



Secondary School Place Strategy
2018 – 2024

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September 2018

1.1

The Secondary School Place Strategy sets out Portsmouth City Council's approach to the analysis of demand for secondary school places and outlines how the demand will be met.

1.2

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires Portsmouth City Council to ensure that there are sufficient school places for resident children. This duty requires the Council to forecast future pupil populations so that it can ensure that sufficient places are provided.

1.3

The strategy considers forecasting data compared to capacity in Portsmouth schools, and determines whether action needs to be taken to meet anticipated future demand for school places by Portsmouth resident children.

1.4

The Strategy covers a 6-year period, but also looks forward to the longer term demand for places. This ensures that prompt action can be taken in a timely way if a future shortfall is identified.

1.5

All Councils are required to submit their pupil projections to the Department for Education (DfE) on an annual basis. The pupil projections inform the Government allocation of Basic Need capital funding to Councils. **Appendix A** explains the pupil forecasting methodology which supports the pupil projections.

1.6

The geography of Portsmouth is important for pupil place forecasting because the lack of permeable boundaries on the east, south and west greatly restricts the potential for migration in and out of the council area by pupils. Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK, outside of London, with 5,000 people per km². Portsmouth parents generally have a broad choice of schools within a small distance. However, there is a significant barrier to pupil movement (as could be expressed through parental preference) due to the water course between the island and mainland parts of the City area. **Appendix B** is a map of Portsmouth showing school locations.

1.7

Since 2011, pupil numbers in Portsmouth have risen dramatically. This has put considerable pressure on the availability of primary school places and over 1,700 additional places have been added through school expansions. These additional pupils are now starting to impact on the availability of secondary school places as the numbers move through the year groups and into secondary provision.

1.8

Further action was required to address the future pressures for secondary school places, and to ensure that there is sufficient capacity within secondary provision for pupils moving from primary to secondary schools from September 2019 onwards. This was highlighted in the Secondary School Place Strategy 2017–2023 (**Appendix C**).

1.9

Some works in secondary schools had already been undertaken to enable a modest increase in capacity for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

1.10

The forecasts in the Secondary School Place Strategy 2017–2023 showed a shortfall of secondary places from September 2019, with the upward trend of secondary numbers continuing and increasing over time.

1.11

The Secondary School Place Strategy 2017–2023 was presented to secondary schools and Councillors and outlined the place pressures that must be addressed, providing an evidence-based analysis of potential options and including recommendations for the way forward.

1.12

Capital funding for four projects was identified and the projects are now progressing with a view to completion by September 2020. The projects are presented in alphabetical order.

- Admiral Lord Nelson School–increase capacity by 250 places
- Charter Academy–increase capacity by 300 places
- The Portsmouth Academy–increase capacity by 300 places
- Trafalgar School–increase capacity by 60 places (Y7, Y8, Y9 only)

1.13

Section 4 explains the forecasting methodology and the current pupil numbers and capacity within Portsmouth schools.

1.14

Section 5 covers the review of demand versus capacity and outlines pro-active steps which could be taken to address future pressure for secondary school places.

1.15

The recommendations in **Section 8** focus on actions which need to be taken in the next 1–3 years to ensure that future demand (within the next 6 years) can be adequately addressed.

1.16

In addition to the Secondary School Place Strategy, there is also a Primary School Place Strategy, a SEND Provision Place Strategy, and a School Organisation policy document. The four documents are reviewed on an annual basis and updated to take account of refreshed forecast data and new or emerging intelligence.

2.1

In January 2018, there were 26,108 pupils in Portsmouth maintained schools and academies.

See table 1

2.2

Some schools are maintained by the Local Authority, and other schools are academies within a Multi Academy Trust. In Portsmouth, all schools are encouraged over time to become part of a strong Multi Academy Trust. There are currently 12 Multi Academy Trusts operating within the city.

See table 2

2.3

For the spread of pupils across primary, secondary and special school provision.

See table 3

2.4

Whilst there has been a reasonable surplus level of capacity available across the city in secondary schools for a number of years, the number of primary pupils has been rising significantly for over a decade. The demand for school places in Portsmouth has been mainly fuelled by rising birth rates, inward migration and the impact of regeneration schemes and housing developments.

2.5

The birth rate has risen by 29% since the lowest point in 2001 of 2153 live births and peaking in 2012 at 2781 live births. Since then there has been a small decline in numbers and the position had stabilised. The most recent data (2016) has shown a further decline.

See table 4 overleaf

2.6

The economic climate can impact on pupil numbers, leading to a reduction in the proportion of pupils leaving the LA maintained sector for independent schools and/or a reduction in outward migration from the Local Authority area. Economic impact has affected pupil numbers across the majority of the country and this impact is evident in predicted pupil numbers across Portsmouth.

Table 1: Portsmouth maintained schools and academies (as at January 2018 school census).

Primary	16,878	65%
Secondary	8,661	33%
Special	569	2%
Total	26,108	100%

This figure does not include pupils in private schools.

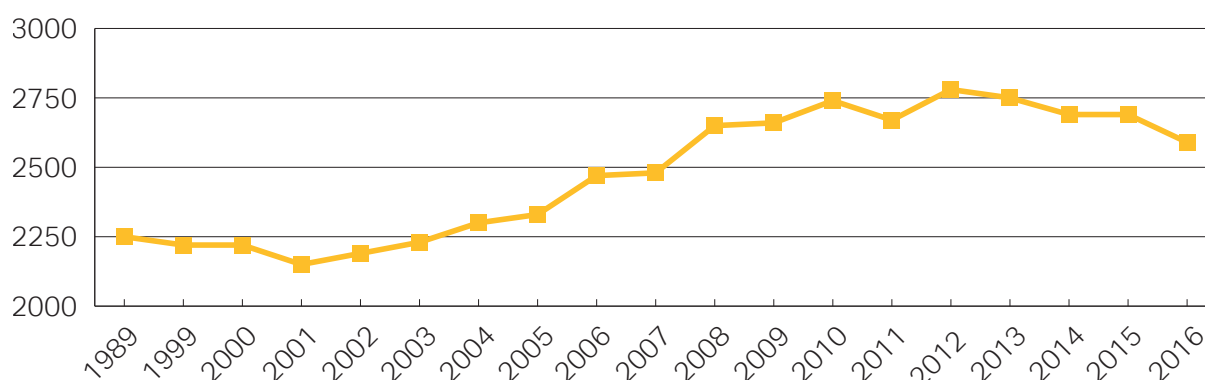
Table 2: Maintained and Academy Schools (as at September 2018)

	LA Maintained schools	Academies	Total
Infant	8	8	16
Junior	3	9	12
Primary	11	9	20
Secondary (including the University Technology College)	1	9	10
All-Through School	1	0	1
Special	2	3	5
Total	27	37	64

Table 3: Pupils across primary and secondary provision (as at January 2018 school census).

	LA Maintained schools	Academies	Total
Infant	2,843	999	3,842
Junior	1,625	3,077	4,702
Primary	4,536	3,798	8,334
Secondary	2,575	6,086	8,661
Special	173	396	569
Total	11,752	14,356	26,108

Table 4: Number of live births in Portsmouth per year



2.7

For planning and funding purposes, local authorities are required to plan pupil provision based on planning areas which reflect patterns of provision in a similar geographic area. Planning areas in Portsmouth are based on secondary school catchment areas.

2.8

The additional primary pupils flowing through the primary sector are now entering the secondary sector.

2.9

Between 2008 and 2012, secondary school numbers were falling. However, the secondary numbers are now rising. Forecasts on future secondary numbers show that an upward trend will continue for the foreseeable future. **Section 4** provides a detailed explanation about the forecasted position for future years.

2.10

The Secondary Place Strategy 2017–2023 outlined a concern that the city would run out of secondary school places by September 2020, unless significant investment is made. By working with LA maintained schools, academies and Multi Academy Trusts and using a strategy of expanding existing schools, the Council allocated capital funding for school expansion projects in March 2018 to address the issue and ensure there are enough secondary school places in Portsmouth, based on the forecasts available at the time.

2.11

The Secondary School Place Strategy scans a 6-year horizon. This ensures that there is a watching brief on school numbers and that prompt action can be taken in a timely way, if a future shortfall is identified.

2.12

The condition of many of our schools also remains a concern. The Council will continue to use capital maintenance funding to address the most urgent condition works in LA maintained schools and academies will do the same either through their allocation from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or through bids to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF).

2.13

A **key priority** is to secure capital funding to address sufficiency of school places and address the urgent condition issues in the city's schools.

2.14

In addition to the Secondary School Place Strategy, there is also a Primary School Place Strategy and a SEND Provision Place Strategy. These strategic documents will be refreshed on an annual basis.

Portsmouth Education Partnership

3.1

The Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) brings together Multi Academy Trusts, individual schools and academies, colleges, early years settings, the Regional Schools Commissioner, the University, the Dioceses, the Education Business Partnership and Portsmouth City Council to drive improved attainment and opportunity for all children and young people across the city. The PEP was launched in November 2016.

3.2

86.7% of schools are *Good or better* (as at March 2018) compared to 85% (as at July 2017). Despite a trend of improvement, Portsmouth remains well below national averages for attainment and progress at KS2 and KS4.

3.3

The *Education Strategy for Portsmouth 2017–2020: pulling together, achieving more* has been drawn up through the PEP. It explains the actions that are being taken to address together key priorities for the city. Detailed plans are continually being updated, and the strategy sets out a high level summary of strategic objectives and key priorities with cross references and links to other documents and action plans. The full strategy document is available on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and the summary of the Portsmouth Education Strategy 2017–2020 is at **Appendix D**.

3.4

The Education Strategy comprises ten strategic objectives. This strategic objective links directly to the School Place Strategy:

Invest in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children

3.5

Key priorities under this Education Strategy objective and relevant to the School Place Strategy are:

- a) Work with LA maintained schools and Multi Academy Trusts to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places in Portsmouth in order to achieve a minimum surplus of 2%, through a strategy of expansion of existing schools.
- b) Secure capital funding to address sufficiency, condition and suitability issues through the allocation of basic need funding for the DfE, ESFA Priority School Building Programmes and Free School applications where appropriate.

Forecasting Secondary School Places

Forecasting methodology

4.1

Pupil forecasts are reviewed on an annual basis by the council and the DfE. The data presented in this document is drawn from the annual review submitted to the DfE in July 2018. The forecasts for the 2018 return cover the period up to 2024/25. Forecasting pupil numbers is affected by a wide range of factors such as:

- Birth rate
- Inward and outward migration
- Navy movement
- Cross border changes
- Housing development timeframes and impact, such as Tipner/Milton
- Future Free Schools
- Impact of University Technology College (UTC)

4.2

The methodology and projections use an impressive range of data sources to model conversion ratios to establish the actual Reception Year cohort. The full forecasting methodology is at **Appendix A**.

4.3

Pupil Forecasts are based upon Small Area Population Forecasts provided by Hampshire County Council Research and Intelligence group in the early spring to determine the population of 4 year old children. These are modified within the council's Geographical Information System to reflect primary school catchment areas.

4.4

The methodology for forecasting at the primary and secondary aggregate level for Portsmouth is based on a cohort survival method that assumes pupil numbers will roll forward from one year group to the next at the end of each academic year. Year on year changes, which may be influenced by such factors as migration, turbulence, demographic and building changes, are projected forward by using the highest value of the last 5 years. The Council has pupil census data going back to 1996. This model produces forecasts of the usually resident population by age and sex in each Census Output Area in the city and is based on census, birth and child health data and dwelling supply information.

4.5

At the aggregate level, secondary pupil forecasts are based on the highest value of the last 5 years of participation rates based on actual numbers (School Census) and forecast numbers from the primary sector.

4.6

There is a low level of variability in the Year 6 to Year 7 conversion rate and the conversion rate is stable. The fluctuation in conversion rate year on year has never been more than 1.9%. In the last 8 years it has been within 1% of the previous year (each percentage point equates to approximately 18 pupils at the current cohort size). The low variability in the Year 6 to Year 7 conversion rate in recent years gives confidence that it is an appropriate basis for projecting the future year 7 cohort and therefore 91% has been used as the basis of the projection going forward. This methodology is an appropriate basis for projecting the future year 7 cohort. The full forecasting methodology is at **Appendix A**. This tried and trusted methodology produces accurate forecasts.

National pupil projections

4.7

In July 2018, the DfE published national pupil projections for the number of pupils in schools in England by type of school and age group. The projections are based on the mid 2016 Office of National Statistics (ONS) national population projections (published in October 2017), ONS monthly births data up to and including 2016, and School Census data up to and including January 2018.

4.8

The 2018 national pupil projections, compared to those produced in 2017, are forecasting a lower level of increase in the pupil population over the next nine years of the projection. This is most notable at primary and nursery level.

4.9

The national nursery and primary population has been rising since 2009 and reached 4.64 million in 2018. However, the rate of increase is slowing, as the lower numbers of births from 2013 onwards start to reach school age. The population is projected to stabilise in 2019 at 4.66 million before starting to fall.

4.10

The national secondary school population rose to 2.85 million in 2018 and is projected to continue increasing until around 2025, reaching an estimated 3.28 million.

See table 5

4.11

Changes in the school age population are largely driven by the birth rate. However, the proportion of the overall population which actually attends school also has an effect, particularly in the early years, since parents can choose whether to send children aged under 5 to school.

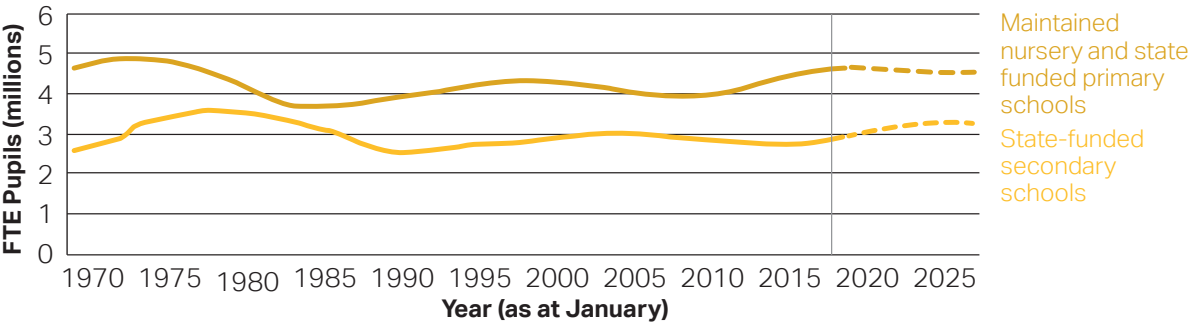
4.12

Direct immigration of pupils born outside the UK has a very small effect on the school age population. However, the birth rate, which has a much larger effect, is affected by any increase in the number of children born to non-UK born women (who overall tend to have higher fertility rates).

4.13

The overall effect of these changes on the projected national population is that the number of children attending all state funded schools has been rising since 2010 and is projected to continue on an upward trend until 2024, albeit at a gradually slowing rate after 2019. After 2024, the figure is expected to fall slightly until the end of the projection period (2027).

Table 5: Mainstream state-funded schools: full time equivalent pupil numbers, actual and projected



Portsmouth pupil projections

4.14

In line with the rest of the country, Portsmouth has seen a rising birth rate which peaked in 2012. Since then, the number has started to decrease. This is shown in **Table 4** (section 2.5).

4.15

Inward migration has been an important consideration for Portsmouth in terms of pupil places in recent years, particularly as it is difficult to quantify and has occurred over a relatively short timescale. However, since a peak in new arrivals into the city in 2014/15, numbers stabilised and have shown a further decrease this year. With uncertainty regarding Brexit, it is likely that this number will continue to fall.

See table 6

4.16

Appendix E outlines the current pupil forecasts up to 2024/25 as outlined in the 2018 return to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Table 6: Portsmouth: New arrivals with English as an Additional Language

Year	Total number of new arrivals
2012–13	128
2013–14	194
2014–15	252
2015–16	197
2016–17	195
2017–18	164

Current numbers and capacity

4.17

In order to meet the demand for school places and ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duty to provide every resident child with a school place, additional secondary school places are being created. Four projects are progressing, with implementation scheduled for September 2020. The projects are presented in alphabetical order.

- Admiral Lord Nelson School – increase capacity by 250 places
- Charter Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- The Portsmouth Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- Trafalgar School – increase capacity by 60 places (Y7, Y8, Y9 only)

4.18

Despite this investment, a surplus of less than 2% at Year 7 (Secondary intake) will be achieved.

4.19

The Government uses an assumption of 2% surplus for both primary and secondary as the basis for basic need funding allocations to Local Authorities. In light of this, the Council uses the aim of a 2% surplus for school place planning purposes.

4.20

Year 7 numbers due to basic need pressures are increasing up to 2024/25, when it is forecast that 2250 pupils will be seeking a Year 7 place for September 2024, compared to the forecast of 1947 for September 2018.

4.21

The Council's Planning Department provided data for 50+ potential housing developments across the Local Authority area. From the Planning data, established models are used to estimate pupil yield for each site and therefore the potential impact on the local demand for school places. Pupil yield is based on the type and volume of housing (for example, the number of children who may live in a one-bedroom flat compared to a 5-bedroomed house may be different).

4.22

Where development impact is included in the Small Area Population Forecasts provided by Hampshire County Council Research and Intelligence group, it is reflected in Year R forecasts and then projected forward as these pupils move through year groups into the secondary sector.

4.23

The potential impact from strategic and large housing developments would significantly increase the pressure on secondary school places from 2022/23 onwards. Therefore, the assessment and monitoring of housing timing and impact is a vital factor in pupil place forecasting.

4.24

Where developments are tentative and formal planning permissions are not in place, potential pupil numbers are not reflected in the pupil forecasts. However, these developments are reviewed and monitored on a regular basis so that any changes are reflected in pupil number assumptions going forward.

4.25

Portsmouth is yet to have any mainstream free schools. Opportunities are restricted by the lack of land availability, although there has been recent interest shown in Portsmouth as a potential location for a future free school. The impact on pupil numbers would need to be considered if a free school opens in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Secondary Schools Capacity review

5.1

In 2016, the council commissioned an independent study into secondary school capacity and to review the options to expand the number of secondary school places. The Re:Format report concluded that:

- Schools in the city generally have sufficient core space to be able to add additional classrooms.
- The potential solutions to create the additional school places offer good value for money and a better spread of provision across the city compared to a new school that would cost in the region of £23.4m plus the cost of the site.

5.2

Therefore, the focus has been to identify projects to expand existing secondary schools and academies to create the additional places that will be needed.

5.3

Portsmouth is densely populated. The national expectation at secondary school age is that children should be able to access a school place within a reasonable distance. The reasonable distance is nationally interpreted as three miles. For any point within the City, a distance of three miles would encompass most if not all of the ten secondary schools. Therefore, due to the compact size of Portsmouth, parents have a broad choice of schools within a small distance and few geographic barriers to navigate.

5.4

The geography of Portsmouth is important for pupil place planning because the lack of permeable boundaries on the east, south and west greatly restricts the potential for migration in and out of the city by pupils. This tight geography and the restrictions to internal movement reduce the relevance of pupil place planning areas and increase the focus on city-wide pupil place planning.

City-wide Place Planning

5.5

Detailed discussions have taken place with all of the secondary schools to identify both short and long term expansion opportunities to meet the demand for places. A summary of the recommended short-term term projects and progress to date is shown in the table below.

See table 7

5.6

Since the 2016 independent review, discussions have continued with secondary schools and Multi-Academy Trusts to identify further expansion opportunities.

5.7

There has also been consideration of the impact of the University Technology College (UTC) which opened in September 2017, as this may draw some Year 10 pupils out of secondary schools as it grows to full capacity. Therefore, some schools are considering having a lower PAN for Years 10 and 11, whilst recognising that, if pupils did not transfer to the UTC, they would remain at the school.

Table 7: Summary of short term projects and impact on Pupil Admission Number (PAN)

Secondary School	Short term projects 1 – 3 years 2016/17 – 2018/19
Admiral Lord Nelson School	No short term option was identified.
Trafalgar School	Increase of PAN from 197 to 200. No works required. <i>Completed.</i>
Mayfield School	No short term option was identified.
Miltoncross Academy	Increase PAN from 200 to 210. Internal modifications to convert learning rooms to classrooms; acoustic improvements to dining area and covered external area / satellite server. <i>To be implemented when anticipated secondary numbers in the Milton community increase.</i>
Priory School	No short term option was identified.
Springfield School	Increase PAN from 227 to 240 - conversion of swimming pool to gym and update changing rooms; internal alterations to improve circulation. <i>Completed.</i>
St Edmund's Catholic School	Increase in PAN from 189 to 208 - classroom extension to replace temporary units and address sufficiency, condition and suitability issues. <i>Completed.</i>
The Portsmouth Academy	Increase in PAN to 225 (3 years) or 250 (2 years) - improve circulation and create additional two classrooms through internal alterations; convert offices to changing rooms and WCs. <i>Completed.</i>
Charter Academy	Although no short term options were originally identified, the closure of the 6th form this has enabled the school to increase the PAN by 60 for a period of 3 years. <i>Completed.</i>
Castle View Academy*	No short term option was identified.

*Previously called King Richard School

5.8

A summary of the longer term position with expanding secondary schools is shown in the table below.

See table 8

5.9

Appendix D outlines the comparison of capacity versus demands for school places. The figures are summarised overleaf.

See table 9

5.10

Pupil forecasts (including the long term forecasts at **Appendix F**) indicate a continuing pressure on the sufficiency of school places. Despite the secondary school expansion projects already underway, the forecasts indicate that additional places will be needed by September 2022, with ongoing growth due to housing developments maintaining pressure for the foreseeable future. Therefore, further remedial action is required to increase capacity in the city.

Table 8: Long term projects 2019/20–2021/22

Secondary School	Long term projects 3–6 years 2019/20–2021/22
Admiral Lord Nelson School	Project underway to increase the size of the school to a PAN of 250.
Trafalgar School	Project underway to increase the size of the school to a PAN of 220. Minor works project underway to increase PAN from 200 to 220 at Years 7, 8 and 9 to 220, whilst maintaining the PAN in upper year groups at 200.
Mayfield School	No long term option was identified, due to the EFSA building scheme. However, there is potential to discuss a project at this school at an appropriate point in the future.
Miltoncross Academy	No long term option was identified. There is potential to discuss a project at this school at an appropriate point in the future.
Priory School	No long term option was identified.
Springfield School	No long term option was identified. There is potential to discuss a project at this school at an appropriate point in the future.
St Edmund's Catholic School	No long term option was identified. There is potential to discuss a project at this school to increase the PAN to 224.
The Portsmouth Academy	Project underway to increase the size of the school to increase the PAN to 250.
Charter Academy	The school increased their PAN from Sept 2017 from 120 to 180, however, without further building work this would only be sustainable for a period of 2–3 years. Project underway to sustain an increased PAN of 180.
Castle View Academy*	No long term option was identified.

**Previously called King Richard School*

Table 9: Pupil forecasts including housing development child yield

Estimate >	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Year 7						
Number on Roll	1,947	2,059	2,062	2,134	2,166	2,207
Capacity (Admission Limit including proposed changes)	2,090	2,103	2,178	2,198	2,198	2,198
Housing development impact (Strategic sites and large permitted sites)	1	3	21	34	41	56
Surplus/(Deficit)	142	41	95	30	(9)	(65)
%Surplus/(Deficit)	6.79%	1.95%	4.36%	1.36%	(0.41%)	(2.96%)

5.11

The pressure on capacity is partly driven by housing developments, and, if housing development impact starts to be seen as forecast across a number of development schemes, additional places will be required. The impact of developments on secondary pupil numbers is shown in **Appendix F**.

5.12

It should be noted that, without the housing development impact, there would be a much reduced pressure on secondary school places in this timeframe, and therefore the assessment of housing impact is a vital factor in pupil place forecasting.

5.13

The northern part of the city is on the mainland and has a boundary with Hampshire County Council. Pupil numbers in this area of the city are heavily impacted by cross border pupil movement. At meetings with Hampshire County Council, cross border impact is reviewed to ensure that any changes in pupil numbers are captured and to allow for adequate planning of school places. The discussion considers cross border pupil number flows, cross border development impact, change to school capacity and other known local issues that may impact on cross border pupil numbers. It was recently concluded that Hampshire primary numbers have started to decline.

See table 10

Table 10: Percentage of pupils allocated an out of city school

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	2.6%	2.1%	2.8%	2.4%	2.7%
Junior	2.1%	2.6%	2.6%	2.9%	1.9%
Secondary	9.2%	7.6%	6.7%	9.6%	9.7%

5.14

There is potential for an 800 home development in Portchester which is likely to be approved in late 2018 and may be built within a 5 year period. The pupil yield for this development is unknown at this point. However, Hampshire County Council has confirmed that it will not be increasing the capacity of their schools to cater for the pupil yield from this development; this could result in a reduction in the number of Portsmouth pupils who would be able to attend Hampshire schools. The impact of the development will be considered in future pupil forecasting, once more information is available.

5.15

The strategy for creating additional educational capacity has, to date, been to expand existing secondary schools and academies to create additional capacity and a better spread of provision across a number of schools. This has been possible due to the compact size of Portsmouth and there are still schools which have capacity to expand.

5.16

In July 2018, the Education and Skills Funding Agency highlighted Portsmouth in the top 20 Local Authorities for the efficient delivery of value for money education capital projects. This supports the assertion that school expansions in Portsmouth offer value for money.

5.17

Consideration is given to determining whether to expand existing schools or seek a new school. Planning must allow sufficient time for feasibility to be established, funding sources to be identified, and capital projects to be undertaken to provide additional accommodation.

5.18

A number of key actions are recommended to prepare for forecasted demand:

- a) Review the progress of forecast housing developments over time, to ensure that forecasting accurately captures likely build out rate and pupil yield from developments. Development impact should be carefully monitored to ensure that both the size/type and completion dates are reflected appropriately in future plans.
- b) Review the potential for expanding existing secondary schools and undertake feasibility studies at appropriate secondary school sites as in case a future capital project is required. It should be noted that there is not always the physical space and capacity to expand the most popular schools in the exact area required, and paragraph 5.3 explains the national expectations regarding distance to school.

c) There is a lead-in time for school expansion projects due to the time required to both develop architectural plans and to undertake the required capital building works. Ideally, a 3-year lead-in time would be used. It is therefore recommended that any feasibility studies should commence at the earliest opportunity to enable funding decisions to be made in 2019/20.

d) Consider whether a new school would be financially viable with the current forecasted numbers (both in terms of capital funding for the build costs and in terms of revenue funding, which is calculated based on a national formula and is heavily weighted by pupil numbers). If this appears to be a viable option in terms of pupil numbers, and a site is available to the council, undertake a feasibility study in case a future capital project is required.

5.19

Discussions with secondary schools about further expansion could be undertaken during the autumn term 2018.

Addressing the sufficiency of secondary places

6.1

The Secondary School Place Strategy 2017–2023 concluded that without remedial action there would be a shortfall of secondary school places by September 2020, and that the shortfall would increase in future years.

6.2

Whilst the shortfall for September 2020 has been addressed through the current school expansion projects, the pupil forecasts confirm a continued pressure on secondary school places. See **Appendix E** and **Appendix F**.

6.3

There are a number of schools in the city that have sufficient land and/or core capacity to be able to expand.

6.4

The summary table in **Section 5** (paragraph 5.8) highlights the potential for long-term expansion projects in secondary schools. It is also worth considering whether any of the existing expansion projects could be amended to deliver more places to meet demand.

6.5

It was noted in the Secondary School Place Strategy 2017–2023 that further feasibility studies would be planned in due course if the demand for secondary school places continued.

6.6

It is now recommended that the feasibility studies are carried out to identify where future secondary school places could be located, as the forecasts indicate further projects will be needed to deliver additional places by September 2022 onwards.

6.7

Preliminary discussions and site visits could be scheduled for autumn 2018 with the secondary schools and academies that express an interest in expansion.

6.8

The following factors were used to determine the initial high level assessment of viability and to prioritise potential sites:

- Sufficient land within the school boundary on which to expand the school
- Current pupil numbers within the planning area where the school is located
- Trends in pupil numbers within the planning area where the school is located
- Potential benefits associated with building in this location
- Potential risks / complexities associated with building in this location, including land ownership
- Potential benefits or risks associated with access to the site to build

6.9

It is anticipated that up to 3 feasibility studies would be undertaken, based on the initial assessment against the criteria.

6.10

Expansion does not have to be limited to a specific phase of education. Proposals for all through schools offering primary and secondary places will be considered where this is viable in terms of physical space and financial planning.

7 Capital Funding for Secondary School Expansion Projects

7.1

Basic Need funding is allocated by the Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from Year R to Year 11, uplifted to provide a 2% surplus operating margin. Funding is allocated based on the annual returns of pupil numbers which the council makes to the DfE in July each year. It is hoped that basic need funding will be forthcoming to support the delivery of the secondary school expansion projects.

Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1

The Council continues to have the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for resident children and is committed to working with schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trust for the benefit of children and young people in Portsmouth.

8.2

In 2017, detailed analysis and forecasting confirmed that the Council would not be able to meet its statutory duty by September 2020, as the number of students requiring secondary school places will exceed available capacity.

8.3

Four capital building projects were identified which could address the projected deficit in secondary school places.

8.4

Remedial action was required to ensure that additional secondary school places are available by September 2020. It should be noted that there is a long lead-in time for school expansion projects due to the time required for capital building works.

8.5

Four projects are progressing, with implementation scheduled for September 2020. The projects have been presented in alphabetical order.

- Admiral Lord Nelson School – increase capacity by 250 places
- Charter Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- The Portsmouth Academy – increase capacity by 300 places
- Trafalgar School - increase capacity by 60 places (Y7, Y8, Y9 only)

8.6

Detailed analysis and forecasting has confirmed that the number of pupils requiring secondary school places will exceed capacity by the academic year 2022/23. Longer term forecasts (national and local) indicate that there is continued pressure on secondary school places for the foreseeable future.

8.7

Pressure on capacity is partly driven by potential housing developments and the schemes should be closely monitored to assess whether progress is delayed or the scheme has failed to proceed.

8.8

Taking account of the long term forecasts up to 2034, a new secondary school is not recommended at this point. The additional numbers of pupils are not sufficient to enable a new secondary school to be financially viable.

8.9

It is recommended that secondary school expansion solutions are identified in discussions with the relevant schools. Each solution could provide additional secondary school places to meet basic need school place pressures and would require a capital build project.

8.10

At St Edmund's School, the council has the opportunity to fund additional places as a contribution to the school's own expansion project. This opportunity offers 80 additional places in an outstanding school.

8.11

At other schools, a feasibility study would clarify what an expansion project would entail and allow an accurate assessment of potential costs. The outcome of the feasibility studies would inform decisions about future capital bids and projects.

8.12

The Secondary School Place Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis, alongside the annual pupil forecasting return to the DfE and the refreshed pupil forecasts.



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