negotiations have not secured the necessary education provision needed and 6 to 7FE is still required in the long-term. Additional school sites and options for future expansion will be required to meet the pupil demand from the new area. This is an urgent piece of work that will commence with the local school community and CBC officers following the adoption of this plan.</p> | <p>There is a requirement to provide 13.2FE before 2029 and an additional 8.5FE after 2029. Therefore, the long term requirement is for another 21.7FE of secondary school places to meet secondary school place needs. This is equivalent to 3 new secondary schools. There is a requirement to increase the number of places. Children services have commissioned site appraisals at the four local secondary schools to identify additional places that could be delivered. However, there is a clear requirement for additional sites for secondary school places, which is also an urgent piece of work that will commence with the local school community and CBC officers following the adoption of this plan.</p> |
| Biggleswade | <p>Before 2029, this cluster is not expected to need any further school places.</p> <p>However, due to additional housing developments beyond 2029 there is the following expected need for new school places. This area is expected to need 2.42FE of new primary school places. This is expected to be delivered through a new 3FE primary school to the Land East of Biggleswade.</p> | <p>Autumn Census 2023 NOR for current YR6 have been used for the calculation for secondary school places to determine the existing pressure.</p> <p>However, due to additional housing developments beyond 2029 there is the following expected need for new school places. This area is expected to need 2.12FE of new secondary school places. This is expected to be delivered through a 3FE increase in admission number at</p> |

| Cluster area | Lower/Primary | Middle/Secondary/Upper |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| | | Stratton, taking them from a 6FE to a 9FE secondary school. |
| Cranfield | <p>Before 2029, there is expected to be a need for 4.5FE of primary school places. In the longer term, beyond 2029 this area is expected to need 11.4FE of new primary school places. We plan to meet this need through 14FE of new provision, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one 3FE primary school in Marston Vale New Villages • three 2 FE primaries in Marston Vale New Villages • a 1FE expansion of Thomas Johnson primary school • two 2FE primary at Thickthorn Park, south of Wixams | <p>Before 2029 there is expected to be a need for 5.9FE of secondary school places. In the long term this area is expected to need 12.8FE of new secondary school places. We plan to meet this need through 15FE of new provision, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one 10FE Marston Vale New Villages • one 5FE secondary at Thickthorn Park, south of Wixams <p>The planned provision above is in excess of the need for places. However, it must be noted that beyond 2035 a further 2,730 dwellings (5.46FE) are expected to be built, which are in excess of the calculated demand for places and will require an assessment of the need for school places through later iterations of this plan.</p> |
| Potton and Sandy | This area is expected to need 0.68FE of new primary school places. However, the expectation is that this can be managed through the falling birth rate in the area and kept under annual review. | There is not any expected pressure on secondary school places and the pupil demand could be met through the new Sandy Secondary School. However, it is recognised that the surplus capacity is low, and this area should be kept under annual review to identify any changes to the local demographic. |
| Ampthill and Flitwick | This area is not expected to need additional pupil places. Considering pupils arising from housing the data shows there will be 2.1FE surplus lower school places remaining in the cluster. | The area is expected to need 0.8FE of middle school places and 0.7FE of upper school places from 2029, however this is subject to transition to a 2-tier model and the lower birth rate expected to feed up through the system. There are no large developments planned securing school sites so additional school places would be planned through expansion of current school sites in line with the transition to 2-tier. |

1.2 Purpose and Scope

This plan is set to determine local school place needs over the next 5 years and to make logical assumptions about the long term need for provision. The purpose of this plan is to set out:

- To present the current level of mainstream school places across Central Bedfordshire
- Set the principles, policies and practices for School Organisation and Capital Planning
- Identify the need for new provision that will meet forecast demand for school places
- Identify areas where further action may be necessary over the next five years to maintain the correct number of school places.

The data that informs this Plan is refreshed annually to take into account new forecasts, inform the capital budget (Medium Term Financial Plan), and potential options and solutions that have been identified since the previous version.

This 5 Year Plan uses the following sources of data:

- Live births reported by the NHS
- Actual admissions to schools at the normal year group intake
- Number of pupils on roll in the School Census
- Housing Trajectory – the location and timing of expected dwelling completions in Central Bedfordshire
- Annual data forecast

The scope of the 5 Year Plan is mainstream statutory age education provision in Central Bedfordshire. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability), early years, post 16 and other forms of education provision are not within the scope of this plan but are considered when deciding solutions to ensure efficient and sustainable choices are made for capital investment.

1.3 Factors that influence Planning for School Places

There are a number of factors that influence strategic thinking and solutions outlined in this 5 Year Plan. These are kept under regular review and include:

- Fluctuation in forecast pupil numbers
- Local Development Plans (many of which are still 'emerging').
- Phasing and timing of actual housing developments and the availability of sites for new school provision (services, access, infrastructure).
- School effectiveness
- Changes for SEND provision
- Merging from a three-tier to a two-tier education system
- Changing patterns of growth in mid-year migration
- Schools and Academies adjusting their Published Admission Numbers or capacities.
- Cross border migration patterns and delivery solutions.
- Changes to admissions arrangements.
- Project viability.

➤ Home to school transport.

2. Who is the guide for?

The guide is for a wide range of stakeholders including, for example, the School Organisation and Capital Planning Team, headteachers, principals, governors and academy and foundation trusts. Local elected members, dioceses, early education providers and college principals may also find the guide useful. Also, for Elected Members, CBC Officers and as an evidence base for discussion on future education provision within new housing

To help deliver outcomes for children and young people, all school leaders play a crucial role in the future planning of their budgets, school organisation and staffing. There is a strong link between this and the demographic picture at a local level. We encourage all schools to read the guide, talk through with their Governing Bodies and invite us to be part of the discussion where you're thinking of making changes.

3. Introduction

We have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places within the local area (The Education and Inspection Act 2006 which builds on previous acts including the Education Act 1996, School Standards, and Framework Act 1998 and the Education Act 2002). As a local authority, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is a commissioner of places and works with all providers to secure the school places required, as set out within this plan.

We aim to ensure the right number of local school places for all children and young people living within Central Bedfordshire and that parents/carers are confident in local provision and want to send their children to local schools.

We review school provision in line with population changes on an annual basis. The introduction of new types of academy school including Free Schools has created more opportunity for schools to take a leading role in matters of school organisation, in partnership with the Council, and in response to the need identified by CBC.

We have overarching responsibilities for school admissions in Central Bedfordshire, coordinating admissions at Reception, Year 3 (transition from infant to junior), Year 5 (lower to middle school), Year 7 (secondary transfer) and Year 9 (upper school transfer).

The demand for school places changes over time - this document is considered to be 'live' and, as such, will require annual updates of the forecast data. It sets out where the council currently thinks there will be a need to provide more school places and if there may be a need to provide fewer places over the next ten years. Increases in demand can lead to the creation of a new school or the expansion of schools, whereas decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in school provision, which needs to be managed very carefully.

In addition to securing school places for pupils aged 5-16, we have related statutory responsibilities in relation to:

- Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Early years provision
- Post-16 education

We work closely with schools and multi-academy trusts and Dioceses to deliver our statutory duties.

4. Local Plan 2015 to 2035

According to the Local Plan, CBC is an area that will grow - with up to 43,000 new homes expected between 2015 and 2035. The expected growth has significant implications regarding pupil place planning as the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living in CBC.

Within a generation, Central Bedfordshire will face two momentous changes. The first is that an ageing population is likely to lead to a decline in future working population. Thirty years ago, in the UK, there were four working aged people aged 20-64 for every person aged 65 or over. By 2053 this figure will have halved: we will have two working aged people for everyone aged 65 or over.

The second is that we are facing a change in the way we work. Changes in technology can alter the value of skills which people have and change the work which people do in terms of how quickly, efficiently, or competitively people can undertake tasks.

In the face of these challenges, we need to recognise that Central Bedfordshire is unique:

- The geography of Central Bedfordshire is challenging for service design and delivery. In particular, the lack of a dominant urban centre and the preponderance of smaller market towns and villages and the quality of the local road networks presents challenges for home to school transport, and means that access to post 16 learning, support and job opportunities can be problematic.
- The Central Bedfordshire education system is in transition. Schools, colleges, parents and learners are adapting to move from a three-tier educational system (lower, middle and upper) to a two-tier structure (primary and secondary). This means that the area has a broad mixture of schools and that structures are continuing to evolve. Against this background there are a number of national educational challenges that need to be met – including long term recruitment and retention issues, funding challenges and an increase in students requiring special educational needs and disability (SEND) support.
- Central Bedfordshire is a unitary authority and plays a key role as a champion of educational excellence for all young children and young people in their area, seeking to ensure that every child fulfils their potential. However, significant budget cuts and the increasing number of academies, directly funded and accountable to the Secretary of State for Education, means that the role of Council is changing and the reality of their capacity to resource, fund and sustain programmes needs to be understood.

Central Bedfordshire has historically operated within a 3-tier system of education, including Lower, middle and upper schools. In recent years a number of schools have moved to become primary or secondary through a change of age range. This has led to a mix of provision with some planning areas with primary and secondary (Sandy and Dunstable) and some planning areas with lower, middle, and upper schools. Work is ongoing to support the remaining lower, middle, and upper schools to become primary and secondary. Implementing the changes in the future will be the main challenge for School Organisation and Capital Planning in Central Bedfordshire.

Predicting school demand is a complex task because where children go to school involves a range of different and often conflicting factors and, as a result, planning for school places is based on probabilities, not certainties. This means that while projections may be made from robust calculations, they do not offer any guarantees.

It is important for us to be as open and transparent as possible when considering school organisation decisions. We strive to communicate effectively with schools and school communities about the school place pressures in their area. However, the council must also endeavor to manage expectations regarding school organisation proposals that are less certain. This document does not seek to definitively set out all the actions the council intends to take in the future, but rather is intended to provide an overview of issues that may arise in Central Bedfordshire.

4.1 New Housing and S106 Contributions

In determining the requirement for pupil places in schools across Central Bedfordshire, the Council uses a pupil yield model which forecasts the age structure of children arising from the development. The model currently estimates that an average of 6 children per academic year group, per 100 dwellings, will be generated. The model takes account of the number of dwellings to be provided.

Central Bedfordshire's Local Plan identifies housing need through specific deliverable sites within the plan period. School Organisation and Capital Planning considers the likely impact on school places of new housing allocations to help local planning authorities understand how sustainable their plans are for school place planning and, importantly, where they need to allocate land for new school place provision. Whilst Central Bedfordshire is going through the transition from a three tier to a two tier education system, all new provision sought will be either a primary or secondary school to fit the future model across the area.

Phasing and timelines for potential new housing developments are closely monitored. The School Organisation and Capital Planning Team provide a detailed S106 response to large housing developments showing where there is a need for school places, considering if these places can be absorbed in existing schools and if not, how many places will be required. Delivery of new provision is dependent on confirmation of the housing build rate by the developer, planning permissions and the timescale for completion of necessary infrastructure to serve the new school, including services and access.

The National Audit Office recommends Local Authorities to hold around 5% surplus places across schools to be maintained. The key reasons are as follows:

- Scale of growth - Flexibility is needed within the school infrastructure as the large scale of the housing growth creates a high degree of uncertainty in predicting long-term pupil place need. This in particular, is necessary in terms of predicting the peak number of pupils at any point. The numbers and ages of the pupils from a housing development will depend on the building rate and the 'type' of housing being built.
- Bulge Years - Surplus places will be extremely important in managing any possible temporary peak in school place demand associated with growth in the town. If any peak in demand is not managed then we may have to provide even more school places that could then become surplus in the future.

School capacity varies and consultation with School Organisation and Capital Planning Team is required on all sites of 10 or more dwellings. The team can give details of school capacities and numbers on roll using existing and up to date data sources, taking into account other consented schemes. The estimated pupil yield from housing development is compared against the capacity of local schools and future pupil forecasts. The pupil forecast considers new housing permitted but not yet built. Residential development of 10 dwellings or more will be expected to contribute towards

new provision where there is a shortfall of places. Contributions are not sought for elderly, student or 1 bedroom flats/houses. The average number of children between the age of 3 and school year entry age for every 100 dwellings is estimated to be 4.2. Based on this, an average charge can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Number of dwellings} \\ \times \\ \text{Pupil yield (assessed as 0.042 pupils per dwelling)} \\ \times \\ \text{number of year groups} \\ \div \\ 30 \\ = \end{array}$$

Forms of Entry

A number of the local planning authorities do not have an up to date adopted Local Plan. This has resulted in housing developers submitting speculative planning applications for sites that may not be sustainable for school place provision. In the absence of a five-year land supply the applicant has a strong chance of a successful appeal if the planning application is refused. This can result in housing developments being granted planning permission in areas where there are insufficient surplus school places to accommodate the pupil product from the new homes, but the development is of insufficient scale to generate a developer contribution to fund a new school or the expansion of existing schools. This can be particularly problematic in single school rural areas where there isn't enough site area to expand the local school.

Where new permanent school places, and sites, are required as a consequence of new housing development, the council has a presumption that the developer will contribute towards the cost and contribute land for new schools where necessary. Developer contributions are currently secured through planning agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Within new communities where we require education land, this needs to be secured as early as possible and the intention is for land to be available for transfer at the first occupation. The quality of the environment around the school site is essential, as a new school cannot open in the middle of a building site with no safe walking and cycling routes. To determine the site area required for new primary and secondary schools, we will use the most recent Department for Education Building Bulletin guidance. This guideline is used to calculate school area sizes and sets out the recommended maximum/minimum internal and external areas for new buildings in primary, secondary and special schools as well as existing school buildings.

We use a prepopulated formula based on the FE, PAN and total number of places and will seek the maximum hectares for a new school site area. The formula includes primary with a nursery area, ARP, secondary and a Special school.

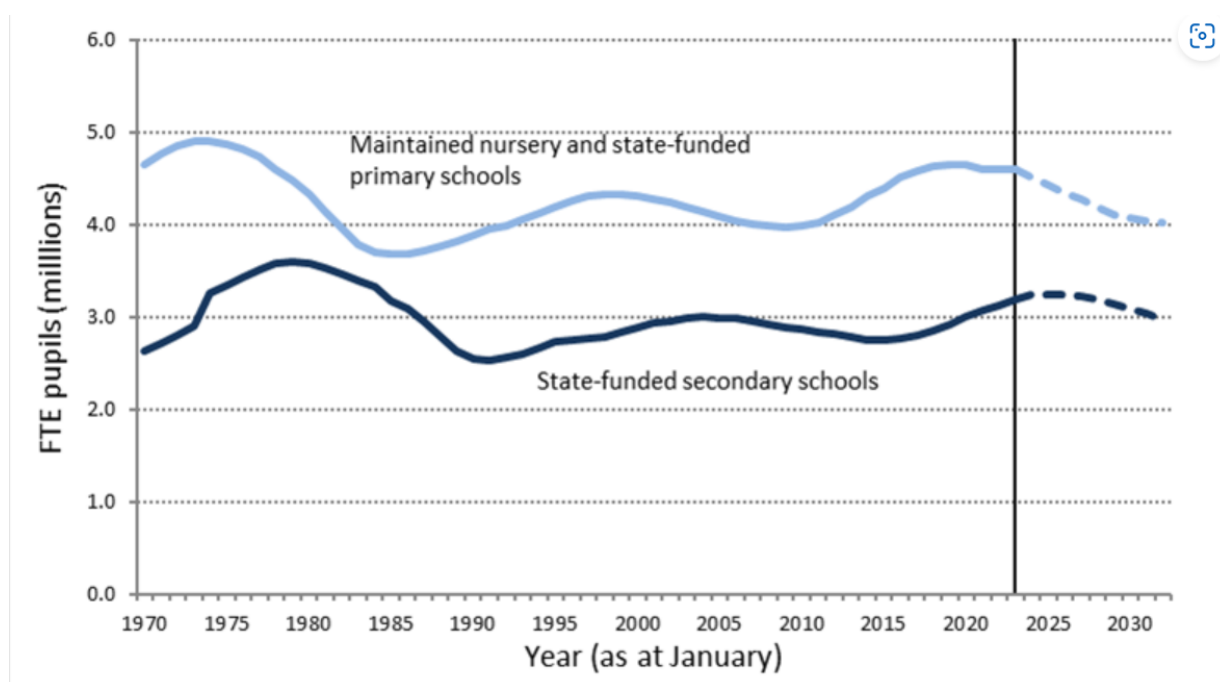
5. School Organisation Provision

5.1 School Organisation

National Context

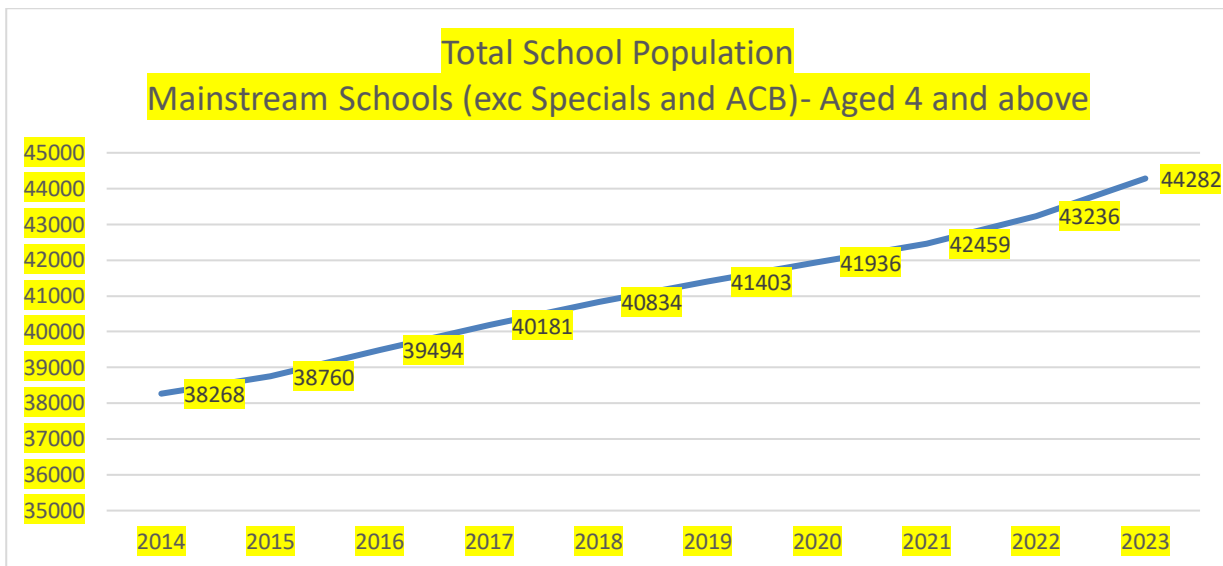
It has been reported that the number of surplus primary school places across the Country is set to increase by up to 140 per cent in some areas of England as the population bulge created by the 2000s baby boom moves into secondaries. This is leading to Councils having to take action to reduce school capacity, with empty classrooms being repurposed into SEND provision.

The number of primary and nursery-aged pupils in England is projected to fall by around 300,000 over the next five years (6.5 per cent), from about 4.6 million this year to 4.3 million in 2026. All councils, including Central Bedfordshire, have some surplus places to deal with unexpected influxes. But large surpluses cause financial problems for schools.

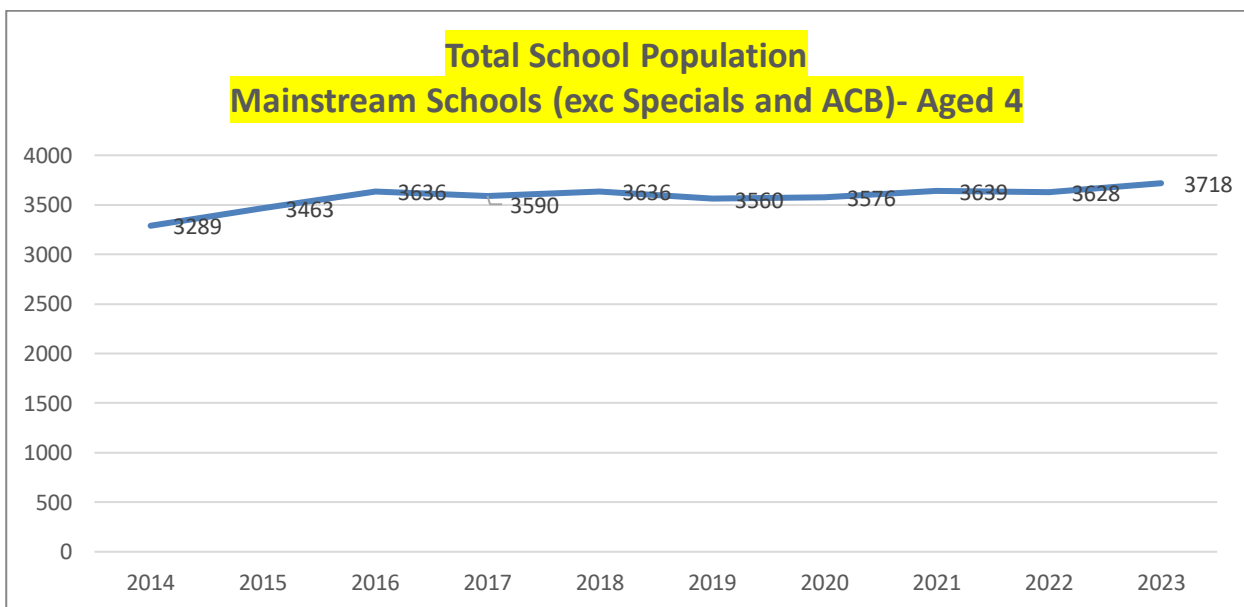


Source: [National pupil projections, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

In the context of CBC, the last 10 years has seen significant increases in the School population as shown in the chart below. This increase is 16%, equivalent to 6014 pupils. Over the last 4 years (2020-2023), this rate of growth has slowed to an average of 6%, equivalent to 2346 pupils.



However, growth into the Reception year group has not matched the same rate of growth rate of growth and has **reduced to 4%** growth over the last 4 years (2020 – 2024). This is a potential cause for concern given the national picture reflected above.



A further potential impact is that the significant growth in CBC schools is in Year Groups 5, 6, 7 and 8 at an average of **29%** across the 4 year groups, which would relate the growth in pupils due to the changes in the school system by creating primary and secondary school provision. This correlates with **a 3.4%** increase in children from other local authority areas coming into Central Bedfordshire whilst middle schools are operating alongside primary and secondary schools. This number then reduces into Y9 at the phase transfer to upper schools.

| Jan -Year | R | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | Y7 | Y8 | Y9 | Y10 | Y11 | Y12 | Y13 | R and above |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 2014 | 3289 | 3489 | 3222 | 3137 | 3061 | 2885 | 2843 | 2637 | 2694 | 2602 | 2689 | 2663 | 1537 | 1314 | 38268 |
| 2015 | 3463 | 3337 | 3483 | 3248 | 3148 | 3005 | 2893 | 2786 | 2617 | 2647 | 2567 | 2676 | 1466 | 1246 | 38760 |
| 2016 | 3636 | 3519 | 3374 | 3481 | 3249 | 3088 | 3045 | 2786 | 2778 | 2599 | 2608 | 2543 | 1465 | 1212 | 39494 |
| 2017 | 3590 | 3671 | 3531 | 3381 | 3464 | 3235 | 3122 | 2922 | 2755 | 2731 | 2579 | 2571 | 1305 | 1210 | 40181 |
| 2018 | 3636 | 3615 | 3680 | 3501 | 3359 | 3458 | 3269 | 2963 | 2904 | 2744 | 2702 | 2516 | 1299 | 1117 | 40834 |
| 2019 | 3560 | 3652 | 3622 | 3649 | 3475 | 3406 | 3458 | 3120 | 2969 | 2809 | 2709 | 2663 | 1114 | 1141 | 41403 |
| 2020 | 3576 | 3634 | 3684 | 3617 | 3639 | 3488 | 3420 | 3308 | 3083 | 2820 | 2777 | 2669 | 1163 | 1009 | 41936 |
| 2021 | 3639 | 3587 | 3623 | 3680 | 3600 | 3625 | 3489 | 3215 | 3257 | 2908 | 2780 | 2714 | 1222 | 1088 | 42459 |
| 2022 | 3628 | 3722 | 3635 | 3627 | 3646 | 3623 | 3651 | 3339 | 3194 | 3104 | 2889 | 2751 | 1266 | 1128 | 43236 |
| 2023 | 3718 | 3697 | 3790 | 3649 | 3637 | 3654 | 3682 | 3555 | 3369 | 3061 | 3099 | 2867 | 1324 | 1157 | 44282 |
| 10 year increase (2014 to 2023) | 13% | 6% | 18% | 16% | 19% | 27% | 30% | 35% | 25% | 18% | 15% | 8% | -14% | -12% | 16% |
| 4 year average (2020 to 2023) | 189.08 | 101.65 | 100.94 | 100.06 | 99.65 | 100.21 | 100.71 | 95.71 | 99.39 | 95.12 | 99.18 | 98.62 | 46.08 | 91.96 | |

In February 2013, the Council adopted 9 Policy Principles for School Organisation and Pupil Place Planning in schools in Central Bedfordshire. These principles have been reduced to 6 following changes in national legislation, updated and refreshed as follows:

- ***Principle 1 - The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.***

Section 76 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on local education authorities to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel to meet the school travel needs of their area. Ensuring the sufficiency of provision local to the areas of demographic demand supports this duty by reducing the need for car journeys and also limits potential growth in the cost of providing school transport on distance criteria to qualifying pupils to meet the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 also places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion. Promoting local schools enables children living in the same local community to attend the same school fostering a coherent community identity and enabling community ownership to build around a range of extracurricular activities.

- ***Principle 2 - The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable***

There are important considerations when determining the optimum size of a school. Establishing or expanding schools of an appropriate size is likely to contribute towards the likelihood of their success. However, this principle does not require reorganisation of all schools across Central Bedfordshire that do not fit the recommended school size set out below and we recognise the comments received in the consultation that smaller schools are able to offer a quality education environment and benefits from a community feeling.

Comments on school size relate to single schools that occupy a single site. The minimum or maximum size of a school may be outside of the range of these proposals if it is part of a non-traditional governance and leadership structure as is the case in multi-site schools, school trusts, federations, academy chains and multi academy trusts where a broad curricular offer, for example, may be achieved as a result of the collaborative arrangements.

Lower and Primary Schools

Minimum Size

Small rural schools have nationally shown themselves capable of delivering the National Curriculum and of providing a high standard of education. In determining a minimum school size, it is not just quality that needs to be considered but also organisational, social and community issues.

For example, where small numbers are nationally judged to operate against successful school management is where there are too few children to form at least one class for each key stage. Under present funding arrangements, this puts particular pressure on teachers. Therefore, schools at or below the minimum size outlined below should consider options for federating, merging or joining an academy chain.

As a minimum, it is preferable that there should be one class for each of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, plus discrete part-time provision for children under five. In this way, there are no more than two

year groups in each class. In total this equates to 2.5 classes. With a class size of 25-30 this means a minimum school size of 60-75 pupils for a Lower School.

For a Primary School also with years 5 and 6 in Key Stage 2 this equates to 3.5 classes. With a class size of 25-30 this means a minimum school size of 85 -105 pupils

If three age groups need to be taught together school organisation becomes much more difficult, however there are some known mitigating factors. There are also organisational difficulties if the headteacher is the only full-time teacher. If the Headteacher is absent or leaves, there may be no one left to manage where the other member of staff has no aspirations to lead or is not employed full-time.

Problems in delivering and monitoring standards in very small schools can occur. There may also be difficulties in recruiting enough able governors from such a small constituency of parents and supporters of the school. Finally, very small year groups may not provide sufficient peers of the same age for children to mix with although there may be some benefits of vertical grouping where younger children can learn from older peers.

Maximum Size

Ideally lower schools should have 2 to 3 forms of entry (i.e. two to three classes per year group), leading to a school size of 300 to 450. For Primary Schools this leads to a school size of 420 to 630. This gives headteachers a balance of some teaching, as well as time to manage and monitor, with the ability to employ appropriate non-teaching support in the school.

The Council considers it preferable to promote the expansion and creation of new lower/primary school provision at above 3 forms of entry only in exceptional circumstances. The larger the school, the more likely it is that the Headteacher and senior staff will spend most of their time managing resources rather than on education. If this time is spent on key issues known to promote school improvement in driving the ethos of the school towards raising attainment by a focus on pupil level data management, engagement with the teaching and learning process etc. their offer outside that of classroom input can accelerate school improvement and outcomes.

Middle Schools

Minimum Size

All middle schools are considered to need to have sufficient staff expertise to cover the curriculum and the teaching of basic skills at both Key Stages 2 and 3. The budget must also be sufficient to support the curriculum and an appropriate management structure.

It is proposed that as a minimum, a middle school should have 4FE (480 pupils in all) in order to deliver the National Curriculum. Below this figure the ability of a middle school to retain sufficient staff with the appropriate range of expertise comes under question.

Maximum Size

Ideally middle schools should have 6FE (720 pupils). Beyond 7FE (840 pupils) it can be argued that the school becomes increasingly difficult to manage and to maintain an appropriate middle school ethos, and it may be more impersonal, particularly for the younger children.

Upper and Secondary Schools

Minimum Size

For an upper or secondary school there need to be enough pupils in each year group to support the full range of the curriculum. The DfE through the Free School Programme have identified a minimum viable school number at 600 pupils (4FE).

Maximum Size

Larger schools have economies of scale which make for more flexible curriculum options and more specialist staffing but can encounter organisational difficulties in accommodating large year groups.

In schools which were originally designed for a smaller number, there may also be a lack of specialist accommodation, both teaching and non-teaching, inadequate library and study space, social areas incapable of meeting staff and student needs and congestion in corridors.

A commonly held historical belief in historical principles nationally for education provision is that once numbers rise above 1500 (10FE) including sixth form, the disadvantages of size may start to outweigh the benefits of economies of scale, however there are now known to be many larger schools nationally that provide a high quality of education and generally have the benefits of larger sixth forms. These schools, if successful, have been invited to provide the cornerstone of some large Academy chains, particularly in the London area.

Surplus Places

Alongside the planning for increasing demand on school places above capacity, due to the national context of falling birth rates, we have to be aware of the need to plan for when there is an excess of capacity in an individual school or cluster area. The consequences of having too many surplus places can be severe. The main impact of surplus places on schools is the resulting reduction in school finances. Since finances are driven by numbers on roll, a reduction in pupils will lead directly to a drop in income for affected schools. This will reduce the amount of money available to pay staff, purchase resources and meet pupil needs.

The results are wide and far-reaching and have a direct impact on the ability of schools to provide education in an effective and efficient way. They can lead to serious questions being asked about a school's viability and cause particular challenges for schools on an improvement journey.

Falling rolls also make planning and staffing decisions difficult with schools potentially having to make year on year redundancies. There is a particular problem for schools affected by infant class size legislation: they may have limited ability to make savings by changing staffing structures or changing the use of physical space.

It is also important to understand that not all schools are affected equally by falling pupil numbers. In reality, popular schools remain full or close to full and this may mean that a large drop in numbers could significantly affect a small number of less popular schools. When schools are disproportionately affected by falling rolls, those schools are at risk of spiraling decline. This means that we need to consider removing places.

When demand for places drops, the only way to remove surplus is to reduce the supply of places. This could be done in a variety of ways.

'Capping' admissions in-year (Capped Pupil Numbers) Published Admission Numbers are set for the normal point of entry and there is an expectation that this number will follow the cohort admitted as they move through the school. However, in exceptional circumstances and following the closure of the normal admissions round (when admissions become in-year), a 'cap' can be implemented. For example, where a 3 form entry school is only operating 2 classes in a particular year group it is possible to cap the admission number for that year group at 60.

Reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) One option is to reduce the PAN at the point of entry: this needs to be done in advance of applications for places being made. PANs are set around 18 months in advance, so a level of forward planning is required. A change in PAN will not address excess physical capacity and so this will need to be addressed if the change in PAN is for the long term (this involves a change to net capacity calculation or funding agreement). It may be opportune to remove PANs that are 0.5FE which can be difficult to manage.

Review of building capacity or use To address the issue of a school having too much physical capacity it may be possible to look at whether some of its accommodation could be used for other purposes or even removed altogether. Doing this at the same time as reducing the PAN can lead to the school being run more efficiently. It could be opportune to remove poorer assets where possible or reconfigure space to provide specialist provisions.

School organisational changes Where there are high numbers of surplus places, combined with standards, financial or building issues and no sign of increasing demand, it may be necessary to look at school organisation changes. This could mean 2 or more schools amalgamating or ultimately the closure of a school.

We will continue to review school forecast information. This is necessary because of the recent national demographic changes outlined above. Taking decisive action on removing surplus places can have a number of benefits such as:

- Keeping schools financially viable
- Reducing waste (keeping spend per pupil up)
- Increasing the proportion of pupils in good or outstanding provision
- Better targeting of capital resources
- Improving the overall condition of the building stock and our school estate Options for removing excess surplus places. The first step in deciding what action to take is to determine whether it needs to be temporary or permanent: that will inform thinking around which of the options available might be appropriate. Determining the longevity of the proposal is complex because birth rates are only known a few years in advance.
- Location of school in relation to demand for places and future forecasts (will children need to travel further if we remove places?)
- Size of school (both in terms of physical and resourced capacity)
- Opportunities around buildings (including condition, compliance and limitations around PFI obligations)
- Popularity (what impact would removing places have on parental preference?)
- Standards (decommissioning, closure or reorganisation of schools that are operating at less than 'good')
- Current financial status (have viable is the school now and in the future?)

- ***Principle 3 - The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools***

The Council is unlikely to support the expansion of an existing school or Academy unless it is at least rated as good and preferably outstanding by Ofsted or is in a Trust or Multi Academy Trust that includes good and outstanding schools that have the capacity to support the expanded school in terms of standards and quality in order that it can become outstanding itself.

- ***Principle 4 - The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities***

The education 'offer' can be significantly enhanced from schools that collaborate effectively when compared with those that do not and the capacity for those schools to self-improve and to recruit, train and develop their own staff and leaders is enhanced by well designed school to school support systems.

- ***Principle 5 – To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use***

The Council will adopt a high standard of design and community engagement as part of its evaluation of the proposals for major new and expanding school provision in Central Bedfordshire. This will define the basis for calculation of planning obligations that will be required from housing developers where additional infrastructure is required.

The Council will support opportunities to pool funding from other sources in any planned expanded or new provision and it will seek guarantees for sustainable, enhanced community use of the school's facilities where capital investment is being committed.

- ***Principle 6 – To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice***

Central Bedfordshire has a comprehensive system of education providing educational opportunities for all its pupils and the Council recognises, supports and encourages the need for a diverse range and ethos within the schools in the area to provide opportunities for parental choice.

The geographical area comprises only co-educational schools and the majority of schools are based on a three tier system of education although schools are encouraged to consider alternative models of leadership, governance and school organisation to achieve the Council's overarching aim of raising standards.

The Council's aim is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and may act as a centre of excellence in particular areas or offer specialist provision in order to meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

While a good supply of non-denominational provision is essential, parents have a right to select a denominational education for their children if they wish. Within Central Bedfordshire, there are Church of England lower, primary, middle, secondary and upper schools although Roman Catholic provision is only represented at lower and primary school. No other faiths are currently provided for in Central Bedfordshire.

Some faith based provision is below national rates of representation in some phases in Central Bedfordshire. Where there is a need for new school places and there is unmet parental demand for particular faith provision, the Council will consider supporting an increase in such provision where it will bring the area closer to national averages for each individual faith based provision and where other factors such as an evaluation against the potential of the school to raise education standards will not be compromised.

The Council will support the establishment of Trusts, Federations and Multi Academy Trusts who share the ambition of the Council's Education Vision and its principles

- ***Principle 7 – To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools***

The Council will continue to support close links between mainstream and special school sectors, building better partnerships, increasing places and improving co-ordination of services. While most children with special educational needs attend their local mainstream schools we will continue to support the model of area special schools.

5.2 Childcare and Early Years Provision

Alongside the statutory duty to provide school places, CBC has a duty to secure sufficient childcare and early education. From April 2024, CBC's statutory responsibility will increase due to the new Early Years Entitlements Expansion taking effect:

- From April 2024 -15 hours funding for 2-year old children with eligible working parents
- From September 2024 – 15 hours funding for 9-month-old children with eligible working parents
- From September 2025 – 30 hours funding for all 9 months – 3-year-old children with eligible working parents

March 2023 the government announced an expansion of these entitlements to include 15 hours free early education for children aged 9 months upwards from September 2024, with all children aged 9 months upwards from working families able to access 30 hours of free early education by September 2025.

Provision for nursery schools and early years is not part of our movement to 2 tier model as most of this early years provision is by voluntary or private providers. However, any new school building will include a nursery provision.

5.3 SEND places and Alternative Resource Provisions (ARP)

Like many other councils across the country, we are experiencing an increase in the number of children with EHCPs. There has been a 65% increase in all EHCPs (0 – 25 years) between January 2019 and January 2023 and this is subsequently leading to increasing demand for specialist education provision.

The number of pupils with an EHCP maintained by CBC is forecast to increase significantly during the 2020s, from approximately 2300 in January 2022 (Reception to Year 14) to almost 3900 by January 2028, with levels expected to remain relatively stable after this point. This is being driven by a combination of population growth and rising incidence of SEND. We are actively working on an Inclusion Strategy including improved multi-agency working and a more effective early

intervention offer so that children and young people with SEND have their needs met at the earliest point.

We only have statutory powers to propose and determine school organisation changes to schools that are maintained by CBC – this means community, foundation, and voluntary-aided schools within Central Bedfordshire. We have no legal powers to propose or determine changes to academies, which includes two of the four special schools situated in Central Bedfordshire. Our two academy special schools continue to work with us and are supporting the aim to increase capacity where space at their sites allows for it. Collaborative working is essential as part of a common commitment to inclusion, increasing the access to specialist places that meet the needs of all pupils

5.4 Meeting SEND need

To meet the forecast need, we plan to implement the following.

For ARP provision our options are to expand existing provision and / or create new provision.

- i. The age of transfer process for mainstream schools (as clusters move from a three-tier system with middle schools to a primary/secondary school model) may provide opportunities to establish/expand ARP provision as part of the age-of-transfer process and capital projects.
- ii. The forecast population growth in Central Bedfordshire because of housing developments will result in additional new mainstream schools being established (on land provided by developers), which could include new ARP provision.

For special schools the options are the same as ARPs (i.e., expansion or new schools), with the potential for expansion of existing schools onto satellite sites or a completely new school. CBC will consider the following:

- i. If any mainstream sites are no longer required, either as a result of age-of-transfer and / or reconfiguration to respond to housing developments, these may be suitable for adaptation into special school provision, whether for a relocation, new school, or satellite;
- ii. Where co-location is appropriate, mainstream sites may be able to be utilised for satellite provision;
- iii. New schools, or whole school relocations (potentially with expansion) would require either redeployment of an existing site or the securing of a new site.

SEND changes to maintained schools (community, foundation or voluntary-aided schools) would require formal school organisation processes in accordance with legislation and DfE guidance, while changes to academies would require applications to the DfE/Regional School Commissioners in accordance with their guidance. New schools would need to be established in accordance with legislation, which currently has a presumption that a new school commissioned by the local authority would be established through an academy competition.

It is important to note that not all places at expanded or new provision becomes available immediately, since these are places across the age-range of the ARP/special school. If they are to be filled from the point of entry to the school, the places may be filled over several years.

Meeting children's needs through the right provision

CBC has a statutory duty to conduct an Education, Health and Care needs assessments for a child or young person who has or may have special educational needs and for whom it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made in accordance with an EHCP, in order to determine whether an EHCP is required. For children and young people with EHCPs, CBC has a statutory duty to make sure there are sufficient school places, including special educational provision (ARPS and Special Schools), for the local community.

Nationally as well as in CBC most pupils with EHCPs are educated within mainstream schools/colleges.

Principles

CBC is committed to:

- a) Promote inclusion in mainstream settings to support pupils identified at SEND Support and those with EHCPs where those pupils can access the curriculum and their other needs can be met through reasonable adjustments.
- b) Agree a strategic approach to ARPs and their number/designation/location/ size / entry and exit strategies.
- c) Develop robust collaborative working with ARPs to ensure that there are clear accountability processes.
- d) Maximise specialist places available both within CBC and in collaboration with neighbouring local authority specialist provision to address accommodation so that the needs of children and young people with the most complex needs can be met.
- e) Embed culture / processes that share and develop expertise, capacity and resilience across our schools, including strong leadership, secure safeguarding, quality assurance, and appropriate levels of staffing with identified development.

Within the draft MTP Capital Programme, there is the expectation for the following provision of additional SEND places beyond September 2025:

- Expansion of Weatherfield Special School by 50 Post 16 places at the Beech Road site
- A new 24 place Cognition and Learning ARP at Sandy Secondary School
- 60 to 70 new SEMH places at the former Pulloxhill Lower School
- SEMH provision at the former Shelton Lower School (provision numbers to be determined)

In addition, there are plans for future expansions and new provision being undertaken. These are:

- Expansion of MLD/SLD/PMLD provision in Biggleswade and related to this a new 130 place SEMH free school.

5.5 Post-16 Provision

The Education and Skills Act 2008 required all young people in England to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. Overall, CBC school sixth forms have declined in size (total pupil numbers from 3,000 to 2,200). Over the last three years, school sixth form or sixth form college provision has reduced its share of Y11 destinations (from 51% to 47.5%) while College entry has increased its share of Year 11 destinations (37% to 43%), with the colleges attended reflecting geography and public transport links

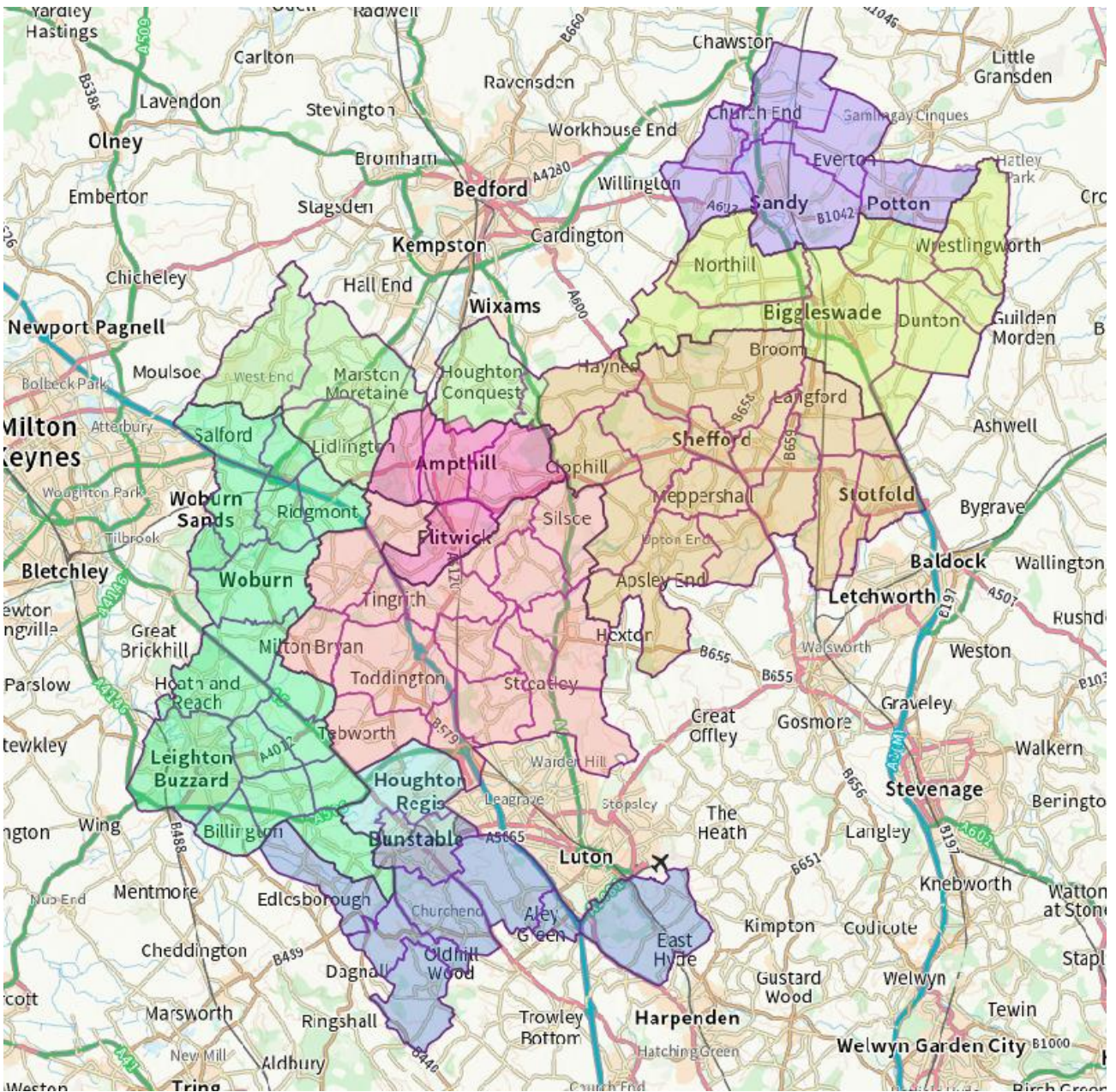
The Council are currently in the process of determining a rationale for Post 16 development. A Post 16 strategy is required which helps develop a diverse offer for all pupils and plan for the future. Where new institutions are being built under the Capital Delivery Programme they should be encouraged to work in collaboration with current providers. This will ensure a diverse offer can be made and avoids the creation of small, financially unviable provisions and helps secure the quality of teaching and absence/vacancy issues.

The Council does not have a duty to manage places in this phase, but nevertheless works in partnership with schools and local colleges to ensure young people aged 16-18 (and up to the age of 25 for those who have an EHCP) have access to a range of opportunities to continue their education or training at a wide range of post-16 providers or through apprenticeships.

6. Planning areas and clusters

We organise schools into planning areas we call 'clusters'. The clusters are historically based on a 'pyramid' of a local upper school and the middle/lower schools that feed pupils up the 3 tier system. The arrangements for a 2 tier system would broadly follow these existing clusters. These clusters are highlighted in the table below:

| Cluster | Pyramid/s |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Leighton Buzzard and Linslade Cluster | Fulbrook Pyramid |
| | Lower Leighton Buzzard/Linslade Pyramid |
| | Middle/Upper Leighton Buzzard/Linslade Pyramid |
| Dunstable and Houghton Regis Cluster | Dunstable Primary School Pyramid |
| | Houghton Regis Primary School Pyramid |
| | Dunstable and Houghton Regis Secondary Pyramid |
| | Priory Academy Pyramid |
| Shefford and Stotfold Cluster | Etonbury Academy and Pix Brook Academy Pyramid |
| | Henlow Pyramid |
| | Robert Bloomfield Pyramid |
| | Samuel Whitbread Pyramid |
| Biggleswade Cluster | Biggleswade Pyramid |
| | Stratton Pyramid |
| Sandy Cluster | Sandy Secondary Pyramid |
| | Potton Pyramid |
| Redborne Cluster | Alameda Pyramid |
| | Woodland Pyramid |
| | Redborne Upper Pyramid |
| Harlington Cluster | Arnold Academy Pyramid |
| | Parkfield School Pyramid |
| | Harlington Upper School Pyramid |
| Cranfield Cluster | Holywell Pyramid |
| | Marston Vale Pyramid |



6.1 Central Bedfordshire Schools (as at January 2024)

| Type of School | Number |
|----------------|--------|
| Lower | 66 |
| Middle | 11 |
| Upper | 6 |
| Primary | 31 |
| Secondary | 6 |

| Type of School | Number |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Extended Middle | 1 |
| Extended Secondary | 4 |
| Alternative Provision | 1 |
| Special School | 4 |
| Additional Resource Provision (ARP) | 19 (as from August 2024) |
| UTC | 1 |

7. Cross Boundary Movement

We regularly engage with neighboring boroughs to understand their planning assumptions about cross-border movement, which will impact on demand for places in Central Bedfordshire.

According to the Autumn 2023 school census we have recorded inward and outward migration for school places. Overall Central Bedfordshire is a net importer of school children, receiving 8% of the total school population from other areas, with approximately 1% taking up places in other local authority areas. As expected, the main areas that children apply for Central Bedfordshire Schools are from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire County, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire Borough, Luton and Hertfordshire.

8. Planning areas and clusters

8.1 Methodology & Challenges

The council works with schools and governing bodies to address supply and demand issues in the shorter and longer term.

In order to carry out pupil forecasts effectively, the borough must be split up into different 'planning areas' or 'clusters'. Any decisions on changes to school provision (such as the expansion or contraction of schools) are taken within the context of these areas.

Birth data underpins all forecasts. Birth data is collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by electoral ward. Alongside birth data, the council also collects data on pupil movement trends from the School Census and examines pupil movement between schools; in and out of the borough, and between educational stages i.e. transferring from primary to secondary school.

These trends are combined with birth and housing data in specialist demographic forecasting, which creates pupil projections or forecasts. These pupil projections allow the council to commission adequate educational provision to ensure that every CBC child who requires a school place is offered one.

Although school place demand is based on areas, there is no direct link between the number of children living in a particular area and the number of school places located there. This is because, when it comes to applying for a school place, parents/carers are under no obligation to apply for their nearest maintained school and could instead express a preference for a school outside of their town, county, or choose independent schooling for their child.

The council strives to meet parental preference where possible, and analysing historic pupil movement trends enables the planning of school places to take preference patterns in an area into consideration. The council was able to offer a place at the 1st preference school to 91.3% of applicants.

Pupil movement trends also allow the council to understand whether there is a significant export or import in the area.

This document largely focuses on the 'intake' years – Reception year for lower and primary schools; Year 5 for middle and extended secondary schools, Year 7 for secondary schools and Year 9 for upper depending on the school make of the area. These are the most recently admitted year groups, and so the first that will show the effects of a change in birth rate and the best reflection of current parental attitudes to schools.

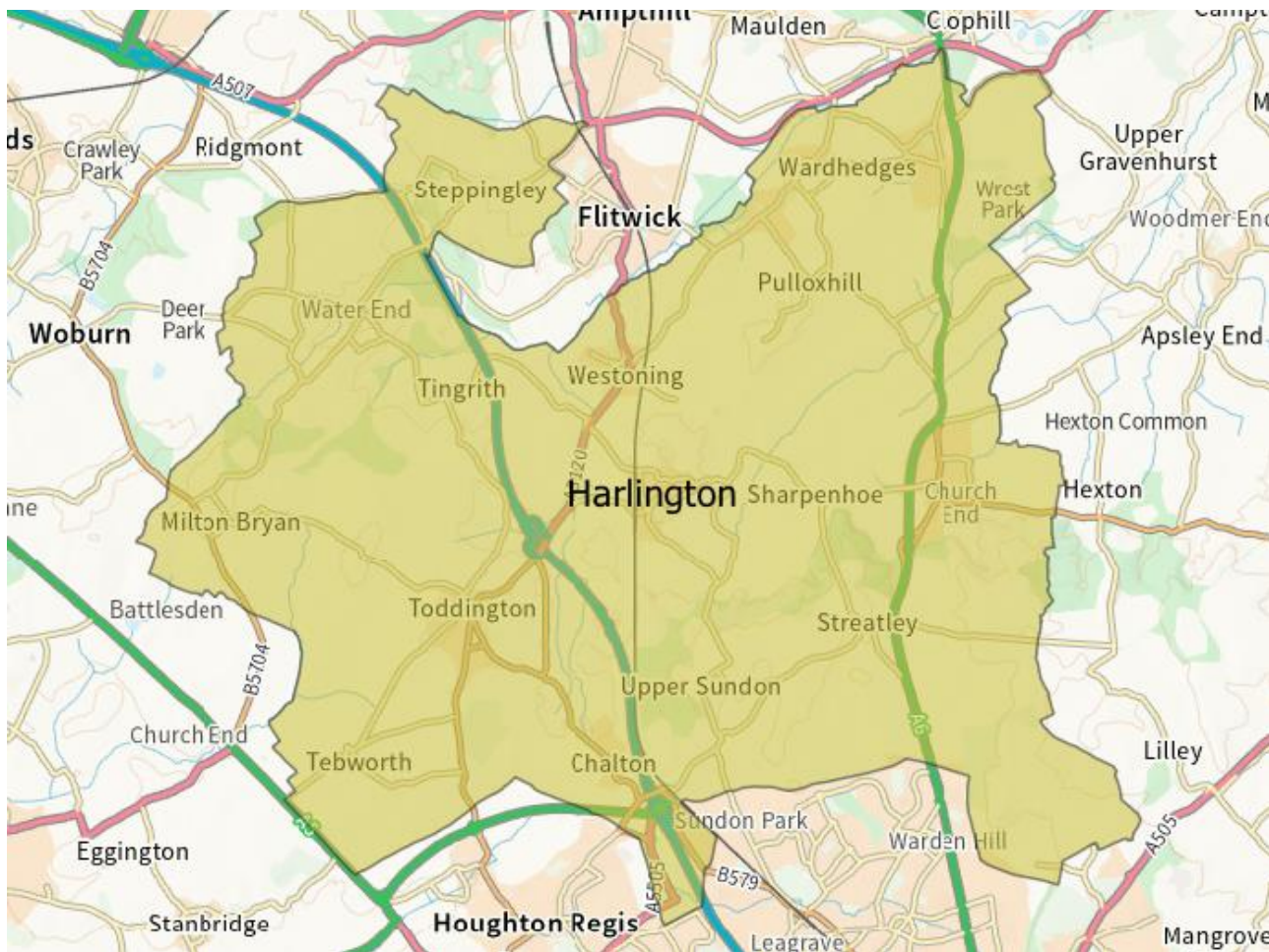
Therefore, pupil projections or forecasts are based on how many children are predicted to require a school place in these 'intake' year groups in a given area. This number is then evaluated against the number of school places in the relevant year group in that planning area and action is then required if the demand significantly outstrips the supply (or vice versa).

It is important that this 5 Year Plan anticipates the potential increase in households in an area so that we can meet our statutory duty to facilitate sufficient school places. These figures are based on 'housing trajectories' supplied by planning colleagues within CBC, amended with subsequent planning approvals and information from housing developers and planning authorities. Clearly, external economic factors could change housing delivery and therefore pupil demand.

The variable nature of birth rates and families moving into the local authority can be a challenge. This can result in more school places being needed when pupil numbers are higher, and fewer when numbers fall. We know that some school budgets are under increasing pressure through a combination of energy costs, pay increases and other factors. Schools operating with deficit budgets do not always have falling rolls, and some schools have surplus places and no deficit. Schools that have or expect to set a deficit budget may wish to consider a lower Published Admission Number (PAN) or other organisational options (if available). This might offer some benefits, especially where schools are carrying surplus places and/or they are in an area where the birth rate has fallen.

9. Forecast Summary by Cluster Area

9.1 Planning Area: Harlington



Harlington Cluster Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Charlton Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Eversholt Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Greenfield Church of England School (Lower) | 0.8 | 30 |
| Harlington Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Pulloxhill School (Lower) | 0.4 | 15 |
| Ramsey Manor Lower School | 2 | 60 |

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Silsoe VC Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Sundon Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Westoning Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Toddington St George Church of England School | 2 | 60 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 10.7 | 330 |
| Middle School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admissions Number (PAN) |
| Arnold Academy (Middle School) | 6 | 180 |
| Parkfields Middle School | 3.7 | 113 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 9.7 | 293 |
| Upper School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Harlington Upper School | 10 | 300 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 10 | 300 |

Summary of Area

The Harlington cluster is currently a three-tier structure with ten Lower Schools, two Middle Schools and one Upper School. The combined birth rate within the cluster is steadily decreasing but the area attracts pupils from other clusters and cross borders. Based on the 2023 Autumn census 14% of pupils attending schools in the cluster are from cross border, primarily Luton and 20% from other clusters within CBC. The housing trajectory shows several proposed large developments securing sites for additional Primary and Secondary schools. The information below reviews the current number of school places within the cluster considering health authority birth data and housing projections to review the number of additional school places required within the cluster in the future.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry Available: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing Pressure: |
|--------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Lower | 10.7 FE | 9.2 FE | -1.5 FE |
| Middle | 9.7 | 9.5FE | -0.2FE |
| Upper | 10FE | 8.9FE | -1.1FE |

Births

Birth data shows a steady decline in births for children due to start Reception between 2025-2028. The table below shows that for September 2027 there are 195 births in the cluster which provides 6.5FE. The area as a whole currently has 10.5FE of Reception places available in the cluster.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 221 | 207 | 195 | 199 |
| FE | 7.4 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.6 |

Housing

Large Developments

| Development | Dwellings | Developer Proposal |
|--|-----------|---|
| North Luton (Sundon Lower School) | 3600 | Development is listed on the housing trajectory to begin in 2028/29 producing around 220-280 dwellings per year and 2012 dwelling 2035 onwards. The development will require two 2FE Primary Schools including nursery provisions, one 3FE Primary School with Nursery provision and a 7FE Secondary School with post 16 provision. |
| Greenfields- (Ramsey Manor Lower School) | 3750 | Development is not listed on the housing trajectory and has not received outline approval. Proposal for 3750 dwellings, 4FE Primary School, 7FE Secondary including Nursery and a 3FE Primary School. Education responded to the application challenging the size of schools, location and FE. Decision has not been made. |

| Development | Dwellings | Developer Proposal |
|--|-----------|--|
| Land to the East of Barton Le Clay | 560 | Development is listed on the trajectory to begin 2024/2025 producing around 30-60 dwellings per year up to 2028/29 and due for completion in 2033/34. Education has secured a site for a 2FE Primary School and Nursery. Birth rates are low in Barton Le Clay and the forecast shows the nearest school Ramsey Manor can absorb the 1FE arising from the development. |
| Land to the West of Midland Mainline Railway | 400 | Development is listed on the trajectory to begin 2024/25 producing around 80 dwellings per year up to 2028/29 and completion in 2029/30. Site secured for a 2FE Primary school situated in Land West to the West of Midland Mainline Railway. Decision to be made whether to move Harlington Lower from its current location to the new site and increase by an FE or remain at their current location if viable to expand. Reviewing the forecast shows a need for an additional FE to accommodate pupils arising from the new development. The trajectory shows the development will produce a pupil yield of 18 by 28/29. Ideally, due to the surplus places in the area we would look at allocating pupils to their catchment schools if not from the Harlington catchment area. Harlington Lower attracts over ¾ of pupils from their catchment so looking at catchment criteria for this school will not create enough surplus places. |

Area School Place Demand

Existing Harlington area lower school place pressure

The present capacity of the Lower schools in the area is 10.5FE. The area is currently using 8.9FE of lower school places leaving 1.6FE available.

The GP birth data indicates a decreasing trend with only 6.5FE born in the cluster expected to join reception in 2027. The Housing Trajectory shows an additional **2.072FE** of pupils generated from new housing within the next 5 years.

Between the years 2023-2029 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 62.16 arising from the developments (2.072FE). The area currently has 10.7FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 8.372FE leaving 2.328FE surplus places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 253.86 (8.462FE). Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional pupil places for 2030 onwards. Around 6.134FE would need to be created for Primary Schools.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2023-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 10.5FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q2 (2023) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Expected by Qt 2 2023/24 | 57 | 3.42 | 0.114 |
| Expected by Qt 2 2028/29 | 979 | 58.74 | 1.958 |
| Expected by Qt 2 2029/35 | 2219 | 133.14 | 4.438 |
| Beyond 2035 | 2012 | 120.72 | 4.024 |
| Total | 5267 | 316.02 | 10.5 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

**Total figure excludes the Greenfields Development set out in the table above on large developments.

Existing Harlington area middle school place pressure

The present capacity of the Middle schools is 9.7FE. The area is currently using 9.5FE of school places leaving 0.2FE surplus. Parkfields consistently reaches capacity and is a popular school, but Arnold Academy pupil numbers are decreasing. Based on the reduction of births in the Barton Le Clay catchment, surplus places could increase. Parkfields attracts a number of pupils from the Houghton Regis catchment area.

Forecasts anticipate up to 0.5FE of middle school pupils below the capacity of 9.7FE by September 2028. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local lower schools from the area.

Existing Harlington area upper school place pressure

The present capacity of the upper school is 10FE. The area is using 8.9FE leaving 1FE surplus.

Forecasts anticipate up to 0.5FE of upper school pupils below the capacity of 10FE by September 2027. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local Middle schools from the area.

Harlington School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing Pressure | Demand from new Housing Growth | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lower | 10.7FE | 9.2FE | -1.5FE | 2.072FE | -0.572 |
| Middle | 9.7FE | 9.5FE | -0.2FE | 2.072FE | +1.872 |
| Upper | 10FE | 8.9FE | -1.1FE | 2.072FE | +0.972 |

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

The Harlington Cluster forms part of the project to support CBC schools transition to 2-tier. Although a date for the Harlington cluster to transition has not been determined, the expected pressure for new pupil places as a consequence of new housing is from 2029 onwards therefore timing around when schools in this cluster transition to 2-tier is crucial.

Lower

In the longer term this area is expected to need 6FE of new lower school places. This could be delivered through 9FE of planned provision as set out below:

- A new 2FE Primary School in Barton Le Clay
- A New 2FE Primary School in Harlington
- Two new 2FE Primary Schools in North of Luton
- A new 3FE Primary School also in North of Luton

Middle/Upper

Longer Term

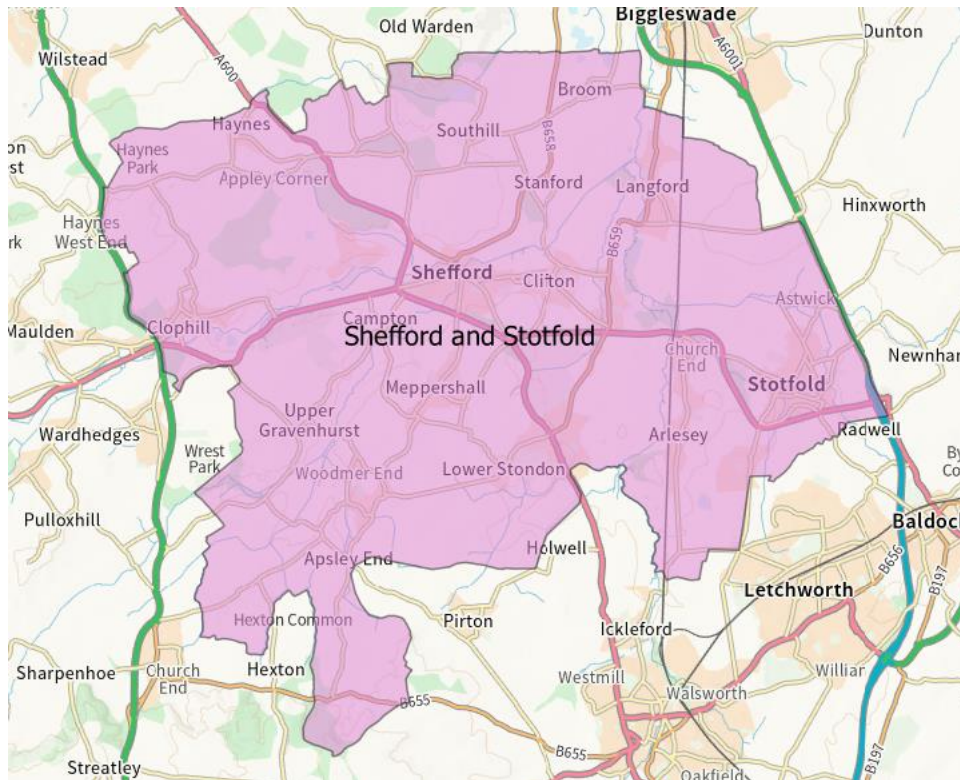
This area is expected to need 7.828FE of new middle school places and 9FE of upper school places beyond 2029. However, this is subject to transition to a 2-tier model as the provision planned within new development areas is secondary school only. There is only land secured within North of Luton for a 7FE secondary school which would leave a potential shortfall if the cluster is still 3-tier.

Secondary

New secondary school places could be delivered by:

- New 7FE secondary school in North of Luton – Expected 2028-2029
- Transition of Arnold Academy, Parkfield Middle and Harlington Upper Schools to an agreed secondary age model

9.2 Planning Area: Shefford and Stotfold



9.2 Shefford and Stotfold Cluster Schools

| Lower Schools | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Campton Lower School | 0.9 | 26 |
| Fairfield Park Lower School | 3 | 90 |
| Gothic Mede Academy | 2 | 60 |
| Gravenhurst Academy | 0.5 | 15 |
| Haynes Lower School | 0.8 | 24 |
| Roecroft Lower School | 3 | 90 |
| Shefford Lower School | 3 | 90 |
| Shillington Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Southill Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| St Mary's CofE Academy Stotfold | 2 | 60 |
| St Mary's Lower School Clophill | 1 | 30 |
| Stondon Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 18.7 | |
| Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Clifton All Saints C of E Primary Academy | 1 | 30 |
| Derwent Primary School | 2 | 60 |
| Langford Village Academy (Primary) | 1.5 | 45 |
| Meppershall C of E Academy (Primary) | 1 | 30 |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| Raynsford C of E Academy (Primary) | 1 | 30 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 6.5 | |
| Extended Secondary Schools | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Etonbury Academy (Extended Secondary) - 147 | 6 | 180 |
| Pix Brook Academy (Ext Secondary) - 175 | 6 | 180 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 12 | |
| Secondary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admissions Number (PAN) |
| Henlow CofE Academy | 5 | 150 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 5 | |
| Middle/Secondary/Upper Schools | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Robert Bloomfield Academy (Middle) | 8 | 240 |
| Samuel Whitbread Academy (Upper) | 13 | 400 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 21 | |

Summary of Area

The area has five Primary Schools, 12 Lower Schools, 2 extended Secondary Schools, one Middle School, one Secondary School and one Upper School. The Reception intake for the past 3 years has remained at a consistent level around 22 forms of entry. However, the combined birth rate in the area is steadily decreasing and the schools attract 13% of pupils from other clusters and 6% from cross borders. The housing trajectory shows several proposed large developments securing sites for additional Primary and Secondary Schools. The information below reviews the current number of school places within the cluster considering health authority birth data and housing projections to review the number of additional school places required within the cluster in the future.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2023 Census Data) | Existing Pressure: |
|--|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Lower – Year R-Year 4 | 26.2 | 22.1 | -4.1 |
| Primary/Middle/Extended Secondary – Year 5-Year 6 | 25.6 | 22.8 | -2.8 |
| Secondary/Middle/Extended Secondary – Year 7- Year 8 | 25 | 24.1 | -0.9 |
| Upper/Secondary/Extended Secondary- Year 9-Year 11 | 30 | 24 | -6 |

Births

2023 Health Authority data shows an overall decline in births across the cluster. However, the rate of change is different in some catchment areas. The table below shows that for September 2027 there are 575 births in the cluster which provides 19.1FE. The area as a whole has 26.2FE of Reception places.

| | YOE to Reception 2027 | YOE to Reception 2026 | YOE to Reception 2025 | YOE to Reception 2024 | YOE to Reception 2023 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Row Labels | Sum of Age 0 | Sum of Age 1 | Sum of Age 2 | Sum of Age 3 | Sum of Age 4 |
| Total | 575 | 574 | 602 | 607 | 701 |
| FE | 19.2 | 19.1 | 20 | 20.2 | 23.3 |

Housing

Large Developments

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|---|-----------|---|
| Land at Chase Farm & Land West/NE of High Street (East) | 1030 | Development is listed on the housing trajectory to start in 2026/27. The pupil yield arising from the development is 2FE and a site for a 2FE Primary School has been secured. Gothic Mede's birth rates continue to rise and we expect the school to fill primarily from pupils within the new development's catchment. Gothic Mede is located on a constrained site. It is a popular school and at capacity serving its current catchment. |
| Land at Chase Farm & Land West/NE of High Street (West) | 450 | Development is listed on the housing trajectory to start in 2030/31. The pupil yield arising from the development is 27 creating 1FE. Although showing on the trajectory as one area of land, it is broken down into smaller developments. The development sites are too small for a school and are next to a railway line. Gothic Mede would be the school serving the area but is on a constrained site. Developers have been asked for contributions towards the build of a new school and we will look to review the catchment areas for Fairfield Park and Gothic Mede to accommodate the additional 1FE of pupils arising from the development. |
| East of Arlesey | 2000 | Development is listed on the trajectory to start in 2028/29 creating 120 pupil places (4FE). We would expect two 2FE Primary Schools ensuring |

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| | | we engage early in discussions with planning to support discussions deciding the locations of the schools. |

Smaller Developments

We are required to monitor the accumulative number of smaller developments proposed in Shefford and Stotfold as these can be easily overlooked when reviewing the need for school places. Removing the developments above, there are 31 proposed smaller developments amounting to 2257 dwellings creating 135.42 (4.5FE) of pupil places. A close review of the trajectory and collaborative working with Planning Officers is required to identify any collective developments within a close proximity under different planning applications.

Area School Place Demand

Existing Shefford and Stotfold area lower/primary school place pressure

The present capacity of the Lower/Primary schools in the area is 26.2. The area is using 22.1FE of Lower/Primary School places leaving 4.1FE available.

The GP birth data indicates 19.2FE born in the cluster expected to join Reception in 2027 which would indicate 7FE of places would be available. Although the amount is 0.1 less than 2022 birth data, it has decreased over the previous 3 years. The Housing Trajectory shows an additional 5.028FE of pupils generated from new housing within the next 5 years.

Up until 2029 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 150.48 arising from the developments 5.028FE. The area currently has 26.2FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 24.2FE leaving 2FE surplus places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 232.68 arising from the developments 7.75FE. Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional places from 2029 onwards. Around 5.75FE would need to be created for Primary Schools. However, this is based on the level of surplus places across the whole cluster and we want to review the allocation of new provision from new housing developments based on more localised factors.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2023-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 12.7FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q2 (2023) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Expected by Qt 2 2023/24 | 1284 | 77.04 | 2.58 |
| Expected by Qt 2 2028/29 | 1224 | 73.44 | 2.448 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Expected by Qt 2 2029/35 | 2273 | 136.38 | 4.54 |
| Beyond 2035 | 1605 | 96.3 | 3.21 |
| Total | 6386 | 383.16 | 12.7 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Existing Shefford and Stotfold area Primary/Middle/Extended Secondary school place pressure

The present the capacity of the Primary/Middle/Extended Secondary Schools is 25.6FE. The area is using 22.8FE of school places leaving 2.8FE surplus.

Shefford and Stotfold has 5 Primaries, one middle, two extended secondary schools. Robert Bloomfield is the only middle school in Shefford and Stotfold and consistently reaches PAN at Year 5. Alternative options for year 5 in the area are Pix Brook (extended secondary) and Etonbury (extended secondary). However, based on the pupil numbers in Lower/Primary schools there is not pressure on the Year 5 point of transition. The chart below shows how each type of school overlaps each other at various ages.

| Year | R | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Lower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Primary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Middle | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Extended Secondary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Secondary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Upper | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Existing Shefford and Stotfold area Secondary/Middle/Extended Secondary school place pressure

The present capacity of the Secondary/Middle/Extended Secondary Schools is 25FE. The area is using 24.1FE of schools' places leaving 0.9FE surplus. Within this age group Shefford and Stotfold has 1 middle, 2 extended secondaries and one secondary school. Capacity in Year 7/8 has been created through the creation of Henlow Secondary School. These two age groups have the lowest level of surplus places in the cluster due to the various points of entry.

Existing Shefford and Stotfold area Upper/Secondary/Extended Secondary-

The present capacity of the Upper/Secondary/Extended Secondary Schools is 30FE. The area is using 24FE school places leaving 6FE surplus. Within this age group Shefford and Stotfold has 1 Secondary, 2 Extended Secondaries and 1 Upper School. Samuel Whitbread is a popular school and consistently reaches PAN. The school is still part of the 3-tier model attracting pupils from all schools across the cluster and a large majority from out of catchment.

Shefford and Stotfold School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand | Existing Pressure (2027) | Demand from new Housing Growth up to 2029 | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Primary | 26.2FE | 19.2 | -4.1FE | 5.016FE | -1.984 |
| Secondary | 25 FE | 24.1 | -0.9FE | 5.016FE | +4.116 |

Primary

This area is not expected to require additional school places within the life of this plan.

However, beyond 2029 there is expected to be a need for 5.75FE of new Lower/Primary School places. This is expected to be delivered through:

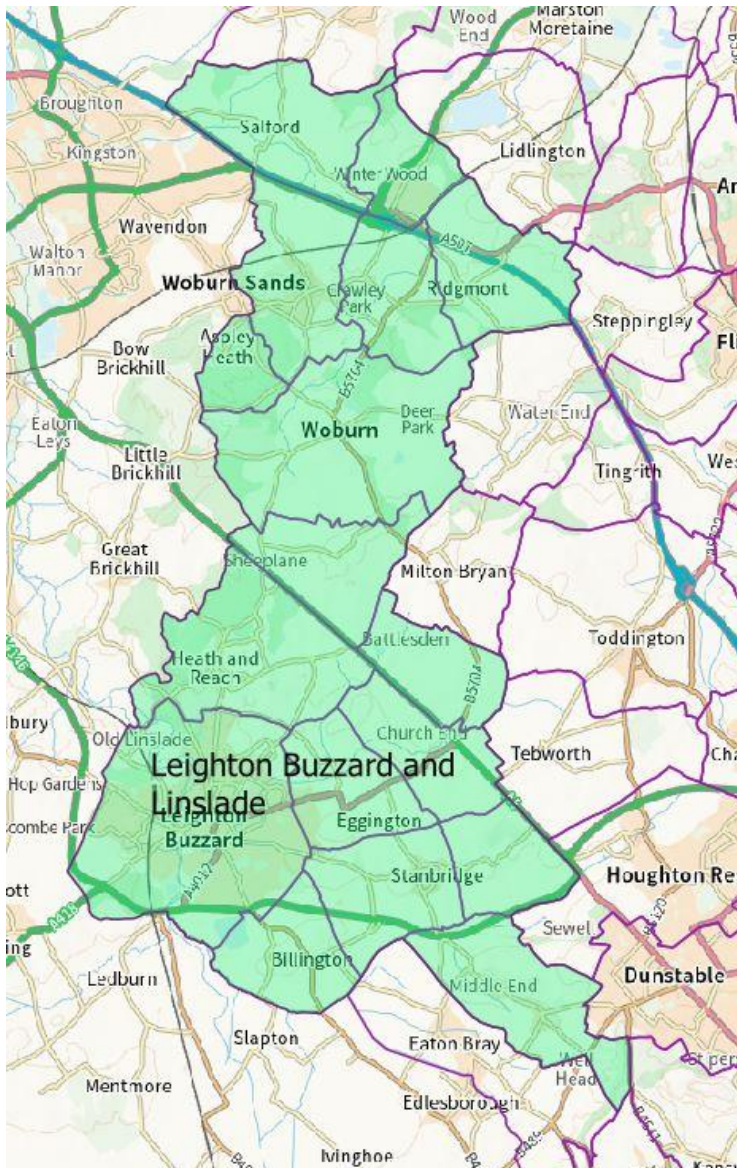
- A new 2FE Primary School - Land at Chase Farm & Land West/NE of High Street (East)
- Two new 2FE Primary Schools -East of Arlesey – Review FE of schools required to potentially two new 3FE

Secondary

Shefford and Stotfold are in the process of reviewing transition to two tier system. It is expected that there is a demand of 4.116FE of places on top of existing year 7 capacity. However, the cluster has 13FE of capacity from year 9 and above that can be used to meet this demand. On average the demand for places before 2029 is 30.4FE which equates to a need for approximately four 8FE Secondary schools.

Beyond 2029 and depending on the delivery of new housing there could be the need for an additional secondary school. However, it is also worth noting that the number of pupils in the lower/primary age groups is reducing, which could reduce demand in the older year groups. This will need to be reviewed in future iterations of this plan due to the longer-term impact of a falling birth rate moving through the system into secondary age.

9.3 Planning Area: Leighton & Linslade



Leighton & Linslade Cluster Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aspley Guise Lower School | 0.9 | 27 |
| Beaudesert Lower School | 1.86 | 56 |
| Clipstone Brook Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Doverly Academy | 1 | 30 |
| Greenleas School (2 sites) | 4 | 120 |
| Heathwood Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Hockliffe Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Husborne Crawley Lower School | 0.4 | 12 |
| Leedon Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Linslade Lower School | 1 | 30 |

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pulford CofE VA Lower School | 1.5 | 45 |
| Ridgmont Lower School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Southcott Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| St Leonard's VA Lower School | 0.8 | 25 |
| Stanbridge Lower School | 0.8 | 24 |
| Swallowfield Primary School | 2 | 60 |
| The Mary Bassett Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| The Rushmere Park Academy | 1 | 30 |
| Woburn Lower School | 0.4 | 12 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 25.7 | 771 |
| Middle/Extended Secondary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Brooklands School | 5 | 150 |
| Fulbrook School | 1.66 | 50 |
| Gilbert Inglefield Academy | 7 | 210 |
| Leighton Middle School | 5 | 150 |
| Linslade School | 5.5 | 165 |
| Total | 24.2 | 725 |
| Upper School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Cedars Upper School | 10.6 | 320 |
| Vandyke Upper School | 12 | 360 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 22.7 | 680 |

Summary of Area

The Leighton Buzzard and Linslade cluster stretches from Leighton Buzzard in the south to Aspley Guise in the north. Schools to the north of the area take a high number of pupils from neighboring Milton Keynes and are likely to be affected by housing development within Milton Keynes and within Woburn Sands. The South of Leighton includes schools within Leighton Buzzard and Hockliffe, up to Heath and Reach, and contains a significant amount of new housing and developments in the future.

Expansions have taken place in 2020 of 2FE at both Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School to provide additional middle and upper school places arising from the Land East of Leighton Buzzard development.

The table below shows the current capacity at our schools by phase:

| Phase: | Forms of Entry – Point of Entry | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing Pressure |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Lower/primary | 25.7 | 24.6 | 1.1 |
| Middle | 26.1 | 24.2 | 1.9 |
| Upper | 22.7 | 26 | -3.3 |

Births

Birth rates for the area show figures declining from 2026 although there is a peak in 2028 which equates to 22.7FE. The peak in 2028 is not above the available capacity (25.7FE) for the area.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 707 | 670 | 631 | 682 |
| FE | 23.6 | 22.3 | 21 | 22.7 |

Housing

Large Developments

| Developments | Dwellings | Details |
|--|-----------|---|
| East of Leighton Linlade (Clipstone Park) | 203 | Development is listed on the trajectory in 3 phases, all three phases are well underway. There are 555 dwellings already completed so far across all phases. All dwellings are due to be completed by 2025. Land has been secured for a 2FE primary school with a date yet to be determined for delivery. |
| East of Leighton Linlade (Chamberlains Barn) | 305 | Development is listed on the trajectory in 3 phases, all three phases are well underway. There are 339 dwellings already completed so far across all phases. All dwellings are due to be completed by 2027. Land has been |

| Developments | Dwellings | Details |
|---|-----------|---|
| | | secured for a 2FE primary school with a date yet to be determined for delivery. |
| East of Leighton Linslade (Stearn Land) | 270 | Development was listed on the trajectory as due to start in 2023/24 creating 12 pupil places. The Council has applied a six-month delay to first delivery from this site. |
| Land at Spinney Park & Spinney Pool | 120 | Outline approval for up to 150 dwellings and an alternative application for up to 120 has a resolution to grant. |

Smaller developments

The accumulative number of smaller developments proposed in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade need to be monitored when reviewing the need for school places. There are 4 proposed smaller developments amounting to 222 dwellings creating 13.3 (0.44FE) of pupil places. A close review of the trajectory and collaborative working with Planning Officers is required to identify any collective developments within a close proximity under different planning applications.

There are only 19 dwellings to be built in the north of the cluster and these are located in Woburn, the current capacity in the area is able to accommodate the pupil yield from this development.

Area School Place Demand

Existing Cluster lower/primary school place pressure

The present capacity of the Lower schools in the area is 25.7FE and the area is currently using 24.6FE of the primary places which currently leaves 1.1FE available.

The GP birth data indicates a decreasing trend with only 21FE born in the cluster expected to join reception in 2027.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 77 arising from the developments (2.5FE). The area currently has 25.7FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 24FE leaving a surplus in places of 1.7FE. Based on the data there is no requirement for additional school places in this period.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 53 (1.7FE). Based on the data, it is expected that new schools will need to be provided for this number of children.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2024-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 4.2FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing. As there is very little housing in the north of the cluster the forecast for the number of places needed is required for the south of the cluster in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

| Housing at Q4 (2024) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Form of Entry |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Short term (within the plan timescales 2024/28) | 1,293 | 77 | 2.5 |
| Medium Term (Expected occupations 2029/35) | 891 | 53 | 1.7 |
| Long Term (expected occupations beyond 2035) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2,184 | 130 | 4.2 |

* Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Existing Middle school place pressure

The present capacity of the middle schools is 26.2FE. The middle schools currently have a surplus of 3.6FE based on the Autumn 2024 school census. The cohort size in the middle schools in the area, shows an overall decrease in the number of upper school pupils in the future.

Forecasts anticipate up to 25.1FE of middle school pupils. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local lower schools from the area.

Fulbrook School has converted to an extended secondary school in line with the two-tier transition. The school will be required to become a secondary in 2026/27 alongside two tier changes in the north of the cluster. Once this change has taken place the school will not have a transfer to middle intake.

Existing Upper school place pressure

The present capacity of the upper schools is 26.7FE. The area uses 24FE leaving 2.7FE surplus.

Forecasts anticipate up to 22FE of upper school pupils. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local middle schools from the area.

Leighton Buzzard and Linslade School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing Pressure | Demand from new Housing Growth (until 2029) | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Lower | 25.7FE | 24FE | -1.7FE | 2.5FE | 0.8FE |
| Middle | 26.2FE | 22.6FE | -3.5FE | 2.5FE | 1.5FE |
| Upper | 26.7FE | 24FE | -2.7FE | 2.5FE | 0.2FE |

* Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

Lower School Places

In the longer term, beyond 2029 this area is expected to need 2.7FE of new lower school places. This is expected to be delivered through 4FE of options for new provision as set out below:

- Site secured for a new 2FE primary school at Clipstone Park.
- Site secured for a new 2FE primary school at Chamberlains Barn.

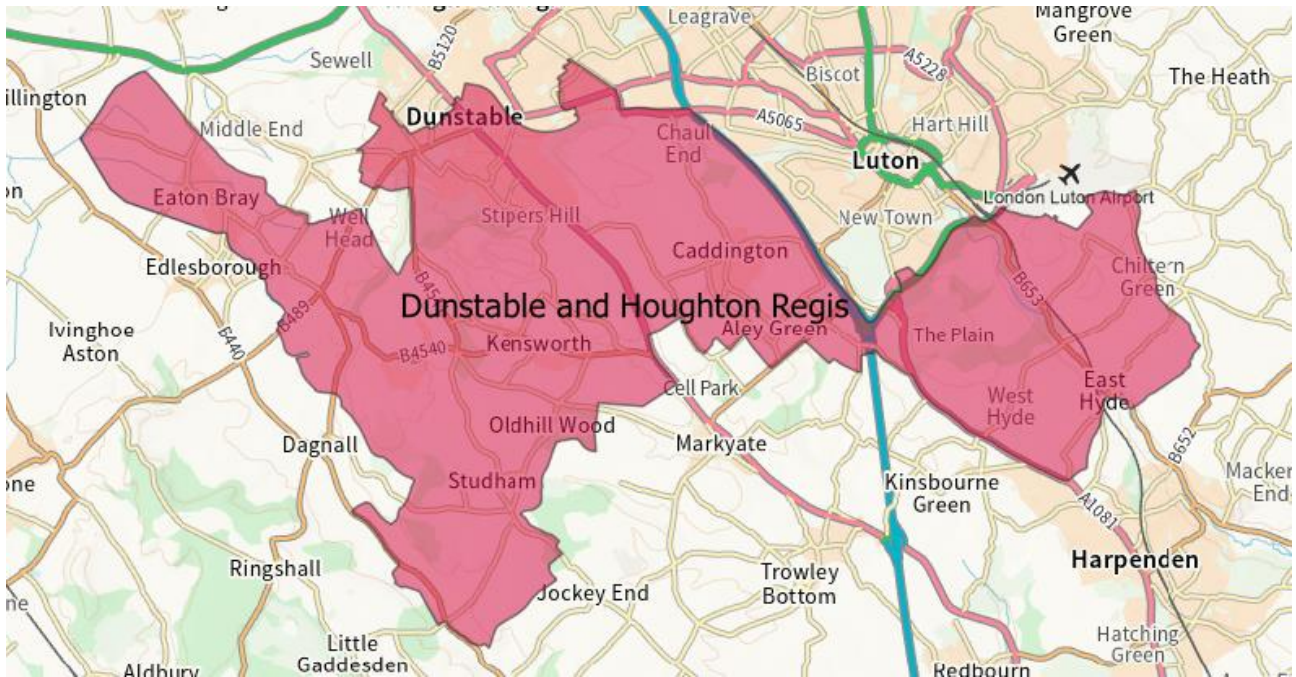
Middle/Upper

Beyond 2029, this area is expected to need new middle school and new upper school places, although the upper school pressure will be reduced by Fulbrook Academy extending its age range to offer 4FE within this cohort.

The balance of new provision between 4/6FE will need to be balanced against the long term need for places in the south of the cluster when it transitions to a 2 tier system. The options/implications are:

- Places could be secured through expansion of the existing upper schools (Cedars and Vandyke) with the long-term view to having 2 secondary schools to serve the town
- Places could be provided at a new site in Chamberlains Barn for a new secondary school, but its location close to Vandyke and the smaller size could be a risk when the smaller cohorts begin to transfer through the lower schools

9.4 Planning Area: Dunstable and Houghton Regis



Dunstable and Houghton Regis Primary Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ardley Hill Academy | 2 | 60 |
| Ashton St Peter's VA CofE School | 1 | 30 |
| Beecroft Academy | 2 | 60 |
| Caddington Village School | 2 | 60 |
| Dunstable Icknield Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Eaton Bray Academy | 1 | 30 |
| Hadrian Academy | 1.5 | 45 |
| Houghton Regis Primary School | 1.5 | 45 |
| Kensworth CofE Academy | 0.5 | 15 |
| Lancot School | 2 | 60 |
| Lark Rise Academy | 1.5 | 45 |
| Lime Tree Primary Academy | 2 | 60 |
| Slip End Village School | 0.8 | 24 |
| St Christopher's Academy | 2 | 60 |
| St Augustine's Academy | 0.9 | 27 |
| St Mary's Catholic Primary School | 1 | 30 |
| St Vincent's Catholic Primary School | 1 | 30 |

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Studham CofE Village School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Thomas Whitehead CofE Academy | 1 | 30 |
| Thornhill Primary | 3 | 90 |
| Tithe Farm Primary School | 2 | 60 |
| Totternhoe Academy | 1 | 30 |
| The Vale Academy | 2.5 | 75 |
| Watling Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 35.74 | 1071 |
| Extended Secondary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Priory Academy | 4 | 120 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 4 | 120 |
| Secondary Schools | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| All Saints Academy | 5 | 150 |
| Houstone School | 6 | 180 |
| Manshead School | 7 | 210 |
| Queensbury Academy | 7 | 210 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 25 | 750 |

Summary of Area

Most schools within the Dunstable and Houghton Regis cluster are two tier (primary and secondary schools), with a very small number still lower schools and one school that is an extended secondary (Y5-Y11).

There will continue to be a long term need for future additional primary and secondary school provision for Dunstable and Houghton Regis as a result of a significant amount of housing planned to the north of Houghton Regis (HRN1 – Houghton Regis North 1 and HRN2 – Houghton Regis North 2).

An expansion of 2FE at Thornhill Primary School in 2022 and the rebuilding of a 6FE secondary school in Houghton Regis - Houstone School in 2023 to replace Houghton Regis Academy have so far provided places.

The table below shows the current capacity at our schools by phase:

| Phase: | Forms of Entry – Point of Entry | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing Pressure |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Lower/primary | 36.2 | 33.3 | 2.9 |
| Middle | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Secondary | 25 | 23.4 | 1.6 |

Births- Dunstable and Houghton Regis

Birth rates for the area is not showing a consistent decline.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 1065 | 988 | 1022 | 947 |
| FE | 35.5 | 32.9 | 34 | 31.5 |

Housing

Large Developments

| Developments | Dwellings | Details |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| North of Houghton Regis (HRN1) | 6,380 | Development is listed on the trajectory to be delivered in many phases given the large number of dwellings to be delivered, several phases are well underway with a couple already completed. Building of the dwellings is to continue beyond 2035. Land has been secured for a 2FE primary school with a date yet to be determined for delivery. |

| Developments | Dwellings | Details |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| North of Houghton Regis (HRN2) | 559 | Development listed on the trajectory to be delivered in phases, which a large number completed. Building due to be completed in 2025. Land secured for a 2FE primary school with a date yet to be determined for delivery. |
| Land of the East of Houghton Regis | 355 | Development listed on the trajectory as a development brief has been submitted to the Council for a scheme of up to 355 homes. Building forecast to start in 2028. Land has been secured for a 3FE primary school with a date yet to be determined for delivery. |

Smaller Developments

The accumulative number of smaller developments proposed in Dunstable and Houghton Regis need to be monitored as these can be easily overlooked when reviewing the need for school places. Removing the developments above, there are 10 proposed smaller developments amounting to 582 dwellings creating 34.92 (1.1FE) of pupil places. A close review of the trajectory and collaborative working with Planning Officers is required to identify any collective developments within a close proximity under different planning applications.

Area School Place Demand

Existing Dunstable and Houghton Regis Primary School Place Pressure

The present capacity of the Lower schools in the area is 36.2FE and the area is currently using 33.3FE of the primary places which currently leaves 2.9FE available.

The GP birth data indicates a decreasing trend with 31.5FE born in the cluster expected to join reception in 2028 that will leave the cluster 4.7FE available.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 224 arising from the developments (7.4FE). The area currently has 36.2FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil demand of 2.7FE leaving a deficit.

Looking further ahead into the future beyond 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 154 (5.1FE). This equates to total pressure of 14.6FE for this area.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2024-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 14.6FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q4 (2024) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Form of Entry |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Short term (within the plan timescales 2024/28) | 1,661 | 99 | 3.3 |
| | 2,097 | 125 | 4.1 |
| Medium Term (Expected occupations 2029/35) | 2,571 | 154 | 5.1 |
| Long Term (expected occupations beyond 2035) | 1,084 | 65 | 2.1 |
| Total | 7,413 | 443 | 14.6 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Existing Dunstable and Houghton Regis Middle School Place Pressure

Priory Academy is the only school in the cluster that has an entry point for transfer to middle. This is to ensure that the 3 remaining lower schools have access to a middle school place.

The present capacity of the middle school is 4FE and the school has no spare capacity.

The three lower schools that feed into Priory Academy are a total of 3.5FE. Therefore, the school has sufficient places to accommodate these children with 0.5FE available where places are offered up to the schools PAN.

Although the forecast anticipates that there will be a small deficit there is no change for the lower schools in the future.

Existing Dunstable and Houghton Regis Secondary School Place Pressure

The present capacity of the secondary schools is 25FE with some spare capacity.

The secondary schools currently have no surplus places based on the current Numbers on Roll data. The cohort size in the secondary schools in the area, shows an overall increase in the number of secondary school pupils in the future. Trends over the last 3 years show us that just over 3FE of children are given places at secondary schools in neighbouring local authorities.

Forecasts anticipate up to 27.4FE of secondary school pupils. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local primary schools from the area.

Dunstable and Houghton Regis School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places and growth.

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing Pressure | Demand from new Housing Growth (until 2027) | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Primary | 36.2FE | 33.3FE | -2.9FE | 7.4FE | 4.5FE |
| Secondary | 25FE | 27.4FE | 2.4FE | 7.4FE | 9.8FE |

* Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

Primary School Places

To meet primary school place needs there will be a requirement to increase the number of primary places before 2029. Figures show that an additional 4.5FE will be required. Beyond 2029 it is expected that a further 7.1FE will be required, totaling 11.6FE of which sites have been secured to deliver 6/7FE of places as below:

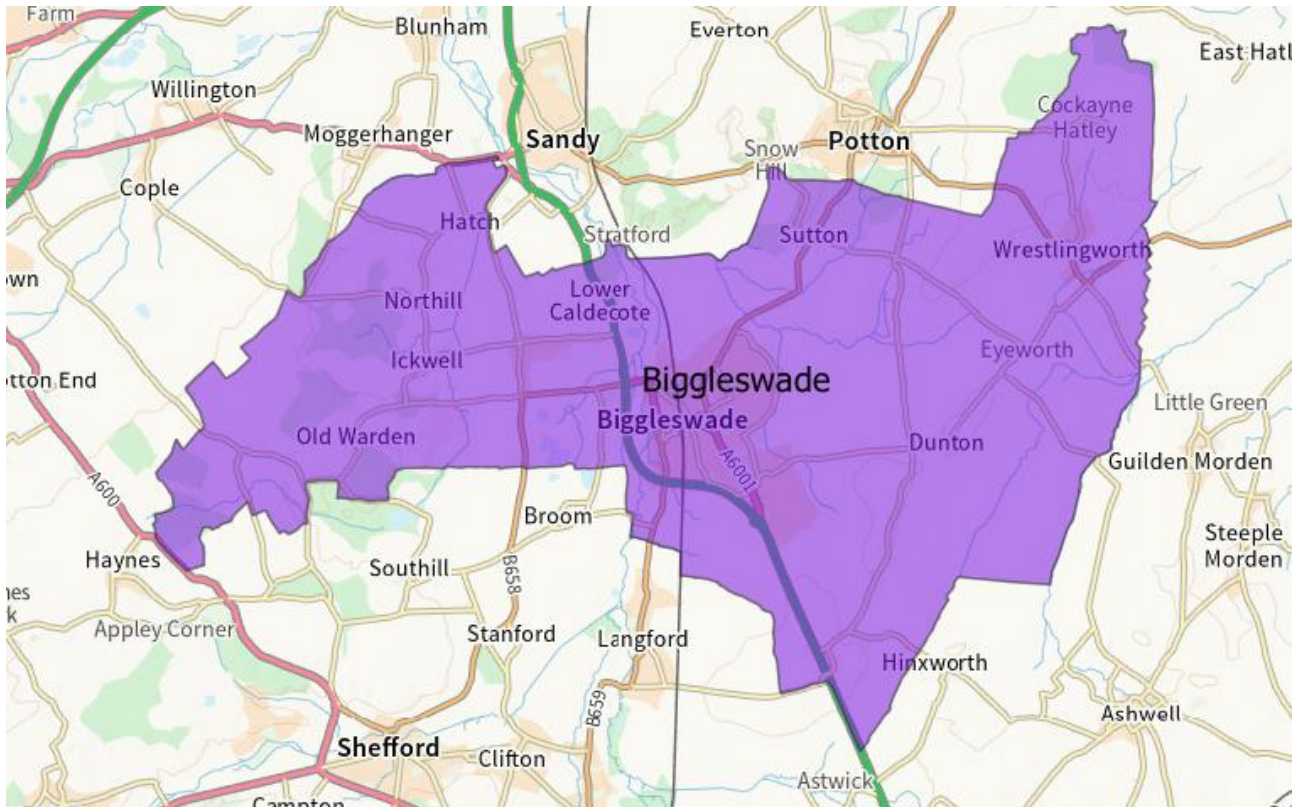
- Site secured for a 2/3FE primary school at Bidwell West.
- 1FE expansion at Tithe Farm Primary School.
- Site secured for a 3FE primary school at East of Houghton Regis.

Unfortunately, previous negotiations have not secured the necessary education provision needed and 2 to 3FE is still required in the long-term. Additional school sites and options for future expansion will be required to meet the pupil demand from the new area. This is an urgent piece of work that will commence with the local school community and CBC officers following the adoption of this plan.

Secondary School Places

There is a requirement to provide 9.8FE before 2029 and an additional 7.2FE after 2029. Therefore, the long term requirement is for another 17E of secondary school places to meet secondary school place needs. This is equivalent to 3 new secondary schools. There is a requirement to increase the number of places. Children services have commissioned site appraisals at the four local secondary schools to identify additional places that could be delivered. However, there is a clear requirement for additional sites for secondary school places, which is also an urgent piece of work that will commence with the local school community and CBC officers following the adoption of this plan.

9.5 Planning Area: Biggleswade



Existing Biggleswade Schools

| Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Biggleswade Academy | 4FE | 120 |
| Caldecote Lower School | 0.5FE | 15 |
| Dunton Lower School (Junior) | 1FE | 30 |
| Lawnside Lower School | 2FE | 60 |
| Northhill CofE VA Lower School | 0.5FE | 15 |
| St Andrews Lower School | 4FE | 120 |
| Sutton VA Lower School | 0.5FE | 15 |
| Wrestlingworth lower School (Infant) | 1FE | 30 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 13.5FE | 412 |

| Upper School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Edward Peake Middle School | 6FE | 180 |
| Stratton | 6FE | 180 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 12FE | 360 |

Summary of Area

Biggleswade transitioned to 2-tier with 6 Primary schools, 1 Infant and Junior school and 2 Secondary schools in September 2024.

The combined birth rate fluctuates and only attracts a low number of cross border pupils than other cluster areas within CBC. The housing trajectory shows a moderate number of dwellings proposed, some of which await approval but are within the Local Plan. The information below reviews the current number of school places within the cluster considering health authority birth data and housing projections to review the number of additional school places required within the cluster in the future. 10% of children born within the Biggleswade area apply for schools outside of the Biggleswade Cluster.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing pressure |
|-----------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Primary | 12.5 | 10.4 | 2.1 |
| Secondary | 13.5 | 8.1 | 5.4 |

Births

Birth data shows a fluctuating trend in births for children due to start Reception between 2025-2028. The table below shows that for September 2028 there are 355 births in the cluster which provides 11.8FE. The area as a whole currently has 13.5FE of Reception places available in the cluster.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 334 | 370 | 367 | 355 |
| FE | 11.1 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 11.8 |

Housing

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Land at Bonds Lane & Foundary Lane | 50 | Full approval for redevelopment of this site to provide 50 apartments. 50 dwellings under construction |
| Land at Saxon Drive | 200 | Reserved matters approval for 200 dwellings. A total of 177 dwellings have been completed with the remaining 28 dwellings due for completion 2024/25 |
| Site 4, Land East of Biggleswade | 354 | This is part of a larger allocation. Sites 1-3 are complete. Development is due to start in 2026/27 and completes in 2030/31 |
| East of Biggleswade | 1500 | <p>This site is allocated in the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan for 1,500 homes. An outline application has been approved. Ongoing work is taking place on the Section 106 agreement which will be followed by condition discharge. The heads of terms will be taken to the Development Management Committee.</p> <p>While this scheme is likely to deliver within the five-year supply period, it will remain developable for the purposes of this trajectory.</p> <p>Potential Barriers: The access issues have been resolved.</p> |

Area School Place Demand

Biggleswade primary school place pressure

The present capacity of the Lower schools in the area is 13.5. The area is currently using 12.5FE of lower school places leaving 1FE available.

The GP birth data indicates a fluctuating trend with only 11.8FE born in the cluster expected to join reception in 2028.

Between the years 2023-2029 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 30.9 pupils arising from the developments (1FE). From 2024 the area will have 12.5FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 12.8FE leaving 0.3FE deficit places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 80 pupils (2.7FE). Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional pupil places for 2027 onwards. Around 1.3FE would need to be created for Primary Schools.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2029-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 5.07FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q4 (2024) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Short term (within the plan timescales) Expected 2024/28 | 318 | 19 | 0.63 |
| Medium term (Expected 2029/35) | 1,975 | 119 | 3.97 |
| Long term (Beyond 2035) | 541 | 32 | 1.1 |
| Total | 2,834 | 170 | 5.7 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Biggleswade area secondary school place pressure

From September 2024 the existing middle and upper schools in this area transitioned to secondary (with the exception of Biggleswade Academy which transitions to a primary)

The future the capacity of the secondary schools is 12FE.

Existing Year 6 population in the Biggleswade area is 8.1FE which provides a surplus of 3.9FE. This figure is made up of the school currently in Year 6 in Biggleswade Academy and Edward Peake. The Year 6 figure to transfer to secondary will increase slightly in September 2026 when the children from primary school will transfer make their first transfer to secondary school.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 19 pupils arising from the developments (0.63FE). From 2024 the area will have 12FE of Year 7 places in the area. Combining the existing Year 6 population and housing creates a pupil yield of 12.5FE leaving 0.5FE deficit places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 110 pupils (3.97FE). Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional pupil places for 2029 onwards. Around 4.2FE would need to be created for Secondary Schools.

Biggleswade School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the area as a result of the future school capacity.

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing Pressure | Demand from new Housing Growth | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary | 12.5FE | 11.8FE | -0.7FE | 4.2FE | 3.5FE |
| Secondary | 12FE | 11FE | -1FE | 4.2FE | 3.2FE |

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account).

Existing pressure for primary has been calculated by adjusting the capacity set out in the lower school demand table above. Autumn Census 2024 NOR for current YR6 have been used for the above calculation for secondary school places to determine the existing pressure above. Before 2029, this cluster is not expected to need any further school places.

However, due to additional housing developments beyond 2029 there is the following expected need for new school places.

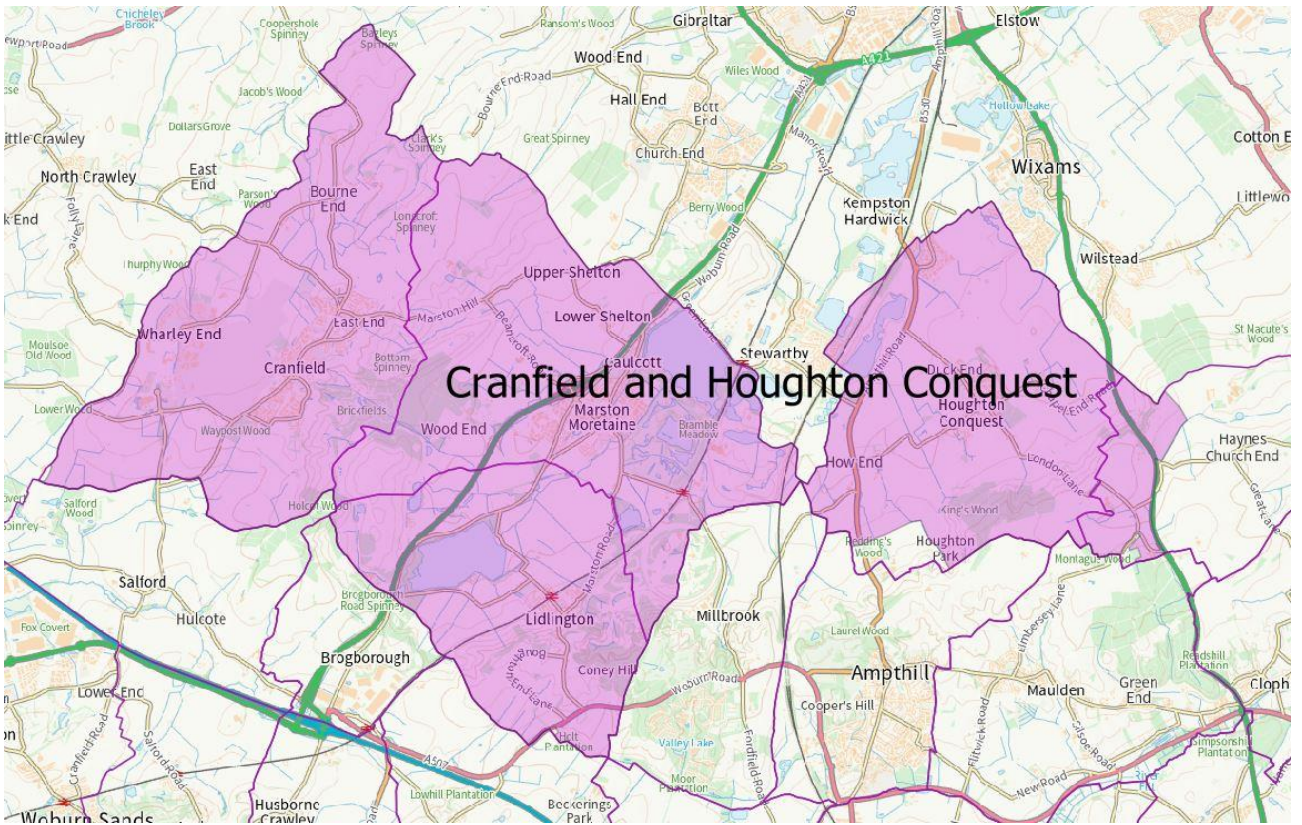
Primary

This area is expected to need 2.88FE of new primary school places. This is expected to be delivered through a new 3FE primary school to the Land East of Biggleswade.

Secondary

This area is expected to need 2.12FE of new secondary school places. This is expected to be delivered through a 3FE increase in admission numbers at Stratton, taking them from a 6 to a 9FE secondary school.

9.6 Planning Area: Cranfield



Existing Cranfield Cluster 3 Tier Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Published Admission Number (PAN) | Forms of Entry (FE) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cranfield CofE Academy Lower School | 90 | 3FE |
| Houghton Conquest Lower School | 20 | 0.6FE |
| Marston Moreteyne VC Lower School | 120 | 4FE |
| Thomas Johnson Lower School | 18 | 0.6FE |
| Total Existing Capacity | 248 | 8.2FE |
| Middle School | Published Admissions Number (PAN) | Forms of Entry (FE) |
| Holywell Middle School | 180 | 6 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 180 | 6 |

Summary of Area

Cranfield has a cross-border relationship with 4 schools within the wider Wootton Cluster within Bedford Borough Council (BBC), (Broadmead Lower, Wootton Lower, Marston Vale Middle and Wootton Upper School).

Currently, the pattern is for pupils from Thomas Johnson Lower School, Marston Moreteyne Lower School and Houghton Conquest Lower School feed into Marston Vale Middle School. Cranfield Lower School feeds into Holywell Middle School. Subsequently, Holywell Middle School and Marston Vale Middle School feed into Wootton Upper School. This area will also be transitioning to a 2-tier system from 2026.

Cranfield is currently a 3-tier system with 4 lower schools and 1 Middle school within the Central Bedfordshire Council side of the border. The 4 lower schools are expected to become primary from September 2026 and Holywell Middle will become a secondary.

Marston Vale middle school within the Bedford Borough administration area will become a primary from September 2027 and Wootton upper school within BBC will become a secondary from September 2026.

The cluster also includes the construction of a new community in Wixams. All new schools are within the administration boundary of BBC but will also serve homes within CBC.

A new 4FE Primary (Willow Grove), which opens September 2024, straddles the BBC/CBC border within the Wixams development.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing Pressure |
|--------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Lower | 8.3 | 8.3 | 0 |
| Middle | 6 | 6 | 0 |

3 tier to 2 tier transition for September 2026

Below is the list of schools within the cluster area and how the transition will impact on them:

| School | Impact from September 2026 |
|-------------------------|--|
| Houghton Conquest Lower | Will become a primary and PAN will increase to 30 from 2026 |
| Thomas Johnson Lower | Will become a primary and PAN will increase to 30 from 2026 |
| Cranfield CofE Lower | Will become a primary and PAN will remain at 90 from 2026 |
| Marston Moreteyne | Will become a primary and PAN will remain at 120 from 2026 |
| Shelton Lower | Will close from August 2025 |
| Holywell Middle | Will become a secondary and PAN will remain at 180 from 2026 |

Births

The birth data shows a steady decline from 2025 to 2028. The table below shows that for September 2028 there are 255 births in the cluster which provides 8.5FE. The area as a whole currently has 8.2FE of Reception places available in the cluster although this is due to increase to 9FE by 2026.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 283 | 247 | 261 | 255 |
| FE | 9.4 | 8.2 | 8.7 | 8.5 |

Housing

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|--|-----------|--|
| Land off Mill Rd, Cranfield | 78 | Reserved matters approval for 78 dwellings. 60 completed with the remaining due to complete 2024. |
| Wixams Village 2, Houghton Conquest | 305 | Reserved matters approval for 500 dwellings of which an estimated 305 are in Central Bedfordshire. 27 dwellings complete and 42 under construction as of December 2023. The remaining dwellings due to complete by 2027/28 |
| The Wixams, Houghton Conquest | 427 | The Wixams new settlement crosses the administrative boundary of Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. Up to 2,000 dwellings are expected to be delivered in Central Bedfordshire. RMs for road infrastructure and Design Codes have been approved. 427 dwellings are due to commence 2027/28 and complete in 2030/31. |
| Wixams, Parcel 3.1, Houghton Conquest | 650 | The RM for Phase 1 (285 dwellings) has now been approved. 365 homes on phase 2 was received in February 2023. |
| Great Thickthorn Farm, Wixams, Houghton Conquest | 692 | Outline approval for 650 dwellings. An estimated 50 completions in 2025/26 with 100 per annum thereafter completing construction in 2030/31. |
| Land South of the Wixams, Houghton Conquest | 1130 | Land allocated for 1000 dwellings and an application for up to 1130 dwellings has been approved. Construction to commence 2026/27 and completion for 2034/35. 1 x 5FE Secondary and 2 x 2FE primary are planned within this development. |

Cranfield Cluster Schools

Area School Place Demand

Existing Cranfield primary school place pressure

The present capacity of the Lower schools in the area is 8.3FE. The area is currently using 8.3FE of lower school places. Through the transition to 2-tier the capacity will increase to 9FE from 2026 and that will give us a surplus of 0.3FE based on the birth data for 2028.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 122 pupils arising from the developments (4.1FE). From 2027 the area will have 9FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 13.1FE leaving a 4.1FE deficit of places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 191 pupils (6.4FE). Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional pupil places for 2029 onwards. Around 10.5FE would need to be created for Primary Schools.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2024-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 16.1FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing, the majority will be located in Wixams.

| Housing at Q4 (2024) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Short Term (within plan timescales) Expected by 2024/28 | 2025 | 122 | 4.1 |
| Medium Term (Expected by 2029/35) | 3185 | 191 | 6.4 |
| Long Term (Beyond 2035) | 2780 | 167 | 5.6 |
| Total | 7990 | 480 | 16.1 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Existing Cranfield area middle/secondary school place pressure

From September 2026 the existing middle school will transition to secondary.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 122 pupils arising from the developments (4.1FE). Holywell middle is currently under pressure and has no surplus places. From 2026 Holywell will have 6FE of Year 7 places available. Combining the existing Year 4 population (6.9FE) and housing (4.1FE) creates a pupil demand of 12.3FE creating a pressure of 5FE.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 191 pupils (6.4FE). Based on the data we would need to look at creating additional pupil places for 2029 onwards. Around 12FE would need to be created for Secondary Schools.

Cranfield School Place Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for school places in the area as a result of the current school capacity.

| School Type | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing Pressure | Demand from new Housing Growth | Demand for Places |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary | 9FE | 8 | 1FE | 4.1FE | 3.1FE |
| Secondary | 6FE | 8.5 | -2.5FE | 4.1FE | 6.6FE |

Primary

Before 2029, there is expected to be a need for 4.1FE of primary school places. In the longer term, beyond 2029 this area is expected to need 12FE of new primary school places. We plan to meet this need through 14FE of new provision, these are:

- one 3FE primary school in Marston Vale New Villages
- three 2 FE primaries in Marston Vale New Villages
- a 1FE expansion of Thomas Johnson primary school
- two 2FE primary at Thickthorn Park, south of Wixams

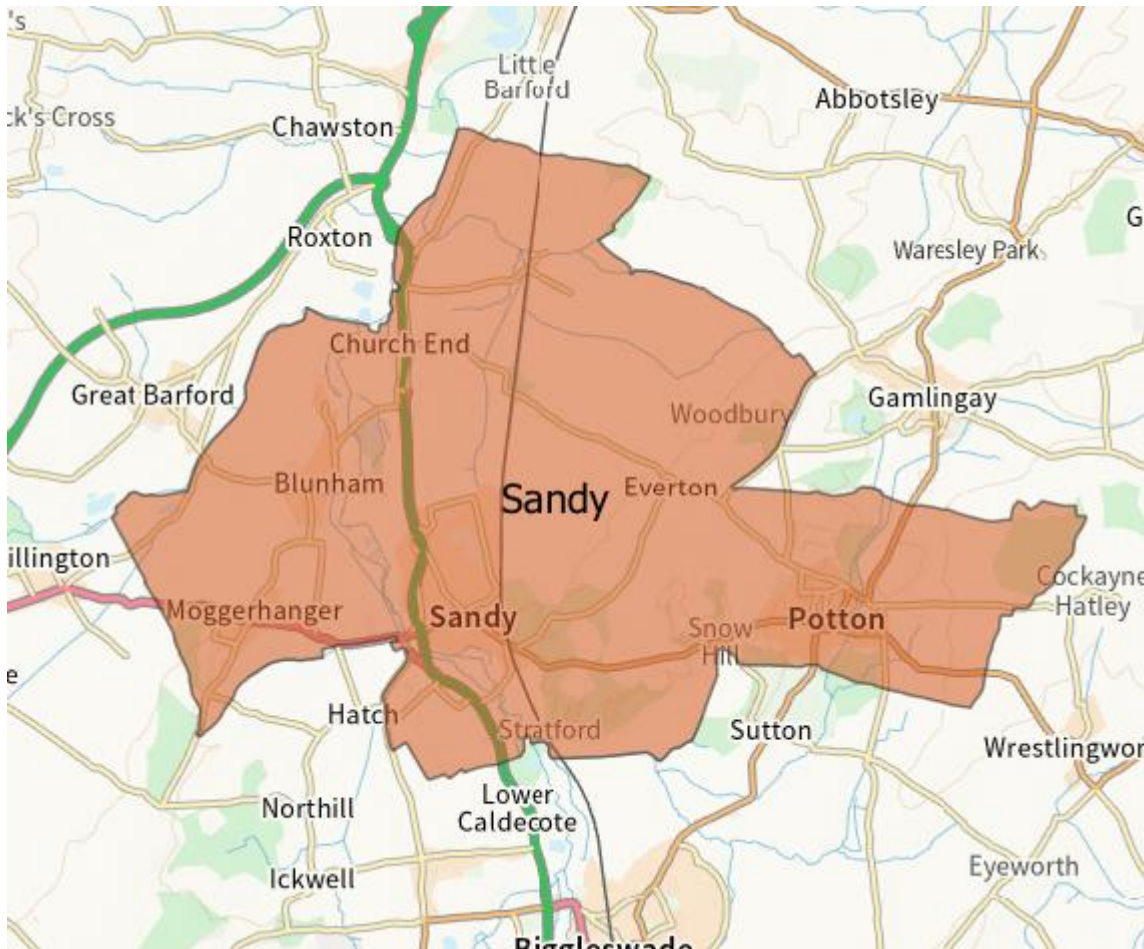
Secondary

Before 2029 there is expected to be a need for 6.6FE of secondary school places. In the long term this area is expected to need 12FE of new secondary school places. We plan to meet this need through 15FE of new provision, these are:

- one 10FE Marston Vale New Villages
- one 5FE secondary at Thickthorn Park, south of Wixams

However, it must be noted that beyond 2035 a further 2730 dwellings (5.46FE) are expected to be built.

9.7 Planning Area: Sandy and Potton



Existing Sandy and Potton Cluster 2 Tier Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Everton Primary School | 0.4 | 12 |
| John Dunne Primary School | 1 | 30 |
| Laburnum Primary School | 1 | 30 |
| Maple Tree Primary School | 1 | 30 |
| Moggerhanger Primary School | 0.5 | 15 |
| Potton Primary School | 2 | 60 |
| Robert Peel Primary School | 2 | 60 |
| St Swithuns Primary School | 1 | 30 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 8.9 | 207 |
| Secondary Schools | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Sandy Secondary School | 8 | 240 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Total Existing Capacity | 8 | 240 |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|

Summary of Area

Sandy Planning area transitioned to Primary and Secondary in 2017/18. There are currently 8 primaries school and 1 secondary school.

Sandy Secondary is currently undergoing an expansion to accommodate an 8FE secondary with a PAN 240.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry Available: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2024 Census Data) | Existing pressure |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Primary | 8.9 | 7.83 | 1.07 |
| Secondary | 8 | 7.9 | -0.1 |

Births

Birth data shows a fluctuating trend in births for children due to start Reception. The table below shows that for September 2027 there are 7.5FE births in the cluster. The area, as a whole currently has 8.9FE of Reception places available in the cluster.

| | Reception 2025 | Reception 2026 | Reception 2027 | Reception 2028 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total | 258 | 220 | 225 | 240 |
| FE | 8.6 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 8 |

Housing

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|
| 13-16A Market Square | 10 | Prior notification of change of use of first floor offices to 10 dwellings. |
| One Acre Field, Sandy Rd | 12 | This site is allocated for 12 dwellings. |
| 6 Bedford Rd, Sandy | 19 | Part single storey roof extension and part 3 storey roof extension to provide 19 new flats. |

| Development | Dwellings | Details |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| | | 19 dwellings under construction [December 2023 site visit] due for completion 2024/25. |
| Land South of the Paddocks | 97 | A full application for 97 dwellings including 2 demolitions (net 95) and 0.5ha of allotments has been allowed at appeal. Construction is projected to commence 2024/25 and complete 2026/27. |

Area School Place Demand

Sandy and Potton primary school place pressure

The present capacity of the primary schools in the area is 8.9FE. The area is currently using 7.8FE of lower school places leaving 1.1FE available.

The GP birth data indicates a fluctuating trend with only 7.3FE born in the cluster expected to join reception in 2026.

Between the years 2024-2028 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 9.1 pupils arising from the developments (0.3FE). Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 7.6 leaving 1.3FE surplus places.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2024-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 0.3FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q4 (2024) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Short term (within the plan timescales) Expected by 2024/28 | 152 | 9.1 | 0.3 |
| Medium term (Expected by 2029/35) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Long term (Beyond 2035) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 152 | 9.1 | 0.3 |

Existing Sandy and Potton area secondary school place pressure

The present the capacity of the Secondary school is 8FE.

Forecasts anticipate up to 7.4FE of secondary school pupils, this is below the capacity of an 8FE provision currently under construction at the existing secondary school. This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local primary schools from the area.

There are currently no large developments proposed in this planning area.

Sandy & Potton School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

The below table shows the capacity for Secondary school places is lower than the Primary school capacity. However, this may mean pupils attend other secondary schools outside of the catchment area.

| | Capacity | Existing Demand (2027) | Existing pressure* | Demand from new housing growth | Demand for places |
|-----------|----------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary | 8.9FE | 7.8FE | 1.1FE | 0.3FE | -1.4FE |
| Secondary | 8FE | 7.4FE | 0.6FE | 0.3FE | -0.3FE |

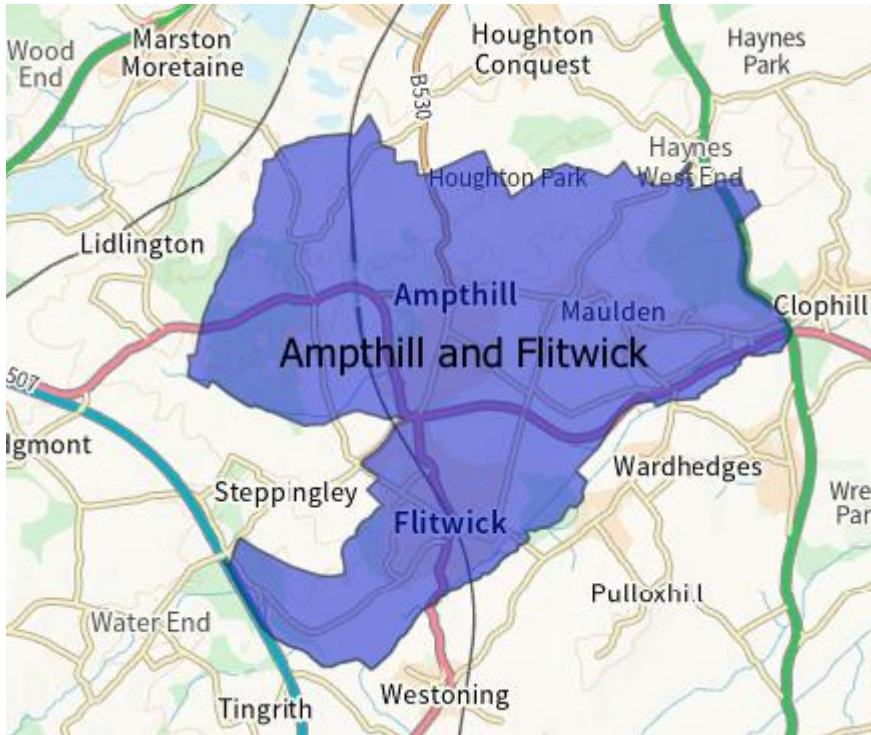
Primary

This area is expected to need 1.4FE of new primary school places. However, the expectation is that this can be managed through the falling birth rate in the area as set out above but kept under annual review.

Secondary

There is not any expected pressure on secondary school places and the pupil demand could be met through the new Sandy Secondary School. However, it is recognised that the surplus capacity is low, and this area should be kept under annual review to identify any changes to the local demographic.

9.8 Planning Area: Ampthill and Flitwick



Ampthill and Flitwick Cluster Schools

| Lower/Primary School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Maulden Lower School | 1 | 30 |
| The Firs Lower School | 3 | 60 |
| Russell Lower School | 3 | 90 |
| Flitwick Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Templefield Lower School | 2 | 60 |
| Kingsmoor Lower School | 1.5 | 45 |
| Total Existing Capacity | 11.5 | |

| Middle/Secondary/Upper School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Alameda Middle School | 6 | 180 |
| Woodlands Middle Academy School | 6 | 180 |
| Total | 12 | |
| Upper School | Forms of Entry (FE) | Published Admission Number (PAN) |
| Redborne Upper School | 12.6 | 380 |
| Total | 12.6 | |

Summary of Area

The Ampthill and Flitwick cluster is currently a three-tier cluster with six Lower Schools, two Middle Schools and one Upper School. Health Authority Data fluctuates, 2023 shows a particularly low birth rate compared to 2022. Autumn 2023 census data shows 3.5% of pupils who attend Ampthill and Flitwick schools are from cross border and 16% from other clusters. The housing trajectory shows minimal development plans impacting pupil numbers within the cluster. The information below reviews the current number of school places within the cluster considering Health Authority Data and housing projections to review the number of additional school places required within the cluster in the future.

| Phase: | Forms of Entry: | Numbers on Roll – Point of Entry (Autumn 2023 Census Data) | Existing Pressure: |
|--------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| Lower | 11.5 | 10.4 | -3.3 |
| Middle | 12 | 11.6 | -0.4 |
| Upper | 12.6 | 13.1 | +0.5 |

Births

2023 birth data shows a decreased number of births in 2023. The table below shows that for September 2027 there are 246 births in the cluster which provides 8.2FE. The area as a whole currently has 11.5 Reception places available in the cluster.

| | YOE to Reception (2027) | YOE to Reception (2026) | YOE to Reception (2025) | YOE to Reception (2024) | YOE to Reception (2023) |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Row Label | Sum of Age 0 | Sum of Age 1 | Sum of Age 2 | Sum of Age 3 | Sum of Age 4 |
| Total | 246 | 272 | 292 | 261 | 261 |
| FE | 8.2 | 9 | 9.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 |

Housing

Large Developments

There are no large developments planned in Ampthill and Flitwick area.

Area School Place Demand

Existing Ampthill and Flitwick Lower School Place Pressure

The present capacity of the Lower Schools in the area is 11.5FE and the area is currently using 10.4FE of lower school places leaving 1.1FE available.

The GP birth data fluctuates, increasing slightly in the years 2021 and 2022, 2023 the births reduce by 0.8FE compared to 2022 with 8.2FE expected to join Reception in 2027. The Housing Trajectory shows an additional 0.17FE of pupils generated from new housing within the next 5 years.

Between the years 2023- 2029 the Housing Trajectory produces a pupil yield of 13.44 arising from the developments (0.448FE) The area currently has 11.5FE of Reception places in the area. Combining the births and housing creates a pupil yield of 8.6FE leaving 2.9FE surplus places.

Looking further ahead into the future 2029-2035 onwards the Housing Trajectory shows a pupil yield of 2.52 (0.084FE). Based on the data no additional lower/primary school places would need to be created for the cluster.

An overall summary reviewing the housing trajectory from 2023-2035 onwards forecasts a total of 0.532FE of pupil places will be generated from new housing.

| Housing at Q2 (2023) | No. of Dwellings | No. of pupils (pupil yield) | Forms of Entry |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Expected by Qt 2 2023/24 | 139 | 8.34 | 0.278 |
| Expected by Qt 2 2028/29 | 85 | 5.1 | 0.17 |
| Expected by Qt 2 2029/35 | 42 | 2.52 | 0.084 |
| Beyond 2035 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 266 | 15.96 | 0.532 |

*Please note, this housing data is for your information only. As we do not have specific timeframes for building or information regarding the nature of the building (whether it's retirement flats, family homes etc), including this data in the forecast would undermine the forecast integrity. In addition, we use the housing data from the previous year and so it is not accurate enough at this point for inclusion. This is something that we are working to improve for the future.

Existing Ampthill and Flitwick Middle School Place Pressure

The present capacity of the middle schools is 12FE. The area is currently using 11.6FE of middle school places leaving 0.4FE surplus. Based on the 2023 forecast data, 282 pupils (9.4FE) were on roll in year 5 within the Ampthill and Flitwick cluster. Assuming the pupils transition to a middle school within the Ampthill and Flitwick cluster there will be 2.6FE of middle school places available.

Existing Ampthill and Flitwick Upper School Place Demand

The present capacity at upper schools is 12.6FE and the area is using 13.1FE of places. The school currently has 3FE pupils from other clusters and cross border. Based on the 2023 forecast data, 366 pupils (12.2FE) were on roll in Year 8 within the Ampthill and Flitwick cluster. Assuming the pupils transition to an upper school within the Ampthill and Flitwick cluster there will be 0.4FE of places available. Should the area require additional pupil places, pupils within the catchment would take priority.

Ampthill and Flitwick School Place Demand 2024 to 2029

| | Capacity | Existing Demand | Existing pressure* | Demand from new housing growth | Demand for places |
|--------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lower | 11.5FE | 8.2FE | -3.3FE | 0.448 | -2.852 |
| Middle | 12FE | 11.6FE | -0.4FE | 0.448 | +0.048 |
| Upper | 12.6FE | 13.1FE | 0.5FE | 0.448 | +0.948 |

* Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

The Ampthill and Flitwick Cluster forms part of the project to support CBC schools transition to 2-tier. Although a date for the Ampthill and Flitwick cluster has not been determined, the forecasted demand for places is from 2029 onwards and therefore timing around when schools in this cluster transition to 2-tier is crucial.

Lower

This area is not expected to need additional pupil places. Considering pupils arising from housing the data shows there will be 2.852FE surplus lower school places remaining in the cluster.

Middle/Upper

The area is expected to need 0.048FE of middle school places and 0.948FE of upper school places from 2029, however this is subject to transition to a 2-tier model and the lower birth rate expected to feed up through the system. There are no large developments planned securing school sites so additional school places would be planned through expansion of current school sites in line with the transition to 2-tier.

**Central
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