



Reading School Place Planning Strategy

2022 – 2027

October 2023 update

- For decision
- For discussion
- For information
- Comments obtained

SUMMARY

As the champion for all children and young people in the Borough, Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Council has statutory duties to promote the wellbeing, safety and achievement of Reading children and to promote high standards that help all children to fulfil their potential. Reading Council also holds the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for Reading children. This strategy sets out how we will deliver sufficient school places in the context of the Council's statutory duties, ensuring that school place delivery supports the achievement of the best outcomes for Reading children.

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1. Introduction

As the champion for all children and young people in the Borough, Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Council has statutory duties to promote the wellbeing, safety and achievement of Reading children and to promote high standards that help all children to fulfil their potential. Reading Council also holds the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for Reading children. This strategy sets out how we will deliver sufficient school places in the context of the Council's statutory duties, ensuring that school place delivery supports the achievement of the best outcomes for Reading children.

Reading Context

The quality of education provision in Reading is high. As of September 2023, Ofsted had judged the overall effectiveness of 93% of Reading schools as good or outstanding. This is 1% higher than the proportion of good and outstanding schools nationally and 1% lower than the same cohort of schools in the Southeast.

Reading's schools have agreed a Strategic Framework for School Effectiveness, 2022-2025. The Framework out priorities and actions to ensure that we maintain high quality education provision for all pupils in Reading schools.

Within this context, the School Place Planning Strategy sets out Reading Borough Council and Brighter Futures for Children's approach to school organisation, to deliver the best quality of education provision to support the best outcomes for Reading children. The Strategy outlines the projected demand for school places in Reading based on the latest forecasts.

This Strategy sets the following expectations

- All Reading schools to be good or outstanding,
- Reading Borough Council, Brighter Futures for Children and local schools work together to meet the challenge of providing sufficient school places
- All schools operate in good quality, safe premises
- Children are educated close to home
- Schools work with and are connected to the local communities they serve
- The Council and schools work in partnership to effectively meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- The Council and schools make efficient use of resources, Brighter Futures for Children and schools make efficient use of resources

2. Executive Summary

Demand for Primary Places

Demand projections (based on school census) indicate that demand for Reception will remain at current rates for the next five years, with a peak in 2024/25 linked to a high birth year. This means that Reading will continue to have spare places across the system and that at a borough-level there is

sufficient capacity to meet any increase in demand for mainstream primary places. While overall demand is forecast to remain at current levels, in some areas of the borough demand is forecast to reduce. The local authority, therefore, will continue to support particular schools where necessary in managing the impacts of reduced pupil numbers with measures such as temporarily reducing admission numbers or repurposing accommodation. The School Place Planning Strategy identifies a number of areas where primary places will be kept under review to ensure that provision is sustainable over the next five years.

Demand for Secondary Places

Demand for places in Year 7 has been increasing steadily and this is expected to continue as the significant growth in pupil numbers in the primary phase in Reading continues to progress into the secondary phase with sufficient school places until a surplus that reduces below the 5% operating margin in 2027/28. However, the latest forecasts indicate slower growth than previously anticipated, with small fluctuations. There are small fluctuations expected but overall growth is around 6% in the next 7 years. The current forecasts indicate that there are sufficient secondary school places to meet forecast demand up to 2029/30 in all year groups, a 5% or over operating margin is confirmed by projections.

Demand for Special Provision

Demand for places that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND is increasing due to increased diagnosis and the expansion of the age range to 25. The prevalence of Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and children with Severe Learning Disability (SLD) continue to rise and, as more children survive premature birth or severe disabilities, the number of children of school age presenting with significant additional needs is also increasing. At present we are unable to meet the following areas of need in Reading:

- Assessment places for children arriving in Reading with very significant levels of need but previously unknown to services – including those from overseas.
- Community special school placements
- Placements for children displaying anxiety and emotionally based school avoidance
- SEMH provision for secondary age girls
- Children with failed placements in specialist provision displaying a significant level of dysregulation

There are insufficient local places for Reading children with SEND for children of both primary and secondary age and the 16-25 age group. To meet this demand and reduce dependence on out-of-borough independent special schools, which are expensive and can mean stressful journeys for vulnerable children and limit the access of children and their families to support networks, Reading is planning to commission additional primary and secondary special places to cater for pupils through special school expansions and new Additionally Resourced Provision. In addition, Oak Tree Special School sponsored by The Maiden Erlegh Trust has opened in September 2023, providing 75 places for Reading children aged 5-18. There is a need for the borough to develop post-16 SEND provision to meet demand for places for young people with SEND, in particular young people aged 16-25 with complex learning difficulties.

3.1 Pupil Projections: Where do the projections come from?

The projections that Reading use are developed by Brighter Futures for Children and are informed by school census collected in January each year; live birth data; GP data, ONS population data; DfE cross-border movements data; ONS migration data; and local housing data.

The projection model calculates the number of children resident in each ward who are expected to attend schools in each planning area by each national curriculum year from Reception to Year 13. The number of children projected for each new intake is calculated as an average of the proportion of children in those wards that attended the school in the previous 5 years multiplied by the ward level age population data. This helps to smooth out any unusual variations that are unlikely to reoccur each year. For other year groups the model calculates the current proportion of children in the ward attending the school and applies this to the ward level population data. School level projections are then aggregated to planning area projections and Borough totals.

The methodology also takes account of the percentage of children who historically move into the following academic year in an area. This is particularly important in Reading where there is a high level of pupil mobility and migration to schools in other boroughs.

The Reading forecast is based upon several assumptions. It is important to understand these assumptions when using the forecast. All estimates have been rounded to a multiple of five.

The forecast is designed to predict the total enrolment in schools. The initial forecast is formulated by applying the cohort survival method to the school census data. This method assumes historical year group rollover rates can be projected forward for future year groups. This initial forecast is adjusted for cross-border movement trends, housing trends and planned new schools using a Bayesian inference framework.

The Primary school reception forecast is based on live birth data. The relationship between live birth data and primary reception enrolment is very strong. The r-squared value is 0.92. Historically, the live birth data for Reading is erratic. This is largely because Reading is a small unitary authority. This makes forecasting future birth rates exceptionally difficult. While live births in Reading have dropped for some subsequent years, the rate of decrease appears to be levelling off. Consequently, the forecast assumes that the number of live births will remain stable for years 3 - 5 of the primary school forecast.

Historically Reading has been a net exporter of pupils meaning we export more than we import. However, for the last 5 years in primary schools and the last 10 years in secondary schools this trend is reversing. The forecast assumes that net number of pupils attending Reading primary schools is increasing in a linear manner. The forecast has been adjusted to reflect the spike in numbers of pupils attending secondary schools in other authorities due to the delay with the building of the new secondary school.

The forecast assumes that the number of houses being built in Reading will increase linearly each year. The primary pupil yield is assumed to be 0.3 and the secondary pupil yield is assumed to be 0.16

The projections are a good indicator of place need, but they remain a statistical model which should be seen as a valuable tool rather than a definitive position. There are a number of factors which can lead to the projections being revised up or down:

- Underlying data, such as birth rates and migration patterns and the impact of local regeneration projects, can change significantly in a short period of time.
- Secondary projections are more secure as they largely take account of children already in the system. However, the percentage of children who historically change schools during the academic year is a particularly important factor in Reading where there is significant cross-border movement regarding secondary pupils, and patterns of demand may change if pressures on secondary places in neighbouring boroughs lead to an increase in demand beyond that in the current projections.
- The Local Authority monitors both current and emerging local and national factors, such as Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, that can impact on school place demand by changing migration patterns. It is difficult to predict the impact of these factors on demand for school places and in particular demand from families of Eastern European origin. Demand at schools that serve these communities will be closely monitored.

3.2 What are primary and secondary planning areas and why do we have them?

The Council has a duty to provide a “reasonable offer” of a school place to all children. In the primary phase a “reasonable offer” is one that is within 2 miles of home for children under 8 years old. By dividing the Borough into five primary planning areas officers can more easily ensure that places are provided near to where children live. However, they are only a guide to help officers. In reality children can travel across planning areas to attend school, particularly when they live close to the borders.

Secondary aged children can be expected to travel longer distances to school. A reasonable offer for a secondary place is one that is within 3 miles of home, which given the size of Reading and the good transport links mean that children can travel to any school. However, secondary planning areas allow the Council to understand localised pressures for schools and where additional places would help more children attend a school near to where they live.

3.3 How does BfFC forecast demand for special provision?

In order to understand demand for special school places, the Council and Brighter Futures for Children analyse current and historical data to track trends in the number of children and young people aged 0-25 with EHCPs. This includes assessment of pupil numbers by year group and type of need, as well as the type of provision attended. Analysis of trends is used to predict likely future patterns of demand. Reading Council and Brighter Futures for Children are partnering with DfE as part of the national Delivering Better Value programme, which will enhance the current approach to modelling future need.

3.4 How does BfC and the Council manage spare places?

When demand for school places falls significantly and the number of spare places increases, this can cause difficulties for individual schools, in particular with regards to managing school budgets. Where this occurs, the Brighter Futures for Children and the Council analyses a range of local data, including recent intakes, parental preferences, availability of places within the local area and school standards, before recommending strategies that support schools within a local area to ensure the sustainability of provision. Strategies could include reducing admission numbers on a temporary basis, encouraging schools to work collaboratively to support the efficient use of budgets and repurposing spare capacity, for example to establish Additionally Resourced Provision to support children with SEND.

3. Approach to School Organisation

Reading's approach to school place organisation is set out below:

1. We will work with schools to put in place strategies to manage changing demand and support schools within a local area to ensure the sustainability of provision.
2. We will only undertake expansions at schools where there is evidence of high quality of provision and where leadership is secure.
3. We will develop local capacity to sponsor or promote new schools
4. We will consider how community benefits from school facilities can be maximised when we expand or build new schools.
5. We will build inclusive provision into expansion and new school proposals and work with neighbouring authorities on the planning of special school places.
6. We will promote federations between schools, both to address any quality issues and to address the future viability of one form of entry primary schools, and will work towards the amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools.
7. After assessing educational suitability, schemes for expansion or new schools will be judged in terms of value for money, deliverability and strategic fit with wider investment programmes

4. Overview of LA wide factors and trends

The Office for National Statistics shared that the 2022 school census data shows notable decreases in enrolment in nursery and primary schools and alternative provision compared to previous years. The ONS are anticipating this to be a temporary change, as a result of the pandemic, rather than a longer-term change. Data updated in 2023 indicates that this downward trend is continuing. [Childcare and early years provider survey, Reporting year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Locally we are working closely with school leaders and partners to evaluate the impact of these changes to see if there is a merit in considering this data as a form of intelligence to inform future pupil predictions. Presently it is not considered to be a realistic estimate of pupil population due to the expected temporary nature of this as a result of the pandemic, rather than a long-term change to trend.

The number of reception places required for 2024 is predicted to decrease slightly from 1,855 in 2022 to 1,845 continuing to 1,820, before a peak to 1,915, linked to the high birth year in 2020, then falling slightly over 2025, 26 and 27 to 1,880. There has been an increase in on-time reception applications for 2023, from 1,838 in 2022 to 1,877 this year.

The number of Year 7 places for 2024 is predicted to increase from 1,562 in 2022, to 1,775 in 2024. A peak in 2027 to 1,840 is predicted followed by gradual decline to 1,760 in 2028 and 1,745 in 2029.

Late applications are a combination of the following:

1. Completely late applications (i.e. parent/carer made no “on time” application)
2. Changes of preference – where an “on time” application was made, but parent/carer then submits subsequent application(s) with alternative preferences

Primary 2023/24: 245 applications have late preferences

Secondary 2023/24: 248 applications have late preferences

New to Country migration, including Ukrainian schemes have remained high this year, with receipt of 1,423 applications compared to 778 in 2021/22 of primary pupils.

Reading Local Authority plan on an overall minimum 5% surplus in order to accommodate in year admissions. We are reviewing planning for in-year admissions and consequently will be considering revising overall minimum planning surplus in future years, including benchmarking with other neighbour and statistical neighbour LAs. We are currently running at 9.5% of surplus places across primary, this is a 3% reduction from last year’s SCAP. Within overall surplus places there are some pressure points in specific year groups in identified planning areas (for example the East planning area is under pressure, and in 2024 - 2026 a deficit is predicted between 2% and 4.5% in year 5).

At 2022/23, the actual number of pupils for primary schools in all Reading planning areas was 13,401. This presented a surplus of 1,889 places (12.4%). At 2023/24, the projected number of pupils for primary schools in all Reading planning areas is 13,385. The projects a surplus of 1,915 places (12.5%). From 2013/14 until 2027/28, the projected number of pupils for primary schools in all Reading planning areas increases by 17% and in 2027/28 the projected surplus is 12.2%

At 2022/23, the actual number of pupils for secondary schools in all Reading planning areas was 9,645. In 2023, the projected number of pupils is to increase to 9,960, resulting in an expected surplus of 1,093 places (10.2%). From 2013/14 until 2029/30 the projected total number of pupils for secondary schools within all Reading planning areas increases by 68.4%.

Within overall surplus places, there are variances in place availability across planning areas (for example between 2% and 3% surplus in year 8 in West and East planning areas). As with the primary phase, we are reviewing planning for in-year admissions and consequently will be considering revising overall minimum planning surplus in future years, including benchmarking with other neighbour and statistical neighbour LAs.

The DfE confirmed approval of an 8-form entry secondary school (River Academy) in 2019, which will eventually provide 1,200 additional places in total, plus sixth form. The opening of this school has been delayed from September 2021, to September 2024. The net capacity in September 2024 – September 2028 will increase to 12,418 (for 2022, it is 10,636) however, the full capacity of a new school must be

factored into the SCAP forecast. The actual additional capacity in 2024 will be 240 places created with the opening of the River Academy for year 7 pupils in 2024. The predicted capacity in use in 2022 is 10,363.

This new school build is due to rebalance the deficit of places within the Secondary North planning area. Pupils struggle to travel to schools with excess capacity in the West and East due to the distance.

5. The Need for Secondary Places

Secondary Totals

NCY	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
7	1562	1540	1775	1715	1695	1840	1760	1745
8	1562	1595	1575	1810	1750	1730	1875	1795
9	1582	1570	1605	1585	1820	1760	1740	1885
10	1706	1700	1695	1725	1710	1945	1885	1865
11	1458	1705	1700	1695	1725	1710	1945	1885
12	982	995	1110	1140	1145	1150	1150	1305
13	793	855	865	955	980	990	990	990
Total	9645	9960	10325	10625	10825	11125	11345	11470

Planning Area: Secondary North (Highdown)

NCY	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
7	250	245	440	405	420	450	420	420
8	250	250	245	440	405	420	450	420
9	250	250	250	245	440	405	420	450
10	280	245	245	245	240	435	400	415
11	240	280	245	245	245	240	435	400
12	166	170	200	175	175	175	170	310
13	139	145	150	175	155	155	155	150
Total	1575	1585	1775	1930	2080	2280	2450	2565

5.1 Approximately 40% of year 7 pupils currently leave Reading to attend out-borough schools due to lack of availability in North Reading, relying on their attendance at other schools in areas such as Oxfordshire. This has been an average % over multiple years of data collection of cross-border movement.

5.2 In conjunction with cross border migration figures, loss of net capacity due to the ending of the bulge class at Highdown, a minimum of 6 forms of entry in the newly opening school in 2024 are expected to absorb the number of secondary pupils requiring a school place in the north (approx. 180 pupils).

Planning Area: Secondary East (Maiden Erlegh in Reading; Reading Girls'; JMA)

Academic year	Secondary						
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2023/24	525	540	515	485	465	145	80
2024/25	525	545	545	505	485	190	95
2025/26	525	545	550	535	505	195	125
2026/27	510	545	550	540	535	205	125
2027/28	570	530	550	540	540	215	135
2028/29	550	590	535	540	540	220	140
2029/30	550	570	595	525	540	220	145

The projected number of year 7 pupils for 2022 was 525. This projected a surplus of 15 places (2.8%). The trajectory across the period between 2023 and 2029 has some small rise and fall of expected places but forecast is generally stable between 2023 and 2025, with a decrease in 2026 by 15 places to 510, then increased in 2027 by 60 places to 570.

From 2013/14 until 2029/30, the projected number of year 7 pupils for schools in Secondary East planning area increases by 143.4%. by 2027/28 a 5.6% deficit of year 7 places is forecast. When looking at all placements for year 7 in the East in 2027/28, the overall year 7 placements is currently showing 3% surplus across Reading.

The net capacity for all secondary pupils in the East planning area increases from 2023 – 2029 by 14.2%. In 2022, the net capacity is 2,755, rising consistently to 3,145 in 2029. In 2023 there is a 2% surplus in places, but with the growth of the population, there is a predicted deficit across secondary school places in the East from 2024 at -3%, growing to -10% in 2028. The figures were underestimated in 2022 which accounts for the large rise.

The year 12 data for 2022 predicts 25 places for a projected 120 pupils, a 480% deficit. The forecast from 2023 to 2029 predicts an increase in year 12 pupils by 51.7%. Although a large deficit, data shows that pupils typically move onto colleges rather than staying in school for sixth form.

John Madejski Academy (870/6905) in the East planning area is undersubscribed. The spare capacity is typically used to meet overall need for school places. The need in-year for divert placements from 2024 in areas such as the North will reduce with the River Academy opening but this will take some time for the additional year groups to grow through the school.

Reading Girls' School (870/4003) is a single sex Academy which has been growing in popularity over the years. The school is currently predicted to be full for their upcoming year 7 classes.

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading (870/4001) is reliably over-subscribed.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

There is pressure identified on overall the capacity in the East from 2024. However, the picture of secondary school places across Reading identifies between a 12% and 18% overall surplus between 2024-2029.

There is an overall net surplus when all planning areas are considered together when considering year 12 places, with between 14% and 18% through year 2023 – 2027. With young people growing in independence related to travel, pupils can attend post-16 provisions in another planning areas if the East is full at that time.

Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)

There is a relationship with cross-border schools in Wokingham Borough Council such as Oakbank or The Bulmershe school. Pupils migrate between Reading and these Wokingham schools regularly. Parental feedback and patterns of reduced availability of secondary school places in Wokingham will be mitigated by the availability of school places in this planning area, including at JMA.

Planning Area: Secondary Selective (Kendrick; Reading School; Reading Girls' School)

Academic year	Secondary						
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Forecasts							
2023/24	280	280	285	420	370	480	470
2024/25	280	285	280	430	420	480	465
2025/26	280	285	285	420	430	545	465
2026/27	280	285	285	430	420	555	525
2027/28	280	285	285	430	430	545	535
2028/29	280	285	285	430	430	555	525
2029/30	280	285	285	430	430	555	535

The projected number of pupils for year 7 from 2022 – 2028 was expected to be 280, with no fluctuation. The capacity in use and net capacity remain the same also with 278 places with 280 pupils. This creates a deficit of 0.7%, but the predicted pupils are rounded to the nearest whole number. All selective schools are at capacity and are extremely popular within Reading.

The year 12 data shows a fairly consistent pupil projections for 2022 – 2024, at between 500 and 495. This is expected to increase from 2025 and until 2028, where this growth is by 14.1%. There is minimal deficit in places expected from 2022- 2024, but with the increase in expected capacity in use, from 2025, the deficit too increases to between 12 and 14%.

The number of pupils across all year groups within the Selective planning area grows gradually from 2,485 in 2022, to 2,790 in 2028. This is an increase across 7 years of 12.3% with a projected deficit of 6.7%.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places.

There are no current plans to address the deficit of selective places, however, the Kendrick School successfully consulted to increase their PAN by 32 to 128 from September 2021.

Relationship with other planning areas

All selective schools have a significantly wider catchment area, resulting in children from numerous different Local Authorities being on roll. Over 50% of our selective school population are children living in another borough.

Planning Area: Secondary West (The Wren School; King's Academy Prospect; Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School)

Academic year	Secondary						
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Forecasts							
2023/24	490	525	520	550	590	200	160
2024/25	530	500	530	515	550	240	155

2025/26	505	540	505	525	515	225	190
2026/27	485	515	545	500	525	210	175
2027/28	540	495	520	540	500	215	165
2028/29	510	550	500	515	540	205	170
2029/30	495	520	555	495	515	220	160

The total projected number of year 7 pupils in the West planning area in 2022 was 500. This was predicted to remain stable for 2023, and rise by 5% in 2024 to 525 pupils. Between 2025 and 2028, this number is expected to fall until a rise in 2027 to 500 places once more, then gradually fall until 2028 by 9.5% to 475 places.

The net capacity in this area is due to remain as it is, with 558 year 7 places available to pupils between 2022 and 2028. The surplus of school places is expected to rise over this period from 15% to 19.2%.

The year 12 data shows that there is a high surplus of places, with the predicted pupils on roll of schools for this stage being 165 in 2022 with 504 places available (339 place surplus/ 67.3%). From 2022 – 2028, the numbers stay relatively consistent with a small peak in 2024 to 205 pupils, reducing again gradually to 2028 to 170 pupils and a surplus of 67%. The predicted increase in year 12 places in use in the 7 year forecast is 3%.

The total capacity in use across the planning area is forecast to decrease from 2021 (2,910) by 15 pupils to 2,895 in 2022. This trend is expected to continue and reduce gradually the pupils in school across the area to 2,725 in 2028. This is a decrease of 5.9% through the 7 year forecast, and the surplus is due to increase from 25.5% to 29.4%. The net capacity is due to remain the same at 3,798 pupils each year between 2022 and 2028.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places.

There are no current plans to amend the capacity within the West. Kings Academy Prospect (870/5410) is undersubscribed, and accommodates pupils from within the West planning area, and also some from other planning areas.

Relationship with other planning areas

There is a relationship with cross-border schools in West Berkshire such as Little Heath School or Theale Green School. Pupils can migrate between Reading and these West Berkshire Schools.

6 The Need for Primary Places

Primary Totals

Academic year	Primary						
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
2023/24	1820	1880	1930	2025	1840	1895	1995
2024/25	1950	1850	1890	1930	2025	1860	1915
2025/26	1870	1985	1860	1890	1930	2040	1880
2026/27	1880	1905	1995	1860	1890	1945	2060
2027/28	1880	1915	1915	1995	1860	1900	1965

Planning Area: North Primary. Schools: Caversham Park; Caversham; Emmer Green; Micklands; St Annes RC; St Martins RC; Thameside; The Heights; The Hill.

Academic year	Primary
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Forecasts	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
2023/24	355	365	385	400	385	375	410
2024/25	390	360	365	375	400	385	370
2025/26	370	395	360	355	375	400	380
2026/27	375	375	395	350	355	375	395
2027/28	375	380	375	385	350	355	370

In 2023, the projected number of reception pupils was 355. This projects a surplus of 85 places (19.3%). This is an increase in surplus against 2022, which presented 50 places as surplus (11.4%).

The areas in use reception places in 2023 at 355 are forecast to rise in to 390 in 2024, and a stable prediction following a slight reduction from 2025 – 2027 to 375. The increase in places in use coincides with the analysis of live birth rates increasing.

At 2022/23 the actual number of pupils for primary schools in the North planning areas was 2,743. This presented a surplus of 337 (10.9%). The projected number of pupils for primary schools is projected to decrease to 2,675 for 2023. This projects a surplus of 405 places (13.1%). The projected number of pupils for primary schools in the North planning area is predicted to have consistent demand.

Net capacity for this planning area is expected to remain stable through 2022 – 2026. The Heights Primary School (870/2017) which opened in 2016 has moved to its permanent site in September 2021, but has remained at net capacity of 350 at this time.

There are excess places, notably within a select number of schools; Caversham Park (870/2233), Micklands (870/2234), St Martin’s (870/3360), St Anne’s (870/3302)

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

Work will be undertaken by RBC and BfC to support schools in this area to manage reduced demand to ensure schools are sustainable, which could include encouraging schools to work collaboratively to manage resources.

There is no pressure on reception or primary places in North planning area within the forecast between 2023 – 2027. There has been little improvement to the overall pupil numbers in the schools with excess places as identified in the past, which has led to a more robust review of options appraisal around these schools.

A financial review of the schools has been conducted to understand the impact of low pupil numbers. PAN review and school organisation options, including Federations to consider freeing up spare capacity and to ensure sustainability are in progress.

Planning Area: East Primary. Schools: ASPS; Katesgrove; New Town; Redlands; St John's.

Academic year	Primary						
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
Forecasts							

2023/24	295	310	320	330	320	330	340
2024/25	325	300	310	325	330	335	345
2025/26	310	330	300	315	325	345	350
2026/27	310	315	330	305	315	340	360
2027/28	310	315	315	335	305	325	355

In 2023, the projected number of reception pupils was 295. This projects a surplus of 35 places (10.6%). This is an increase in surplus against 2022, which presented 15 places as surplus (4.5%).

The areas in use reception places are forecast to rise slightly in 2024 by 30 places, with a fairly consistent reduction in 2025 – 2027 to 310. The increase in places in use coincides with the analysis of live birth rates increasing.

At 2022/23 the actual number of pupils for primary schools in the East planning areas was 2,230. This presented a surplus of 80 places (3.5%). The projected number of pupils for primary schools is projected to increase to 2,245 for 2023. This projects a surplus of 65 places (2.8%). There is an increase in projected places in 2024, resulting in a reduction in surplus to 2.2% but then no significant increases or decreases in surplus places between 2024 to 2027 (average 0.7%).

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

There is no pressure on reception or primary places in the East planning area within the forecast between 2022 – 2026, although the projected surplus for this area is predicted to fall under the 5% overall guideline for surplus capacity. We will monitor the volume of in-year applications to ensure sufficiency going forward.

Katesgrove Primary (870/2226) will provide 10 places for September 2023 in an additionally resourced provision, but no spare capacity will be gained until 2024/25.

The area appears to continue dropping in spare capacity, especially in NCY 3. This planning area has the least schools compared to other planning areas. There is sufficient capacity in neighbouring planning areas to absorb any additional need for pupil places and this will be explored.

Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)

No significance to report



Planning Area: South Primary. Schools: Christ the King; Geoffrey Field Infants; Geoffrey Fields Junior; New Christchurch; Palmer; Ridgeway; Whitley Park

Academic year	Primary						
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
2023/24	400	395	380	390	320	345	350
2024/25	390	415	395	370	390	320	350
2025/26	375	405	415	385	370	385	325
2026/27	375	390	405	405	385	365	390
2027/28	375	390	390	395	405	380	370

In 2023, the projected number of reception pupils was 400. This projects a surplus of 35 places (8%). This is a reduction in surplus against 2022, which presented 56 places as surplus (12.9%).

The areas in use reception places are forecast to fall slightly in 2024 by 10 places, with a continual small decline and stable numbers from 2025 – 2027.

At 2022/23 the actual number of pupils for primary schools in the South planning areas was 2,548. This presented a surplus of 617 places (19%). The number of pupils for primary schools is projected to increase from the year 2023 to 2,580 gradually through to the year 2026 to 2,715. The forecast shows that a 4.8% increase is then expected in 2027 by 0.4% to 2,705.

From 2023 – 2027, the projected number of reception pupils decreases by 6.3%. There is a predicted surplus of in 2023 of 8%, this is forecast to rise until 2027 to 13%.

Net capacity for this planning area is expected to remain fairly stable through 2022 – 2027.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

This is the only planning area that does not appear to be affected by the higher birth rate year, but capacity growing in the area.

There is no pressure on reception or primary places in the South planning area within the forecast between 2023 – 2027, although the projected surplus for this area is the highest amongst all primary planning areas.

This surplus takes into account the capacity that has been created by the Green Park Village Academy opened in 2020, but with places not yet filled due to the yearly NCY increase. The school will have year 3 pupils from September 2023.

The Ridgeway Primary School (870/2020) reduced its PAN by 30 in 2020, which coincided with Green Park Village Academy opening.

Additional work is continuing to be undertaken with primary schools in this planning area, to explore if surplus capacity can be used to deliver additionally resourced provision for pupils with SEND.

A financial review of schools has been conducted to understand the impact of low pupil numbers, and appropriate actions are being taken to support school sustainability.

Work will continue to be undertaken by RBC and BfC to support schools in this area to manage reduced demand to ensure schools are sustainable, which could include additional temporary reductions to published admission numbers and encouraging schools to work collaboratively to manage resources.

Options are being explored with The Ridgeway on developing satellite provision.

Net capacity for this planning area increases at a more rapid rate than other planning areas.

Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)

The South planning area can provide additional capacity for any preference that is needed from Central West.

Planning Area: Central West Primary. Schools: All Saints CE Infants; All Saints Junior; Battle; Civitas; Coley; EP Collier; Oxford Rd; Southcote; St Mary All Saints; Wilson

Academic year	Primary						
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
2023/24	405	430	445	475	440	440	460
2024/25	445	410	435	455	480	440	445
2025/26	430	450	415	445	460	480	445
2026/27	430	435	455	425	450	460	485
2027/28	430	435	440	465	430	450	465

In 2023, the projected number of reception pupils was 405. This projects a surplus of 65 places (13.8%). This is an increase in surplus against 2022, which presented 47 places (10%).

The areas in use reception places are forecast to increase in 2024 by 40 places, with a stable decrease in 2025 – 2027 to 430. The increase in places in use coincides with the analysis of live birth rates increasing.

At 2023/24 the actual number of pupils for primary schools in the Central West planning areas was 3,068. This presented a surplus of 262 places (7.9%). The projected number of pupils for primary schools is projected to increase gradually through to 2026 to 3,140 before a small decline in 2027 to 3,115. The forecast shows that from 2023-2027 the in use primary school places increases by 0.6% and the surplus places fluctuates across the period, finishing on 6.5%.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

There is no pressure on reception or primary places in the Central West planning area within the forecast, although last year the overall surplus places are forecast to reduce to 3.9% by 2026. There is a pressure in NCY 3 from 2023/24, and ongoing from 2024/25 which impacts NCY 4. The overall updated forecast ensures at least a 5% surplus over the next 5 years.

To address this surplus in mainstream places and meet the needs of the growing SEND cohort, additionally resourced provisions have been confirmed within a number of schools.

St Mary and All Saints (870/2035) will provide 122 places between September 2023 and January 2024. This will create an overall increase in SLD places by 11, as 11 of these are formalised places within the provisions.

Oxford Road (870/2016) will be providing 12 places, with no additional capacity until 2024/25.

Wilson (870/2024) will provide 10 places, with no additional capacity until 2024/25.

Southcote (870/2027) will provide an additional 8 places from September 2023

Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)

Diverts are available in other planning areas

Planning Area: West Primary. Schools: Church End; English Martyrs; Manor; Meadow Park; Moorlands; Parklane; Ranikhet; SMPS

Academic year	Primary						
	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
2023/24	365	380	400	430	375	405	435
2024/25	400	365	385	405	425	380	405
2025/26	385	405	370	390	400	430	380
2026/27	390	390	410	375	385	405	430
2027/28	390	395	395	415	370	390	405

In 2023, the projected number of reception pupils was 365. This projects a surplus of 70 places (16.1%). This is a reduction in surplus against 2022 but overall remains the same percentage of surplus places.

The areas' in use reception places from 2024 are forecast to increase to 400 in 2024, a and then reduce slightly in 2025 to 385 and a slight increase to 390 from 2026 – 2027. The increase in places in use coincides with the analysis of live birth rates increasing.

At 2022/23 the actual number of pupils for primary schools in the West planning areas was 2,812. This presented a surplus of 443 (13.6%). The projected number of pupils for primary schools is projected to decrease to 2,790 for 2023. This projects a surplus of 465 (14.3%).

The forecast predicts a continual declining in in-use places from 2023 to 2027 by 1.1% to 2,760 with an average surplus of between 8% and 11%.

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

There is no pressure on reception or primary places in the West planning area within the forecast between 2023 – 2027.

Additional work is continuing to be undertaken with primary schools in this planning area, to explore if surplus capacity can be used to deliver additionally resourced provision for pupils with SEND.



There have been excess places, such as within Ranikhet Academy (870/2025), but action has been taken to reduce their PAN from 60 to 30 in September 2020.

A financial review of the schools has been conducted to understand the impact of low pupil numbers, and appropriate actions are being taken to support school sustainability.

Work will continue to be undertaken by RBC and BfC to support schools in this area to manage reduced demand to ensure schools are sustainable, which could include additional temporary reductions to published admission numbers and encouraging schools to work collaboratively to manage resources.

Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)

No significance identified to report