

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent

2025 -2029



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2. Foreword

Welcome to the County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2025-29 (KCP). This is the latest annual update of our five-year rolling Plan. It sets out our plans as Strategic Commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education.

This Plan builds on the positive achievements of recent years. We have continued to commission new primary, secondary, and special provision to ensure we fulfil our statutory responsibility of ensuring a school place is available for every child, but also our non-statutory commitment to facilitate parental choice. This is not without its challenges, as I outline below.

For September 2024, I am pleased to report that we delivered the following commissioned provision:

- Primary - 0.5 FE (15 places) permanent and 50 temporary Year R places
- Secondary - 1 FE (30 places) permanent and 100 temporary Year 7 places
- Special - 10 special schools places and 13 specialist resource provision places

We could not have achieved this without the support of Headteachers, Governors, and Academy Trusts who have helped us ensure there are sufficient school places while at the same time supporting over 250,000 children and young people to achieve their full potential.

We forecast that between the 2023-24 and 2028-29 academic years total primary school rolls will reduce by 1,467 pupils and secondary rolls will increase by 5,089 pupils. The profile of change in school rolls will vary across the County, with some local areas requiring additional places to meet demand. To meet need in specific localities, and to reflect housing development, for the academic years 2025-26 to 2028-29, 16.6FE of primary provision and 120 temporary Year R places will be needed along with 27FE of secondary provision and 705 temporary Year 7 places. We will monitor the impact of any displacement of children into maintained schools arising from the Government's decision to tax independent school fees.

As in previous years, the number of pupils identified as requiring a specialist place to meet their educational needs remains a challenge. We will address the need for high quality, sustainable SEN provision within the context of our Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE. Between the academic years 2025-26 and 2028-29, we currently intend to commission 530 additional specialist places.

The sector and the Local Authority continue to face challenges related to costs; for the County Council the imbalance between the cost of providing additional places and the funding that we receive remains. We will continue to ensure a sufficient supply of places. However, without additional funding this imbalance may influence the decision-making process around the location and timing of new education provision.

We continue to support the principles of high quality inclusive education provided through strong families of schools with capacity to lead rapid and sustainable improvement. For this reason, we encourage those Kent schools not currently benefitting from such collaborative arrangements to explore their options to join or form a multi-academy trust.

Rory Love OBE, BA (Hons) - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

3. Introduction and Executive Summary

3.1 Purpose

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.

This Plan reflects the dynamic and ongoing process of ensuring there are sufficient places for Kent children in schools, and other provisions. It is subject to regular discussion and consultation with schools, district/borough councils, KCC (Kent County Council) Elected Members, the diocesan authorities, and others. The content of this Plan reflects those discussions and consultations.

3.2 The Kent Context

Kent is a diverse County. It is largely rural with a collection of small towns. Economically our communities differ, with economic advantage generally in the West, and disadvantage concentrated in our coastal communities in the South and East. Early Years education and childcare are predominantly provided by the private and voluntary sectors. Our schools are a mix of maintained and academies and include infant, junior, primary, grammar, wide ability comprehensive, all-through, single sex and faith based. Post-16 opportunities are available through schools, colleges and private training organisations.

3.3 What We Are Seeking to Achieve

Our vision is that every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve. Commissioning education provision from good or better providers can assist in securing this vision. To address the commissioning needs outlined in this Plan we welcome proposals from existing schools, trusts, the three dioceses and new providers; those proposals should be aligned to the commissioning requirements set out in the Plan.

3.4 Principles and Guidelines

The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties which are outlined in the relevant sections of the Plan. We also have a set of principles and planning guidelines to help us in our role as the Commissioner of Education Provision (Section 5). It is important that the Local Authority is transparent and clear when making commissioning decisions or assessing the relative merits of any proposals it might receive.

3.5 Kent's Demographic Trends

Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a peak in births of 18,147 children. Since this time, birth numbers have fallen to 16,364 in 2022. KCC will continue to monitor this data and forecast its impact over time.

The number of children on the rolls of Kent schools is driven by the size of the school-aged population in the county but is also influenced by the number of children resident outside of Kent on the rolls of the county's schools, the take-up of state funded school places and other factors such as the pace and type of new housing. One further factor to monitor during the lifetime of this KCP is the level of displacement of children from independent schools into the maintained sector arising from the Government's decision to impose VAT on independent school fees. Due to these additional factors, a change in the overall school-aged population in the county does not on its own necessarily translate into the same change in the number of children on the rolls of schools in

Kent. Additionally, changes in the overall school age population at County or district level do not necessarily mirror changes in population at smaller geographic levels, such as planning groups.; these are explored in Section 7.

Capital Funding

The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary and specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.

The Department for Education's (DfE) Free Schools Programme is another way to deliver some of the school provision Kent needs. We have encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success, but this programme is not a significant contributor to places overall and does have financial risks.

KCC also secures developer contributions to the capital programme. The budget gap between what is needed for KCC to meet its statutory duties as school place commissioner and what is available is significant. All avenues are being explored to reduce the risks, but inevitably difficult decisions will have to be made to prioritise KCC's investment of the capital budget. The cost of construction has risen considerably since 2020 and is likely to continue during the Plan period. We will continue to manage and mitigate this as far as we are able to, however, pressure from inflation may become a constraint to our commissioning strategy.

Kent's Forward Plan – Commissioning Summary

Detailed analysis, at district level, of the future need for primary and secondary school places is contained in Section 7 of this Plan. Figures 3a,3b and 3c provide a summary of the need for additional places, both permanent and temporary, identified within the Commissioning Plan:

Figure 3a: Summary of the commissioning proposals for primary schools by district/borough

District	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Ashford		1FE		0.3FE	4.5FE	2FE
Canterbury			1FE		3FE	1FE
Dartford and Swanley	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE	2FE	1FE	2FE	
Dover					1.8FE	3FE
Folkestone and Hythe						2FE
Gravesham	0.3FE			1FE		
Maidstone	Up to 45 Year R temp place	1FE	1FE Up to 15 Year R temp place	2FE		
Sevenoaks						
Swale		1FE		1FE	2FE	
Thanet						6FE
Tonbridge and Malling					1FE	
Tunbridge Wells	Up to 10 Year R temp place	Up to 10 Year R temp place	1FE Up to 10 Year R temp place	1FE		
Totals	0.3FE 85 Year R temp places	5FE 10 Year R temp places	5FE 25 Year R temp places	6.3FE	14.3FE	14FE

Total of 44.9FE of additional provision across the forecast period and up to 120 temporary Year R places

Figure 3b: Summary of the commissioning proposals for secondary schools by planning group

Non-Selective Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Ashford North	2FE					2FE
Canterbury City			Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 45 Year 7 temp places	
Dartford and Swanley			2FE	2FE		
Dover						2FE
Faversham			1FE		1FE	
Gravesham and Longfield			3FE			
Maidstone District	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	3FE	6FE		
Sevenoaks and Borough Green						
Sittingbourne	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 120 Year 7 temp places	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	6FE	
Selective Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Canterbury and Faversham			1FE			
Maidstone and Malling				1FE		
North West Kent				6FE		
Thanet	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 15 Year 7 temp places	Up to 60 Year 7 temp places	
West Kent		Up to 60 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		
Total secondary commissioning	2FE 150 Year 7 temp places	0FE 180 Year 7 temp places	10FE 210 Year 7 temp places	15FE 165 Year 7 temp places	7FE 105 Year 7 temp places	4FE

Total of 38FE across the forecast period and 810 temporary Year 7 places

Figure 3c: Summary of commissioning intentions for specialist provision

District	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29
Ashford				
Canterbury		120 places		
Dartford		40 places		
Dover				
Folkestone and Hythe				
Gravesham				
Maidstone				
Sevenoaks		250 places		
Swale			40 places	
Thanet		30 Places		
Tonbridge and Malling			50 places	
Tunbridge Wells				
Totals	0 places	440 places	90 places	0 places

A total of 530 permanent places across the planned period

3.6 Special Educational Needs

The Local Authority is responsible for issuing and maintaining EHCPs for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2024, this totalled 19,407 children and young people with an EHCP in Kent. This is an increase of 477 (2.5%) since January 2023. In England, the number of children and young people with EHCPs increased to 575,963 in January 2024, up by 11% from 2023. The number of EHCPs have increased each year since 2010.

In Kent 34.8% of children and young people with an EHCP are educated in mainstream schools (including SRPs), whilst the national figure is 43.1%. Whereas 40.4% of Kent children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school (including independent schools) compared to 32.1% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are only for those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs. This realignment will be supported by the inclusive practices within Kent's Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) and will ensure a greater proportion of Kent's children and young people will be supported and achieve their full potential in mainstream schools closer to their homes.

To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan will only reflect a proportion of our commissioning intentions at this stage as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, reporting in the first half of 2025.

KCC produces an annual SEND Sufficiency Plan for children and young people. In addition, the reviews of Special Schools, Specialist Resource Provisions and Early Years Provision will contribute to a revised SEND Strategy, setting out the direction for the next five years. The outcomes from these reviews and further work to inform KCC's approach to supporting children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, aligned with the approach to Alternative Provision across all twelve of Kent's districts, will inform the revision of the new SEND Sufficiency Plan.

The SEND Sufficiency Plan sits under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. The purpose of the SEND Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support the Local Authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term.

3.7 Early Education and Childcare

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, private, voluntary, independent and school-run providers, childminders and academies, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces.

The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) shows the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The CSA for the 2024-2025 academic year is based on the DfE analysis for childcare places needed for 9 month to 36 month-olds combined with the supply and demand for childcare for 3 and 4 year olds in the Summer Term 2024 when demand for the take up and supply of childcare is greatest.

Across the county as a whole, there are forecast to be sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds. However, the CSA indicates that there are deficits of places in specific planning groups. The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service will work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

The supply of Free Entitlement places for 9 months to four year olds will be kept under review as planned new housing developments are built and potentially increase the demand for places. Where housing developments are proposed in school planning areas where there is an indicative deficit of places or where the size of a development means that it will require new provision; KCC will engage in discussions with developers to either seek funding to provide nursery provision which may include securing community rental or leasehold accommodation availability for private, voluntary or independent sector providers of 0-4 year old childcare.

When a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design. As new schools are planned, KCC will work with the sponsor to identify early years provision and the most appropriate way to deliver this.

3.8 Post-16 Education and Training in Kent

The work of Pathways for All, the county's 16-19 review, is moving on rapidly. The strategic board is well established and the recommendation implementation groups have been working for over two years. A new chair has been appointed from within the county and is working with the Strategic Board to develop an updated strategy. The priorities from this strategy are:

- To secure a mechanism that creates joint ownership of knowledge and skills between providers and employers in Kent and Medway
- To create relevant and viable Level 3 provision across Kent and Medway that reflects regional skill needs, whilst providing meaningful choice, an outstanding learning experience and strong progression.
- To ensure there is an offer that enable learners who have SEMH needs to reengage with mainstream provision and perform as well as those cohorts that do not.
- To ensure there is an appropriate and local offer to enable learners who have SEND requirement to increase their life choices and meet their full potential.
- To increase the number of learners, including those with SEND, studying at Level 2 from a GCSE base of less than 2 (Level 1 entry criteria).

Another development is the establishment of Local Collaborative Partnership Areas (LCPAs), bringing together senior leaders in travel to learn areas across the county to plan a coherent offer at a local level. All areas have appointed a lead to drive the work in the area and have begun setting priorities.

4. Principles and Planning Guidelines

4.1 What We Are Seeking to Achieve

Our Principles and Planning Guidelines underpin our commissioning decisions. This is further supported by a suite of key strategies including, but not limited to:

- Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2021-2024
- Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) 2023 – 2028
- Kent 16 to 19 Review - Pathways For All

In the national policy context, the Local Authority is the Commissioner of Education Provision and providers come from the private, voluntary, charitable and maintained sectors. The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties; the duties for each phase or type of education in Kent are shown under the relevant section in this Plan. Within this framework, the Local Authority continues to be the major provider of education by maintaining most Kent schools and it also fulfils the function of “provider of last resort” to ensure new provision is made if no other acceptable new provider comes forward.

Education in Kent is divided into three phases, although there is some overlap between these. These three phases are:

- Early Years: primarily delivered by private, voluntary and independent pre-school providers, accredited child-minders, and schools with maintained nursery classes.
- 4-16 years: “compulsory school age” during which schools are the main providers.
- Post-16: colleges and schools both offer substantial provision, with colleges as the sole provider for young people aged 19-25 years.

The Local Authority also has specific duties in relation to provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs, pupils excluded from school or pupils unable to attend school due to ill health.

4.2 Principles and Guidelines

It is important that the Local Authority is open and transparent in its role as the Strategic Commissioner of Education. To help guide us in this role we abide by clear principles and consider school organisation proposals against our planning guidelines. We stress that planning guidelines are not absolutes, but a starting point for the consideration of proposals.

4.3 Over-Arching Principles

- Every child should have access to a local, good or outstanding school, which is appropriate to their needs.
- All education provision in Kent should be financially efficient and viable.
- We will consider the needs and aspirations of the local community.
- We will recognise parental preference.
- We recognise perceptions may differ as to benefits and detrimental impacts of future proposals. We will ensure our consultation processes capture the voice of all communities, but to be supported proposals must demonstrate overall benefit to the whole community.
- The needs of Children in Care and those with SEN and disabilities will be given enhanced consideration in any commissioning decision.
- We will also give priority to organisational changes that create environments better able to meet the needs of other vulnerable children, including those from minority ethnic communities and/or from low income families.

- Any educational provision facing difficulties will be supported and challenged to recover in an efficient and timely manner. Where sufficient progress is not achieved, we will seek to commission alternative provision or another provider.
- If a provision is considered or found to be inadequate by Ofsted, we will seek to support the DfE with the commissioning of an alternative provider.
- In areas of housing growth, we will require developer contributions to fund or part fund new and additional school provision.
- In areas of high surplus capacity, we will take actions where possible to reduce the surplus and will seek to work with schools and own admission authorities to minimise the impact of surplus.¹

4.4 Planning Guidelines – Primary

- The curriculum is generally delivered in Key Stage specific classes. Therefore, for curriculum viability, primary schools should be able to operate at least four classes.
- We will actively promote opportunities for small primary schools to work together.
- Where possible, planned Published Admission Numbers (PANs) will be multiples of 30, but where this is not possible, multiples of 15 are used.
- We believe all-through primary schools deliver better continuity of learning as the model for primary phase education in Kent. When the opportunity arises, we will seek to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools into a single primary school. However, we will have regard to existing local arrangements and seek to avoid leaving existing schools without links on which they have previously depended.
- At present primary school provision is co-educational, and we anticipate that future arrangements will conform to this pattern.
- Over time we have concluded that a minimum of 2FE provision (420 places) is preferred in terms of the efficient deployment of resources.

4.5 Planning Guidelines – Secondary

- PANs for secondary schools will not normally be less than 120 or greater than 360. PANs for secondary schools will normally be multiples of 30.
- Over time we have concluded that the ideal size for the efficient deployment of resources is between 6FE and 8FE.
- Proposals for additional secondary places need to demonstrate a balance between selective and non-selective school places.
- We will encourage the formation of all-aged schools (primary through to secondary) if this is in the interests of the local community.

4.6 Planning Guidelines - Special Educational Needs

- We aim to build capacity in mainstream schools by broadening the skills and special arrangements that can be made within this sector to ensure compliance with the relevant duties under SEN and disability legislation.
- For children and young people for whom mainstream provision is assessed not to be appropriate, we seek to make provision through Kent based, state funded special schools. For young people aged 16-19 years, provision may be at school or college. For young people who are aged 19-25 years, provision is likely to be college based.
- We will support children and young people to benefit from living within their local community where possible and we will seek to provide them with day places unless residential provision is specifically needed for social care or health reasons. In such cases, agreement to joint placement and support will be sought from the relevant KCC teams or the Health

¹ Actions might include re-classifying accommodation, removing temporary or unsuitable accommodation, leasing spaces to other users and promoting closures or amalgamations. We recognise that, increasingly, providers will be responsible for making such decisions about the use of their buildings, but we believe we all recognise the economic imperatives for such actions.

Service. This agreement will be preceded by the relevant health or social care assessments.

- We will aim to reduce the need for children to be transported to schools far away from their local communities by developing local provision to meet need.

4.7 Planning Guidelines - Expansion of Popular Schools and New Provision

- We support diversity in the range of education provision available to children and young people. We recognise that new providers are entering the market, and that parents and communities are able to make free school applications.
- As the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, we welcome proposals from existing schools and new providers that address the needs identified in this Plan, this includes new provision to meet increased demand.
- In order for us to support any such proposal, they must meet an identified need and should adhere to the planning principles and guidelines set out above.

4.8 Small Schools

KCC defines small schools as 'those schools with fewer than 150 pupils on roll and/or a measured capacity of fewer than 150 places'. We have over 100 primary schools that fit this criterion.

We value the work of our small schools and recognise the challenges faced. We continue to work with partners to maximise the resilience of small schools to deal with the challenges they face in terms of leadership and management, teaching and learning, and governance and finance so that they can enable their pupils to grow up, learn, develop and achieve, and continue to play a valued role in their communities.

KCC and its partners, in particular the dioceses, will ensure that:

- Support is given to small schools seeking to join appropriate multi-academy trusts, or take other steps on such a pathway.
- All such partners will work closely together to support the protection and maintenance of the distinctive character and ethos of small Church of England schools in future collaborative arrangements.

4.9 Families of Schools

KCC has encouraged schools to work collaboratively together for many years. Such collaborations take many forms in the current education landscape, such as being a church school within Canterbury, Rochester or Southwark's purview, forming a collaboration with neighbouring schools to work jointly on shared school improvement objectives, formally federating or joining a shared schools trust, or academising within a MAT. All these options are important in ensuring no school becomes isolated.

The national direction of travel, through successive Governments, has been towards high quality, inclusive education to be provided through families of schools within strong multi-academy trusts. This is underpinned by the ability of strong trusts to deliver rapid and sustainable school improvement, excellent support for teachers and teaching, strategic leadership and governance, and effective financial management. We support these principles and encourage those Kent schools not currently benefitting from such collaborative arrangements to explore their options to join or form a multi-academy trust.

5. Capital Funding

5.1 Introduction

The Local Authority as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools.

The cost of providing additional school places is met from Government Basic Need Grant, prudential borrowing by KCC and developer contributions. It continues to be clear through the County Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan that KCC is not in a position to undertake prudential borrowing to support new provision. To do so would place undue pressure on the revenue budget in what are already challenging times for the Authority. The prospect of having to meet the growth in demand for places through additional borrowing confronts the County Council with a dilemma between delivering its statutory duty on school places and maintaining its financial soundness. Members and officers continue to lobby Ministers and officials within the DfE over this critical issue. Delivery of the additional school places needed in the County will rely more than ever on an appropriate level of funding from Government and securing the maximum possible contribution from housing developers.

5.2 Basic Need

Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecast, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.

The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 2025/26); Kent has been allocated £5,046,624. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.

5.3 Free Schools Programme

One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

5.4 Developer Contributions

Each of the 12 districts in Kent are planning significant housing growth, it is essential that this growth is supported by sufficient education provision that is well integrated within the areas of growth and established at the right time. The cost of providing school places in response to housing growth is significant, the County Council seeks developer contributions towards mitigating this cost. Developer contributions for education are secured either through Section 106 (s106) agreements or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

S106 agreements are secured from housing developers at the time that planning permission is granted, they are intended to ensure development proposals are acceptable in planning terms. When securing a s106 agreement KCC will outline the additional impact the development would have on local schools, where we would need to add additional provision in response and the cost

of doing so. Whilst district authorities, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, are the decision maker on whether contributions towards education provision should be made or not, once a s106 agreement is in place the housing developer becomes legally obligated to pay KCC contributions at specified points.

We will continue to seek developer contributions at every opportunity allowed through legislation and apply funding secured to the most appropriate project in order to mitigate development. Where additional secondary school places are required in order to mitigate development we will seek to secure funding towards both selective and non-selective places on the basis of 25% of the additional demand being within the selective sector; this will not preclude future residents of the development being able to apply for and access a school place in the same way as all other residents in Kent and does not impact the commissioning approach in an area which is based on the forecast need.

Five districts in Kent have adopted CIL, which has largely replaced s106 agreements in those areas. The levy is a tariff-based system where developers are charged a set rate per square metre of development. There is no direct link between the development's impact on local infrastructure and the amount it pays. All CIL funding is paid to the relevant district or borough, which then determines how it will be spent once it is received; there is no funding ring-fenced for education provision and KCC will usually be required to 'bid' to the Borough for a share of the funding. This provides KCC with no security that development charged under CIL will contribute to the cost of new school provision at the time planning permission is granted. Under CIL the amounts collected for community infrastructure are typically lower than could be secured through s106 and the spending of CIL is entirely at the discretion of the District Authority and not KCC, which places the County Council at significant risk moving forward.

The County Council is keen to work with the Government to ensure that reforms to developer contributions are effective in securing the necessary infrastructure to support growth. The new Government has confirmed that they do not intend to implement the introduction of the Infrastructure Levy within the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023; whilst this may be positive in some ways, there still remains a significant level of uncertainty.

5.5 Value for Money

In drawing up options for providing additional places, in addition to the Principles and Planning Guidelines set out in Section 5, the Local Authority consider a range of practical issues, such as:

- The condition and suitability of existing premises.
- The ability to expand or alter the premises (including arrangements whilst works progress).
- The works required to expand or alter the premises.
- The estimated capital costs.
- The size and topography of the site.
- Environmental considerations.
- Future proofing.
- Road access to the site, including transport and safety issues.

Kent is committed to securing value for money when providing additional school accommodation, in line with the DfE's baseline designs, and output performance specification. The construction method for new accommodation will be that which is the most appropriate to meet the needs of provision, e.g. temporary or permanent provision and that which represents good value for money.

One of the key benchmarks against which we will be monitoring all Basic Need projects is the 'cost per pupil'. This benchmark divides the construction cost of the project by the number of pupils that the facility will accommodate to provide a project cost per pupil.

This table provides high level findings of a comparison between KCC costs and the National Schools Delivery Cost Benchmark database. KCC's average historic cost of delivering additional places in the primary and secondary phase is higher than the national average. These represent historic average costs (at Q3 2023 prices) and will increase with inflation in line with the cost of construction over time.

A further high level review comparing KCC costs to the National Schools Delivery Cost Benchmark database rebased to Southeast has been carried out. This details that the KCC cost for Primary phase expansion is currently lower than the Southeast average, however New build is slightly higher. The Secondary Phase is showing that both expansion and new build are lower than the Southeast benchmark, sitting between the national and Southeast benchmark.

Figure 6a: Average costs - National and Kent

Primary Education Phase:

Type	National School Delivery Average Costs	National School Delivery Average Costs (South East)	KCC Average Costs
Expansion	£19,989	£22,587	£21,066
New Build	£23,865	£26,967	£27,559

Secondary Education Phase:

Type	National School Delivery Average Costs	National School Delivery Average Costs (South East)	KCC Average Costs
Expansion	£27,492	£31,066	£29,036
New Build	£28,912	£32,670	£30,441

6. Commissioning Statutory School Provision

6.1 Duties to Provide for Ages 4-16 Years

The law requires local authorities to make provision for the education of children from the September following their fourth birthday to the end of the academic year in which their sixteenth birthday falls. Most Kent parents choose to send their children to Kent schools. Some parents choose to educate their children independently, either at independent schools or otherwise than at school (i.e. at home); others will send their children to maintained schools outside Kent (Kent maintained schools also admit some children from other areas). Kent will offer a school place to any resident child aged between 4-16 years.

A minority of young people aged 14-16 years old are offered college placements or alternative curriculum provision, usually through school links. Some children are educated in special schools or non-school forms of special education provision because of their special educational needs.

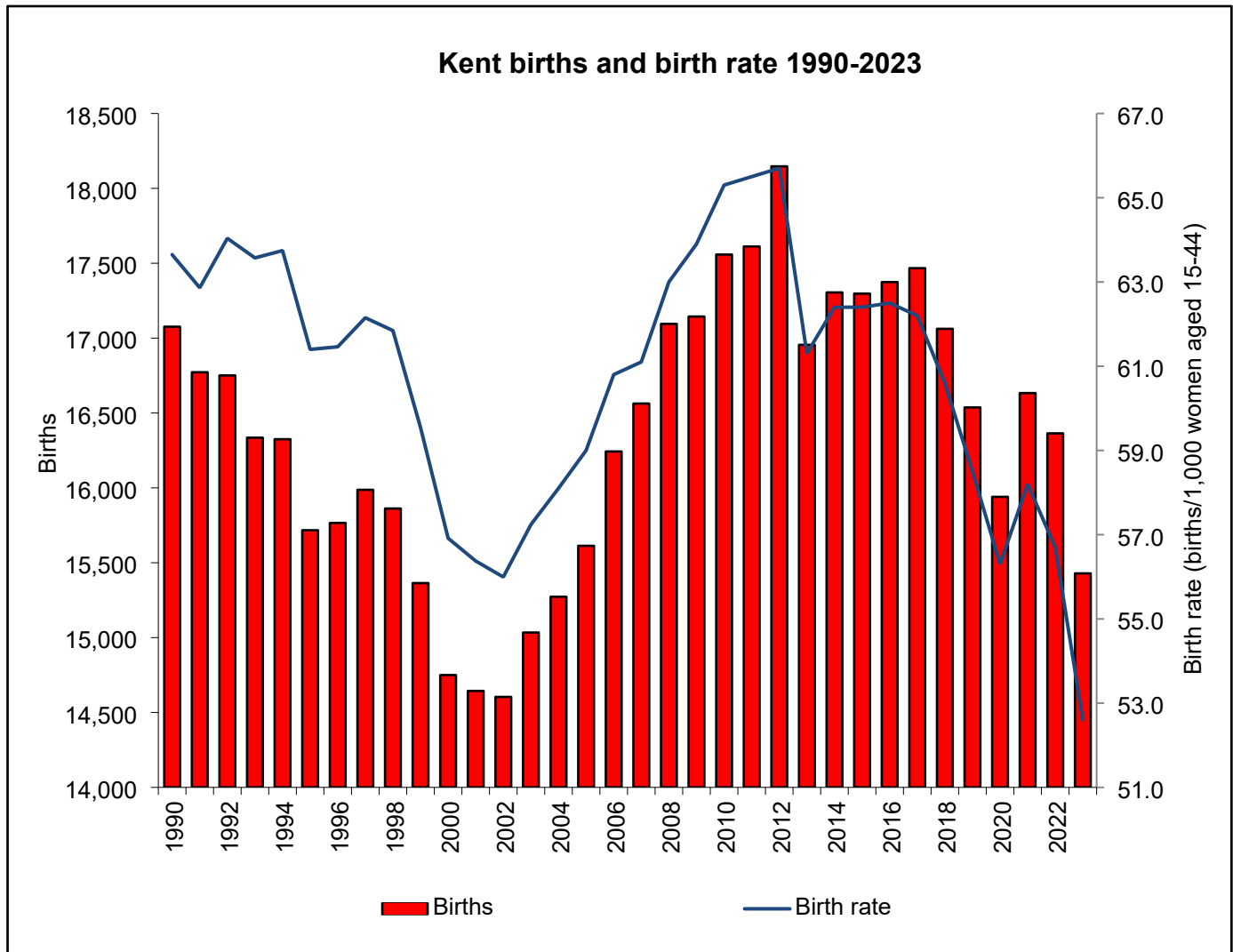
The local authority has a statutory duty to provide full time education for pupils “not in education by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise” which is appropriate to individual pupil needs. This duty is discharged through pupil referral units, alternative provision commissioned by secondary schools and the Rosewood School.

6.2 Kent-Wide Summary

Detail on the requirement for additional school places is contained in the district/borough commentaries which follow. For 2025-26 and 2026-27 many projects are already in progress. For later years, the need for expansion in planning groups has been noted, but specific schools may not have been identified. For projects beyond 2026 the commissioning proposals may be dependent on the pace of planned housing development being realised. A Countywide summary of the proposals for primary, secondary and SEN school places in each district/borough are set out in Section 3.7.

Figure 7a shows the Kent birth rate and the number of recorded births as published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Births recorded by the ONS provide a consistent way of measuring and demonstrating changes in births over the last 30 years; it should be noted that the quantum of school places needed is not solely driven by the number of births and our forecasting takes into account those children resident in the county that were born elsewhere, and the forecast inward migration led by housing growth and other factors. Overall, Kent birth figures indicate a significant fall in the number of births since 2017 but show a slight upturn in 2021 before dropping back in 2022 and 2023.

Figure 7a: Kent births and birth rates 1990-2023



*Source: Office for National Statistics, 2022

Figure 7b: Housing completions and future housing supply 2001-26

District	Completions*				Period 2023-28			Grand total 2003-28
	2003-08	2008-13	2013-18	2018-23	Extant	Allocations	Total	
Maidstone	3,796	3,415	4,103	7,455	3,676	2,083	5,759	24,528
Dartford	3,112	1,907	4,367	3,469	1,964	3,202	5,166	18,021
Swale	3,547	2,436	2,911	4,131	4,351	450	4,801	17,826
Ashford	3,564	2,514	2,865	4,480	3,397	857	4,254	17,677
Canterbury	3,667	2,977	2,061	2,980	1,718	4,268	5,986	17,671
Tonbridge & Malling	3,920	2,537	4,098	2,427	3,355	104	3,459	16,441
Thanet	2,846	2,958	1,813	2,579	3,215	1,292	4,507	14,703
Tunbridge Wells	2,204	1,307	2,008	3,081	2,679	164	2,843	11,443
Dover	1,855	1,253	2,227	2,639	1,611	1,605	3,216	11,190
Folkestone & Hythe	2,145	1,368	1,856	2,217	939	2,291	3,230	10,816
Gravesham	1,594	1,637	952	1,540	2,147	150	2,297	8,020
Sevenoaks	1,501	1,297	1,721	1,603	1,866	-	1,866	7,988
Kent	33,751	25,606	30,982	38,601	30,918	16,466	47,384	176,324

Source: Housing Information Audit (HIA) 2022-23, Kent Analytics, KCC

Notes:

- (1) Housing data relates to financial year (i.e. 2022-23 is the year up to 31st March 2023)
- (2) The first four 5-year time periods between 2003-23 show actual housing completions
- (3) The period 2023-28 shows expected housing completions (extant permissions and allocations)
- (4) No allocations data was provided for Sevenoaks District

*Completions - Dwellings completed; Extant- Dwellings with planning permission but construction not yet completed; Allocations - Dwellings within an area designated for future housing development but not yet with planning permission

Figure 7b outlines the historic and forecast house building by district/borough. All districts/boroughs are planning for significant house building, each district/borough is at a different stage of adopting their Local Plan, the figures above incorporate housing numbers from adopted Local Plans, not every district currently has a Local Plan covering the period 2026-31, however our school-based forecasts incorporate all consented housing whether that housing was allocated within a Local Plan or not.

On average 5,936 dwellings were built annually in the ten-year period up to 31st March 2013. This increased significantly to 6,958 dwellings per year in period 2013-23, with a step change in housing completions seen during the latter 5 year period (38,601 completion). A long-term yearly average of around 9,500 dwellings per year is anticipated for the period 2023-28.

We need to ensure we are planning for the education infrastructure required. How we plan to provide for new housing is outlined in the individual district/borough sections. It is important to note that additional demand for school places from proposed housing plans that do not yet have planning permission or form part of a Borough's adopted Local Plan are not incorporated within the forecasts presented in Figures 7c to 7h. It is equally important to recognise that while surplus places might exist in districts, these will not always be in the right place to support demand generated by new housing.

6.3 Forecast Pupils in Mainstream Primary/Secondary Schools

For Kent primary schools we have seen a steady rise in the overall number of pupils since 2009-10 to 2019-20, rising from 106,097 to 126,251. However, in 2020-21 the total primary roll saw a slight drop to 125,939, before increasing to 126,768 in 2021-22 and to 127,765 in 2022-23. The total pupil roll reduced slightly in 2023-24 to 127,446.

Figure 7c provides a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year R by district/borough across the ten-year period to 2032-33. The forecast indicates that there will be surplus places across the county for the Plan Period. However, in the individual district/borough sections we break down the expected surplus/deficit into smaller planning groups. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may need to be added or removed at more local geography.

Figure 7c: School-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year R) if No Further Action is Taken

District	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-24 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Ashford	1,730	334	218	258	253	337	329	321	317	313	311	306	1,715
Canterbury	1,544	130	254	177	183	253	266	278	288	296	305	315	1,530
Dartford	1,755	131	144	147	85	126	132	126	122	119	118	116	1,755
Dover	1,362	312	268	238	200	236	230	226	224	223	222	220	1,332
Folkestone & Hythe	1,288	208	278	242	230	291	293	295	295	297	297	297	1,266
Gravesham	1,536	176	117	118	88	119	124	132	140	145	151	154	1,486
Maidstone	2,134	140	122	170	72	98	101	89	82	77	75	71	2,154
Sevenoaks	1,502	245	307	209	252	353	349	347	348	349	351	355	1,467
Swale	2,060	206	307	249	232	247	244	239	235	233	231	225	1,995
Thanet	1,635	251	227	285	264	321	324	322	319	322	324	325	1,620
Tonbridge & Malling	1,772	287	252	191	203	260	252	237	230	227	228	229	1,728
Tunbridge Wells	1,296	99	89	126	129	166	170	171	172	174	177	180	1,321
Kent	19,614	2,519	2,582	2,411	2,192	2,807	2,815	2,784	2,774	2,775	2,789	2,794	19,369

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

The overall number of pupils in Kent secondary schools has risen since 2014-15, from 77,931 pupils to 93,349 in 2023-24, an increase in excess of 19% over a nine-year period. This has been driven by larger Year 6 cohorts entering the secondary sector and demand generated by housing development. We anticipate that the Year 7 rolls will continue to increase during the Plan Period. This level of need for Year 7 places will require significant further investment in the secondary estate to maintain sufficiency of places and will continue to represent a major challenge to the Council and its commissioning partners in the years to come.

Figures 7d and 7e provide a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year 7 by non-selective and selective planning groups, across the 10-year period to 2033-33. Many districts/boroughs are showing a need for additional non-selective Year 7 places at some point in the forecast period. Within the selective sector we forecast (Figure 7e) a similar pattern of deficits of Year 7 places throughout the forecast period for the many of planning groups. In part this has been due to selective schools accepting over PAN for a number of years rather than cohorts growing significantly.

The need for additional places can in-part be managed through existing schools increasing the number of places offered on a temporary or permanent bases, but not all of the pressure can be managed this way, consequentially there will be a need for new schools or satellites of existing schools. The individual district/borough sections break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning for both selective and non-selective.

Figure 7d: Non-selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7) if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Ashford North	960	2	-62	18	-40	-49	-76	-81	64	-6	33	19	938
Canterbury City	710	47	16	10	-12	-69	-70	-67	-71	-56	-97	-108	680
Canterbury Coastal	618	-14	34	43	26	28	52	21	34	107	98	102	618
Tenterden and Cranbrook	360	73	73	58	42	36	31	25	40	24	22	27	360
Dartford and Swanley	1,320	7	4	71	76	15	-36	2	-6	30	24	-16	1,440
Dover	510	75	18	11	1	-15	3	26	40	51	48	25	420
Deal and Sandwich	435	47	27	34	33	13	16	15	56	41	37	26	425
Folkestone and Hythe	625	17	-30	-12	-4	-35	-24	12	-2	59	41	17	595
Faversham	210	26	9	23	14	-22	-14	-11	-29	-10	-30	-36	210
Gravesham and Longfield	1,370	-42	-36	-43	-64	-113	-117	-100	-88	-119	-114	-118	1,389
Maidstone District	1,620	-12	-107	-129	-151	-194	-254	-315	-264	-260	-210	-299	1,560
Malling	543	43	44	61	67	17	36	33	59	40	64	55	543
Romney Marsh	180	-14	-10	-8	13	9	-8	7	9	19	21	28	180
Sevenoaks and Borough Green	610	-25	-31	22	-15	11	5	13	16	59	11	32	630
Isle of Sheppey	390	71	39	34	34	28	34	22	30	54	74	70	330
Sittingbourne	810	-29	-64	-92	-72	-162	-123	-110	-133	-51	-50	-61	765
Thanet District	1,159	1	-16	-26	-29	-30	-14	-65	43	25	72	58	1,099
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells	1,584	64	116	154	63	92	55	34	124	104	81	109	1,612
Kent	14,014	337	24	228	-20	-439	-502	-540	-79	113	123	-70	13,794

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

Figure 7e: Selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7) if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Ashford	420	-13	5	22	-6	-10	-21	-25	22	-9	4	-3	420
Canterbury and Faversham	645	-15	6	20	5	-47	-35	-36	-39	-2	-31	-37	645
North West Kent	720	-1	-10	-26	-45	-70	-80	-73	-68	-47	-40	-63	720
Dover District	440	-5	7	20	6	2	-2	8	31	37	29	6	440
Folkestone & Hythe District	360	-3	27	25	22	26	23	25	23	22	23	27	330
Gravesham and Longfield	420	-16	-23	-45	-50	-68	-70	-67	-66	-77	-75	-78	420
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	270	-9	20	18	24	-3	15	9	8	36	39	34	300
Thanet District	345	7	8	5	5	6	17	-4	26	23	34	36	345
Maidstone and Malling	815	6	37	27	20	-8	-25	-50	-24	-32	-14	-47	815
West Kent	1,270	-23	-33	19	-46	-20	-29	-12	37	61	51	71	1,264
Cranbrook	90	-1	20	23	18	8	10	9	7	9	0	0	90
Kent	5,795	-73	64	108	-46	-182	-198	-215	-42	22	20	-55	5,789

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

6.4 Travel to School Flows

Figures 7f and 7g outline the travel to school flows for selective and non-selective provision in Kent districts. There are big differences between both the scale of travel to school flows and the direction of flows between districts; for example, Sevenoaks has a net outflow of circa 3,500 pupils across the selective and non-selective sectors combined (excluding out of county pupils), whereas Maidstone has a net inflow of over 820 pupils. Dartford had the highest number of out of county pupils with over 1,500 traveling from adjacent boroughs. Tunbridge Wells has a high flow of pupils into the District particularly to access both non-selective denominational provision and selective provision. Tonbridge and Malling has high flows into and out of the District for both selective and non-selective provision.

Figure 7f: Travel to school flows for non-selective pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2023)

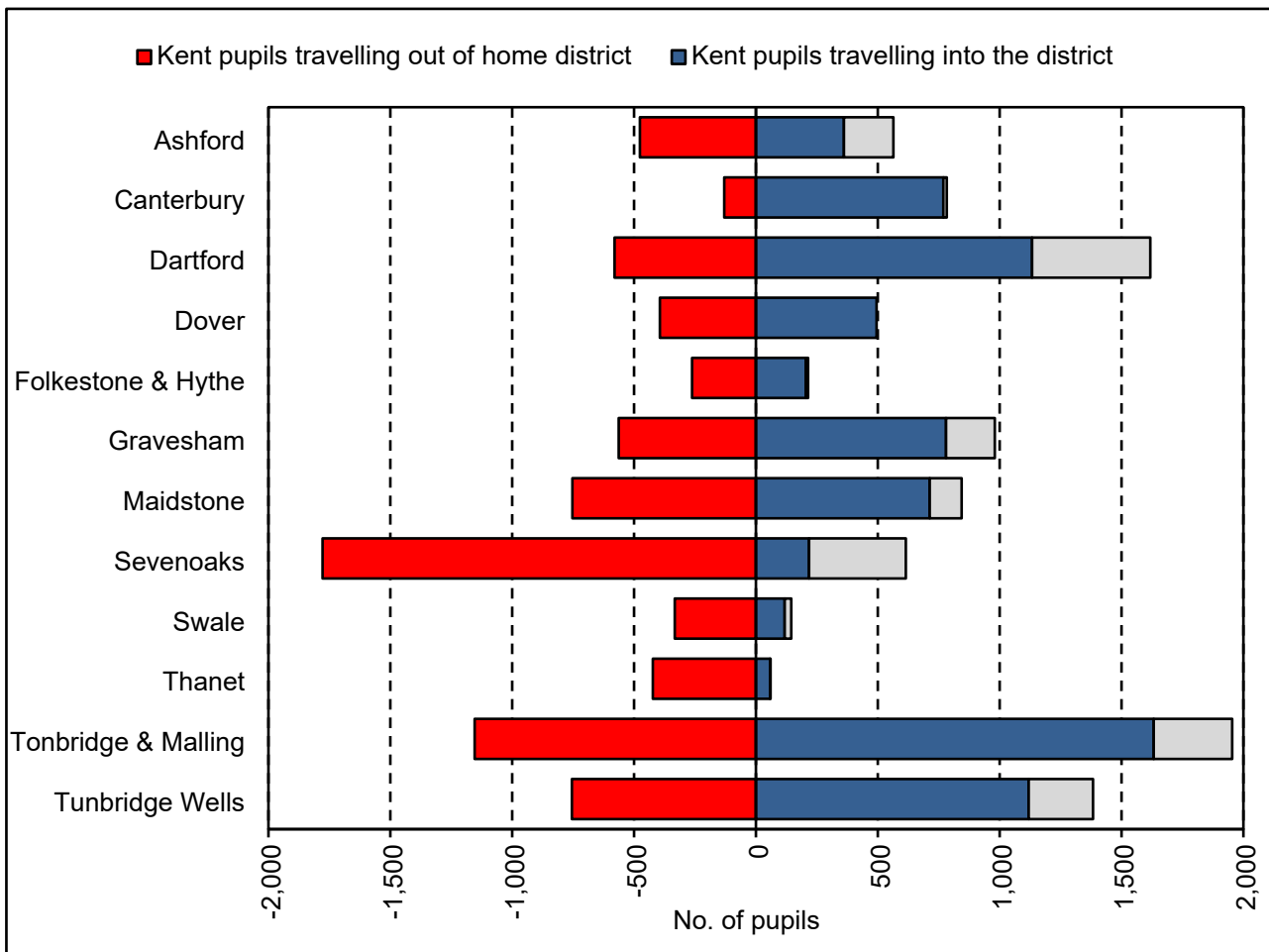
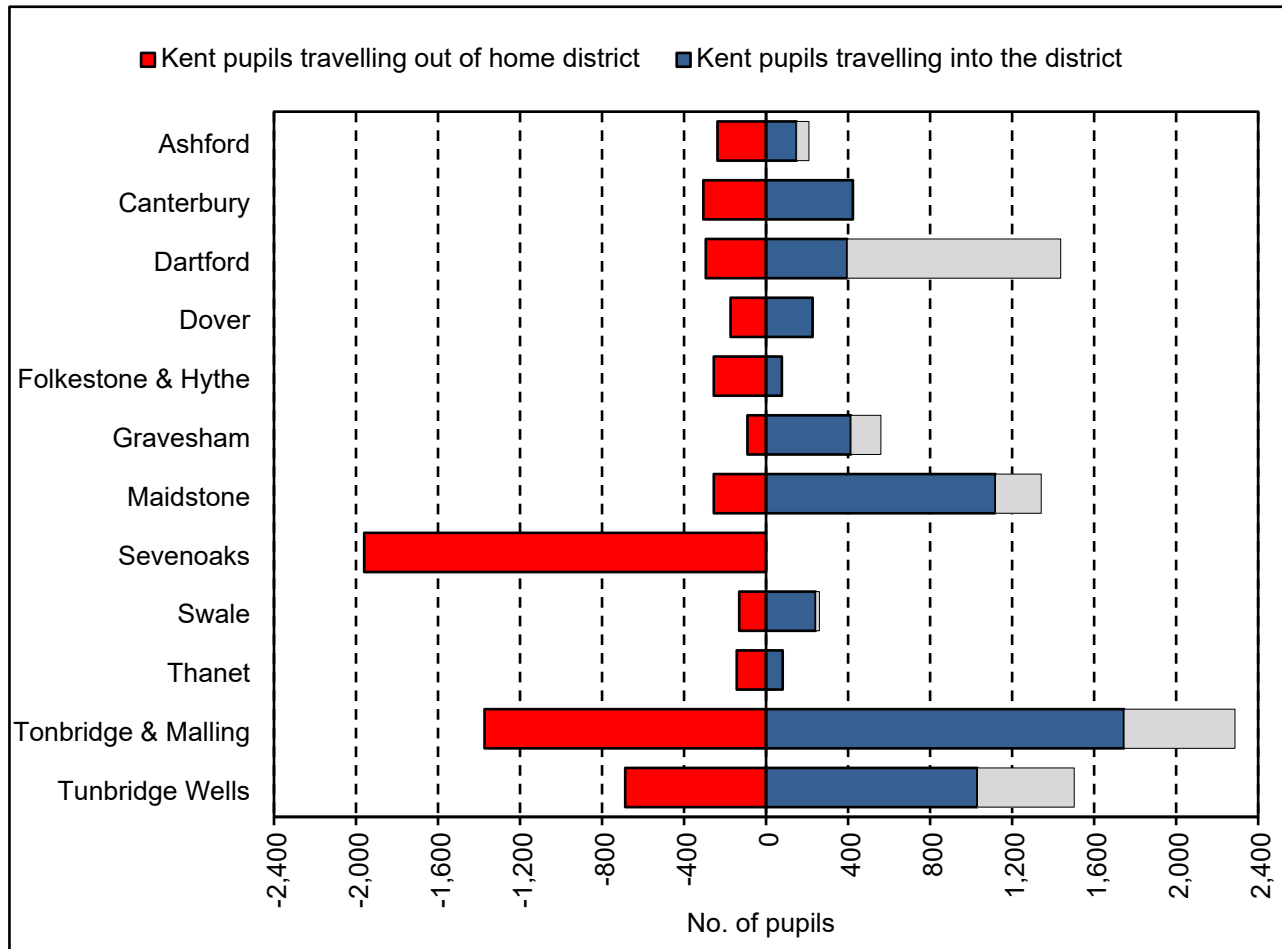


Figure 7g: Travel to school flows for selective grammar pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2023)



Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

Notes:

- (1) Actual roll data 2023-24 - Schools Census, Autumn 2023
- (2) Data excludes Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover
- (3) The Sevenoaks Annex of Weald of Kent Grammar School is treated as being located in Tonbridge & Malling
- (4) The Sevenoaks Annex of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys is treated as being located in Tunbridge Wells

6.5 Migration into Kent

Figure 7h sets out the net migration by pre-school, primary school and secondary school ages for 2021 and 2022. This table indicates a reduction in the annual inwards migration for the pre-school, but a notable increase in both primary and secondary migration.

Figure 7h: Pre-school (0-3 year olds), primary (4-10 year olds) and secondary aged (11-15 year olds) net migration year ending 30th June 2022

District	2021				2022			
	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total
Pre-school	-19	1,593	-404	1,170	40	1,330	-349	1,020
Primary	124	2,188	-467	1,845	139	2,322	-373	2,088
Secondary	104	943	-172	875	31	1,152	-122	1,061

*Source: Office for National Statistics, Table IM2020-22

Note:

For the purposes of this analysis Kent districts include Medway UA

Across the County as a whole, any fluctuation in migration may only have a small proportional impact on pupil numbers. However, at a district/borough level the fluctuation from one year to the next can be significant requiring the LA to respond swiftly to ensure sufficient school places.

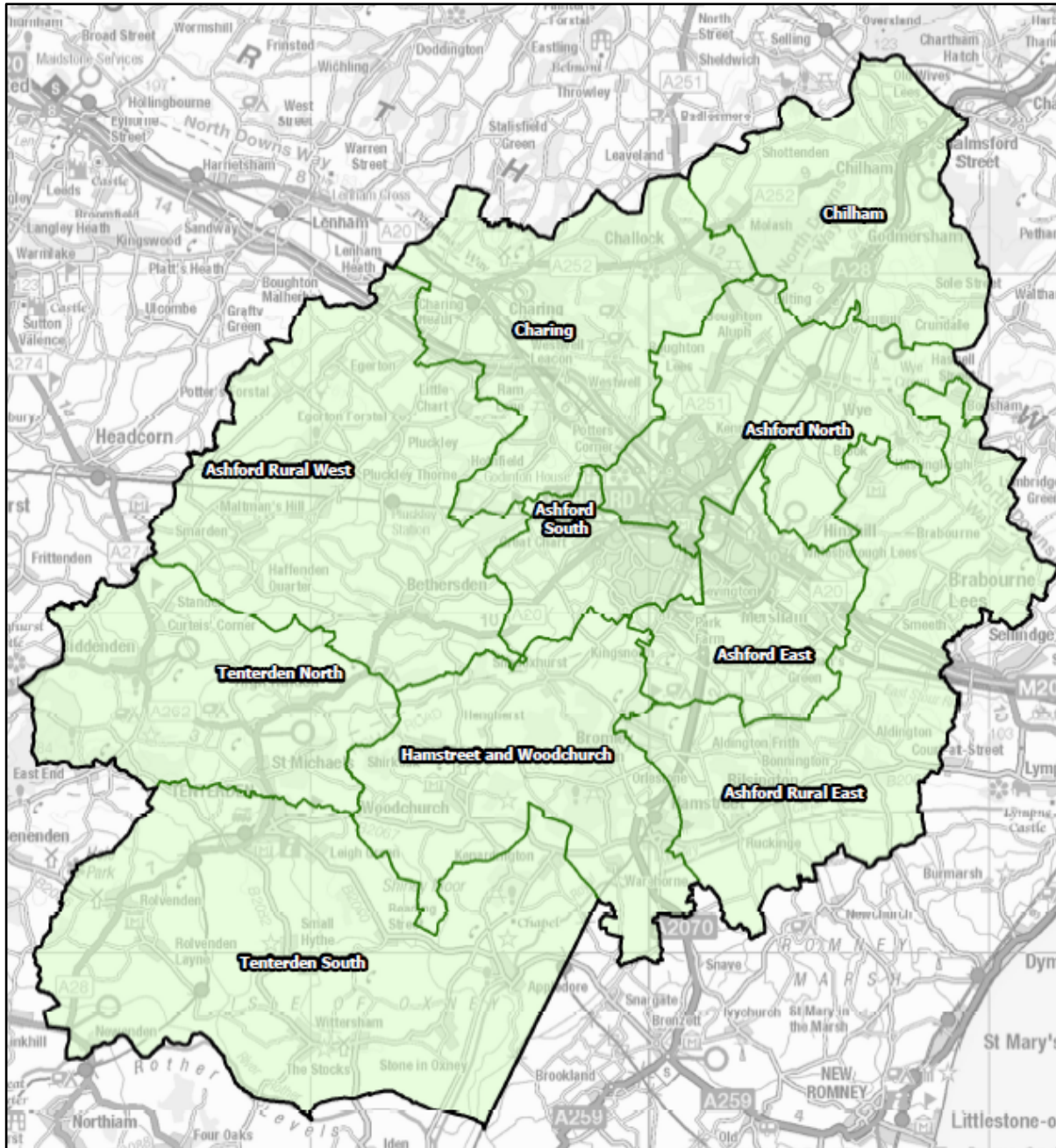
7. Commissioning Statutory School Provision by Districts

7.1. Ashford

Borough Commentary

- The birth rate in Ashford declined between 2016 and 2019, levelled out from 2020 to 2022, before dropping significantly in 2023. However, it remains above the County and National averages. The number of recorded births increased by 26 in 2022 before falling by 77 births in 2023.
- We forecast an increasing surplus of primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although there could be some localised pressures which may need to be addressed with localised solutions.
- Forecasts suggest a deficit of Year 7 places for September 2024 and then from 2026/27 for four years. We will work with existing schools to ensure that there are sufficient Year 7 places for all who require one.
- The Local Plan (up to 2030) was adopted in the first quarter of 2019. Within the Plan, the Borough Council have identified that up to 13,544 new homes could be delivered by 2030. This equates to an average of 1,129 new homes per annum. During the period 2013/14 to 2022/23 an average of 718 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin April 2024).

Map of the Ashford Borough primary planning groups



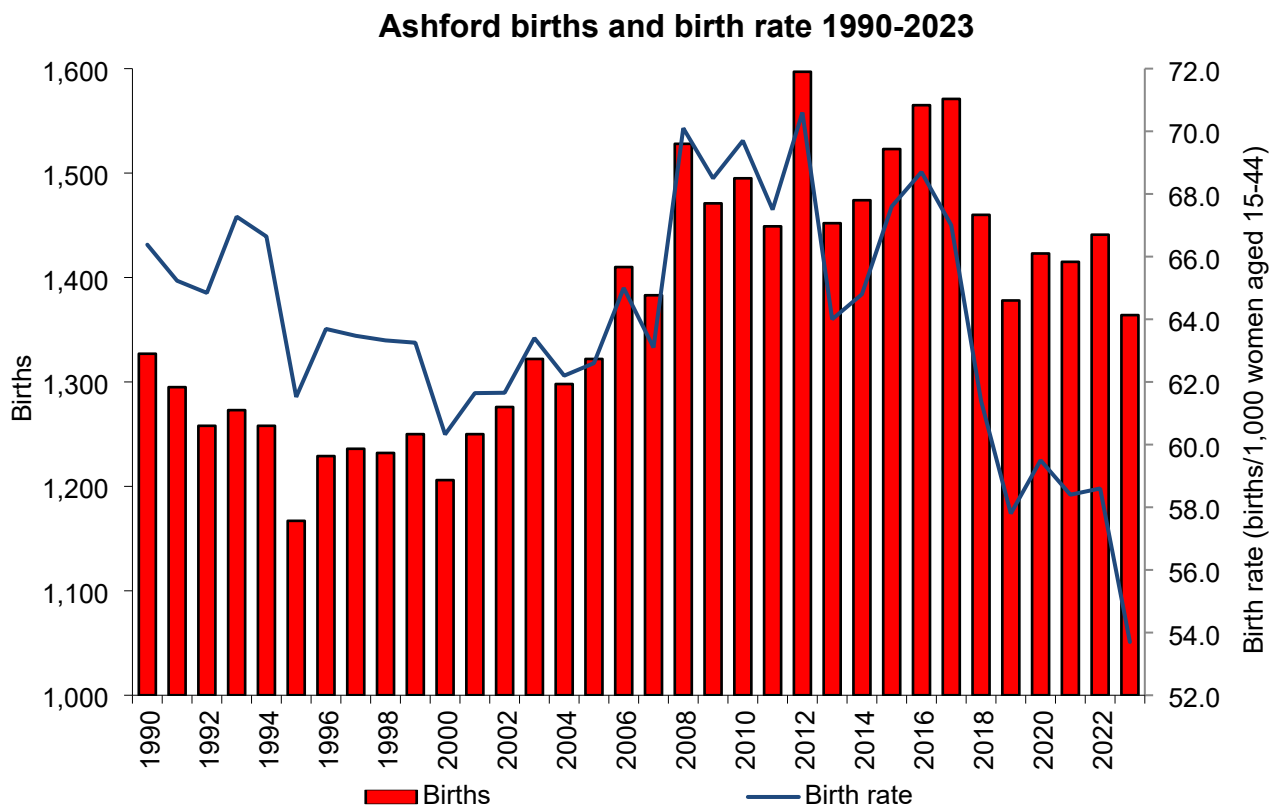
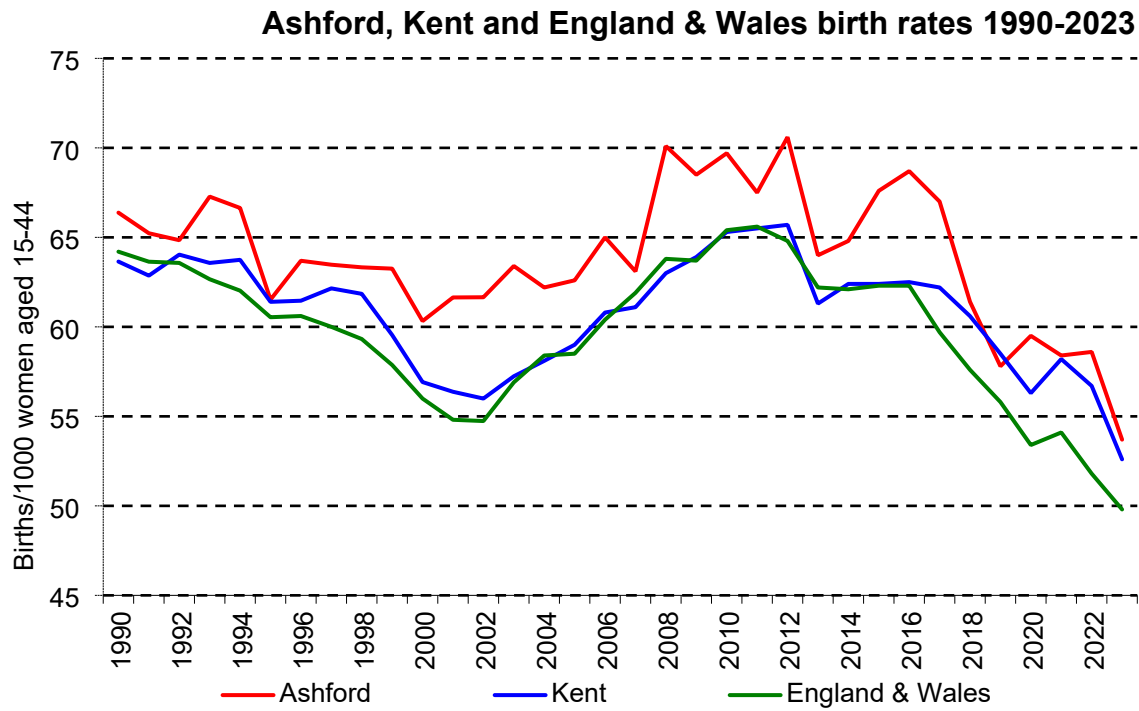
Ashford primary schools by planning group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Chilham	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Chilham)	Voluntary Controlled
Charing	Challock Primary School	Foundation
	Charing CE Primary School	Academy
Ashford North	Downs View Infant School	Community
	Goat Lees Primary School	Foundation
	Godinton Primary School	Academy
	Kennington CE Academy	Academy
	Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Phoenix Community Primary School	Foundation
	Repton Manor Primary School	Foundation
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Ashford)	Voluntary Aided
St. Teresa's RC Primary School	Academy	

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Victoria Road Primary School	Community
Ashford Rural East	Aldington Primary School	Foundation
	Brabourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Brook Community Primary School	Foundation
	Smeeth Community Primary School	Foundation
Ashford East	East Stour Primary School	Academy
	Finberry Primary School	Academy
	Furley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Kingsnorth CE Primary School	Academy
	Mersham Primary School	Foundation
	Willesborough Infant School	Community
	Willesborough Junior School	Foundation
Ashford South	Ashford Oaks Primary School	Community
	Beaver Green Primary School	Academy
	Chilmington Green Primary School	Free
	Great Chart Primary School	Community
	John Wallis CE Academy	Academy
	John Wesley CE and Methodist Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Simon of England RC Primary School	Academy
Ashford Rural West	Bethersden School	Community
	Egerton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Pluckley CE Primary School	Academy
	Smarden Primary School	Academy
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Hamstreet Primary Academy	Academy
	Woodchurch CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Tenterden North	High Halden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	John Mayne CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Michael's CE Primary School	Academy
Tenterden South	Rolvenden Primary School	Academy
	Tenterden CE Junior School	Academy
	Tenterden Infant School	Academy
	Wittersham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided

Birth rate and births analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.



Ashford Forecasts

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Chilham	15	2	5	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	15
Challock and Charing	50	-4	0	-5	1	-4	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-7	50
Ashford North	450	70	46	47	73	80	77	72	69	66	63	60	450
Ashford Rural East	80	22	21	18	12	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	80
Ashford East	420	108	42	90	50	74	72	69	66	63	61	58	420
Ashford South	390	69	70	77	76	121	122	122	123	123	124	124	390
Ashford Rural West	95	17	2	-4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	-1	0	1	80
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	71	15	14	12	12	17	15	14	13	13	12	12	71
Tenterden North	65	12	8	7	6	14	14	14	14	15	15	16	65
Tenterden South	94	23	9	11	23	12	12	13	13	14	15	16	94
Ashford	1,730	334	218	258	253	337	329	321	317	313	311	306	1,715

Secondary - Forecast Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
NS - Ashford North	960	2	-62	18	-40	-49	-76	-81	64	-6	33	19	938
NS - Tenterden and Cranbrook	360	73	73	58	42	36	31	25	40	24	22	27	360
SG - Ashford	420	-13	5	22	-6	-10	-21	-25	22	-9	4	-3	420

Primary Borough Commentary

Across the Borough, we forecast a significant surplus of primary school places during the Plan period. In the short to medium term, we will collaborate with schools to manage the high levels of surplus primary school places to help maintain high quality, sustainable provision.

Charing and Challock Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a small deficit of primary school places throughout the Plan period. This is primarily due to Charing Church of England Primary School taking over their published admissions numbers in some year groups, which they are free to do as their own admissions authority. Additionally, the forecasts consider the impact of consented development in the planning group.

The expansion of Charing CE Primary School continues to be the strategic solution for additional primary school places. The expansion of the school will be driven by consented housing developments. The nutrient neutrality 'Stodmarsh' issue is impacting these developments being able to progress. Therefore, it is not expected that school places will be required until the end of the decade.

Ashford North Planning Group

Forecasts suggest surplus places from 2023/24 until the end of the decade. In the longer term, planned new developments north of the M20 between Kennington, Willesborough and Eureka Park will increase demand. To address the need for primary school places to support new housing in and around the planning group, the Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Conningbrook Park' development. This development has only just started. The primary school land is expected during 2027 at the earliest. The school is likely to be required in the next decade.

Ashford East Planning Group

Although forecasts suggest a significant level of surplus places across the plan period, additional provision may be required to support housing development as this comes forward. This includes: Finberry, Waterbrook, New Town Works, Park Farm, Court Lodge, Pound Lane and Willesborough Lees.

The Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Court Lodge' development area to meet the longer-term primary education needs driven by that development. We would not expect the new primary school to be available until the latter part of this decade.

Ashford South Planning Group

Forecasts suggest increasing surplus Year R places across the Plan period from 2027 onwards. The surplus capacity will reduce when delivery of consented houses within Chilmington Green increases.

Ashford Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a small deficit of places in this planning group from the 2025/26 academic year. This is due to an academy offering over their Published Admissions Number for several years, which they are free to do as their own admissions authority, and drawing pupils from further afield. The academy has ended this practice, thus we anticipate the forecast deficit not materialising.

Hamstreet and Woodchurch planning group

Developer contributions have been sought to enable Hamstreet Primary Academy to expand by 0.5FE when required to meet the need of new housing in the village. The position will be monitored.

Secondary Borough Commentary

There are three planning groups which are within Ashford Borough or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Ashford North, Tenterden and Cranbrook), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Ashford North Non-Selective Planning Group

There are five existing schools in the Ashford North non-selective planning group: John Wallis Church of England Academy, The North School, The Towers School and Sixth Form Centre, Wye School and Chilmington Green Secondary School (opened off-site in September 2023).

Forecasts suggest a deficit of Year 7 places for September 2024 and then from 2026/27 for four years. We will work with existing schools to ensure that there are sufficient Year 7 places for all who require one.

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

The opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School and the addition of temporary places in existing Ashford and Tunbridge Wells schools has changed the flow of pupils in this planning group following the closure of High Weald Academy by the DfE and ensured sufficient places are available.

Ashford Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the Borough: Highworth Grammar School and The Norton Knatchbull Grammar School. Forecasts suggest that there will be a small deficit of places throughout, but we anticipate that this could be managed within the existing schools

Planned Commissioning – Ashford

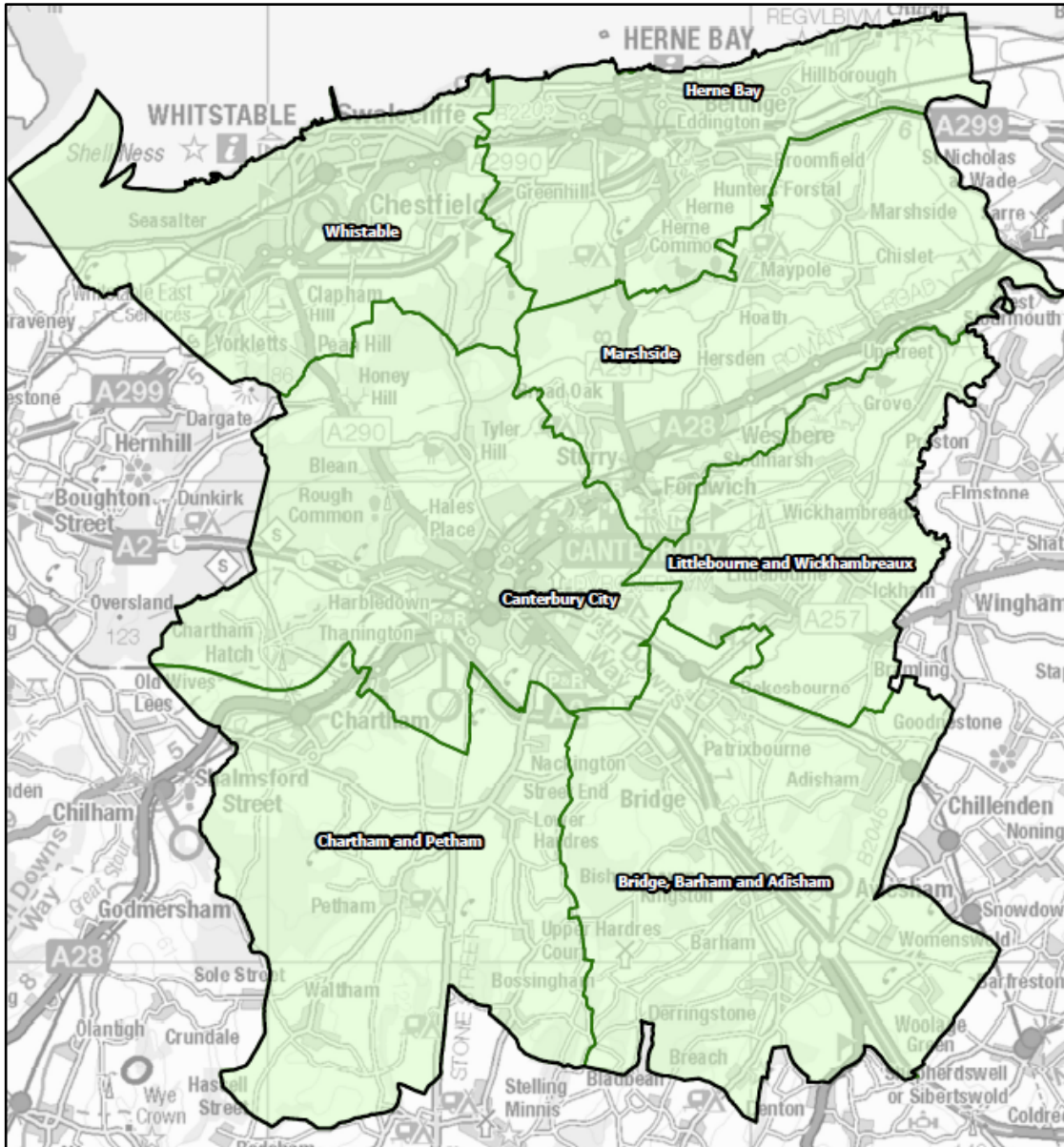
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Ashford East					2FE of new provision at Court Lodge	
Ashford North					2FE New provision at Conningbrook Park	
Charing				0.3FE Charing CEPS		
Hamstreet and Woodchurch					0.5FE Hamstreet Primary Academy	
Ashford South						2FE of new provision at Chilmington Green
Ashford North Non-Selective	Additional 2FE (60 places) Chilmington Green					2FE Expansion of Chilmington Green

7.2. Canterbury

District commentary

- The Canterbury district birth rate differs to Kent and the national picture as it is significantly lower, reflecting the large student population. The birth rate has had a downward trend since the 1990s. However, following a sharp fall in 2020, Canterbury's birth rate and the number of births rose again in 2021, before falling back slightly in 2022 and 2023.
- We forecast surplus primary school places across the District throughout the forecast period, however there are significant differences in the planning groups. Localised pressures are shown in a number of the canterbury planning groups whilst there is spare capacity in the coastal planning groups.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast pressures on capacity for non-selective in Canterbury City planning group but capacity in the Canterbury Coastal planning group. For selective places there is surplus capacity until 2027/28 after this date a pressure on places is forecast.
- Canterbury City Council's current Local Plan, adopted on 13 July 2017, proposed a total of just over 16,000 new homes during the Plan period up to 2031. This equates to an average of 925 dwellings per annum. During the 2013/14 to 2022/23 a total of 4627 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 463 per year.
- Canterbury City Council (CCC) is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the district which will set out the blueprint for development up to 2040. Following previous consultations in 2020, 2021 and 2022, CCC consulted on a revised Regulation 18 draft Local Plan in Spring 2024. CCC is currently reviewing the representations received to the consultation and will be preparing a Regulation 19 Local Plan for consultation in 2025, before the plan is examined by an inspector and a final decision is made.

Map of the Canterbury Primary Planning Groups



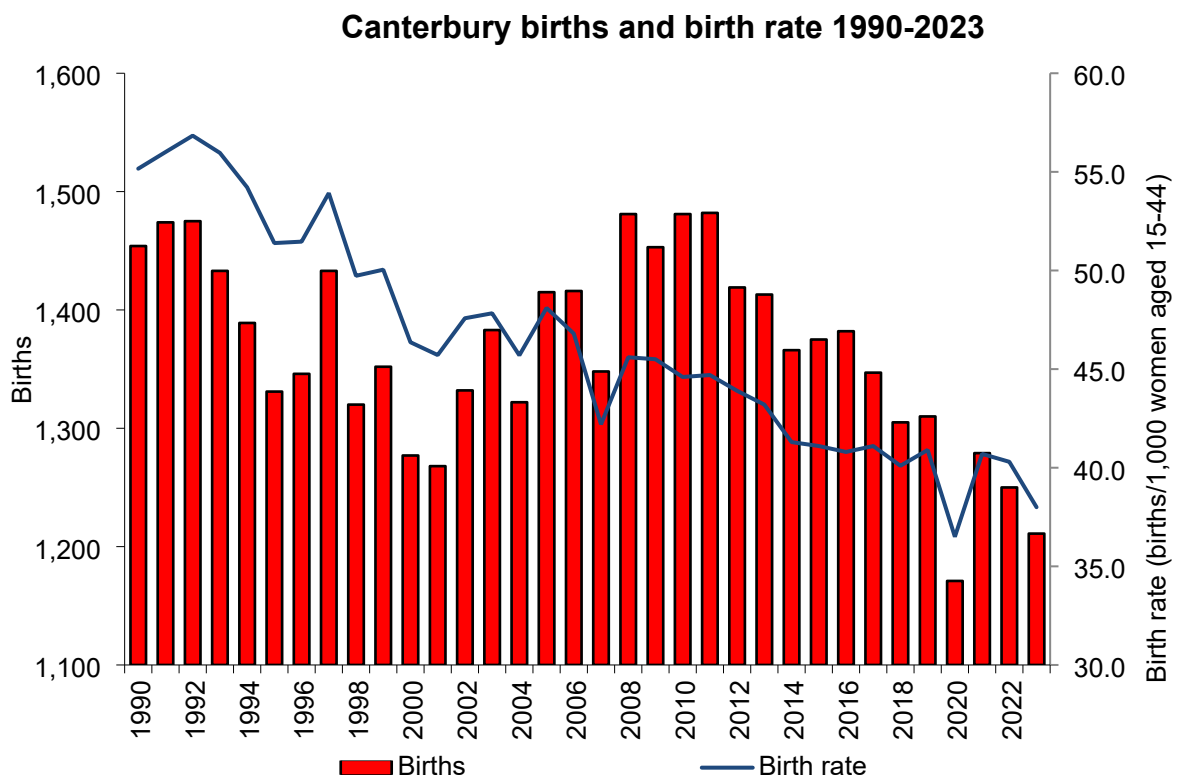
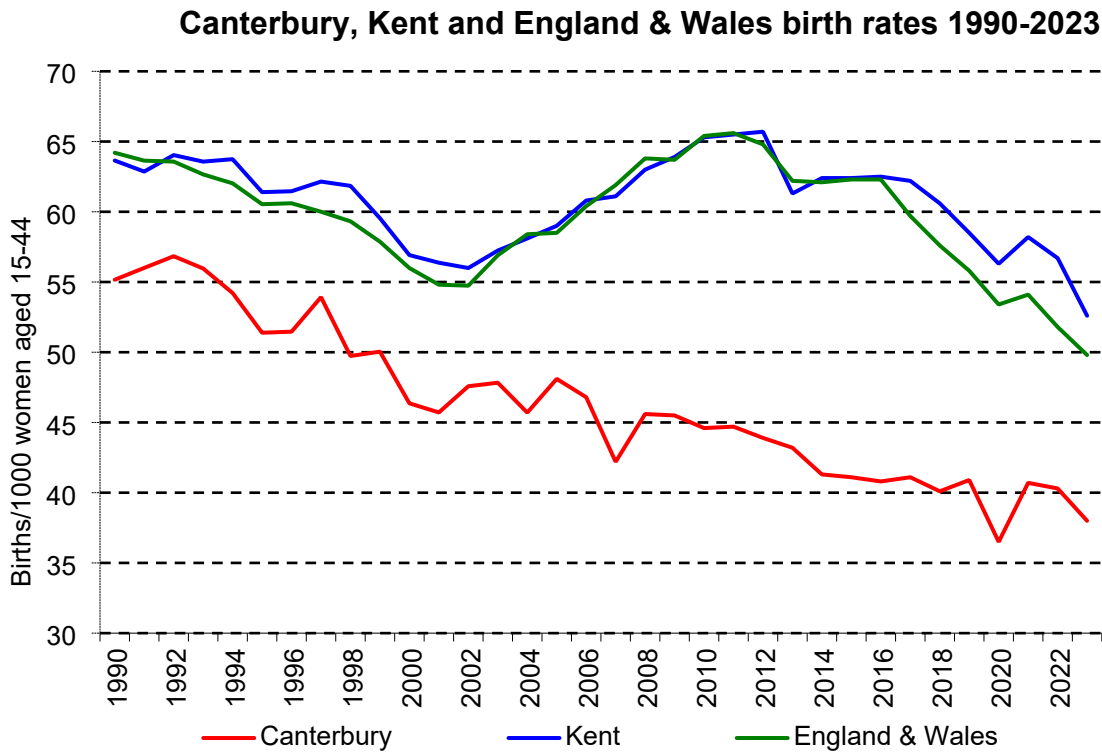
Canterbury Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Group	School	Status
Canterbury City	Blean Primary School	Community
	Canterbury Primary School	Academy
	Parkside Community Primary School	Foundation
	Pilgrims' Way Primary School	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's Methodist Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Stephen's Infant School	Academy
	St. Stephen's Junior School	Academy
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Aided
	Wincheap Foundation Primary School	Foundation
Marshside	Chislet CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Water Meadows Primary School	Academy
	Hoath Primary School	Community
	Sturry CE Primary School	Academy
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Adisham CE Primary School	Academy

Planning Group	School	Status
	Barham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bridge and Patixbourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Littlebourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Wickhambreaux CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Chartham and Petham	Chartham Primary School	Academy
	Petham Primary School	Academy
Whitstable	Joy Lane Primary School	Foundation
	St. Alphege CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Whitstable)	Academy
	Swalecliffe Community Primary School	Foundation
	Westmeads Community Infant School	Community
	Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Whitstable Junior School	Foundation
Herne Bay	Thornden Wood Primary School	Academy
	Hampton Primary School	Academy
	Herne Bay Infant School	Community
	Herne Bay Junior School	Foundation
	Herne CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	Herne CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Reculver CE Primary School	Academy

Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.



Canterbury Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Canterbury City	465	22	46	20	21	35	44	55	68	84	104	125	480
Marshside	119	0	14	22	7	4	5	5	4	3	1	-1	120
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	105	3	2	-9	-5	-9	-11	-13	-15	-17	-19	-22	105
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	30	0	-3	-4	-2	-5	-6	-6	-6	-7	-8	-8	30
Chartham and Petham	75	6	16	17	9	16	17	18	18	18	18	17	75
Whitstable	360	77	115	76	94	123	126	129	129	129	128	126	330
Herne Bay	390	22	65	56	60	90	91	90	89	85	82	77	390
Canterbury	1,544	130	254	177	183	253	266	278	288	296	305	315	1,530

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Canterbury City Non-Selective	710	47	16	10	-12	-69	-70	-67	-71	-56	-97	-108	680
Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective	618	-14	34	43	26	28	52	21	34	107	98	102	618
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	645	-15	6	20	5	-47	-35	-36	-39	-2	-31	-37	645

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Canterbury district there will be surplus capacity for Year R places. The surplus for Year R fluctuates throughout the forecast period from 177 (5.9FE) surplus for 2025/26 to 278 (9.2FE) for 2029/30 with significant variations across the different Planning Groups.

The lower rate of housebuilding combined with the decline in birth rate has resulted in surplus primary places, particularly in Herne Bay and Whitstable. Pressures in Bridge, Barham and Adisham and Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Planning Groups are offset by surplus capacity in Canterbury City, Marshside and Chartham and Petham Planning Groups will help to realign historical travel patterns of pupils travelling out of Canterbury to attend a village school.

Canterbury City Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group of between 0.6FE for Year R in 2025/26 increasing to 1.8FE in 2029/30. However, the first phase (1FE) of a new 2FE primary school in Thanington will be established to serve the new housing development of 750 homes in the planning group. This phased approach will prevent overcapacity in the planning area and help to realign historical travel patterns.

Marshside Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a decreasing surplus of capacity from 0.7FE in 2025/26 to 0.1FE in 2029/30. Later in the forecast period, dependent on the order in which housing are built, we will expand Water Meadows Primary Academy by a form of entry or establish the first phase of a new 2FE primary school in Sturry/Broad Oak to serve the housing development in this planning group.

Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Planning Group and Bridge, Barham and Adisham

Forecasts indicate that there will be a slight growing pressure for Year R places within the planning groups. This is due to the significant number of families who traditionally travel into the planning groups for places. Later in the forecast period, dependent on new housing being brought forward in the planning group a 0.5FE expansion of Littlebourne Primary School will be commissioned.

Whitstable Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a growing surplus of Year R places from 2.5FE in 2025/26 to 4.3FE in 2029/30. Discussions will take place with schools in the planning group on managing this surplus to ensure schools remain viable.

Herne Bay Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus capacity of between 1.8FE in 2025/26 to 3FE in 2029/30 for Year R places. If new housing developments are delivered in line with the Local Plan, additional capacity will need to be provided later in the plan period. Dependent on the order in which developments are built out, this could be delivered through a 1FE expansion of Thornden Wood Primary School or the phased establishment of a new 2FE primary school on the Hillborough development.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three planning groups within Canterbury district, or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Canterbury City and Canterbury Coastal), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Canterbury City Non-Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury City non-selective planning group: Archbishop's School, Barton Manor, Canterbury Academy, and St Anselm's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate a pressure of -0.4FE from 2026/27 which increases to -2.2FE in 2029/30. The historical trend of students travelling from the Coastal planning group to Canterbury city schools places pressures on the Canterbury City planning group. The surplus capacity in the Coastal planning group will help offset the pressures in Canterbury city schools and will realign students to the coastal schools near to where they live. Any additional pressures within Canterbury City planning group will be met by temporary or permanent expansions.

Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Canterbury Coastal non-selective planning group: The Whitstable School, Herne Bay High School and Spires Academy.

Year 7 forecasts indicate a fluctuating surplus places of between 43 places (1.43FE) in 2025/26 to 21 (0.7FE) places in 2029/30. The historical trend of students travelling from the coast to Canterbury city is starting to change and the surplus capacity in the coastal schools will help offset the pressures in Canterbury City planning group.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group until 2027. From 2027/28 there is a pressure forecast in the planning group of between -1.2FE and 1.5FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. Feasibilities will be undertaken at Simon Langton Girls School to expand the school.

Planned Commissioning - Canterbury

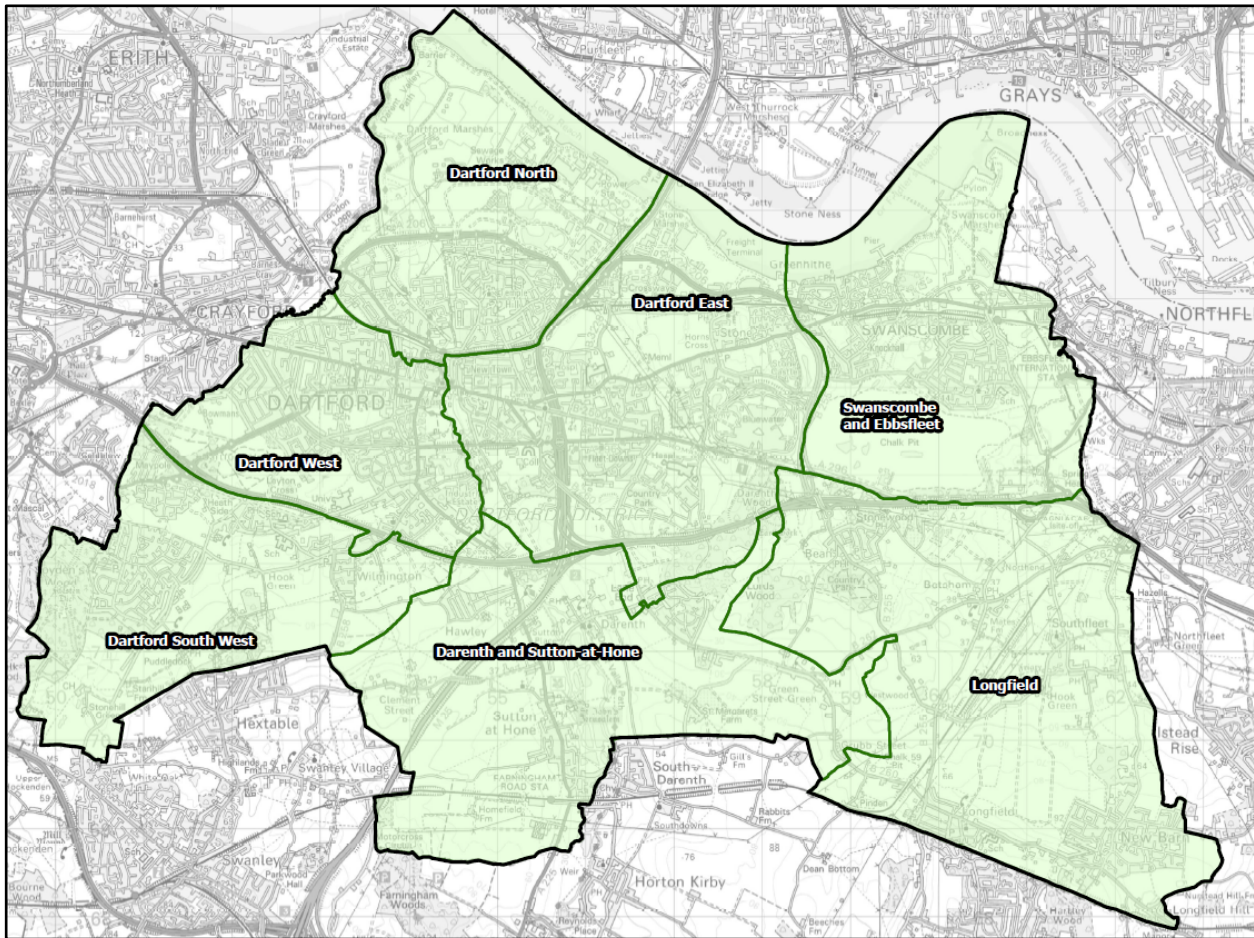
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Canterbury City		1FE of a new Primary School in Thanington				2 nd FE of Thanington Primary School
Marshside					1FE expansion of Water Meadows or 1 st 1FE of new provision in Sturry/ Broad Oak	
Herne Bay					1FE expansion of Thornden Wood PS or 1FE new provision in Herne Bay	
Canterbury City Non- Selective			Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 1 FE temporary places	Up to 1.5FE temporary places	
Canterbury and Faversham Selective			1FE expansion of Simon Langton Girls School			
Special School		New 120 place Special School on the coast				
Alternative Provision		Proposed Key stage 3 expansion of The Rosewood School				

7.3. Dartford

Borough Summary

- The Dartford birth rate continues to fall, although it remains significantly higher than the Kent and National averages.
- Primary forecasts indicate surpluses of around 5 FE in the first year of the Plan period. The surplus drops slightly for September 2026, but increases and remains steady to about 4FE over the remainder of the Plan period.
- For much of the Plan period in the Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective planning group, there is a small surplus. This turns into a deficit of 1FE in September 2028, before returning to a small surplus a year later. The Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective planning group shows 1.5FE deficit from the outset. The deficit increases year on year, peaking at nearly 4FE for September 2028. The deficit remains high for the remainder of the plan period, ranging from 3FE to 4FE. It then remains at that level of deficit for the duration of the Plan period.
- Selective demand in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group is under pressure throughout the whole Plan period, with the deficit peaking at 2.5FE for September 2028. It then remains at 1.5FE - 2.5FE for the duration of the Plan period. The Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group forecasts shows a similar level of deficit, at about 2.5FE for September 2028. Any options for creating additional selective capacity will be extremely challenging and KCC may only be able to ensure that the Local Authority statutory duty to provide sufficient secondary places, of any type, is met.
- Dartford Borough Council (DBC) and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) had estimated that up to 2026, approximately 17,300 new homes would be built. The build trajectory to achieve that had slipped due to covid but is now moving apace.
- More recently, the EDC has said that 15,000 new homes will be built in their area of responsibility alone. Not all of this new housing has been consented and so it will not appear in the forecasts. KCC is working in collaboration with DBC and EDC to ensure that sufficient places are available to accommodate the children from the new housing, even if it does not feature in the forecasts.

Map of the Dartford Primary Planning Groups



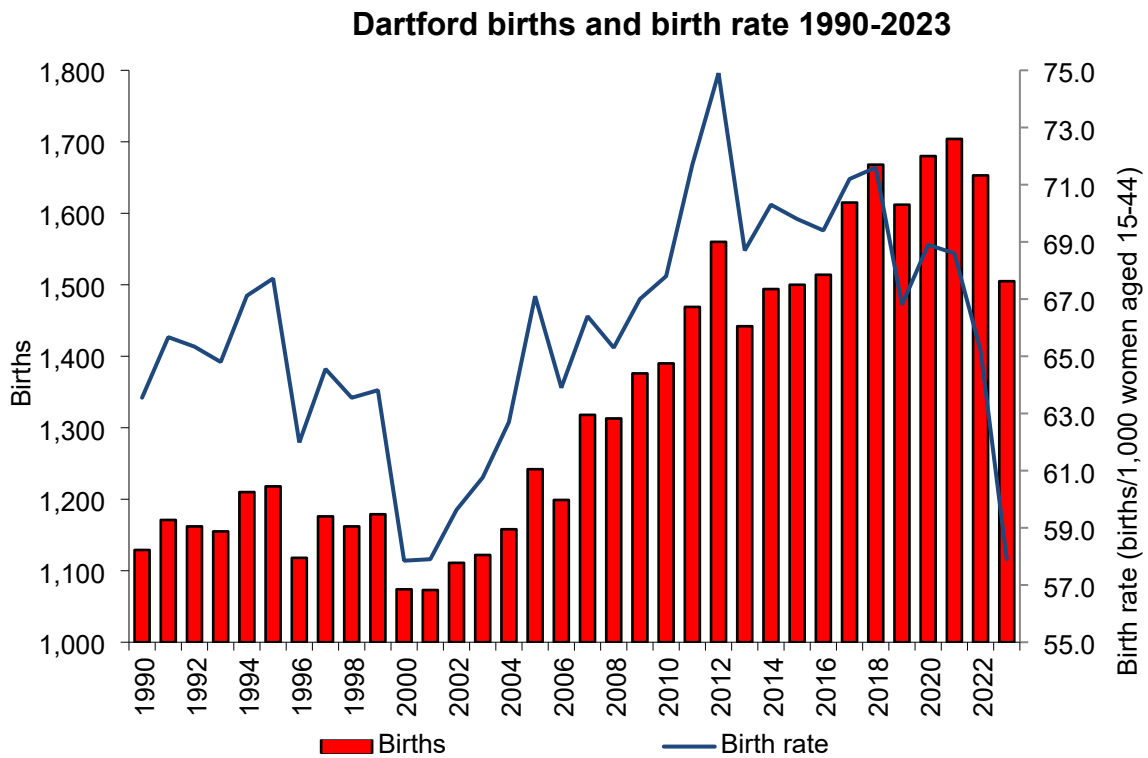
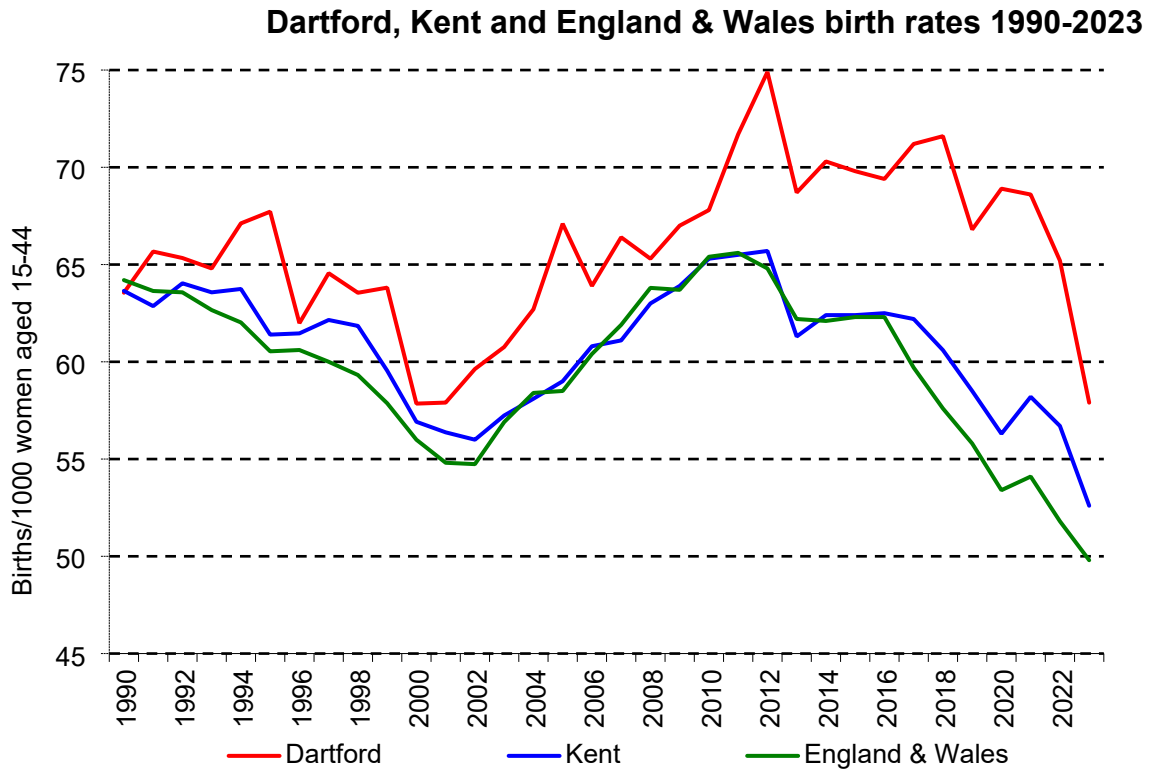
Dartford Primary Schools by Planning Group

	School	Status
Dartford North	Dartford Bridge Community Primary School	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Dartford)	Voluntary Aided
	River Mill Primary School	Free
	St. Anselm's RC Primary School	Academy
	Temple Hill Primary Academy	Academy
Dartford West	Oakfield Primary Academy	Academy
	Our Lady's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Wentworth Primary School	Academy
	West Hill Primary Academy	Academy
	Westgate Primary School	Academy
Dartford East	Brent Primary School	Academy
	Leigh Academy Dartford	Academy
	Fleetwork Primary School	Academy
	Gateway Primary Academy	Academy
Dartford South West	Stone St. Mary's CE Primary School	Academy
	Joyden's Wood Infant School	Academy
	Joyden's Wood Junior School	Academy
	Maypole Primary School	Academy
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Wilmington Primary School	Academy
	Greenlands Primary School	Academy
	Sutton-at-Hone CE Primary School	Academy

	School	Status
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard	Academy
	Craylands School	Community
	Ebbsfleet Green Primary School	Free
	Knockhall Primary School	Academy
	Manor Community Primary School	Academy
Longfield	Bean Primary School	Community
	Langafel CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sedley's CE Primary School	Academy

Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.



Dartford Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Dartford North	330	21	55	52	47	66	60	52	44	37	30	23	330
Dartford West	315	7	14	35	-1	20	25	28	31	34	37	39	315
Dartford East	390	10	2	10	-12	1	3	3	3	3	4	5	390
Dartford South West	180	17	23	19	25	47	49	51	53	54	57	59	180
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	90	15	18	13	18	20	22	23	24	25	27	28	90
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	360	50	28	12	-1	-38	-40	-45	-49	-54	-58	-62	360
Longfield	90	11	4	5	9	10	13	15	17	20	22	24	90
Dartford	1,755	131	144	147	85	126	132	126	122	119	118	116	1,755

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective	1,320	7	4	71	76	15	-36	2	-6	30	24	-16	1,440
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,370	-42	-36	-43	-64	-113	-117	-100	-88	-119	-114	-118	1,389
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-16	-23	-45	-50	-68	-70	-67	-66	-77	-75	-78	420
North West Kent Selective	720	-1	-10	-26	-45	-70	-80	-73	-68	-47	-40	-63	720

Primary District commentary

Forecasts, for the Borough as a whole, indicate about 5FE surplus for the first three years of the Plan period for Year R. This surplus starts to reduce below 4FE from 2026 and continues over succeeding years. Forecasted demand comes from the Dartford East planning group and the Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet planning group.

In addition to the forecast need identified above, plans for further housing across the district will increase the need for school places. Over and above the current planned housing numbers, Dartford Borough Council have a new local plan that describes an additional 7000 units. Housing growth could be exacerbated further by an expansion of the Elizabeth Line from Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet, which has been proposed by London Local Authorities.

Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet Planning Group

This planning area is significantly impacted by the Ebbsfleet Garden City development area. A new primary school was established on the Ebbsfleet Green development in 2020-21 which opened with 1FE. The increased demand for year R places due to the pace of housebuilding has necessitated that it be expanded to its capacity of 2FE ahead of the projected timeline.

Due to much higher pupil to new housing ratios, the demand has been such in the planning group that we have decided to commission additional Year R places at Ebbsfleet Green Primary School. The school offered bulge years for 2024 and for 2025. KCC are working with the school to investigate the potential to make this a permanent expansion.

As the Garden City development progresses, a new 2FE primary provision will be provided at the Alkerden all-through school, opening with at least 1FE from September 2026.

In the longer term, should housing be delivered at expected rates, two further new primary schools (Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Central) will be required in addition to the establishment of the primary provision at Alkerden. When added to the additional FE at Ebbsfleet Green, this will provide a total of 7FE of new primary provision across the Plan period.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and two selective planning groups that cover Dartford Borough or which cross the district boundary. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy. All the schools are in Dartford Borough, except for Orchards Academy which is in Sevenoaks District.

Demand is manageable without any intervention for the next two years, but provision falls into deficit from 2028 by 1FE. This demand fluctuates for the remainder of the Plan period.

To manage the demand that will be derived from the additional housebuilding, the new secondary provision at the Alkerden all-through school, will be expanded to its full capacity of 8FE, as and when required. The pupil forecasts in this section only include the 4FE that will be commissioned when the school opens (in temporary accommodation, scheduled for one year) in 2025.

Also included in the forecasts, is the 2FE that KCC have commissioned at the Leigh Academy.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and Saint John's Catholic Comprehensive School.

The planning group is in deficit for the duration of the Plan period. The deficit is 1.5FE for September 2025, but that deficit increases every year to peak at 4FE for 2028. After 2028, the deficit is forecast to be relatively steady but fluctuates between 3FE and 4FE for the remainder of the Plan period.

For 2025, KCC has recently commissioned an additional 1FE at Northfleet Technology College, which has been included in the forecasts.

By 2027, another 3FE of provision will be required. KCC will work with the schools in the planning group to see whether any would be capable of accommodating additional capacity, whilst acknowledging that any work to expand a school will be very expensive and logistically challenging. The alternative is to look at provision in adjacent planning groups, or cross boundary.

Longer term, KCC will need to consider new secondary provision depending on the publication of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear. During the local plan consultation, KCC notified GBC that there is a deficit and so any new housing needs to come with land for a new, non-selective secondary school.

North West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the North West Kent selective planning group: Wilmington Grammar School for Girls, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Dartford Grammar School and Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

Forecasted demand for selective places in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group indicates that the planning group will now be in deficit for the duration of the Plan period.

For 2025, the deficit is forecast to be 1FE and will likely be manageable within existing provision. The deficit then increases to 2.5FE for 2027. The deficit continues to increase to around 2.5FE every year.

All four Grammar schools have been assessed for whether an expansion is possible. The two schools in Wilmington would be very challenging to expand, due to local traffic concerns. In Dartford, the two schools are on extremely constrained ground. However, KCC is working with the boys grammar school to see whether a small expansion is possible. A project that would provide 0.5FE has been identified and feasibility work is underway.

In addition, KCC has worked with Dartford Grammar School to amend their admission criteria so that the school offers more places to students who are Kent residents. This had the effect of providing up to 40 more year 7 places to students who are Kent residents, from September 2025, without any physical changes to the buildings.

Nevertheless, there remain small pockets of Dartford where obtaining a Grammar school place is challenging due to the home to school distance being too far. KCC may only be able to ensure that the Local Authority statutory duty to provide sufficient places, of any type, is met.

As stated in previous iterations of the KCP, if additional Grammar School places are to be provided, the only feasible option is to look holistically at selective provision across the wider

North Kent area. The most efficient use of resources would be to introduce new satellite provisions, similar to those introduced in Sevenoaks. This is because current Government legislation prohibits the introduction of new selective schools.

However, options to do this would be logistically challenging. The key constraints would be identifying both boys and girls Grammar Schools willing to operate a satellite provision on a shared site, identifying land to accommodate the provisions, obtaining DfE approval and obtaining the requisite capital funding. An estimate of cost can be made by looking at the cost of a new 6FE school. This would indicate a cost of more than £35m for a 3FE boys, and a 3FE girls, Grammar satellite, plus the capital cost of obtaining at least four hectares of land. Any smaller than 3FE and the satellite becomes financially unviable for the host school to manage.

KCC will pursue every avenue to try and identify a solution that provides the selective provision required. This provision is included in the planning matrix at the end of this section, but it needs to be borne in mind that this entry is predicated on whether such a provision is actually even attainable.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the planning period. For September 2025, the deficit is 1.5FE. This deficit increases to 2FE - 2.5FE for the duration of the Plan period.

Following expansions to both Mayfield Grammar School and Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at their capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand will need to be managed across Borough boundaries or by expansion to existing schools by using satellites.

If additional Grammar School places are to be provided, the only feasible option is to look holistically at selective provision across the wider North Kent. The most efficient use of resources would be to introduce new satellite provisions, similar to those introduced in Sevenoaks. This is because current Government legislation prohibits the introduction of new selective schools.

However, options to do this would be logistically challenging. The key constraints would be identifying both boys and girls Grammar Schools willing to operate a satellite provision on a shared site, identifying land to accommodate the provisions, obtaining DfE approval and obtaining the requisite capital funding. An estimate of cost can be made by looking at the cost of a new 6FE school. This would indicate a cost of more than £35m for a 3FE boys, and a 3FE girls, Grammar satellite, plus the capital cost of obtaining at least four hectares of land. Any smaller than 3FE and the satellite becomes financially unviable for the host school to manage.

Due to the constraints around providing further selective provision, KCC will seek to ensure that there is sufficient capacity, even if that provision is non-selective.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places for all categories remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs.

The old Birchwood Primary School site on Russell Way in Swanley has been identified as suitable, and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special School through KCC's Safety Valve submission. The bid for DfE funding was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by September 2027 (originally anticipated for 2026). A provider has been chosen by the DfE through open competition during this year, with the successful trust being the Leigh

Academies Trust. Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision will be designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

The new all through school at Alkerden will provide 15 primary Specialist Resource Provision places and 25 secondary places.

Planned Commissioning - Dartford

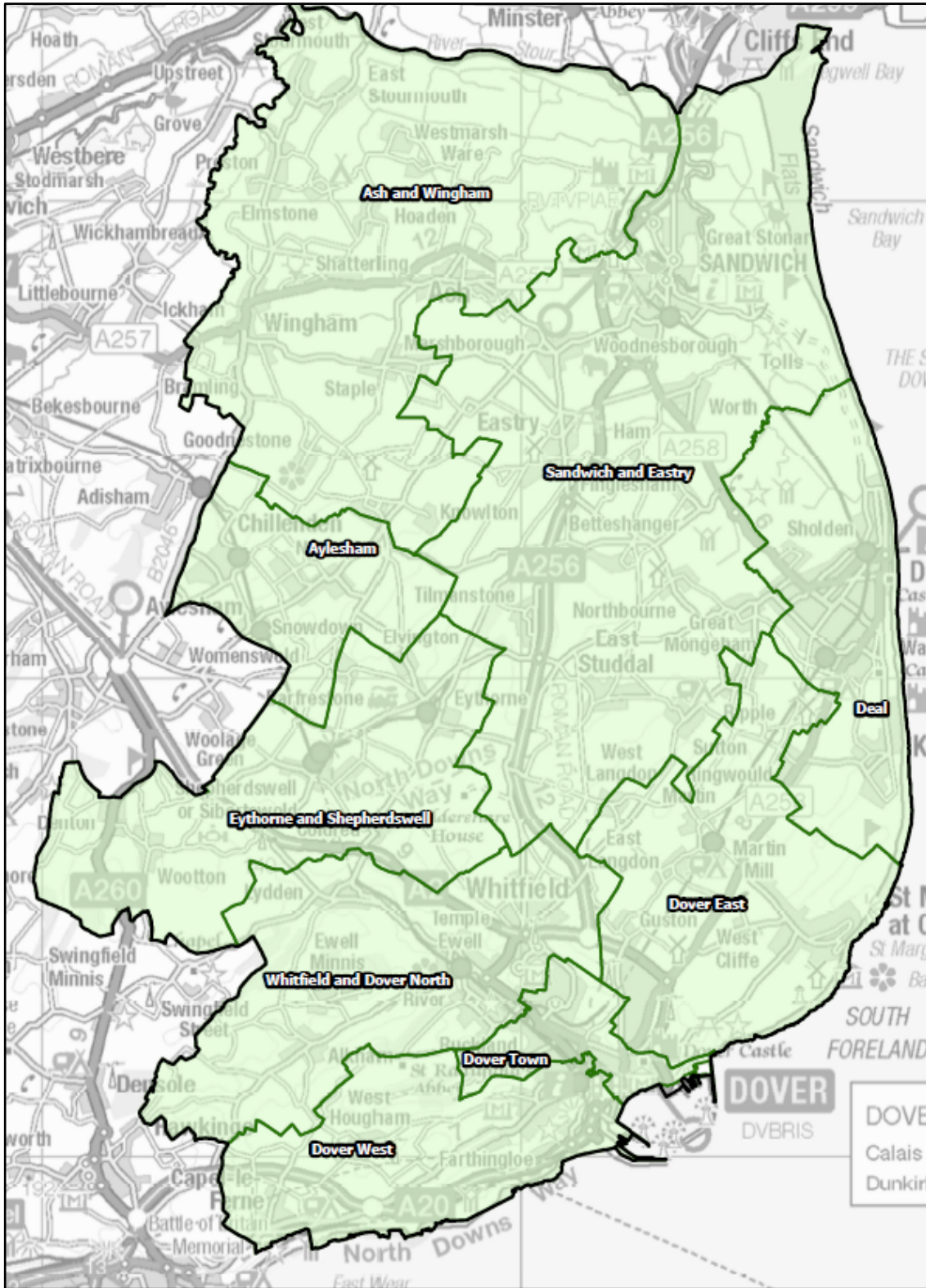
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	30 places at Ebbsfleet Green PS	1 FE new provision at Alkerden 1 FE new provision at Ebbsfleet Green PS	1FE provision at Ebbsfleet Central 1FE expansion at Alkerden	1FE provision at Ebbsfleet Central	2FE provision at Ashmere	
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group			2FE expansion at Alkerden	2FE expansion at Alkerden		
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective			3FE Permanent expansion			
North West Kent Selective And Gravesham and Longfield Selective				6FE selective permanent provisions		
Specialist Resourced Provisions		15 place primary SRP at Alkerden 25 place secondary SRP at Alkerden				
Special School		1 x New 250 place special school for PSCN covering all of North Kent				

7.4. Dover

District commentary

- The Dover District birth rate has been on a downwards trend since a high point in 2012. The rate had a small one year rise in 2022, before continuing to fall sharply in 2023. The rate for Dover is above the National average but dipped below the Kent average in 2023. The number of births in Dover have followed a similar trend.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although there will be some localised pressures associated with house building which may need to be addressed.
- Across the District, there will be sufficient Secondary school places throughout the Plan period. House building will mean provision will need to increase in some locations in the medium to long term.
- Dover District Council's new Local Plan for the period 2020-2040 has been submitted. We continue to work with Dover District Council Officers to consider the impact on the need for additional school places, particularly in the longer term.

Map of the Dover primary planning groups

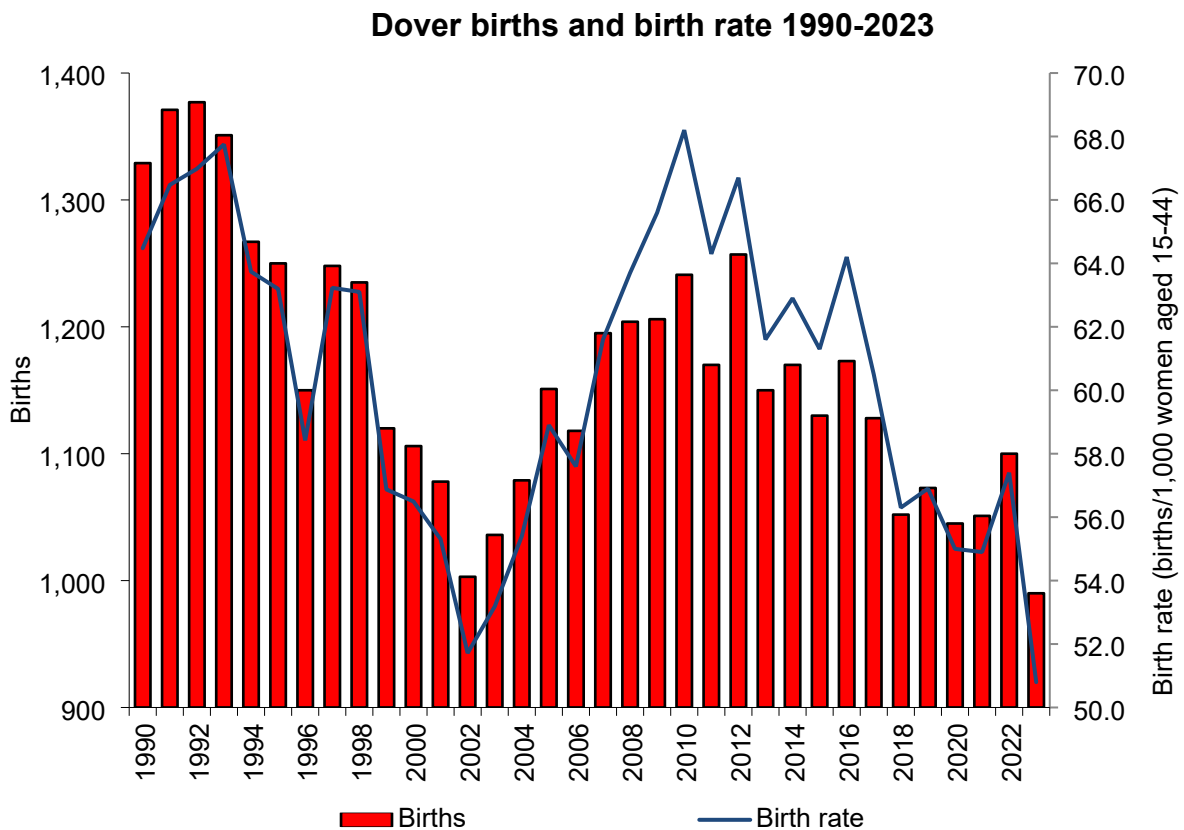
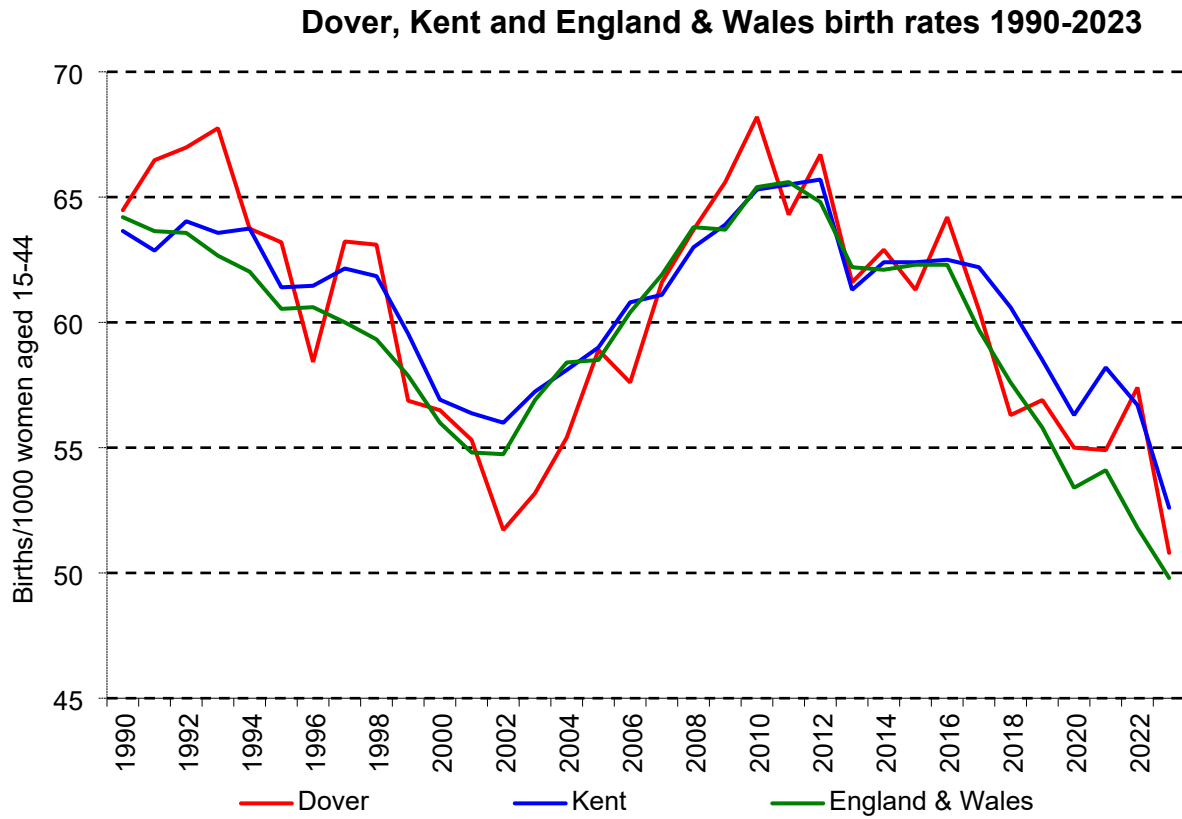


Dover primary schools by planning group

Planning Group	School	Status
Dover Town	Barton Junior School	Academy
	Charlton CE Primary School	Academy
	Green Park Community Primary School	Community
	Shatterlocks Infant School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Dover)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Richard's RC Primary School	Academy
	White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts	Academy
Whitfield and Dover North	Lydden Primary School	Community
	River Primary School	Community
	Temple Ewell CE Primary School	Academy
	Whitfield Aspen School	Community
Dover West	Aycliffe Community Primary School	Community
	Capel-le-Ferne Primary School	Community
	Priory Fields School	Academy
	St. Martin's School (Dover)	Academy
	Vale View Primary School	Academy
Dover East	Guston CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Langdon Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School	Community
Deal	Deal Parochial CE Primary School	Academy
	Downs CE Primary School	Academy
	Hornbeam Primary School	Academy
	Kingsdown and Ringwould CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandown School	Academy
	Sholden CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Deal)	Academy
	Warden House Primary School	Academy
Sandwich and Eastry	Eastry CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northbourne CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandwich Infant School	Academy
	Sandwich Junior School	Community
	Worth Primary School	Academy
Ash and Wingham	Ash Cartwright and Kelsey CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Goodnestone CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Preston Primary School	Community
	Wingham Primary School	Community
Aylesham	Aylesham Primary School	Community
	Nonington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Aylesham)	Academy
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School	Community
	Sibertswold CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.



Dover District Forecast

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Dover Town	270	85	50	48	46	48	47	48	48	49	50	50	240
Whitfield and Dover North	182	3	28	29	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	182
Dover West	170	48	46	58	52	53	53	52	52	52	51	51	170
Dover East	67	19	10	1	5	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	67
Deal	315	79	60	53	65	73	75	77	79	82	85	87	315
Sandwich and Easry	116	25	29	31	14	19	19	19	20	21	22	23	116
Ash and Wingham	90	5	6	5	8	5	4	3	3	2	1	0	90
Aylesham	102	39	20	5	1	10	5	0	-4	-9	-13	-17	102
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	50	9	19	9	7	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	50
Dover	1,362	312	268	238	200	236	230	226	224	223	222	220	1,332

Secondary - Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Dover Non-Selective	510	75	18	11	1	-15	3	26	40	51	48	25	420
Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective	435	47	27	34	33	13	16	15	56	41	37	26	425
Dover District Selective	440	-5	7	20	6	2	-2	8	31	37	29	6	440

Primary District Commentary

Across the district, we forecast a significant surplus of Primary school places during the Plan period. In the short to medium term, we will collaborate with schools to manage the high levels of surplus Primary school places to help maintain high quality, sustainable provision.

Whitfield and Dover North Planning Group

We forecast a small surplus of Year R places from 2026/27 through to the end of the Plan period.

Much of this planning group comprises the area designated as the Whitfield Urban Expansion (WUE). The WUE has outlined planning consent for 5,750 new homes to be delivered over the next 20 years. To provide sufficient primary school places, the provision of three 2FE Primary schools were included within the Master Plan. The expansion of Whitfield Aspen, on to a satellite site at Richmond Way, currently provides for 1FE of additional mainstream provision. Plans are in place to add an additional block of classrooms to enable expansion to 2FE, when required, to meet local demand.

It has been around 13 years since the WUE masterplan was adopted. In that time, the DfE has reviewed the pupil yield data which suggests that a higher number of primary aged pupils will come from new housing in Dover than KCC previously expected. Additionally, we have been informed that a further 600 dwellings could be added to the Masterplan. If that is the case, additional primary school places would be required.

Dover East Planning Group

Surplus Year R places are forecast throughout the Plan period. If school places are required to support consented development, this will be via the expansion of Guston Church of England Primary School to 1FE.

Sandwich and Eastry Planning Group

Surplus Year R places are forecast throughout the Plan period. However, consented and allocated developments in Sandwich, and the neighbouring villages of Eastry and Ash, account for over 1,000 new homes. Should housing come forward as identified in the Local Plan, up to 1FE of provision in Sandwich may be required.

Ash and Wingham Planning Group

Current forecasts are showing a surplus of Year R places which reduces across the Plan period. Developer contributions have been agreed, which will support the expansion of primary school places should this be required.

Aylesham Planning Group

The deficit of Year R places forecast in the previous two iterations of this plan was due to an influx of young families moving into Aylesham, which led to an expected high forecast demand for primary school places. The demand did not materialise. The demand for Year R places in the latest forecasts suggests 0.5FE of places will be required at the end of the Plan period.

Developer contributions are secured to support the expansion of provision in the planning group as and when required. We will continue to monitor pupil numbers closely and collaborate with the schools in the planning group to ensure that sufficient primary school provision is available, as required.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three secondary planning groups within Dover District (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Dover, Deal and Sandwich) and one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Dover Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three Schools in the Dover non-selective planning group: Astor College of the Arts, Dover Christ Church Academy and St. Edmunds RC School. The Whitfield Urban Expansion will, over time, increase the pressure on local secondary schools. When additional places are required, it is expected this will be via the expansion of Dover Christ Church Academy as the local school. The small deficit of Year 7 places forecast for the 2027/28 academic year will be managed within existing schools.

Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the Deal and Sandwich non-selective planning group: Goodwin Academy and Sandwich Technology School. Forecasts suggest sufficient Year 7 places throughout the Plan period. Consented and proposed developments in Sandwich, and the neighbouring villages of Eastry and Ash, account for over 1,000 new homes. Additional land is being secured through the local plan process to support additional secondary school places at Sandwich Technical College as and when required.

Dover Selective Planning Group

Three schools provide selective provision: Dover Boys Grammar, Dover Girls Grammar and Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar. There is forecast to be sufficient places in this sector through out the forecast period, with the exception of the 2028-29 academic year (-2 places). Any significant increase in house building will change this situation.

Planned Commissioning - Dover

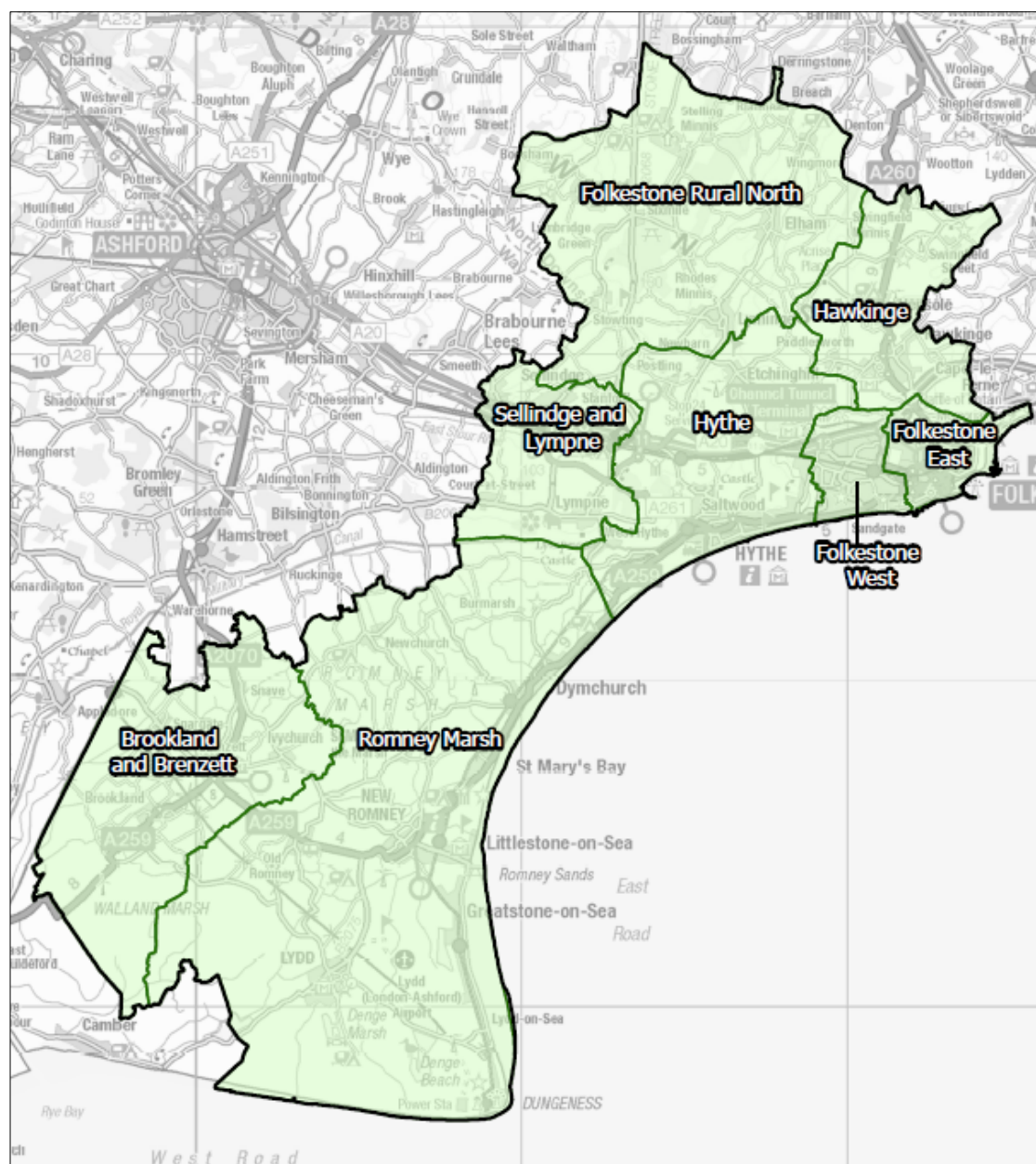
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Whitfield and North Dover					Expansion of Whitfield Aspen by 1FE	New 2FE primary school in Whitfield
Dover East					0.3FE expansion of Guston CE Primary School	
Aylesham					up to 0.5FE expansion of existing provision	
Sandwich and Eastry						1FE Sandwich planning group
Dover Non-selective						2FE at Dover Christ Church academy

7.5. Folkestone and Hythe

District commentary

- The birth rate in Folkestone and Hythe continued to fall in 2023 and it dropped below the County average but is comparable to the National rate. The number of recorded births has also fallen, with just 898 births recorded in 2023.
- We forecast around 23% of primary school places will be surplus across the District throughout the Plan period.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast a small deficit of non-selective secondary school places in both Folkestone and Hythe and Romney Marsh at different points.
- The adopted Core Strategy (2022) sets out a long-term vision for the District from 2019/20 to 2036/37. The indicative housing trajectory in the Core Strategy suggests that 13,407 new dwellings could be delivered in the period 2019/20 to 2036/37, with Otterpool Park accounting for 5,593 of these dwellings. This would be an average of 745 per annum. During the period 2013/14 to 2022/23, an average of 390 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin April 2024).
- Plans for the Garden Village at Otterpool Park continue to progress. The level of development would require significant educational infrastructure across not only primary and secondary phases, but also Early Years and specialist provision. We continue to work with the District Council and the promoter of the site to identify how and when new provision will be required.

Map of the Folkestone and Hythe primary planning groups



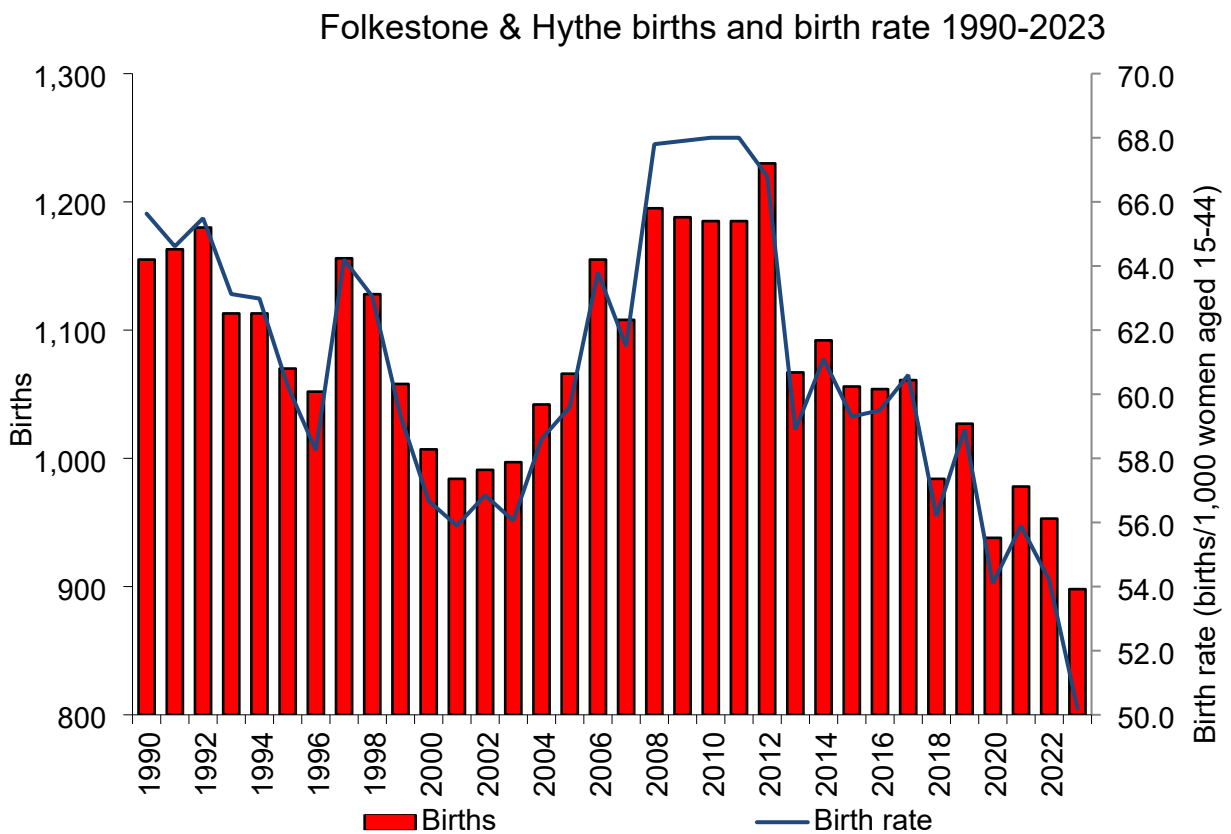
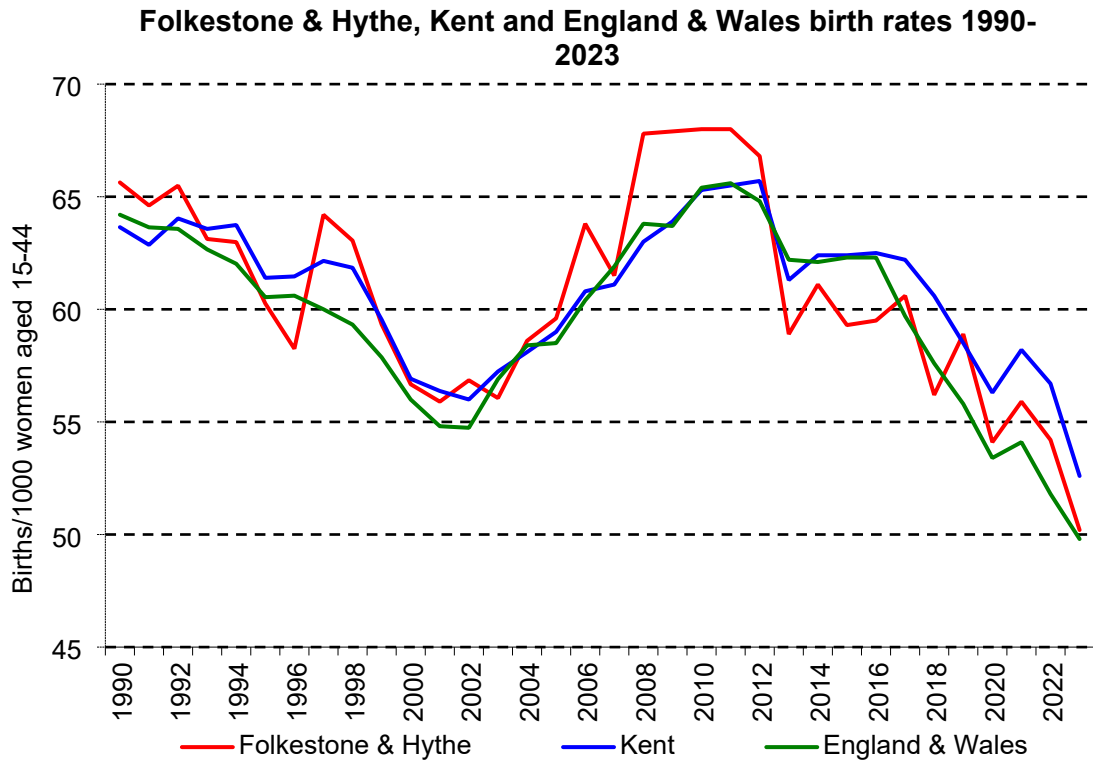
Folkestone and Hythe primary schools by planning group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Folkestone East	Castle Hill Community Primary School	Community
	Christ Church CE Academy	Academy
	Folkestone Primary Academy	Academy
	Martello Primary School	Academy
	Mundella Primary School	Academy
	St. Eanswythe's CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary Academy (Folkestone)	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone West	Stella Maris RC Primary School	Academy
	All Souls' CE Primary School	Academy
	Cheriton Primary School	Foundation
	Harcourt Primary School	Foundation
	Morehall Primary School	Academy
	Sandgate Primary School	Community

Planning Groups	School	Status
	St. Martin's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Hawkinge	Churchill School (Hawkinge)	Foundation
	Hawkinge Primary School	Foundation
	Selsted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone Rural North	Bodsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Elham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lyminge CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stelling Minnis CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stowting CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hythe	Hythe Bay CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Palmarsh Primary School	Community
	Saltwood CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Seabrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Hythe)	Academy
Sellindge and Lympe	Lympe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sellindge Primary School	Community
Romney Marsh	Dymchurch Primary School	Academy
	Greatstone Primary School	Foundation
	Lydd Primary School	Academy
	St. Nicholas CE Primary Academy	Academy
Brookland and Brenzett	Brenzett CE Primary School	Academy
	Brookland CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.



Folkestone and Hythe Analysis

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Folkestone East	373	55	73	77	93	99	101	102	104	105	106	106	373
Folkestone West	255	20	23	27	8	24	22	20	18	16	15	13	255
Hawkinge	135	23	32	18	27	29	29	29	29	28	28	28	135
Folkestone Rural North	93	33	26	25	13	19	19	20	20	21	22	22	93
Hythe	150	17	53	47	37	56	56	55	55	55	55	55	150
Sellindge and Lymgne	60	3	8	2	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	60
Romney Marsh	187	48	55	36	49	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	165
Brookland and Brenzett	35	9	9	10	9	11	11	12	12	12	12	13	35
Folkestone & Hythe	1,288	208	278	242	230	291	293	295	295	297	297	297	1,266

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Folkestone and Hythe Non-Selective	625	17	-30	-12	-4	-35	-24	12	-2	59	41	17	595
Romney Marsh Non-Selective	180	-14	-10	-8	13	9	-8	7	9	19	21	28	180
Folkestone & Hythe District Selective	360	-3	27	25	22	26	23	25	23	22	23	27	330

Primary District Commentary

Folkestone and Hythe District Analysis - Primary

Across the District, we forecast a significant surplus of primary school places during the Plan period. In the short to medium term, we will collaborate with schools to manage the high levels of surplus primary school places to help maintain high quality, sustainable provision.

Folkestone West Planning Group

Forecasts suggest sufficient Year R capacity throughout the Plan period. Land and developer contributions are available for a new 2FE primary school at Shorncliffe Heights, however, it is unlikely this will be required in this decade.

Sellindge and Lympne Planning Group

Current forecasts are showing a small deficit of Year R places from 2026-27 onwards. Further development is expected in the village which will need to be mitigated. Developer contributed land and funding has been agreed, which will enable Sellindge Primary School to expand as and when required.

Secondary District Commentary

Folkestone and Hythe Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Folkestone and Hythe non-selective planning group: Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Folkestone Academy and The Turner Free School. Forecasts suggest there will be a small deficit of non-selective Year 7 early in the Plan period. We will work with existing academy trusts to ensure sufficient Year 7 places.

Romney Marsh Non-Selective Planning Group

There is one non-selective school in the planning group: The Marsh Academy.

Forecasts suggest there could be a small deficit of Year 7 places in some years across the Plan period. The Academy's Admissions Policy identifies a 'priority zone' for the admission of pupils who reside in towns and villages surrounding Romney Marsh. Therefore, we anticipate there will be sufficient places for local pupils to be admitted, whilst those travelling from further afield will be eased back into more local schools.

Folkestone and Hythe Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the District: Folkestone Girls Grammar and Harvey Grammar. Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient Year 7 places available throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Folkestone and Hythe

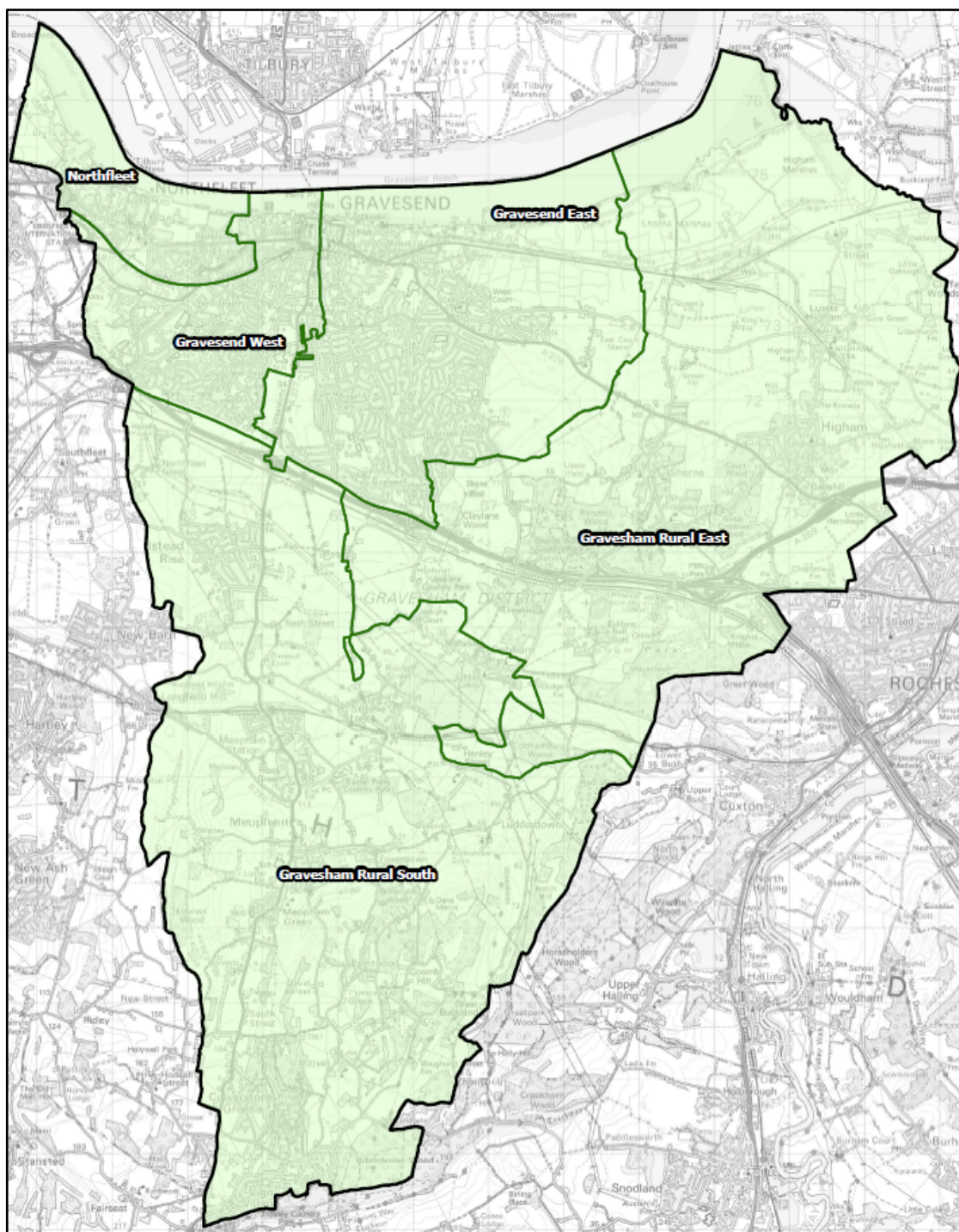
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Folkestone West Primary						2FE new provision in Shorncliffe

7.6. Gravesham

Borough Summary

- The Gravesham birth rate and number of births have fallen sharply since 2019, but remain above the county and national figures. Following a small increase in 2022, the rate dropped again in 2023.
- Forecasts indicate that there are surplus Year R places across the Primary planning groups. KCC is working with schools in the areas, with the larger surpluses, to see whether there is any need to reduce their PAN in order to remain viable.
- Small pockets of primary deficits are forecast in more rural parts of Gravesham, but these will be covered by adjacent planning groups.
- The Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective planning group shows 1.5FE deficit from the outset. The deficit increases year on year, peaking at nearly 4FE for September 2028. The deficit remains high for the remainder of the Plan period, ranging from 3FE to 4FE. It then remains at that level of deficit for the duration of the Plan period. Every non-selective secondary school in Gravesham has either expanded or is the subject of an ongoing expansion project.
- The Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group forecast shows a deficit of about 2.5FE for September 2028. Any options for creating additional selective capacity will be extremely challenging and KCC may be only able to ensure that the Local Authority statutory duty to provide sufficient places, of any type, is met..
- The current Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) Local Plan, adopted in September 2014, states an intention to build 6,170 dwellings between 2011 to 2028. A new Local Plan is expected to be published in the near future and KCC will work with GBC to ensure that sufficient school places are available. It is already clear that any options for further expansion of existing secondary schools will be both extremely limited and logistically challenging, so new school sites will have to be provided to ensure the sufficiency of Secondary School places over the longer term.
- Prior to the Covid pandemic, a significant factor to primary and secondary demand in Gravesham Borough, was the migration from urban centres in Greater London to locations such as Gravesham Borough. Migration reduced significantly over the last four years, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that migration will pick up. We are already seeing this in the Junior aged cohort, as families move into the area to place themselves in a more favourable position of gaining a place for their child in the Secondary School of their choice.

Gravesham Primary Schools by Planning Group



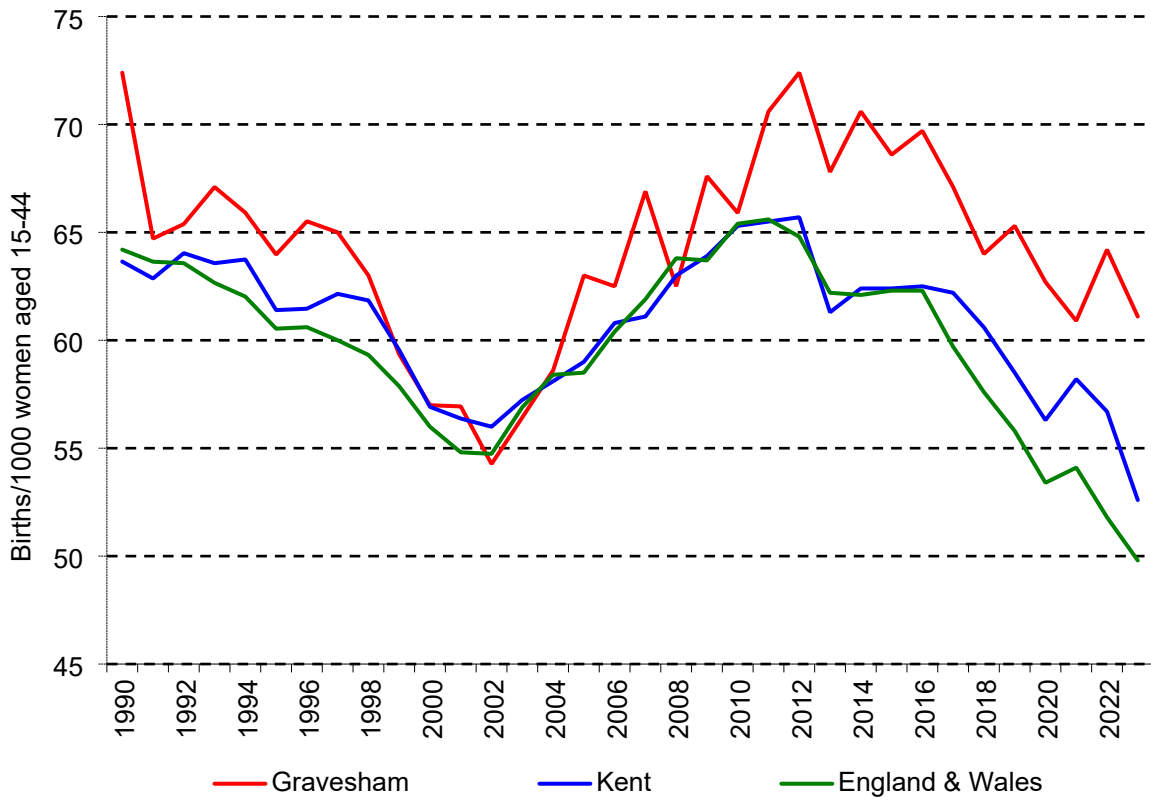
Planning Group	School	Status
Gravesend East	Chantry Community Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Kings Farm Primary School	Community
	Riverview Infant School	Academy
	Riverview Junior School	Academy
	Singlewell Primary School	Community
	St. John's RC Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Tymberwood Academy	Academy
Westcourt Primary School	Academy	

Planning Group	School	Status
	Whitehill Primary School	Academy
Gravesend West	Cecil Road Primary School	Community
	Copperfield Academy	Academy
	Painters Ash Primary School	Community
	Saint George's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Shears Green Infant School	Academy
	Shears Green Junior School	Community
	Springhead Park Primary School	Free
	Wrotham Road Primary School	Academy
Northfleet	Lawn Primary School	Community
	Rosherville CE Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Botolph's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Northfleet)	Academy
Gravesham Rural East	Higham Primary School	Community
	Shorne CE Primary School	Academy
Gravesham Rural South	Cobham Primary School	Community
	Culverstone Green Primary School	Academy
	Istead Rise Primary School	Academy
	Meopham Community Academy	Academy
	Vigo Village School	Community

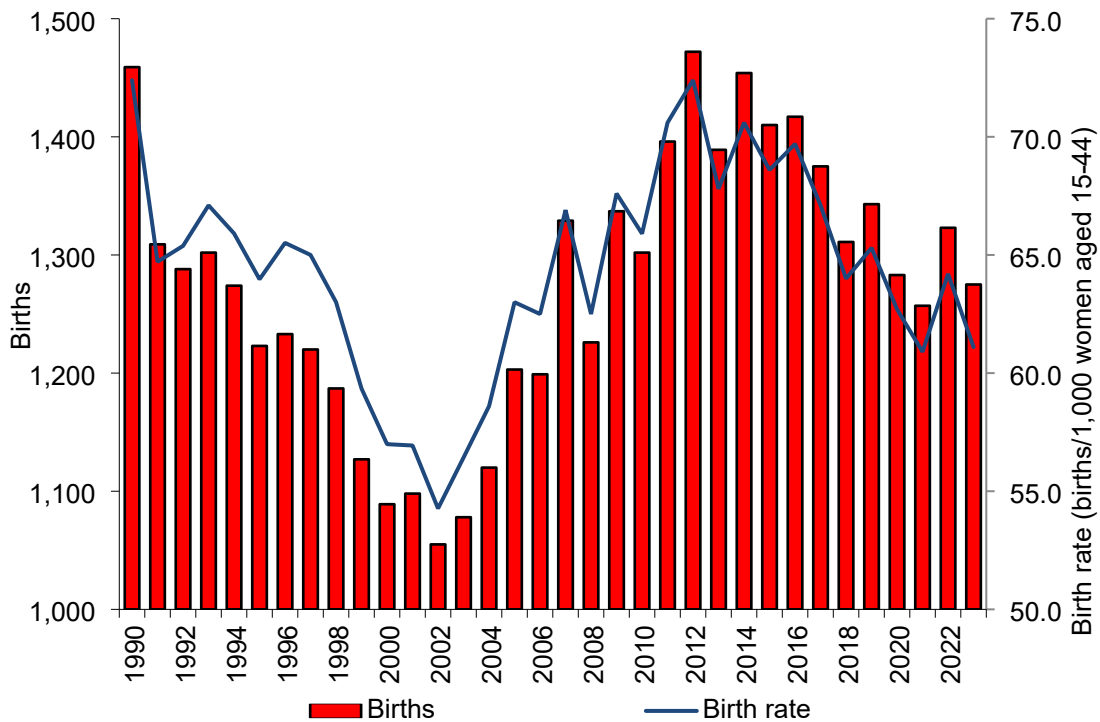
Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Gravesham, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2023



Gravesham births and birth rate 1990-2023



Gravesham Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Gravesend East	682	92	61	56	37	51	54	57	60	61	63	63	622
Gravesend West	474	53	54	17	22	19	18	20	22	24	25	26	444
Northfleet	140	2	0	42	32	38	39	40	40	41	41	41	180
Gravesham Rural East	60	2	3	1	10	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	60
Gravesham Rural South	180	27	-1	3	-12	3	5	7	9	11	14	16	180
Gravesham	1,536	176	117	118	88	119	124	132	140	145	151	154	1,486

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,370	-42	-36	-43	-64	-113	-117	-100	-88	-119	-114	-118	1,389
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-16	-23	-45	-50	-68	-70	-67	-66	-77	-75	-78	420

Primary District commentary

Recent forecasts have indicated a stabilisation of demand that leaves a surplus of Year R capacity across the Borough for the duration of the Plan period. However, locally, Gravesham Rural South planning group indicates small deficits from September 2023.

Gravesham is expected to publish a new Local Plan in the coming months. The Reg 18 consultation has been completed. Ahead of any new plan being published, new housing development on the Northfleet Embankment and Gravesend Canal Basin will see demand for Primary School places increase in the medium term.

The new housing on the Canal Basin is expected to comprise a mix of types, with the majority being one, two and three bedroom flats. Traditionally, the number of school age children generated from such housing types is lower than for houses, but the shortage of housing may now result in more families living in smaller dwellings. KCC will work with GBC to ensure that we remain cognisant of the numbers of housing types and plan accordingly.

The largest surplus is in the Gravesham East primary planning group. There is additional capacity ready to be re-introduced, following some schools in the area taking the decision to reduce their PAN in response to low year R intakes in recent years. However, if a significant number of new dwellings are more suitable for families, then we may need to seek land for a new primary school for the longer term.

To support the growth in the Northfleet Embankment area, KCC has commissioned additional provision by relocating and enlarging Rosherville Church of England Academy onto a new site at Cable Wharf.

New housing in the Coldharbour area will generate some additional need for Year R places. This will be accommodated within the recently opened second FE of primary provision at Saint George's CE School and the Shears Green Infant and Shears Green Junior schools.

Northfleet Planning Group

The planning group indicates a small surplus every year, but this does not reflect the new pupils generated by the three new developments on the Northfleet Embankment (Cable Wharf, Grove Road and Harbour Village). This will largely be managed by using the expanded and relocated Rosherville CE Primary School and utilising capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend West.

Gravesham Rural South Planning Group

The planning group indicates a small deficit for the next three years. The deficits will largely be managed by using capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend East.

Gravesend West

Although there is surplus in the Gravesend West planning group, there is development being planned by the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) on a site that straddles the Dartford and Gravesham border. Without additional capacity being introduced, some of the surplus capacity will be utilised. A new primary school is being proposed by the EDC, which will serve the new development on both sides of the Borough border.

Secondary District Commentary

There is one selective and one non-selective planning group that cover the Gravesham area.

See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and St John's Catholic Comprehensive School.

The planning group is in deficit for the duration of the Plan period. The deficit is 1.5FE for September 2025, but that deficit increases every year to peak at 4FE for 2028. After 2028, the deficit is forecast to be relatively steady but fluctuates between 3FE and 4FE for the remainder of the Plan period.

For 2025, KCC has recently commissioned an additional 1FE at Northfleet Technology College, which has been included in the forecasts.

By 2027, another 3FE of provision will be required. KCC will work with the schools in the planning group to see whether any would be capable of accommodating additional capacity, whilst acknowledging that any work to expand a school will be expensive and logistically challenging. The alternative is to look at provision in adjacent planning groups, or cross boundary.

Longer term, KCC will need to consider new secondary provision, depending on the publication of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear. During the local plan consultation, KCC notified GBC that there is deficit, and so any new housing needs to come with land for a new, non-selective secondary school.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the Plan period. For September 2025, the deficit is 1.5FE. This deficit increases to 2FE - 2.5FE for the duration of the Plan period.

Following expansions to both Mayfield Grammar School and Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand will need to be managed across Borough boundaries, or by expansion to existing schools by using satellites.

If additional Grammar School places are to be provided, the only feasible option is to look holistically at selective provision across the wider North Kent area. The most efficient use of resources would be to introduce new satellite provisions, similar to those introduced in Sevenoaks. This is because current Government legislation prohibits the introduction of new selective schools.

However, options to do this would be logistically challenging. The key constraints would be identifying both boys and girls Grammar Schools willing to operate a satellite provision on a shared site, identifying land to accommodate the provisions, obtaining DfE approval and obtaining the requisite capital funding. An estimate of cost can be made by looking at the cost of a new 6FE school. This would indicate a cost of more than £35m for a 3FE boys, and a 3FE girls, Grammar satellite, plus the capital cost of obtaining at least four hectares of land. Any smaller than 3FE and the satellite becomes financially unviable for the host school to manage.

Due to the constraints around providing further selective provision, KCC will seek to ensure that there is sufficient capacity, even if that provision is non-selective.

KCC will pursue every avenue to try and identify a solution that provides the selective provision required. This provision is included in the planning matrix at the end of this section, but it needs to be borne in mind that this entry is predicated on whether such a provision is actually even attainable.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories, remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs.

The old Birchwood Primary School site on Russell Way in Swanley has been identified as suitable, and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special School through KCC's Safety Valve submission. The bid for DfE funding was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by September 2027 (originally anticipated for 2026). A provider has been chosen by the DfE, through open competition during this year, with the successful trust being the Leigh Academies Trust. Given the nature of Special Schools, and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision will be designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

Planned Commissioning – Gravesham

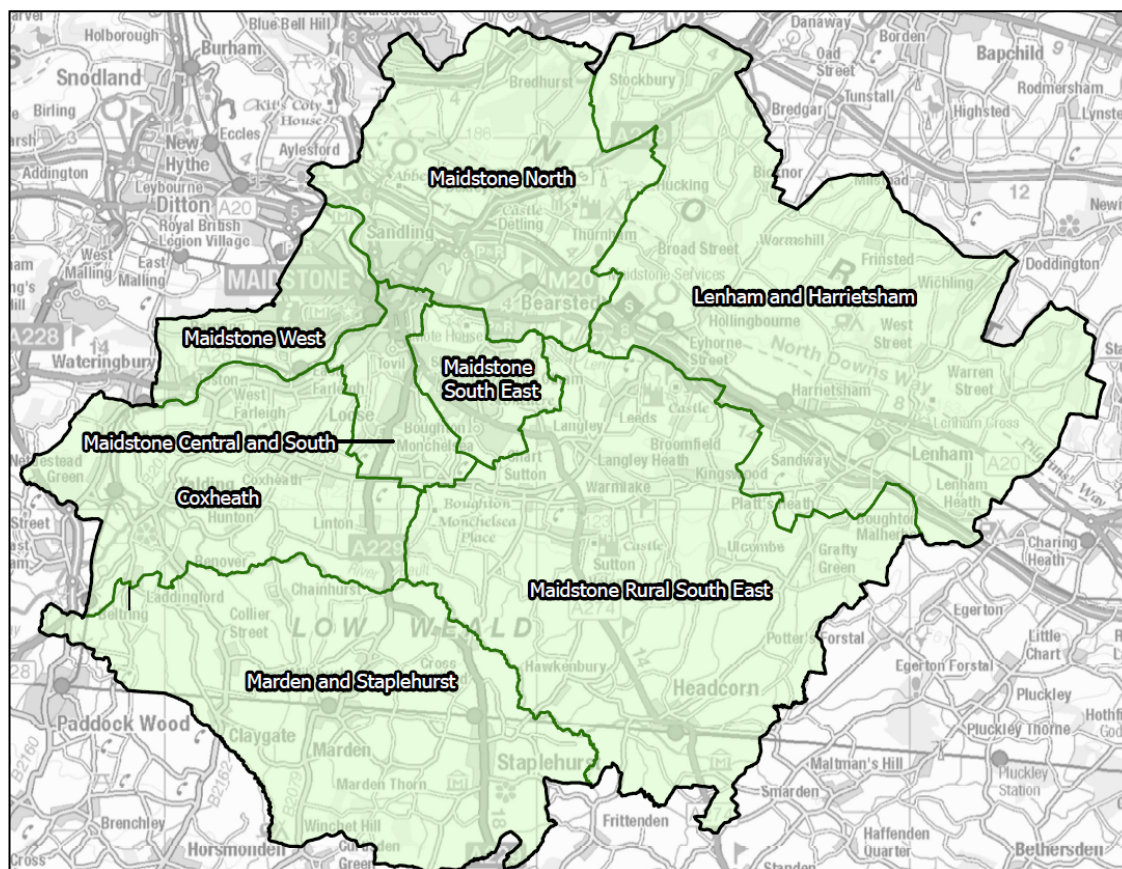
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Northfleet	0.3FE (10 additional permanent places) at Rosherville CE Academy			1FE at Rosherville CE Academy		
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective			3FE Permanent expansion			
North West Kent Selective And Gravesham and Longfield Selective				6FE selective permanent provision		
Special Education Needs		1 x New 250 place special school for PSCN covering all of North Kent				

7.7. Maidstone

Borough commentary

- The birth rate in Maidstone dropped sharply in 2019 and 2020, but then increased significantly in 2021, before dropping back again in 2022 and 2023. However, it remains above the county and national averages.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period. However, there is pressure for places forecast within some planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure for places in both the non-selective and selective sectors.
- Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan was formally adopted in October 2017, setting out the scale and location of proposed development up to 2031. This plan was reviewed and in 2024 the Borough Council adopted the Local Plan Review, which plans for the delivery of 1,157 per annum until 2038.

Map of the Maidstone Primary Planning Groups



Maidstone Primary Schools by Planning Group

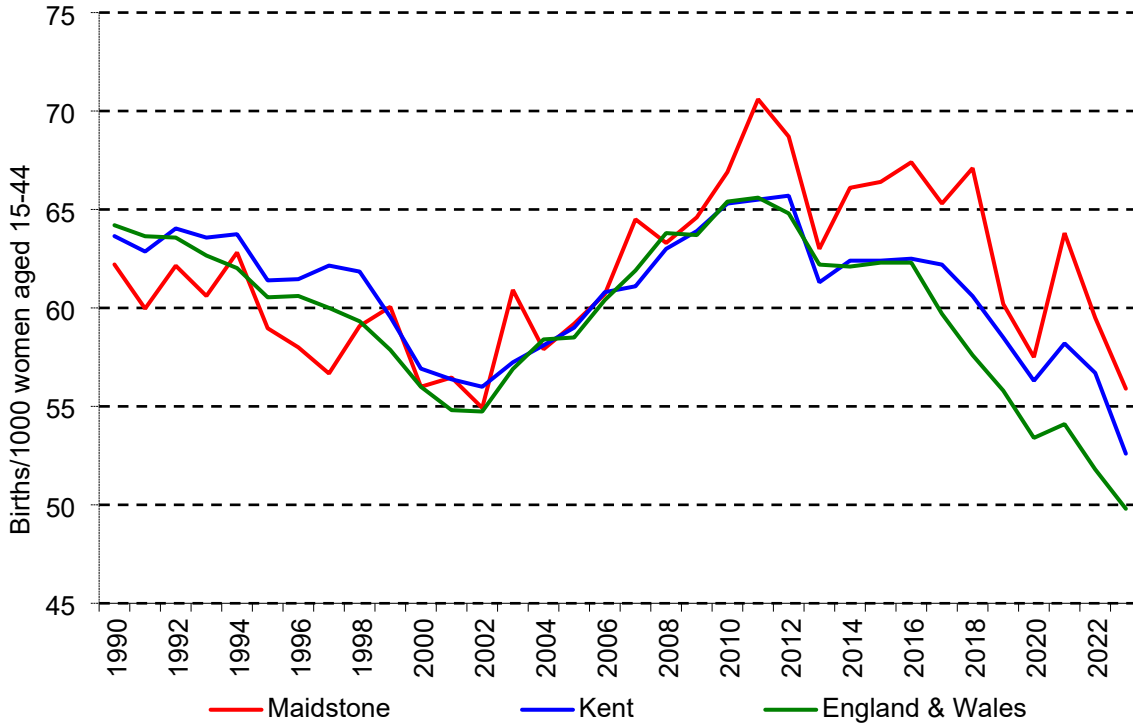
Planning Groups	School	Status
Maidstone Central and South	Archbishop Courtenay CE Primary School	Academy
	Boughton Monchelsea Primary School	Community
	Loose Primary School	Community
	South Borough Primary School	Academy
	Tiger Primary School	Free
Maidstone North	Bearsted Primary Academy	Free
	Bredhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Madginford Primary School	Community
	North Borough Junior School	Community
	Roseacre Junior School	Foundation
	Sandling Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Maidstone)	Academy
	St. Paul's Infant School	Community
	Thurnham CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
Valley Invicta Primary School at East Borough	Academy	
Maidstone West	Allington Primary School	Academy
	Barming Primary School	Academy
	Brunswick House Primary School	Community
	Jubilee Primary School	Free
	Palace Wood Primary School	Community
	St. Francis' RC School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Michael's CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
St. Michael's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled	

Planning Groups	School	Status
	West Borough Primary School	Community
Maidstone South East	Greenfields Community Primary School	Community
	Holy Family RC Primary School	Academy
	Langley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Molehill Primary Academy	Academy
	Oaks Primary Academy	Academy
	Park Way Primary School	Community
	Senacre Wood Primary School	Community
	Tree Tops Primary Academy	Academy
Lenham and Harrietsham	Harrietsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hollingbourne Primary School	Community
	Lenham Primary School	Community
	Platts Heath Primary School	Community
Coxheath	Coxheath Primary School	Community
	East Farleigh Primary School	Community
	Hunton CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Yalding St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Marden and Staplehurst	Laddingford St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Marden Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Margaret's Collier Street CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Staplehurst School	Community
Maidstone Rural South East	Headcorn Primary School	Community
	Kingswood Primary School	Community
	Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sutton Valence Primary School	Community
	Ulcombe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

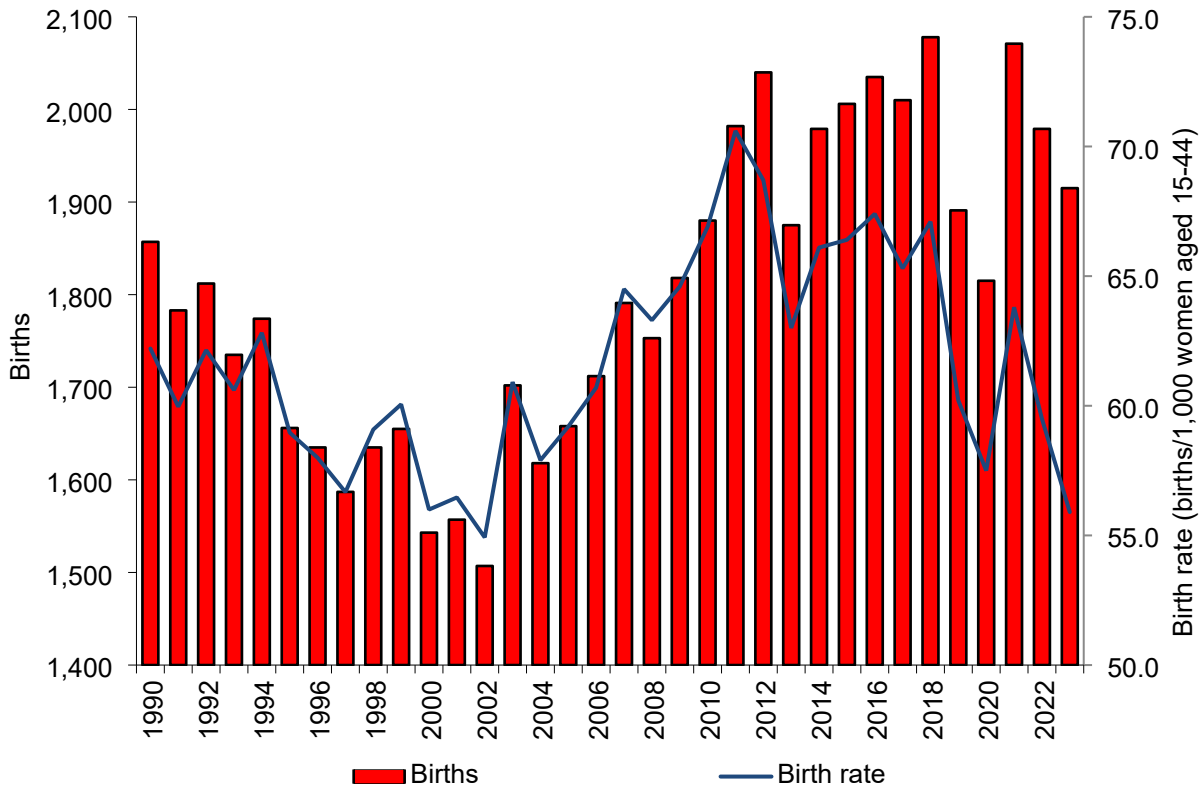
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Maidstone, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2023



Maidstone births and birth rate 1990-2023



Maidstone Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Maidstone Central and South	285	26	12	28	27	22	22	21	20	18	17	16	285
Maidstone North	530	30	16	61	37	83	90	93	97	101	106	109	530
Maidstone West	460	8	34	46	2	11	13	11	11	11	11	10	460
Maidstone South East	327	9	11	49	13	37	36	32	30	27	25	23	327
Lenham and Harrietsham	118	13	27	11	12	7	6	4	3	2	1	0	118
Coxheath	129	1	-14	-29	-16	-38	-39	-41	-43	-44	-44	-44	129
Marden and Staplehurst	145	34	31	-13	-4	-13	-16	-20	-23	-26	-28	-30	165
Maidstone Rural South East	140	19	5	16	1	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-13	-13	140
Maidstone	2,134	140	122	170	72	98	101	89	82	77	75	71	2,154

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Maidstone Non-Selective	1,620	-12	-107	-129	-151	-194	-254	-315	-264	-260	-210	-299	1,560
Maidstone and Malling Selective	815	6	37	27	20	-8	-25	-50	-24	-32	-14	-47	815

Primary District commentary

Overall, forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient places for Year R across the Plan period for the Maidstone district. However, there is pressure for places within the rural planning groups.

We also anticipate additional pressure from permitted developments across the town centre area of Maidstone. There are numerous projects scheduled and on-going to convert retail and office spaces into new residential dwellings under permitted development. This will potentially increase the demand for primary places across the Maidstone town centre area in excess of that indicated in the forecasts and has placed in-year pressure on schools as school-aged children move to the town.

Maidstone West Planning Group

In the longer term, housing developments on the Maidstone side of Hermitage Lane will necessitate up to 2FE of additional provision. Land has been secured that would enable a 2FE primary school to be established on a site to the East of Hermitage Lane, known as Chapel Field. However, based on the current rate of housing growth, it is currently not expected to be required within the Plan period, this will continue to be reviewed as houses are occupied. The location on the boundary between Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling means that it is important to consider demand arising from housing growth local to the site in both Maidstone North and East Malling when anticipating the timing of the school's establishment.

Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group

The planning group forecast indicates that a surplus of 12 places in 2026-25 drops sharply in 2027-28 to just 7 places and this small surplus continues to diminish throughout the Plan period. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed and, subject to a review of future forecast demand, will commission an expansion of an existing school in 2027-28. This demand will be dependent on the pace and scale of housing development.

Marden and Staplehurst Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a 13 place deficit in 2025-26 that reduces to 4 in 2026-27, before returning to a 13 place deficit the following year and thereafter, the deficit increases throughout the Plan period. We will commission up to 30 additional places within the existing schools in the planning group.

Coxheath Planning Group

The forecast show deficit in excess of 1 FE forecast throughout the Plan period, with the exception of 2026-27 when the deficit dips to 16. We will seek to offer up to 30 additional temporary places in the initial year of the Plan period to ensure sufficient places for the short-term, before commissioning a 1FE permanent expansion of Coxheath Primary School in 2026-27.

Maidstone Rural South East Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a deficit of places for the Plan period apart from in 2026-27 when a one place surplus is anticipated. The deficit increases slowly from 9 places in 2027-28 but is still below half a form of entry by the end of the Plan period. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed, however, we anticipate that there will be sufficient places in neighbouring planning groups to meet the demand.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Maidstone Borough, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the Maidstone non-selective planning group: Cornwallis Academy, The Lenham School, Maplesden Noakes School, New Line Learning Academy, School of Science and Technology, St. Augustine Academy, St. Simon Stock Catholic School and Valley Park School.

The planning group is in deficit throughout the Plan period, with the initial deficit of 107 places (in excess of 3.5FE) gradually increasing to a high of 315 places (greater than 10 FE) in 2029-30. After 2029-30, the longer-term forecast suggests that the deficit will decrease slightly but will remain significant if not mitigation action is taken.

In recent years, schools within this planning group have admitted over PAN, creating additional capacity. We anticipate this pattern to continue and will accommodate some of the forecast deficit. However, up to 90 temporary places via bulge provision within the existing Secondary schools will be needed to meet the demand for places during the initial 2 years of the Plan period and this increases to 120 temporary places in 2027-28.

We anticipate the need for the establishment of a new secondary school no later than 2028-29 and will seek to work with partners, including the DfE, to identify an appropriate and available location within the Borough over the coming year.

Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Maidstone selective planning group: Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School for Girls and Oakwood Park Grammar School.

The forecast for the planning group indicates that there will be sufficient places in 2025-26 and 2026-27. However, in 2027-28 there will be a deficit of 8 places that then increases markedly from 2028-29, with fluctuating deficits of around a 1 FE forecast through to the end of forecast period in 2033-34. Therefore, in the longer term, subject to the pace and school of housing development, it will be necessary to expand an existing school by 1 FE.

Planned Commissioning – Maidstone

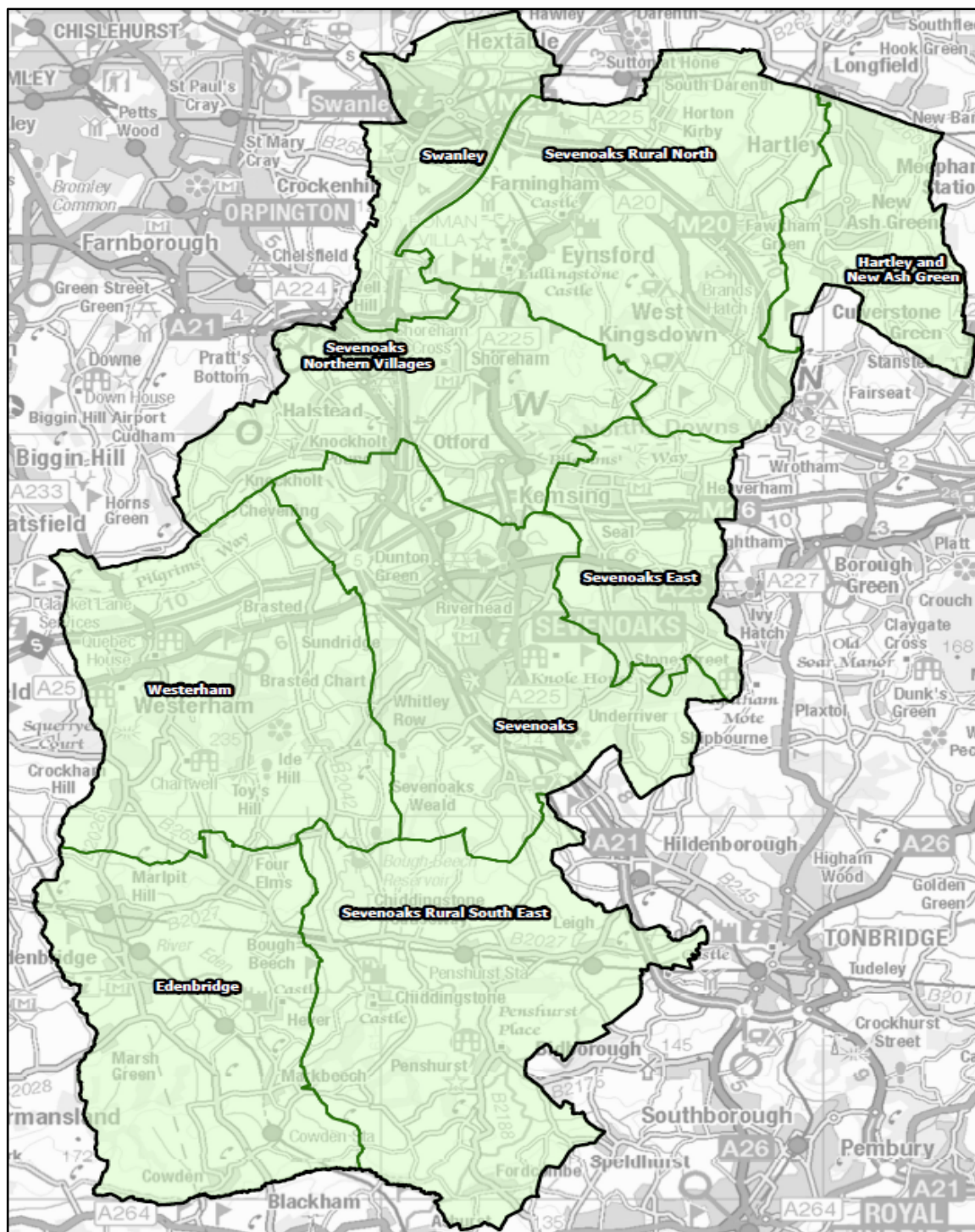
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Maidstone West				New 2FE School on East of Hermitage Lane		
Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group			1 FE permanent expansion of existing school			
Marden and Staplehurst	Up to 15 temporary Places		Up to 15 permanent Places			
Coxheath	Up to 30 temporary places	1FE permanent expansion of Coxheath school				
Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Up to 120 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Establishment of new 6FE secondary school		
Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group				1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		

7.8. Sevenoaks

District Summary

- The birth rate in Sevenoaks rose in 2021, but declined markedly in 2022 and 2023. However, it is still above the County and National averages. The number of births has followed a similar trend and dropped significant to 1092 in 2023, which is lowest for more than 20 years.
- There remain significant surplus Year R places in all planning areas, across the district, for the duration of the Plan period. KCC has initiated discussions with some of the primary schools where the surplus is more acute, about how they will seek to maintain financial viability, where surpluses appear excessive. This will be done by proposing a reduction in PAN through the annual admissions consultation, or when the need appears more urgent, through In Year Variation. However, KCC is cognisant of the imminent publication of the Sevenoaks Local Plan (see below), and the impact of the Local Plan on existing primary surplus.
- The Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Secondary planning group is forecast to show a small surplus in most years, with only September 2026 indicating a small deficit of 0.5FE. Currently, KCC plan no intervention action, although the numbers will be monitored over the forthcoming years and once the Sevenoaks Local Plan is published.
- For much of the Plan period in the Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective planning group, there is a small surplus. This turns into a deficit of 1FE in September 2028, before returning to a small surplus a year later.
- The West Kent Selective planning group has small deficits forecast during the Plan period that will require additional temporary bulge provision.
- Sevenoaks District Council is expected to publish a new Local Plan within the next 12 months that will indicate building a significant number of new dwellings in the years up to 2040. Sevenoaks District Council has consulted on their Infrastructure Delivery Plan to identify the essential community infrastructure that will be required. This plan suggests that about 10,000 new homes will be provided by the Local Plan, with 2,500 alone being proposed for a new development at Pedham Place which will necessitate a new secondary school and two new primary schools.
- Prior to the publication of the Local Plan, new housing development sites have already been identified with Fort Halstead, Four Elms Road and Sevenoaks Quarry being progressed before the new plan is published. Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry sites have the potential for a new Primary School if sufficient demand for new provision materialises.

Map of the Sevenoaks Primary Planning Groups



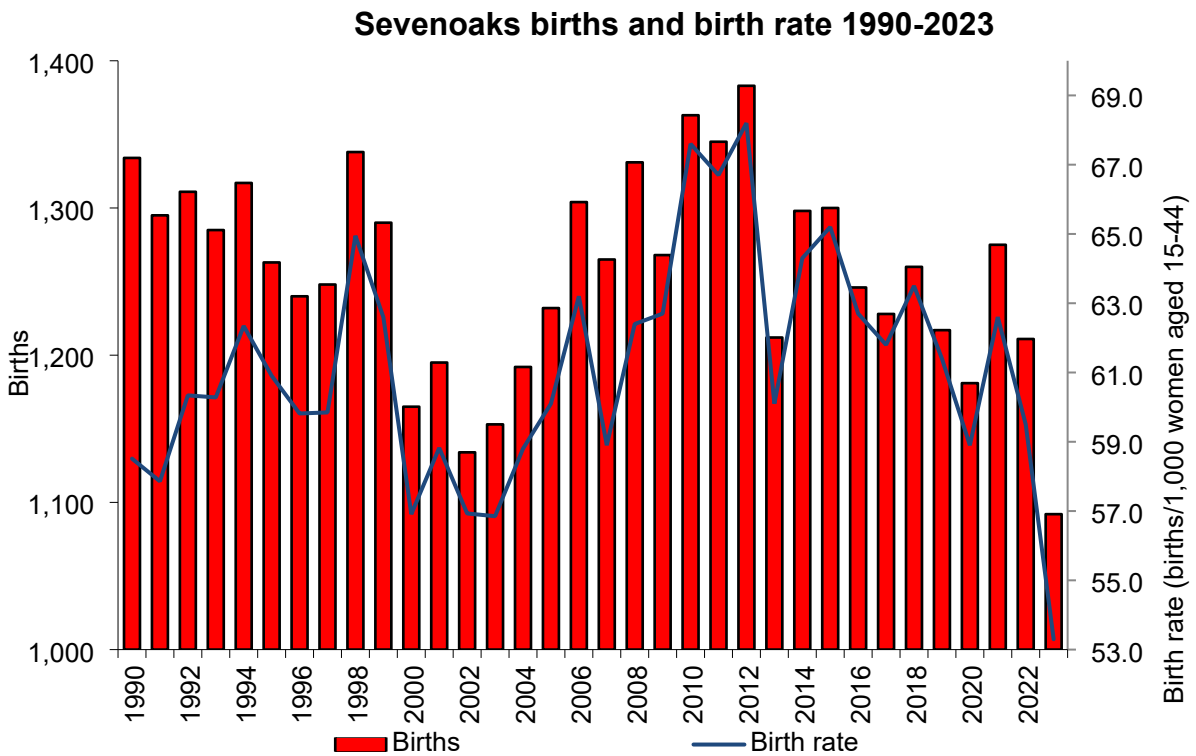
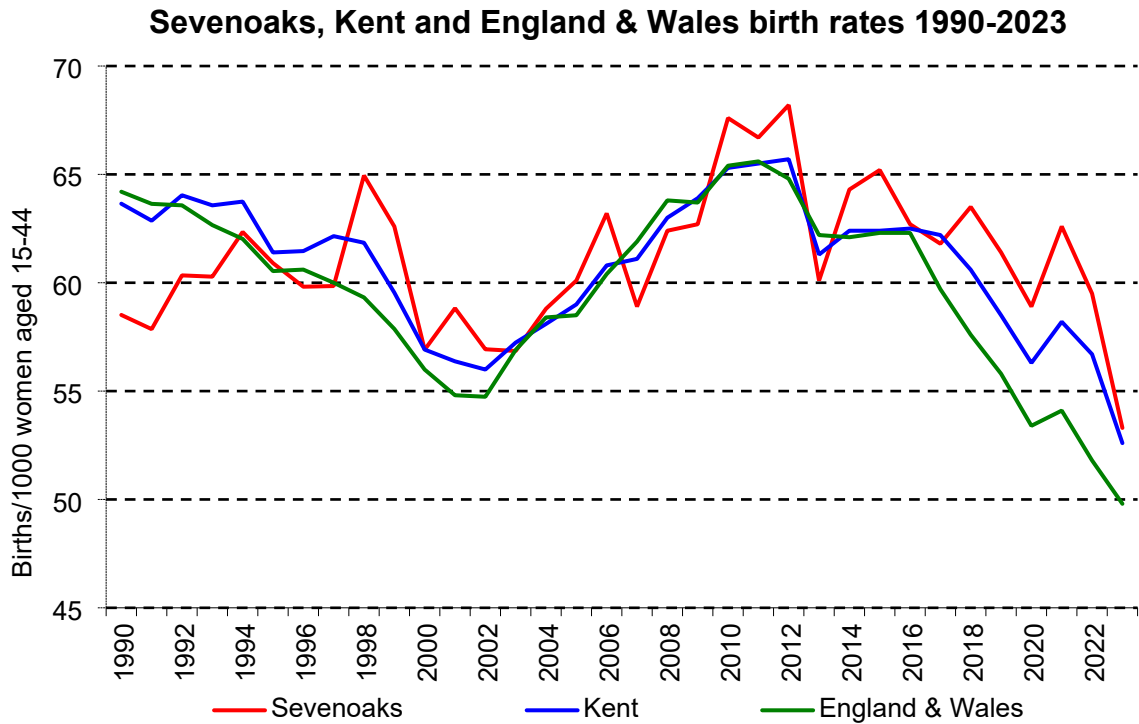
Sevenoaks Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning group	School	Status
Swanley	Crockenhill Primary School	Community
	Downsview Community Primary School	Community
	Hextable Primary School	Community
	High Firs Primary School	Community
	Horizon Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Bartholomew's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Swanley)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Planning group	School	Status
Sevenoaks Rural North	Anthony Roper Primary School	Foundation
	Fawkham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Horton Kirby CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hartley and New Ash Green	Leigh Academy Hartley	Academy
	New Ash Green Primary School	Community
	Our Lady of Hartley RC Primary School	Academy
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Halstead Community Primary School	Academy
	Otford Primary School	Community
	Shoreham Village School	Community
	St. Katharine's Knockholt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks East	Kemsing Primary School	Community
	Seal Church of England Primary School	Academy
	St. Lawrence CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sevenoaks	Amherst School	Academy
	Chevening St. Botolph's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Dunton Green Primary School	Community
	Lady Boswell's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Riverhead Infant School	Community
	Sevenoaks Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Academy
Weald Community Primary School	Community	
Westerham	Churchill CE Primary School (Westerham)	Voluntary Controlled
	Crockham Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Ide Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Edenbridge	Edenbridge Primary School	Academy
	Four Elms Primary School	Academy
	Hever CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Chiddingstone CE School	Academy
	Fordcombe CE Primary School	Academy
	Leigh Primary School	Community
	Penshurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided

Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.



Sevenoaks Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Swanley	305	23	56	19	22	47	45	44	44	44	45	45	300
Sevenoaks Rural North	120	24	20	7	10	23	24	26	28	30	33	35	120
Hartley and New Ash Green	150	15	16	6	31	23	26	30	34	38	42	46	150
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	130	53	54	46	55	61	60	58	57	56	55	56	130
Sevenoaks East	102	15	20	8	17	27	26	26	26	27	27	28	102
Sevenoaks	390	60	109	87	84	126	122	118	114	110	107	103	390
Westerham	117	30	3	8	16	16	16	16	15	15	15	15	87
Edenbridge	105	4	18	8	5	10	9	9	8	7	7	6	105
Sevenoaks Rural South East	83	21	11	20	12	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	83
Sevenoaks	1,502	245	307	209	252	353	349	347	348	349	351	355	1,467

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
NS - Dartford and Swanley	1,320	7	4	71	76	15	-36	2	-6	30	24	-16	1,440
NS - Sevenoaks and Borough Green	610	-25	-31	22	-15	11	5	13	16	59	11	32	630
SG - West Kent	1,270	-23	-33	19	-46	-20	-29	-12	37	61	51	71	1,264

Primary District commentary

The Year R forecast indicates that no additional Primary capacity is needed. The levels of surplus forecast have persisted for two years now and individual schools may start to face viability issues. KCC is working with schools across the district to monitor the situation and to take mitigating action where necessary. Over the next three years, KCC is supporting three schools to reduce their PAN; two through the admission consultation, and one through In Year Variation. These reductions are not reflected in the forecasts, but the reductions will reduce the amount of capacity in Sevenoaks by 75 Year R places per year.

However, forecasts do not take into account any further new housing development that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) may approve prior to the publication of its new Local Plan (windfall sites), and any new housing that may be included in the new Sevenoaks District Local Plan, that has not been notified to KCC already.

Two already consented sites in Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry will create demand for Primary places. KCC is in discussion with Sevenoaks District Council on how best to accommodate this. A third significant housing development site on the Four Elms Road in Edenbridge has been approved. This will add to the demand for primary provision, but it is likely that it can be managed locally. KCC will be assessing the impact of this development against existing capacity.

Where there is the potential for demand to exceed capacity, for example, in Edenbridge, such demand currently looks as if it can be accommodated in adjacent planning groups. This situation will be monitored and may be re-assessed following publication of the Local Plan. Until KCC has assessed the new Local Plan, it would be unwise to propose significant reduction of capacity in existing primary schools.

Longer term, the new development on Pedham Place will, if consented, support two new 2FE primary schools.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and one selective Secondary planning groups that are fully or partially within Sevenoaks District. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Sevenoaks has traditionally had a shortfall in capacity for both selective and non-selective, with a number of students who are resident in Sevenoaks, travelling out of the district to attend selective or faith education. However, the recent completion of the new satellite of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys provided a grammar provision for boys, complementing the girl's provision provided by the existing Weald of Kent Grammar School satellite, on the Sevenoaks Campus.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy. All the schools are in Dartford Borough, except for Orchards Academy which is in Sevenoaks District.

Demand is manageable without any intervention for the next two years, but provision falls into deficit from 2028 by 1FE. This demand fluctuates for the remainder of the Plan period.

To manage the demand that will be derived from the additional housebuilding, the new secondary provision at the Alkerden all-through school, will be expanded to its full capacity of

8FE, as and when required. The pupil forecasts in this section only include the 4FE that will be commissioned when the school opens (in temporary accommodation, scheduled for one year) in 2025.

Also included in the forecasts is the 2FE that KCC have commissioned at the Leigh Academy.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knole Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

The forecast indicates fluctuating demand for Year 7 places for the beginning of the Plan period. There is a small deficit of 15 places forecast in September 2026 and small surpluses through the remainder of the Plan period.

A key factor in this planning group is the impact of the publication of the Sevenoaks Local Plan, which has been explained above. Should the Sevenoaks Local Plan be agreed in the near future, additional housing will see the secondary need increase. KCC has notified Sevenoaks District Council that there is no opportunity to expand any of the existing schools, and that any increase in secondary provision must be accommodated with a new school.

Sevenoaks have indicated that a new development site is being considered in the north of the planning group, at Pedham Place, a former golf course, providing about 2500 new homes. This development must also provide a new secondary school.

No decisions can be made until the Local Plan is published, but it is possible that a new secondary school could be provided in Edenbridge where there is a site that is being held for a new secondary school, if required. The commissioning of a new school in Edenbridge depends on its financial viability. The Department for Education has indicated in the past, a preference for any new secondary schools to be larger (>5FE), rather than smaller (4 - 5FE), which impacts on viability.

Currently, there is insufficient demand in Edenbridge and its environs, to support a new secondary school. If sufficient new housing was outlined in the new Local Plan, or through windfall sites, KCC will again consider whether a new school in Edenbridge is viable.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys. Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, and Weald of Kent Grammar School both operate satellites in Sevenoaks district.

The Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys provides 3FE and includes a sixth form provision, while the Weald of Kent Grammar School provides 4FE for Grammar eligible girls, with their sixth form being provided on the main school site in Tonbridge.

The move by Weald of Kent Grammar School to increase their number of places available on the Sevenoaks campus is a de facto increase of 1FE for Sevenoaks, even if it is not an actual increase for the school. This supports the need for more Grammar school places in the wider North Kent area.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories, remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs.

The old Birchwood Primary School site on Russell Way in Swanley was identified as suitable, and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special School through KCC’s Safety Valve submission. The bid for DfE funding was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by September 2027. A provider has been chosen by the DfE through open competition during this year, with the winner being the Leigh Academy Trust. Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision will be designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

There are currently no primary Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRP) in Sevenoaks District. KCC has concluded the review of SRP provision across Kent. Should a need for new provision be identified, KCC will ensure new provision is commissioned, where possible, throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Sevenoaks

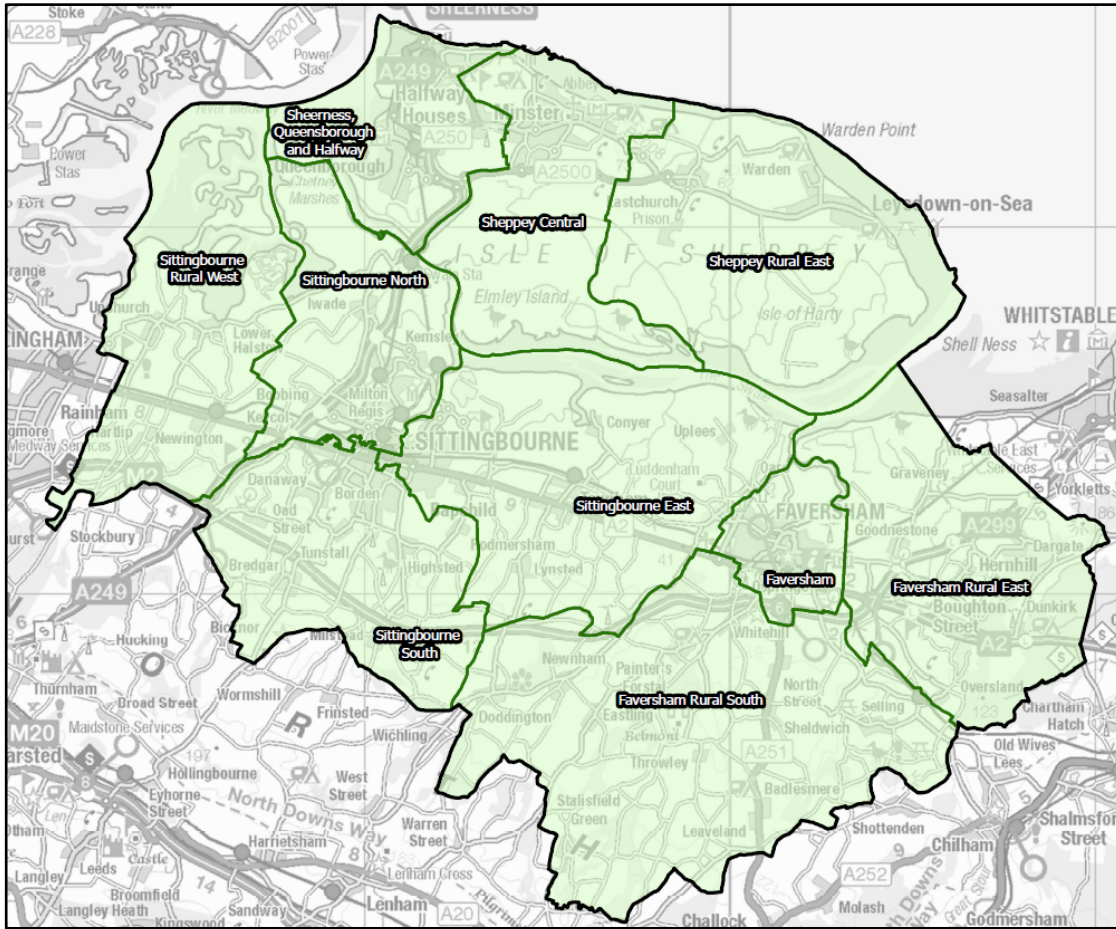
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group			2FE expansion at Alkerden	2FE expansion at Alkerden		
West Kent Selective		Up to 60 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		
Special Schools			1 x New 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs covering all of North Kent			

7.9. Swale

District commentary

- The birth rate for Swale remains slightly above the County and National averages and follows a similar pattern with a notable decline in the rate from 2016 to 2020, before recovering slightly in 2021 and then declining again in 2022 and 2023. The number of births recorded follows a similar pattern.
- We forecast surplus primary places across the District throughout the Plan period with up to 247 places (8.2FE) for Year R in 2027/28, however there are variances across the planning groups.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group of up to -162 Year 7 places (5.4FE) in 2027/28 and Faversham Planning Group of -22 Year 7 (0.7FE), whilst for the Isle of Sheppey we forecast a surplus of places across the plan period with up to 34 Year 7 places in 2028/29 (1.1FE).
- Swale Borough Council's Local Plan, adopted in July 2017, proposes a total of 13,192 new homes over the Plan period to 2031 with approximately 776 dwellings per year. During the 2013/14 to 2022/23 a total of 6,868 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 687 dwellings per year.
- Swale Borough Council is in the process of reviewing their current local plan and have agreed the Local Development Scheme 2024 (LDS) The LDS sets out the timetable for the Councils Local Plan Review and states that a draft Plan Regulation 18 consultation will be carried out in the fourth quarter of 2024, with a Regulation 19 pre submission consultation in the first quarter of 2025 and submission of the councils Local Plan for the end of the second quarter in 2025.

Map of the Swale Primary Planning Groups



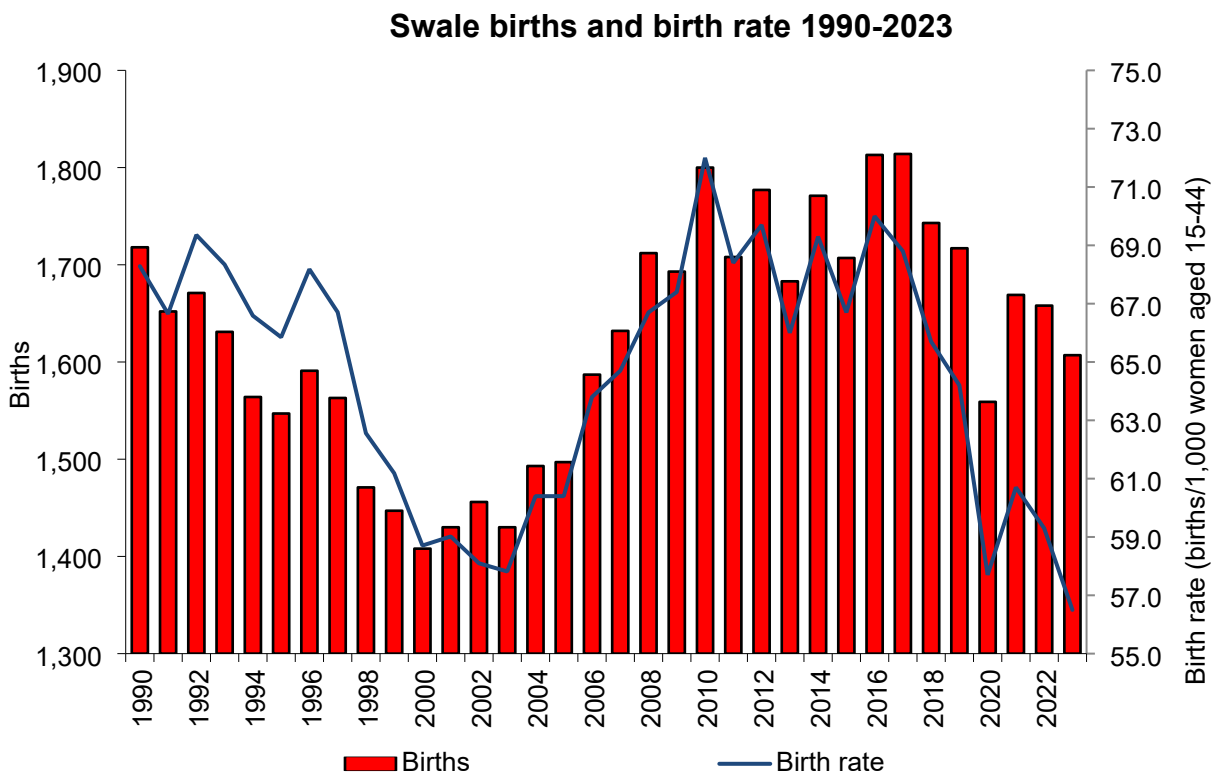
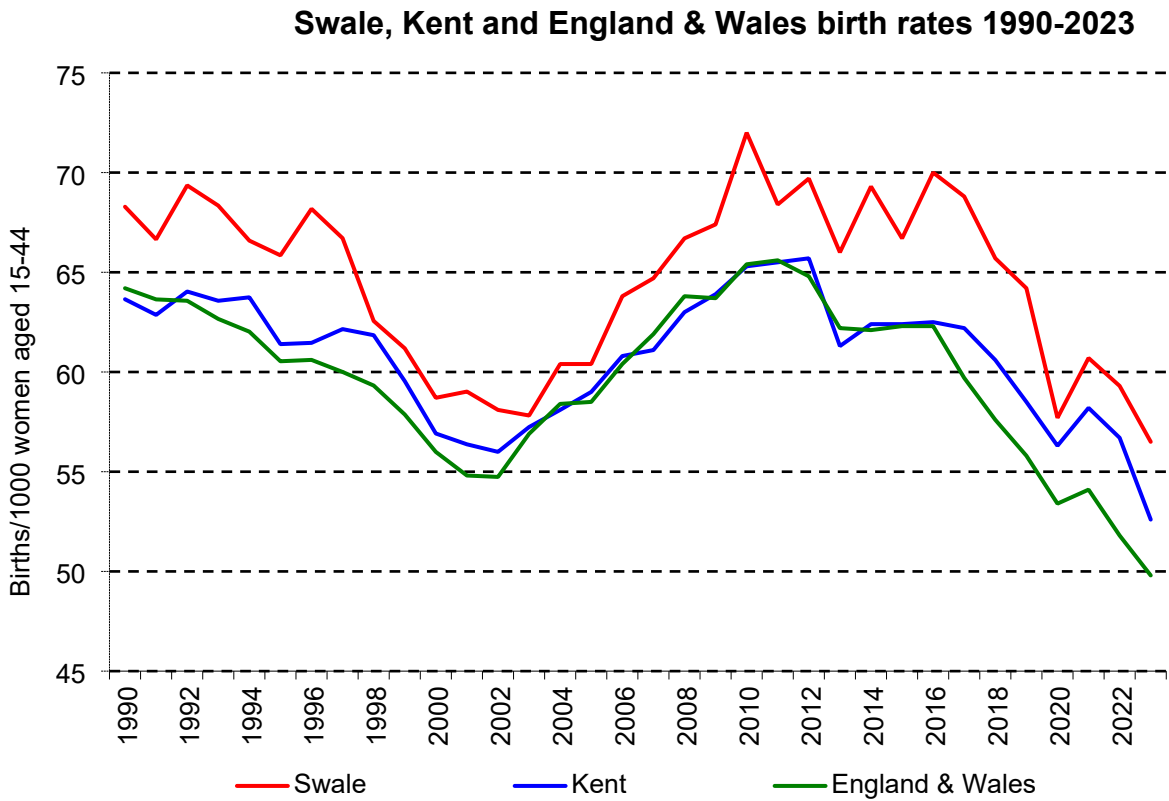
Swale Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning groups	School	Status
Faversham	Bysing Wood Primary School	Academy
	Davington Primary School	Community
	Ethelbert Road Primary School	Community
	Luddenham School	Academy
	Ospringe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary of Charity CE Primary School	Academy
Faversham Rural East	Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Graveney Primary School	Academy
	Hernhill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Faversham Rural South	Eastling Primary School	Community
	Selling CE Primary School	Academy
	Sheldwich Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne East	Bapchild and Tonge CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Canterbury Road Primary School	Community
	Lansdowne Primary School	Academy
	Lynsted and Norton Primary School	Academy
	South Avenue Primary School	Academy
	Sunny Bank Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne South	Teynham Parochial CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Borden CE Primary School	Academy
	Bredgar CE Primary School	Academy
	Milstead and Frinsted CE Primary School	Academy

Planning groups	School	Status
	Minterne Community Junior School	Academy
	Oaks Community Infant School	Academy
	Rodmersham Primary School	Community
	St. Peter's RC Primary School (Sittingbourne)	Academy
	Tunstall CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Westlands Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne North	Bobbing Village School	Academy
	Grove Park Primary School	Academy
	Iwade School	Academy
	Kemsley Primary Academy	Academy
	Milton Court Primary Academy	Academy
	Regis Manor Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne Rural West	Hartlip Endowed CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Holywell Primary School	Academy
	Lower Halstow Primary School	Community
	Newington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Halfway Houses Primary School	Academy
	Queenborough School	Academy
	Richmond Academy	Academy
	Rose Street Primary School	Community
	St. Edward's RC Primary School	Academy
	West Minster Primary School	Community
Sheppey central	Minster in Sheppey Primary School	Academy
	St. George's CE Primary School (Minster)	Academy
	Thistle Hill Academy	Academy
Sheppey Rural East	Eastchurch CE Primary School	Academy
	St Clements CE Primary School	Academy

Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.



Swale Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Faversham	240	27	43	16	10	-14	-12	-10	-8	-7	-5	-4	240
Faversham Rural East	75	1	7	12	4	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	75
Faversham Rural South	75	22	4	5	6	-1	-1	0	0	1	1	2	60
Sittingbourne East	270	18	61	31	54	69	68	66	65	65	64	62	285
Sittingbourne South	305	21	32	20	6	32	31	29	28	27	26	25	300
Sittingbourne North	330	3	30	32	21	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	330
Sittingbourne Rural West	105	3	2	5	13	-2	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	-2	105
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	390	60	49	45	54	60	60	60	60	60	61	60	330
Sheppey Central	210	25	61	63	51	54	55	54	55	55	55	55	210
Sheppey Rural East	60	26	17	20	12	11	10	10	9	8	8	7	60
Swale	2,060	206	307	249	232	247	244	239	235	233	231	225	1,995

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Faversham Non-Selective	210	26	9	23	14	-22	-14	-11	-29	-10	-30	-36	210
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective	390	71	39	34	34	28	34	22	30	54	74	70	330
Sittingbourne Non-Selective	810	-29	-64	-92	-72	-162	-123	-110	-133	-51	-50	-61	765
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	645	-15	6	20	5	-47	-35	-36	-39	-2	-31	-37	645
Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective	270	-9	20	18	24	-3	15	9	8	36	39	34	300

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Swale district there will be surplus capacity for Year R throughout the plan period. Year R surplus capacity peaks at 247 places (8.2FE) in 2027/28 for the district, however there are differences across the primary planning groups with place pressures in Sittingbourne Rural West and Faversham and surplus across the Isle of Sheppey Planning Groups.

Faversham Planning Group

Forecasts indicate from 2027/2028 a pressure on places for Year R of -14 (0.5FE), which slowly declines. There are several housing developments and strategic sites in Faversham and dependent on the rate of build-out and occupation of these sites, it is likely that there will be a need for additional capacity. Feasibilities have been undertaken for the future expansion of St Mary's of Charity by 1FE to meet this need when required.

Sittingbourne East Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of up to 2FE Year R places in Sittingbourne East Planning Group throughout the plan period. It is anticipated that new housing developments in the planning area will increase the need for places. A 1FE expansion of Teynham Primary School, combined with a rebuild of the school, is planned for September 2026 to meet the demand that will arise linked to the housing developments in and around Teynham.

Sittingbourne South and North Planning Groups

Forecasts indicate an ongoing 1FE surplus of places in both Sittingbourne North and Sittingbourne South Planning Groups from 2027/28. It is anticipated that medium to long term, as new housing developments are built and occupied a new 2FE primary school will be established to serve the need from the Wises Lane development in the Sittingbourne South Planning area.

Sittingbourne Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts show a small deficit of places from 2027/2028. It is anticipated that surplus capacity in adjacent primary planning areas will provide sufficient places across the plan period.

Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway, Sheppey Central and Sheppey Rural East Planning Groups

Forecasts indicate an ongoing surplus of places of 4FE across these three planning groups throughout the plan period. Discussions will take place with the schools on managing this surplus to ensure schools remain viable.

Secondary District Commentary

There are five planning groups within Swale district, or which cross the district boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are non-selective (Faversham, Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne) and two selective (Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and Canterbury and Faversham). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Faversham Non-Selective Planning Group

The Abbey School is the only non-selective school in Faversham.

Forecasts indicate from 2027/28 a pressure on places of up to 1FE continuing throughout the plan period. All the housing developments for Faversham identified in the current Local Plan are being built-out and a 1FE permanent expansion of The Abbey School will be required with a

further 1FE of capacity potentially required to meet the need later in the forecast period as housing occupations increase.

Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Isle of Sheppey non-selective planning group: East Kent College Sheppey Secondary and Leigh Academy Minster.

Forecasts for Year 7 show a continuing surplus of places over the Plan period of between 1.1 FE in 2025/2026 to 0.7FE in 2029/2030. This surplus will help to address the deficit in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning area. The forecast surplus places are a direct result of the number of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their education into Sittingbourne schools. This results in additional pressure on places in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group schools. The establishment of two schools on the Isle of Sheppey for September 2024 are part of the plan to address the situation and to help reverse the level of travel off the Island to secondary schools in Sittingbourne.

Sittingbourne Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group: Fulston Manor School, The Westlands School and The Sittingbourne School.

Forecasts indicate that for Year 7 there is a fluctuating deficit of places over the Plan period. In 2025 forecasts show a deficit of -92 (3FE) places rising to a peak of -162 (5.4FE) in 2027/28. The pressure showing in Sittingbourne is exacerbated by the numbers of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their secondary education. Surplus capacity in Secondary provision on the Island will help to offset some of the deficit in Sittingbourne. However, temporary bulge provision will be needed from 2025-26 to 2028-29, prior to the addition of permanent provision.

In the longer term, a new 6FE secondary school on the North Sittingbourne Quinton Road housing development will be commissioned between 2029 and 2032.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the planning group, Borden Grammar School (Boys) and Highsted Grammar School (Girls).

Forecasts indicate a fluctuation of capacity across the plan period of 18 (0.6FE) in 2025/26 to 9 (03FE) in 2029/30 with a slight deficit in 2027/28.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group until 2027. From 2027/28 there is a pressure forecast in the planning group of between -1.2FE and 1.5FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. Feasibilities will be undertaken at Simon Langton Girls' School to expand the school.

Planned Commissioning – Swale

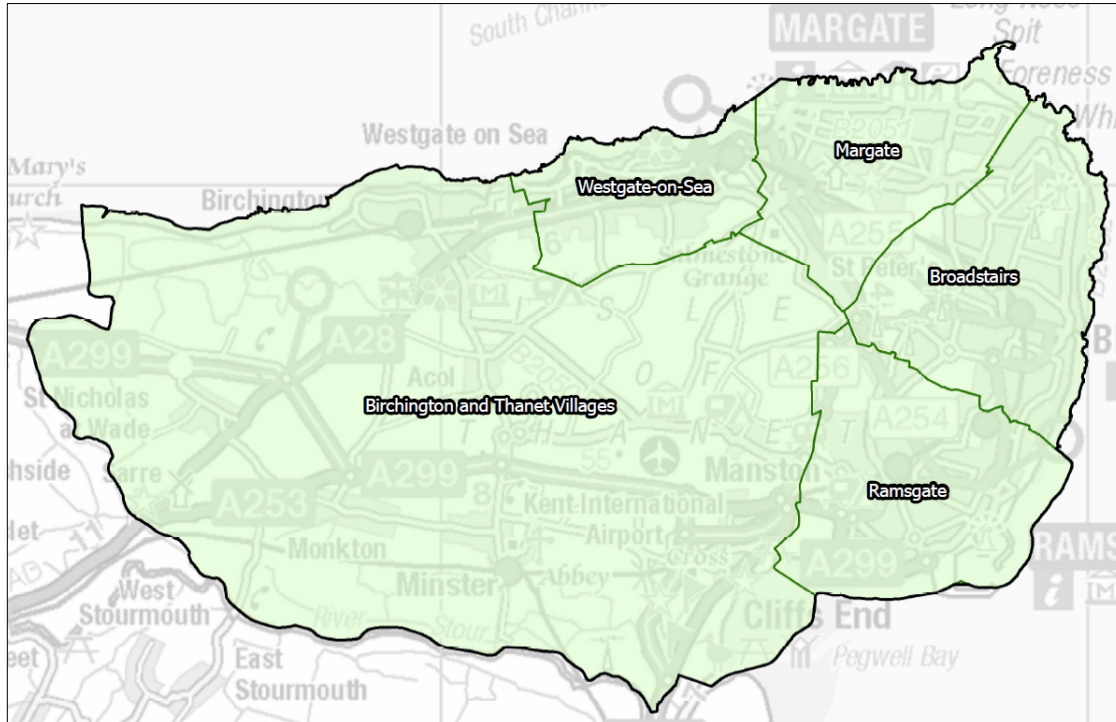
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Faversham				1FE expansion of St Mary's of Charity		
Sittingbourne East		1FE expansion of Teynham PS				
Sittingbourne South					2FE new Primary School at Wises Lane	
Faversham Non-Selective			1FE expansion of Abbey School.		2 nd 1FE expansion of Abbey School	
Sittingbourne Non-selective	Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 4FE temporary places	Up to 3FE temporary places	6FE new provision on Quinton Road	
Canterbury and Faversham Selective			1FE expansion of Simon Langton Girls School			
Special Schools			40 place expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite			

7.10. Thanet

District commentary

- The birth rate in Thanet fell steadily from 2017, before levelling out in 2022 and then falling significantly in 2023. The birth rate is higher than the National average, but has dipped below the County average. The number of births has similarly decreased since 2017 to a low of 1251 in 2023, which is the lowest for more than 20 years.
- We forecast surplus primary school places across the district throughout the plan period with a peak of 324 places (10.8FE) in 2028/2029.
- Within the secondary sector, Thanet non-selective planning group shows a pressure of between 26 places (0.86FE) to 65 places (2.16FE) from 2025/26 to 2029/30 when a surplus is forecast from 2030/31 of 43 places (1.43FE). There is a surplus of capacity of selective places throughout the plan period for the Thanet selective group.
- Thanet District Council's Local Plan to 2031, adopted on the 9 July 2020, includes the provision of 17,140 additional dwellings in the period up to 2031. During the 2013/14 to 2022/23 a total of 4,095 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 410 per year.
- Thanet District Council is revisiting the timetable for the Thanet Local Plan update subject to the outcome of the new Government's consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.

Map of the Thanet Primary Planning Groups



Thanet Primary Schools by Planning Group

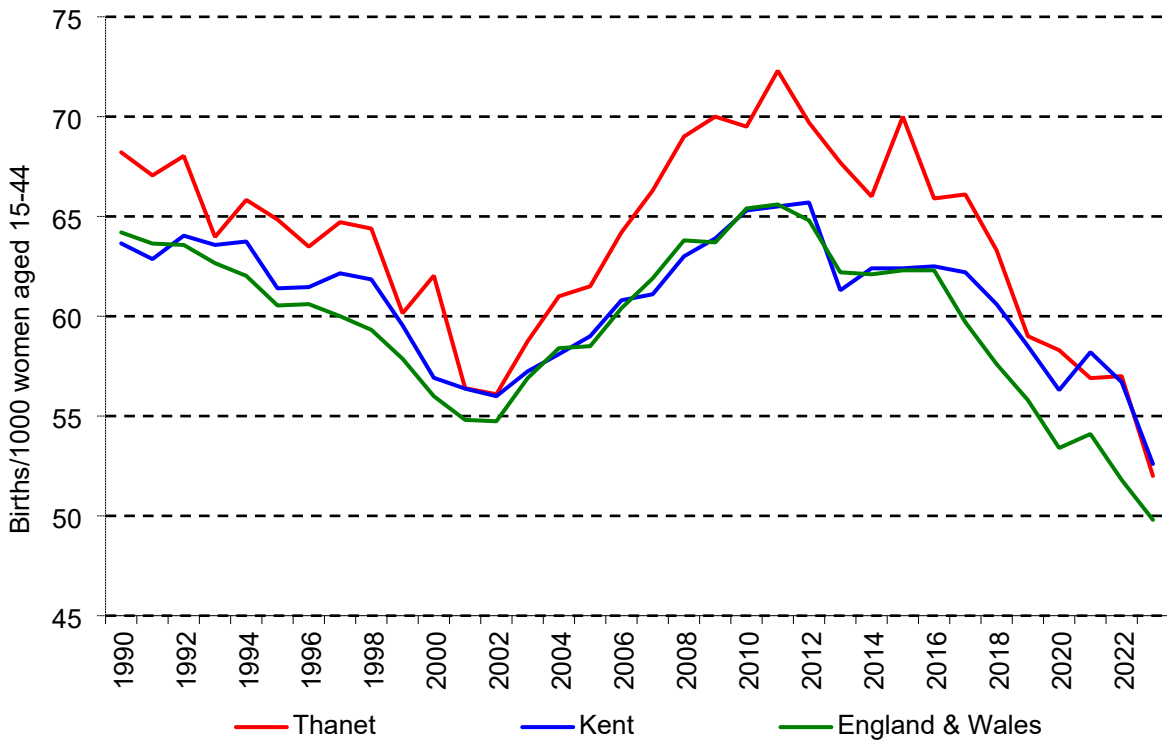
Planning Group	School	Status
Margate	Cliftonville Primary School	Academy
	Drapers Mills Primary Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity and St. John's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northdown Primary School	Academy
	Palm Bay Primary School	Academy
	Salmestone Primary School	Academy
	St. Gregory's RC Primary School	Academy
Westgate-on-Sea	Garlinge Primary School	Community
	St. Crispin's Community Infant School	Community
	St. Saviour's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled
Ramsgate	Chilton Primary School	Academy
	Christ Church CE Junior School	Academy
	Dame Janet Primary Academy	Academy
	Ellington Infant School	Community
	Newington Community Primary School (Ramsgate)	Academy
	Newlands Primary School	Academy
	Priory Infant School	Community
	Ramsgate Arts Primary School	Free
	Ramsgate Holy Trinity CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Ethelbert's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
St. Laurence-in-Thanet CE Junior Academy	Academy	
Broadstairs	Bromstone Primary School	Foundation
	Callis Grange Infant School	Community
	St. George's CE Primary School (Broadstairs)	Foundation
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Broadstairs)	Academy

Planning Group	School	Status
	St. Mildred's Infant School	Community
	St. Peter-in-Thamet CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Upton Junior School	Academy
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Birchington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Minster CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Monkton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Nicholas at Wade CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

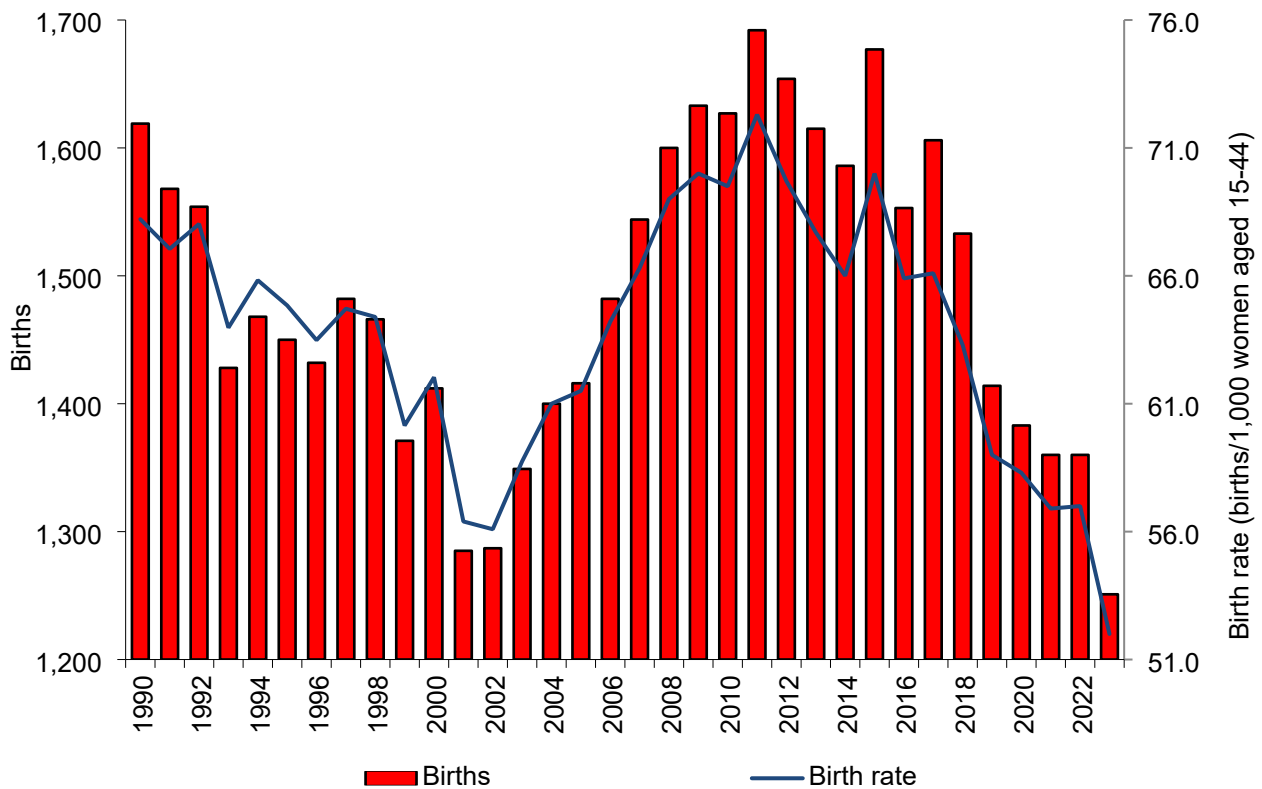
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.

Thanet, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2023



Thanet births and birth rate 1990-2023



Thanet Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Margate	435	91	79	86	74	123	126	126	127	127	127	128	420
Westgate-on-Sea	210	25	36	41	36	33	34	34	34	35	35	36	210
Ramsgate	495	73	58	114	89	111	111	115	118	121	124	126	495
Broadstairs	330	31	31	31	54	61	62	61	61	61	61	61	330
Birchington and Thanet Villages	165	31	23	13	11	-7	-10	-15	-20	-22	-24	-25	165
Thanet	1,635	251	227	285	264	321	324	322	319	322	324	325	1,620

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Thanet Non Selective	1,159	1	-16	-26	-29	-30	-14	-65	43	25	72	58	1,099
Thanet Selective	345	7	8	5	5	6	17	-4	26	23	34	36	345

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that Thanet district has surplus capacity for Year R places across the Plan period. Surplus capacity ranges between 8.5FE in 2025/26 to a peak of 10.8FE in 2028/29.

There are significant differences within the individual planning groups, with Margate and Ramsgate showing high levels of surplus capacity, Westgate-on-sea and Broadstairs also showing spare capacity whilst Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group has a deficit of places.

Margate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period between 2.8FE in 2025/26 to 4.2FE in 2029/30. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure schools remain viable. This could be through further reductions in Published Admission Numbers.

Ramsgate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period of around 3.8FE. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure schools remain viable. This could be through reduction in Published Admission Numbers.

Planned developments within Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group will help to reduce the current surplus as several of the villages border the Ramsgate planning group. A new 2FE primary school to serve the Manston Green Development may be required in the long term, if all housing proceeds as set out in the Local Plan.

Birchington and Thanet Villages Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a pressure on Year R places in this planning group from 2027/28 that rises gradually to 0.5FE by the end of the forecast period. Initially, the surplus of places in the adjacent planning groups will support this pressure. Any future pupil pressures arising from the developments closer to the borders of the Margate and Ramsgate planning groups could initially be accommodated in Margate and Ramsgate schools due to the surplus capacity available. Birchington Primary School can also revert to a 3FE PAN to support the initial pressure from new housing in Birchington. New primary school provision to serve any new housing developments may be required later in the Plan period in Birchington and/or Westgate-on-Sea if all housing comes forward as set out in the Local Plan.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Thanet district, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Thanet Non-Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the Thanet non-selective planning group: Charles Dickens School, Hartsdown Academy, King Ethelbert School, Royal Harbour Academy, St George's CE Foundation School and Ursuline College.

Forecasts indicate a deficit of places of 26 (0.9FE) in 2025/26 rising to a high of -65 (2.2FE) in 2029/30. After this, the forecast indicates a surplus of places. Discussions will be held with the Thanet non-selective schools on managing the need for places in the short term via bulge classes.

Thanet Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Thanet selective planning group: Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School and Dane Court Grammar School. Forecasts indicate a slight fluctuation of surplus places throughout the plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Thanet

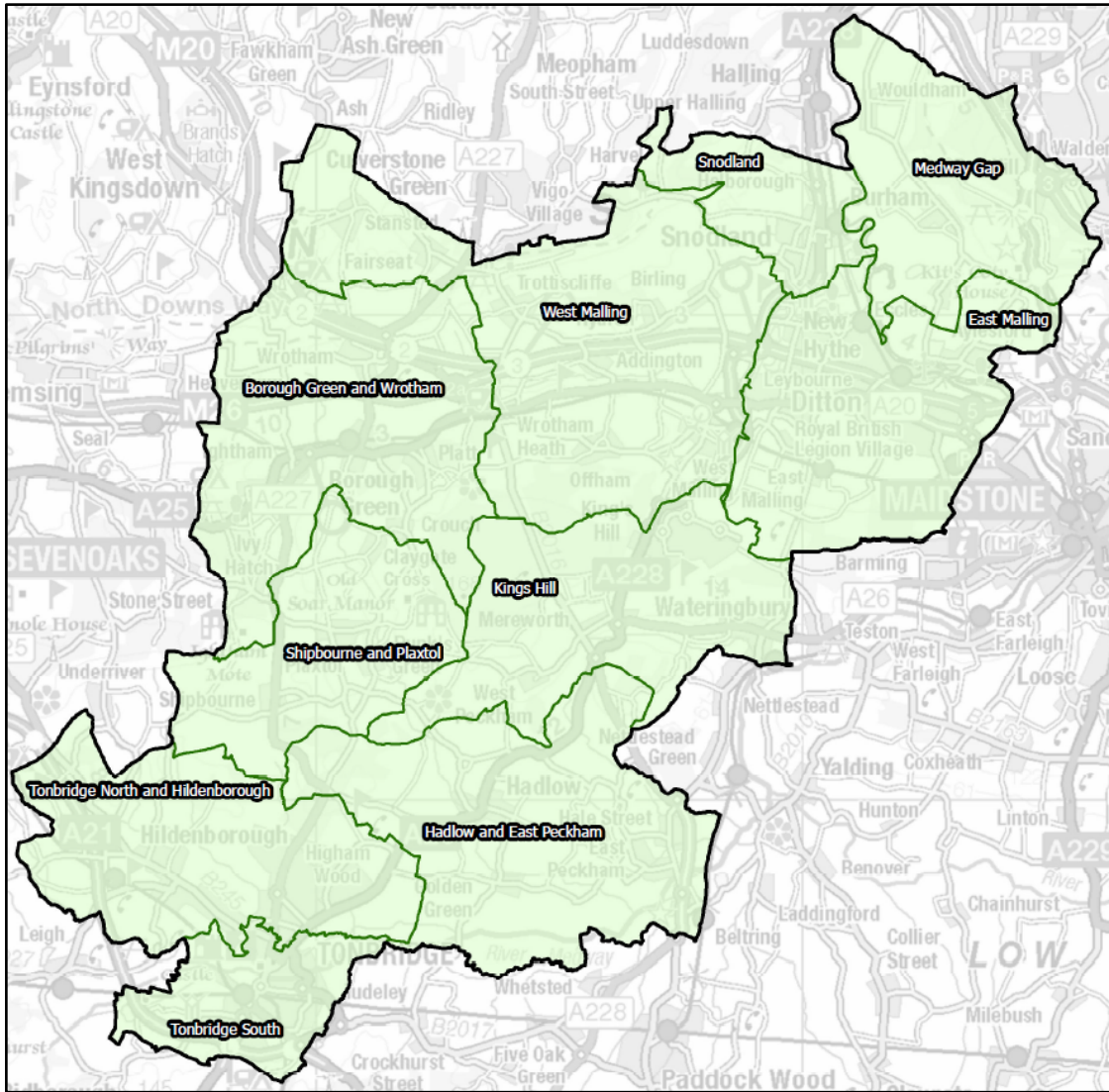
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Ramsgate						2FE new primary at Manston Green
Birchington and Thanet Villages						2FE new primary in Birchington and/or Westgate on Sea
Westgate-on-Sea						2FE new primary in Birchington and/or Westgate on Sea
Thanet Non-Selective	Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 1FE temporary places	Up to 0.5FE temporary places	Up to 2FE temporary places	
Specialist Resourced Provision		30 place Secondary SRP for ASD				

7.11. Tonbridge and Malling

Borough commentary

- The birth rate for Tonbridge and Malling dropped from 2018 to 2020, before increasing slightly in 2021 and then falling sharply in 2022 and 2023. The number of births also increased in 2021, before falling back in 2022 and the dropping significantly in 2023 to 1253 births which is the lowest since 2013.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there is local place pressures within some planning groups which will need to be addressed. Within the Non-Selective secondary planning groups, we anticipate sufficient places during the Plan period, apart from a small deficit in 2026-27 within the Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective. The West Kent Selective planning group as has small deficits forecast for the Plan period.
- On 13 July 2021, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council withdrew their proposed Local Plan from public examination. The Borough Council expects to submit a revised plan to the Secretary of State 2025. The forecasts within the Kent Commissioning Plan incorporate consented housing proposals and remaining sites to be built out from the current Core Strategy. Any housing proposals from emerging Local Plans are not incorporated within the forecasts.

Map of the Tonbridge and Malling Primary Planning Groups



Tonbridge and Malling Primary Schools by Planning Group

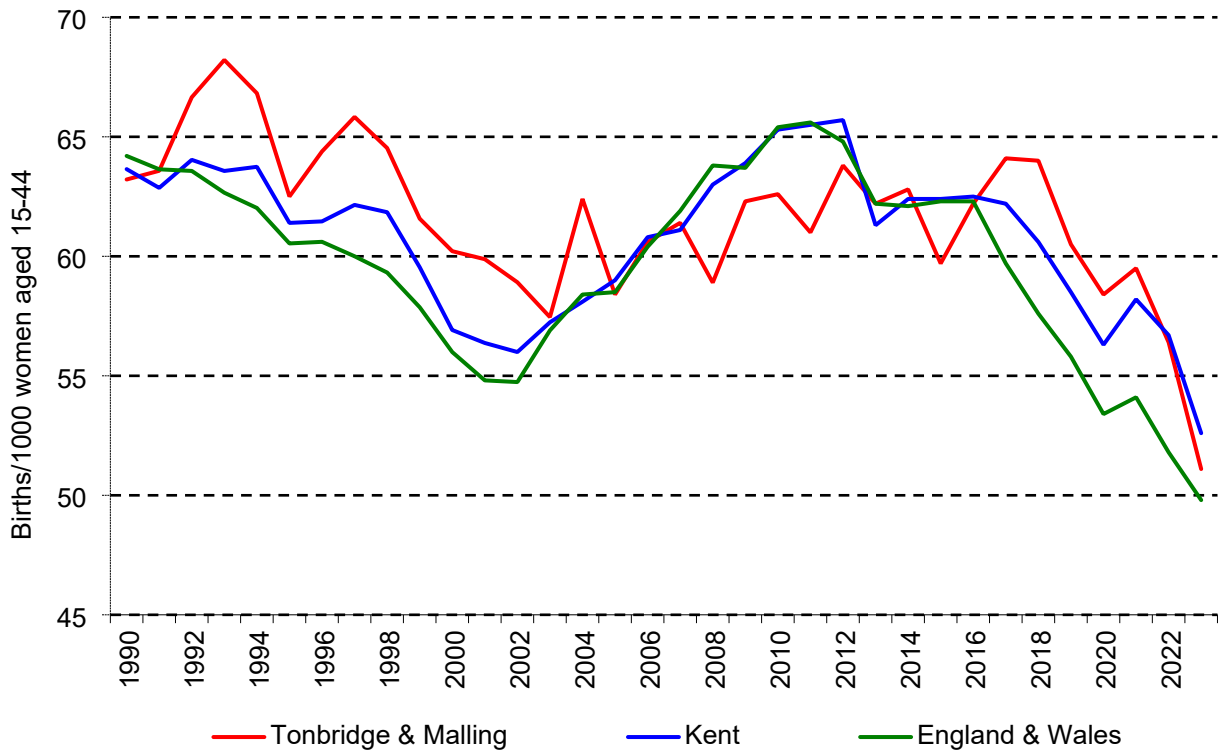
Planning Groups	School	Status
Tonbridge South	Bishop Chavasse CE Primary School	Free
	Royal Rise Primary School	Academy
	Slade Primary School	Community
	Sussex Road Community Primary School	Community
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Cage Green Primary School	Academy
	Hildenborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Long Mead Community Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	Academy
	Stocks Green Primary School	Community
Hadlow and East Peckham	East Peckham Primary School	Community
	Hadlow Primary School	Community
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Plaxtol Primary School	Community
	Shipbourne School	Community
Kings Hill	Discovery School	Community
	Kings Hill School	Community
	Mereworth Community Primary School	Community
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill	Academy

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Wateringbury CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Borough Green and Wrotham	Borough Green Primary School	Foundation
	Ightham Primary School	Community
	Platt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. George's CE Primary School (Wrotham)	Voluntary Controlled
West Malling	More Park RC Primary School	Academy
	Offham Primary School	Community
	Ryarsh Primary School	Community
	Trottiscliffe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Leybourne Chase	Academy
	West Malling CE Primary School	Academy
East Malling	Brookfield Infant School	Community
	Brookfield Junior School	Community
	Ditton CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Ditton Infant School	Foundation
	Leybourne St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lunsford Primary School	Community
	St. James the Great Academy	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Aylesford)	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Aylesford	Academy
Snodland	Snodland CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Katherine's School (Snodland)	Academy
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Holborough Lakes	Academy
Medway Gap	Burham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Eccles)	Academy
	Tunbury Primary School	Community
	Wouldham All Saint's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

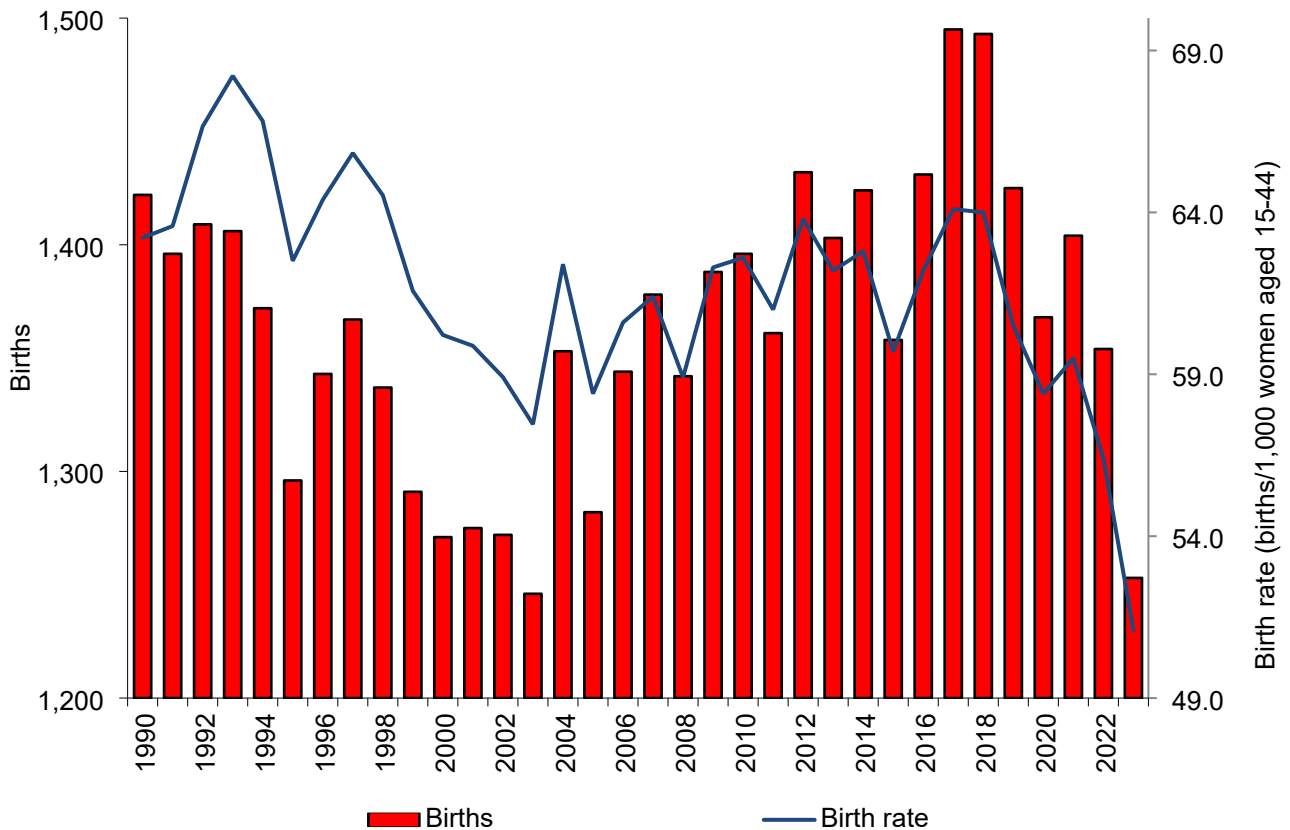
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tonbridge & Malling, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2023



Tonbridge & Malling births and birth rate 1990-2023



Tonbridge and Malling Analysis – Primary

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Tonbridge South	210	37	36	23	25	52	53	53	54	55	57	59	210
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	270	71	68	57	64	63	64	65	66	67	69	71	255
Hadlow and East Peckham	60	9	14	4	14	8	9	9	9	10	11	13	60
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	23	8	9	4	7	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	24
Kings Hill	240	24	40	13	35	39	40	39	38	38	38	37	240
Borough Green and Wrotham	135	11	32	12	21	42	41	40	39	39	39	38	135
West Malling	162	18	10	11	-6	21	17	12	8	5	1	-2	162
East Malling	294	35	22	42	36	36	31	26	26	27	28	30	294
Snodland	180	25	-4	8	7	5	5	4	3	2	2	2	150
Medway Gap	198	49	25	16	3	-11	-14	-18	-20	-23	-24	-25	198
Tonbridge & Malling	1,772	287	252	191	203	260	252	237	230	227	228	229	1,728

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Malling Non-Selective	543	43	44	61	67	17	36	33	59	40	64	55	543
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	610	-25	-31	22	-15	11	5	13	16	59	11	32	630
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,584	64	116	154	63	92	55	34	124	104	81	109	1,612
West Kent Selective	1,270	-23	-33	19	-46	-20	-29	-12	37	61	51	71	1,264

Primary District Commentary

For primary education, the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there are local place pressures within the some of the individual planning groups.

West Malling Planning Group

Forecasts for West Malling show a small deficit in 2026-27 that can be accommodated in the adjacent Kings Hill planning group.

Medway Gap Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a deficit from 2027-28 that increases throughout the Plan period. Where the demand in the short to medium term cannot be accommodated in neighbouring planning groups, we will work with local schools to establish bulge provision before seeking a more permanent solution via the expansion of an existing school towards the end of the forecast period. The demand for school places within this group can be impacted by children resident in Medway, we will work with Medway Council when determining the most appropriate commissioning strategy for ensuring all children have a school place.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tonbridge and Malling Borough or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are non-selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Malling Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the planning group: Aylesford School, Holmesdale School and Malling School. Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knowle Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

The forecast indicates a 15 place deficit in 2026-27, before then showing surpluses for the remainder of the Plan period. We anticipate that the adjacent Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells planning group will provide places for this deficit, however we will also work with existing schools to offer bulge provision of up to 30 places to meet the deficit in 2026-27 if required.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits through to 2030-31 when there is a forecast surplus. We anticipate that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Planned Commissioning – Tonbridge and Malling

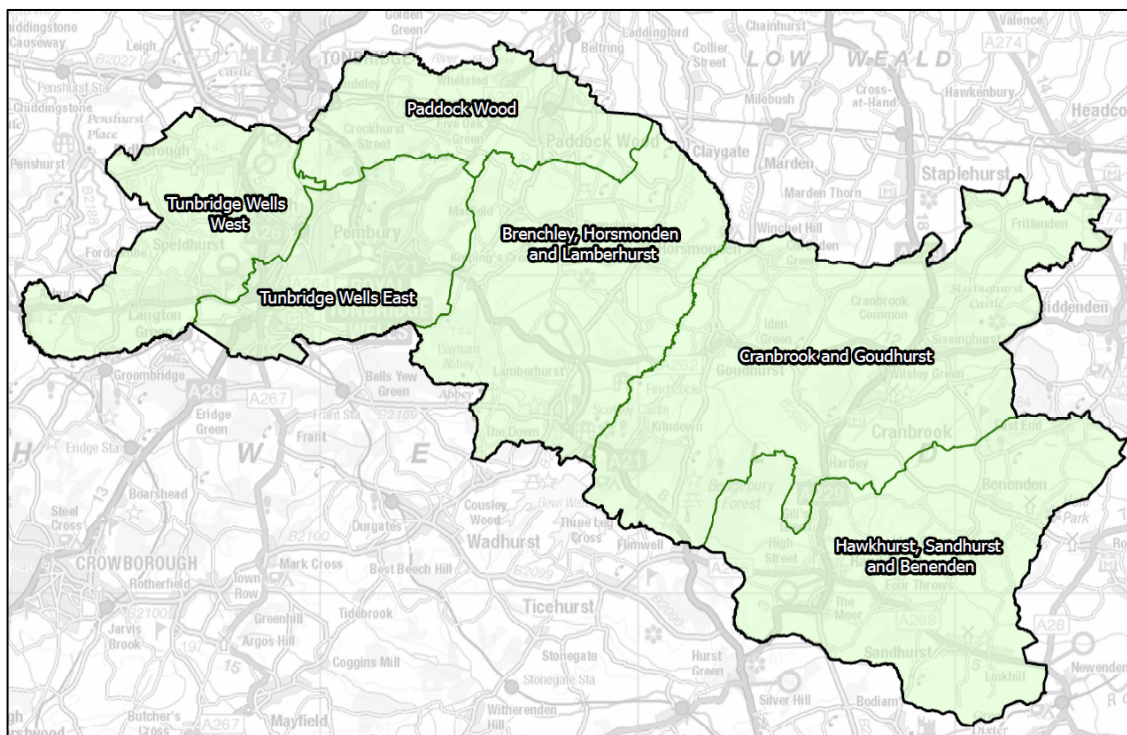
Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Medway Gap					1FE Expansion of Existing School	
West Kent Selective		Up to 60 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		
Specialist Schools			50 place Satellite of a PSCN School			

7.12. Tunbridge Wells

Borough Commentary

- The birth rate for Tunbridge Wells has in general been falling since 2010 and continued to drop in 2023. However the rate is still above both the county and national averages. The number of recorded births has followed a similar trend to a low of 1068 in 2023, which is the lowest for more than 20 years.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period albeit there is local place pressure within the Cranbrook and Goudhurst, the Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst and the Paddock Wood planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we anticipate there will be sufficient places during the Plan period within the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective and the Cranbrook Selective groups. The West Kent Selective planning group as has small deficits forecast for the Plan period.
- Consultation took place on Issues and Options for the new Local Plan in 2017 and on a Draft Local Plan in autumn 2019, a final proposed Local Plan is now undergoing independent examination. The assessed housing need for the Borough is 678 dwellings per annum, equivalent to some 12,200 additional homes over the plan period to 2038. We will continue working with the Borough Council to ensure sufficient education provision is provided for future housing growth. During the 5 year period 2015-16 to 2019-20 a total of 2473 houses were completed with an average of 494.6 per year, which is below the required average based on objectively assesses hosing need.

Map of the Tunbridge Wells Primary Planning Groups



Tunbridge Wells Primary Schools by Planning Group

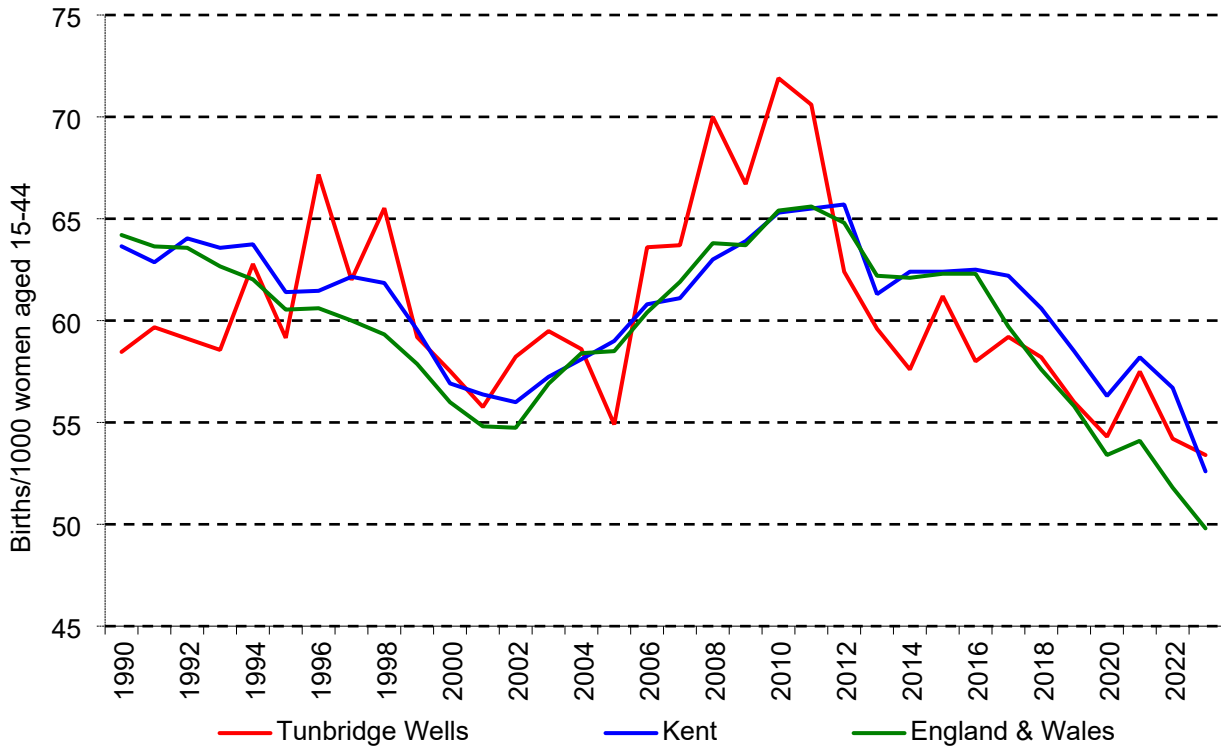
Planning Groups	School	Status
Tunbridge Wells East	Broadwater Down Primary School	Community
	Claremont Primary School	Community
	Pembury School	Community
	Skinners' Kent Primary School	Academy
	St. Barnabas CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. James' CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	Temple Grove Academy	Academy
	Wells Free School	Free
Tunbridge Wells West	Bidborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bishops Down Primary School	Community
	Langton Green Primary School	Community
	Rusthall St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Southborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Speldhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
Paddock Wood	Capel Primary School	Community
	Paddock Wood Primary School	Academy
Branchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Branchley and Matfield CE Primary School	Academy
	Horsmonden Primary School	Academy
	Lamberhurst St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Colliers Green CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Cranbrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Frittenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Goudhurst and Kilndown CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sissinghurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Benenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hawkhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sandhurst Primary School	Community

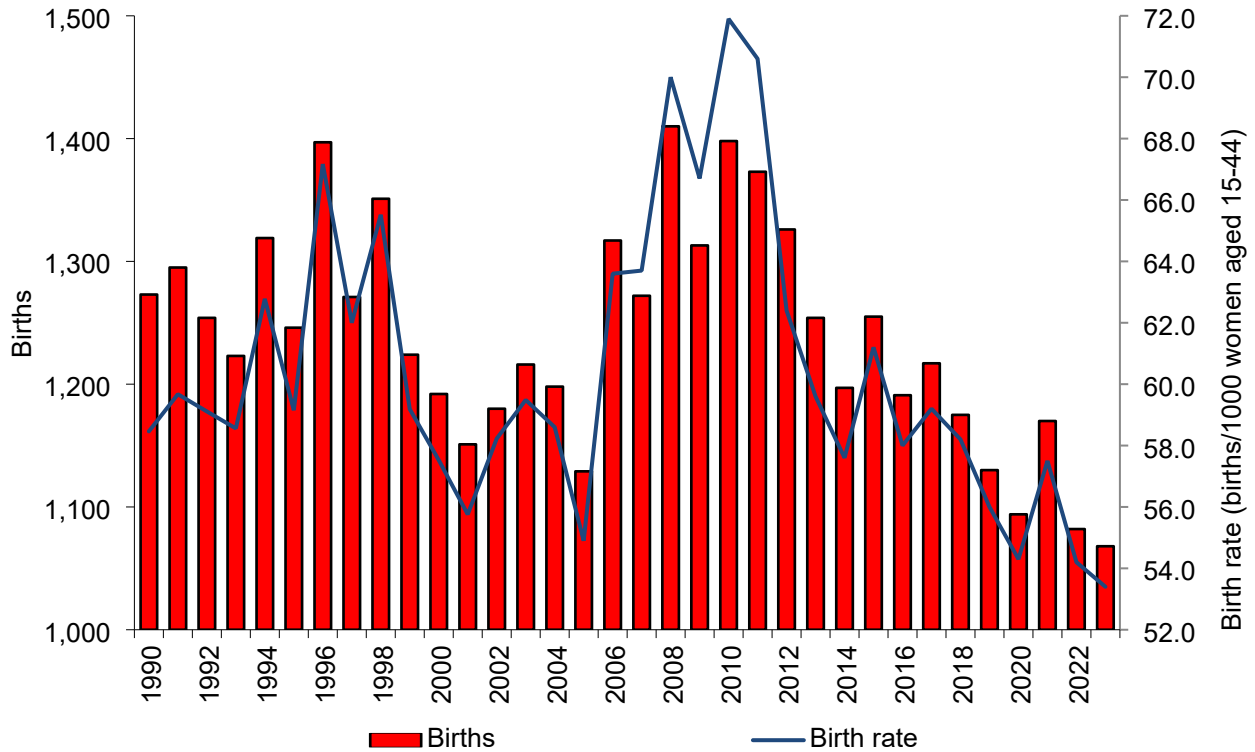
Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tunbridge Wells, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2023



Tunbridge Wells births and birth rate 1990-2023



Tunbridge Wells Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Tunbridge Wells East	450	60	92	97	112	119	120	120	120	119	119	117	450
Tunbridge Wells West	435	37	-2	53	56	93	95	96	97	98	100	101	450
Paddock Wood	120	4	-19	-16	-21	-38	-39	-40	-41	-43	-43	-44	120
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	90	1	5	-7	-14	-6	-6	-6	-5	-5	-4	-4	90
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	111	-6	7	-6	-11	-9	-9	-9	-9	-8	-7	-6	121
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	90	3	6	4	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	15	90
Tunbridge Wells	1,296	99	89	126	129	166	170	171	172	174	177	180	1,321

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2023-24 capacity	2023-24 (A)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2033-34 (F)	2033-34 capacity
Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective	360	73	73	58	42	36	31	25	40	24	22	27	360
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,584	64	116	154	63	92	55	34	124	104	81	109	1,612
Cranbrook Selective	90	-1	20	23	18	8	10	9	7	9	0	0	90
West Kent Selective	1,270	-23	-33	19	-46	-20	-29	-12	37	61	51	71	1,264

Primary District Commentary

For primary education the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period for Year R and all primary years. There is local place pressure within the Paddock Wood, the Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst and the Cranbrook and Goudhurst planning groups

The Year R surplus in Tunbridge Wells town (Tunbridge Wells East and West planning groups) is forecast to be in excess of 20% during the Plan period; depending on the distribution of this surplus between schools it may necessitate adjustment to the PANs of individual schools in order to ensure class sizes remain financially viable.

Paddock Wood Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have deficits that increase throughout the Plan period. We will monitor the situation but anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN for the first 2 years of the Plan period. However, the demand of more than 1 FE is forecast from 2027-28. To meet this demand we will seek to establish a new primary school within the town.

Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to small deficits across the Plan period. We will monitor the situation but anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN.

Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group

Forecasts indicate deficits throughout the Plan period. We will seek to provide sufficient capacity within the planning group through additional temporary provision in those schools with a PAN of less than 1FE from during the initial years of the Plan period. The forecast ongoing deficit is less than 1FE; careful consideration of any detriment to existing schools will be given prior to a permanent commissioning strategy being adopted.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tunbridge Wells Borough or which cross the Borough boundary, two non-selective and two selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

Following a substantive decision by the Secretary of State for Education to close High Weald Academy on 31 August 2022, this is a single school planning group containing Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre. There is forecast to be sufficient places in this planning group throughout the plan period.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future

strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

Cranbrook Selective Planning Group

There is only one school in the Cranbrook selective planning group: Cranbrook School. We forecast sufficient Year 7 and Years 7-11 places throughout the Plan period.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits through to 2030-31 when there is a forecast surplus. We anticipate that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Planned Commissioning – Tunbridge Wells

Planning Group	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	By 2028-29	Between 2029-32	Post 2032
Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group	Up to 10 temporary places	Up to 10 temporary places	Up to 10 temporary places	1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		
Paddock Wood			1FE Through Establishment of New Primary School			
West Kent Selective		Up to 60 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		
Special Schools						

8. Commissioning Special Educational Needs

8.1 Duties to Provide for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the responsibility to improve services, life chances and choices for vulnerable children and to support families. The Act extends the SEND system from birth to 25, where appropriate, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

The Equality Act 2010 and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 interact in several important ways. They share a common focus on removing barriers to learning. In the Children and Families Act 2014 duties for planning, commissioning, and reviewing provision, the Local Offer and the duties requiring different agencies to work together apply to all children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) or disabilities. The Code of Practice 2015 which applies to England, explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

8.2 Kent Overview

Kent has a significantly large number of pupils with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP). We remain an outlier nationally with a rate of growth in EHCPs well above national averages per 10,000 children. The number of EHCPs in January 2024 was 19,407.

Kent has proportionately:

- fewer children identified as requiring SEN support in mainstream schools when compared to the national average.
- fewer children with EHCPs educated in our mainstream schools compared to national and statistical neighbour averages.
- more children placed in either maintained special or independent special schools or Specialist Resource Provisions than national and statistical neighbour averages.

Kent is now part of the DfE Safety Valve programme. The programme aims to support Local Authorities to reform their High Needs systems and SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable.

Whilst we acknowledge that Special Schools play an important role in the continuum of education provision in Kent, we also need to focus on developing the role of mainstream schools, including SRPs, to successfully support more complex children and young people with SEND.

KCC produces an annual SEND Sufficiency Plan for children and young people. In addition, the reviews of Special Schools, Specialist Resource Provisions and Early Years Provision will contribute to a revised SEND Strategy, setting out the direction for the next five years. The outcomes from these reviews and further work to inform KCC's approach to supporting children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, aligned with the approach to Alternative Provision across all twelve of Kent's districts, will inform the revision of the new SEND Sufficiency Plan.

The SEND Sufficiency Plan sits under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. The purpose of the SEND Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support the Local Authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term. There are four key aims for the Sufficiency Plan.

- Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an EHCP.
- Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DfE Wave programmes.
- Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision.
- Support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme, bringing Kent in-line with other local authorities' patterns of provision.

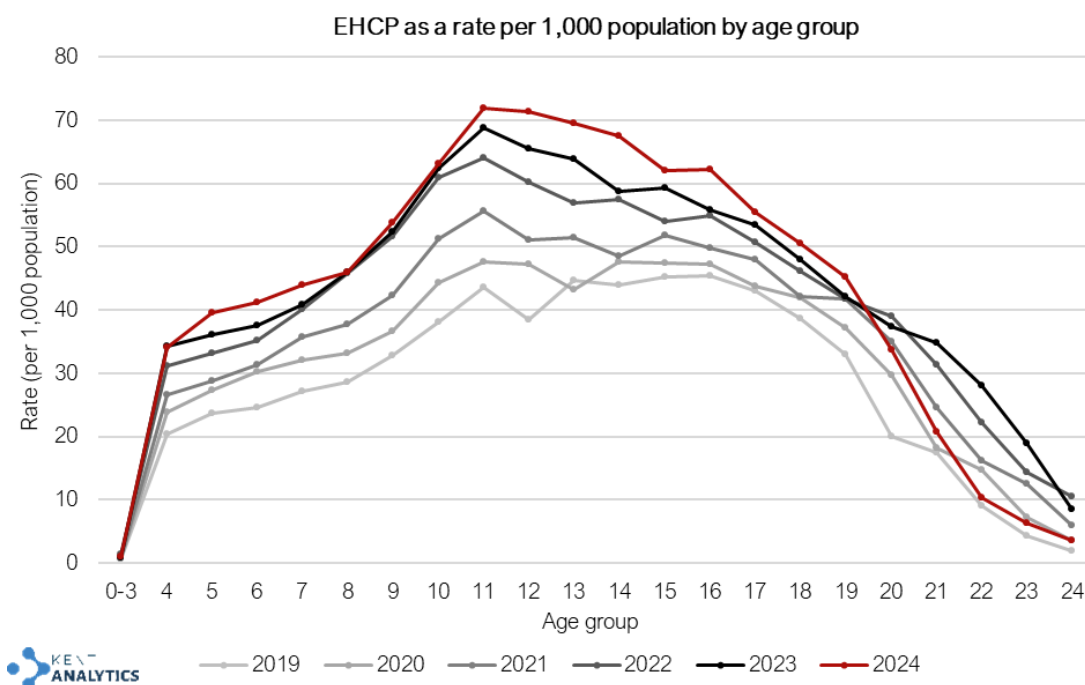
8.3 Education Health and Care Plans

The Local Authority is responsible for issuing and maintaining EHCPs for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2024, this totalled 19,407 children and young people with an EHCP in Kent. This is an increase of 477 (2.5%) since January 2023. In England, the number of children and young people with EHCPs increased to 575,963 in January 2024, up by 11% from 2023. The number of EHCPs have increased each year since 2010²

8.4 Age Groups

Figure 9a shows the rate of children and young people with an EHCP per 1,000 population for the past 6 years. It shows that the proportion of the population aged 4 to 25 years with an EHCP continues to increase year on year.

Figure 9a: Children and Young People with EHCPs rate with per 1,000 population 2019-2024 to update from Forecast

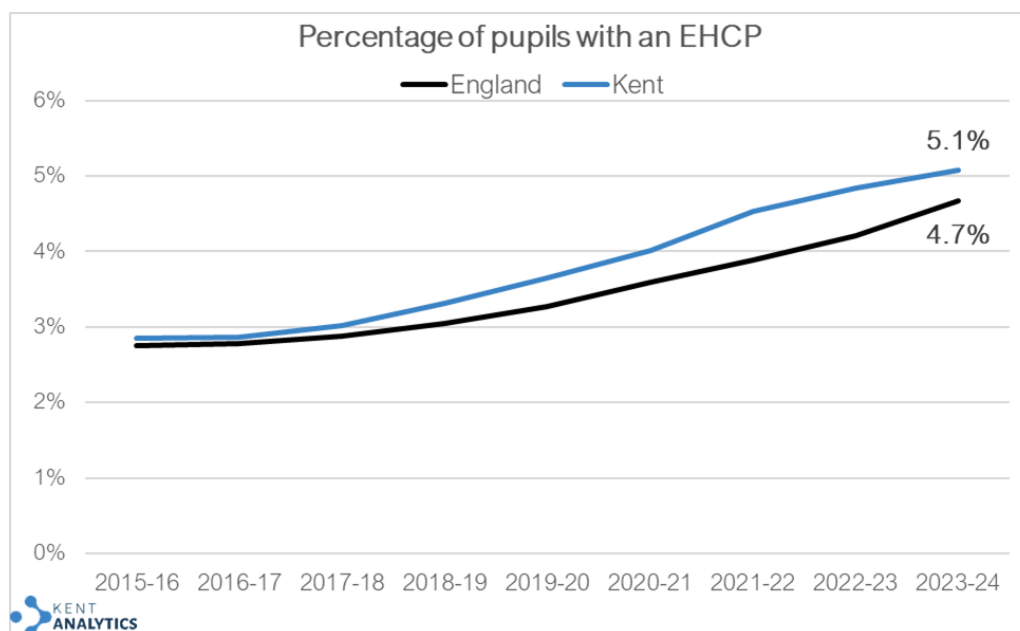


² [Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

8.5 School Aged Pupils

Figure 9b shows the percentage of pupils in schools in Kent and England that have an EHCP. Kent has 5.1% of pupils compared to 4.7% for England. Whilst the rate of growth has increased nationally, Kent's increase started much earlier (2015) and has continued to increase at a greater rate.

Figure 9b: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP in Kent compared with England 2015 – 2024



8.6 SEN Need Types

Figure 9c shows that Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type with 44.5% of children and young people with an EHCP (0-25 years) having ASD identified as their primary need. This is an increase from 42.3% in January 2023. The second highest is SEMH at 19.3%, a decrease from 20.4% in January 2023, followed by 17.3% of children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) identified as their EHCP primary need.

Figure 9c: EHCPs by age group and need type January 2024

SEN Need Type 2024	Under 5	Aged 5-10	Aged 11-15	Aged 16-19	Aged 20-25	Total	%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	348	2699	3273	1806	509	8,635	44.5%
Hearing Impairment	9	58	63	46	16	192	1.0%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	21	249	475	242	99	1,086	5.6%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	2	6	8	5	1	22	0.1%
Not recorded on system	9	21	14	11	3	58	0.3%
Other difficulty/disability	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%
Physical Disability	29	206	190	153	53	631	3.3%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	16	139	126	79	22	382	2.0%
Severe Learning Difficulty	19	214	307	215	99	850	4.4%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	5	624	1706	1165	238	3,738	19.3%
Specific Learning Difficulty	1	49	191	91	28	360	1.9%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	212	1495	1063	433	156	3,359	17.3%
Visual Impairment	2	37	29	21	4	93	0.5%
Kent Total	673	5,798	7,445	4,267	1,224	19,407	

Source SEN2 Return January 2024

8.7 Provision

Figure 9d shows the number of EHCPs by establishment type (0-25 year olds.) In 2024, 34.8% of children and young people in Kent (34% in 2023) are educated in mainstream schools (including SRPs), whilst the national figure is 43.1%. In Kent, 40.4% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school (including independent schools) compared to 32.1% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are only for those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs. This realignment will be supported by the inclusive practices within Kent's Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) and will ensure a greater proportion of Kent's children and young people will be supported and achieve their full potential in mainstream schools closer to their homes.

Kent has 24 special schools. These include 21 Local Authority maintained special schools, 1 special academy and 2 Free Schools. In 2024, 96% of Kent's special schools were graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted. There are 18 special schools that are all-through schools (primary and secondary aged). There are 17 special schools offering post-16 placements.

For the academic year 2024-25 Kent has commissioned 6,282 places in Kent special schools, an increase of 314. Of the total places, 890 are places for post-16 pupils. The current total designated number across Kent special schools as of September 2022 was 5,483. Kent also has 74 Specialist Resource Provisions attached to 65 mainstream schools. Each provision has a designation for SEN and eight schools have more than one SRP or an SRP with multiple designations. A total of 1430 SRP places, including 20 places for post-16 pupils, have been commissioned for September 2024, with no increase of places from September 2023.

Where we are unable to provide a specialist school placement in a Kent maintained special school or SRP, placements are commissioned in the independent and non-maintained sector. As of January 2024, 1,648 Kent resident pupils had funded places in an independent non-maintained school, an increase of 59 places from January 2023 and representing 8.5% of all EHCPs. To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan only reflects a proportion of our commissioning intentions as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, to be reported in the first half of 2025.

Figure 9d: EHCPs by establishment type January 2024 (0-25 year olds)

Type of Establishment	Number	Kent %	England %
Mainstream school including SRPs	6,754	34.8%	43.1%
Special school inc. independent.	7,869	40.4%	32.1%
Non-maintained early years	67	0.3%	0.8%
Further education	2,634	13.6%	14.5%
NEET	553	2.8%	2.7%
Educated elsewhere	820	4.2%	3.7%
Alternative provision/Pupil referral unit	9	0.0%	0.8%
Other	321	1.7%	0.7%
Unknown	380	2.0%	1.2%
Total	19,407		

Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

8.8 Post 16 SEN provision

Most young people with SEND will complete their education alongside their peers by 18. However, some young people will require longer to complete and consolidate their education and training, and the length of time will vary for each young person.

The Children and Families Act 2014 extended the special educational needs system to young people up to the age of 25. Consequently, since 2015 KCC has seen a large growth in the number of EHCPs for young people up to the age of 25.

We know the number of young people wanting to remain in education is growing. However, planning post-16 SEND provision is complex. KCC continues its work to establish a robust evidence base to resolve any gaps in provision. Remaining at their secondary school for sixth form is one of the choices that young people with SEND can make; 17 of Kent's maintained special schools have sixth form provisions.

Further Education (FE) College remains the most common type of provision attended across all the age groups of the post-16 cohort. However, Kent is below the national average for General and Tertiary College/HE placement, with 9.3% of placements compared to 11.6% nationally in 2024. FE Colleges provide a range of courses for 16 to 25 SEND learners and are the most popular form of education for this group. However, due to a range of issues, FE colleges are not suitable in the first instance for many SEND learners and a proportion of learners drop out of college in the first term.

SPIs provide an alternative to FE colleges, offering more bespoke learning environments often for learners with additional or more complex needs. In 2024, 829 young people attended an SPI in Kent which is 4.3% of the cohort. In comparison, 1.5% attended SPIs nationally. Of the SPIs in Kent in 2024, the majority have a contractual relationship with KCC. Growth in SPI provision to this point continues to be largely organic and provider led. To ensure we have full County coverage, we wish to work in partnership with prospective providers as there is the need for more targeted SPI provision in the County.

We continue to work with FE Colleges to ensure that we have good geographical coverage of the right courses at the right levels and that there are clear pathways and partnerships with alternate types of providers such as SPIs to meet the needs of learners with more complex needs or requiring a more bespoke package.

We expect that the number of EHCPs for young people over the age of 18 will continue to grow as the population bulge works its way through secondary school and into post-16, and without careful planning, demand could outstrip supply. To ensure sufficient quality post-16 SEND provision, we will continue to build on our present work to develop a 16 to 19 SEND Strategy. We want to explore new ways of working, including potential collaborations between partner agencies and organisations, which are service intelligence and data-driven; so, we get the right provision in the right area to meet need.

8.9 Future Commissioning of Provision

Evidence for our commissioning intentions is set out within KCC's SEND Sufficiency Plan. The Plan will inform changes and additional provision required from September 2025 and throughout the rest of the Plan period. Commissioning intentions for this Plan will be limited to new SEN schools and satellites where there is already a case based on population growth and current patterns of travel to special schools outside of the areas where children live. The Special School Review has worked with stakeholders to provide recommendations and is reporting to members.

Additional SRPs that have been committed to or form part of a new academy's funding agreement will be included. We will also look to address evidenced gaps in SRP provision in secondary schools, particularly as the school age population growth is currently moving through the secondary and post-16 age groups.

A total of 460 new special school places are forecast to be commissioned and 70 SRP places, some of which are already within the commissioning process. Additional SRP places may be commissioned following the completion of the SRP review which will identify need type and geographical gaps based on the role of SRPs within the provision of locality services for children and young people with SEND. Kent is currently undertaking area discussions with stakeholders to consider future SRP provision and commissioning. Figures 9i and 9j identify the number, need type and district of these places.

Figure 9i: Agreed and planned additional specialist provision across Kent Specialist Schools

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	Between 2029-32
Special School (all through) - Whitstable	2026	PSCN/ ASD/ SEMH	Canterbury	120	0	48	28	44	0
Special School (All through) - Swanley	2026	PSCN	Sevenoaks	250	0	114	66	70	0
Expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite	2027	SEMH with ASD	Swale	40	0	0	10	10	20
Satellite of a PSCN School	2027	PSCN	Tonbridge and Malling	50	0	0	50	0	0
Total Special School places				460	0	162	154	124	20

Figure 9j: Agreed and planned additional Specialist Resource Provisions

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	Between 2029-32
Alkerden (Primary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	15	0	4	4	7	0
Alkerden (Secondary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	25	0	5	5	15	0
Secondary SRP	2026	ASD	Thanet	30	0	5	5	5	15
Total SRP places				70	0	14	14	27	15

9. Commissioning Early Years Education and Childcare

9.1 Legislative Context - Free Entitlements and new Wraparound Childcare

Early Education and Childcare is legislatively governed by the Childcare Acts of 2006 and 2016. These place a duty on all local authorities to improve outcomes for young children, to cut inequalities between them, to secure sufficient childcare, with adequate flexibility to allow parents to work via the following:

- 15 hours of early education for eligible two-year olds (the Two Year Old Entitlement, in Kent known as Free for Two)
- 15 hours of early education for working parents of all children aged 9 months and above
- The Universal Entitlement of 15 hours for all three and four-year olds
- 30 Hours of Free Childcare (the Extended Entitlement) for three and four-year olds of eligible working parents.

From September 2025 – 30 hours per week for working parents of all children aged 9 months and above.

In addition, KCC has commissioned The Education People to work with schools and private providers to increase the supply of wraparound childcare, so that all parents of primary school-aged children can access childcare from 8am to 6pm if they need it.

In September 2024, the Government announced it will provide capital funding to create or expand 3,000 on-site nurseries in primary schools either run by the school or in partnership with PVI (private, voluntary and independent) providers. Funding will be allocated to successful schools in Spring 2025 to support the first cohort of places.

The Government also announced plans to provide free breakfast club places in primary schools to build on the wraparound childcare programme supporting families with the cost of living and reducing the impact of poverty, by providing children with a free breakfast every morning. A pilot programme in 750 schools nationally has been announced with £7m funding for delivery in the summer term April-July 2025.

9.2 Early Education and Childcare Provision in Kent

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, academies, private, voluntary and independent providers and childminders, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces.

The LA (in Kent as commissioned through The Education People) is required to work with providers in making available a sufficient range of flexible provision, in the right geographical areas, at the right times and offering the right sessions to fit with both standard and atypical working patterns.

The DfE has provided each local authority with information related to the expansion of funded early education and childcare entitlements and wraparound childcare, as announced in the Spring Budget of 2023. This information includes the DfE's analysis of the demand and supply of childcare places in Kent. The results of this analysis give an indicative view of the level of demand in Kent and is being used to support childcare sufficiency planning carried out by The Education People. This information is used to help plan for the roll-out of the new 30 hours childcare entitlement for working parents of 9 month to 36 month-olds.

9.3 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) shows the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The Education People’s Early Years and Childcare Service works with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

The CSA for the 2024-2025 academic year is based on the DfE analysis for childcare places needed for 9 month to 36 month-olds combined with the supply and demand for childcare for 3 and 4 year olds in the Summer Term 2024 when demand for the take up and supply of childcare is greatest.

9.4 Sufficiency of Childcare Places for Children Aged 0-4 Years Old

Traditionally, the assessment of sufficiency is calculated by comparing the total available childcare supply of places with the forecast number of eligible children in each age group living within in each planning area and district. The DfE’s analysis uses other research and knowledge of each district to determine how many extra childcare places are needed. The level of rurality of the district, reflecting the greater ease of travel across smaller urban areas, is used to decide the degree to which a surplus of childcare places can offset a deficit. Figure 10a models the anticipated childcare places needed for 9 month to 36 month-olds in the 2024/2025 academic year.

To aid planning for the entitlement increasing to 30 hours per week for working parents of all children aged 9 months and above from September 2025, the DfE analysis also estimates the number of children expected to take up the expanded 30 hours childcare entitlement in September 2025. This has been used to show, in figure 10a, the anticipated childcare places needed for 9-month to 36-month-olds in the 2024/2025 academic year. As more is discovered throughout the current academic year about the uptake of the entitlement for 15 hours of early education for working parents of children aged 9 months to 36 months, the number of places needed in 2024/2025 may need to be refined.

Figure 10a: 9-month to 36-month-olds Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025 Academic Year)

District	Supply of Childcare Places	Demand for Childcare Places - Sept 2025	Surplus/ Deficit of places	Places Required - Sept 2025
Ashford	1,677	2,036	-359	361
Canterbury	1,800	1,831	-31	157
Dartford	2,089	2,267	-177	177
Dover	1,180	1,490	-310	253
Folkestone & Hythe	1,261	1,317	-56	139
Gravesham	1,421	1,741	-320	301
Maidstone	2,487	2,721	-234	379
Sevenoaks	1,978	1,611	367	89
Swale	2,053	2,322	-269	329
Thanet	1,541	1,852	-312	354
Tonbridge & Malling	2,005	1,947	58	83
Tunbridge Wells	2,201	1,893	307	119
Total	21,692	23,028	-1336	2740

Figure 10b: Universal Free Entitlement Places Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025 Academic Year)

District	3 & 4 Year Old Population	Children Requiring a 15 Hour Place	15 Hour Childcare Places Available	Surplus/ Deficit of 15 Hour Places
Ashford	2,530	1,345	1,255	-90
Canterbury	2,243	1,045	1,426	381
Dartford	2,708	1,241	1,656	415
Dover	1,825	821	809	-12
Folkestone & Hythe	1,634	736	1,162	426
Gravesham	2,268	1,295	1,241	-54
Maidstone	3,502	1,612	1,840	228
Sevenoaks	2,128	1,037	1,351	314
Swale	2,802	1,262	1,548	286
Thanet	2,369	1,053	1,433	380
Tonbridge & Malling	2,437	1,094	1,090	-4
Tunbridge Wells	2,036	1,216	1,252	36
Total	28,482	13,757	16,063	2,306

Figure 10c: Extended Free Entitlement Places Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2024/2025 Academic Year)

District	3 & 4 Year Old Population	Children Requiring a 30 Hour Place	30 Hour Childcare Places Available	Surplus/ Deficit of 30 Hour Places
Ashford	2,530	1,055	1,058	3
Canterbury	2,243	960	1,094	134
Dartford	2,708	1,028	1,137	109
Dover	1,825	763	918	155
Folkestone & Hythe	1,634	742	733	-9
Gravesham	2,268	654	546	-108
Maidstone	3,502	1,412	1,668	256
Sevenoaks	2,128	644	938	294
Swale	2,802	1,175	1,480	305
Thanet	2,369	1,017	1,151	134
Tonbridge & Malling	2,437	925	1,181	256
Tunbridge Wells	2,036	757	986	229
Total	28,482	11,132	12,890	1,758

9.5 Sufficiency Estimates by Planning Area

Sufficiency rates have been calculated using primary planning areas. Where some primary planning areas indicate a deficit of 0-4 childcare places, consideration must be given to the fact that neighbouring planning areas may have a surplus of places and children may be travelling to access settings in adjacent areas based on parental preferences or travel to work patterns. Equally, where planning areas have more provision than children, children will be drawn from other areas to access these settings.

The percentage of funded three and four year olds accessing a setting within the planning area in which they live can be used to interpret the deficit in each planning area along with qualitative analysis to understand whether the variation in local take up rates are driven by a preference for particular providers, commuting patterns or a lack of places in the local area.

9.6 Future Planning

Supporting the sufficiency, sustainability and quality of early years and childcare provision remains crucial in the aim to ensure a long term, sufficient supply of places.

The supply of Free Entitlement places for 9 months to four year olds will be kept under review as planned new housing developments are built and potentially increase the demand for places. Where housing developments are proposed in school planning areas where there is an indicative deficit of places or where the size of a development means that it will require new provision; KCC will engage in discussions with developers to either seek funding to provide nursery provision which may include securing community rental or leasehold accommodation availability for private, voluntary or independent sector providers of 0-4 year old childcare.

When a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design. As new schools are planned, KCC will work with the sponsor to identify early years provision and the most appropriate way to deliver this.

10. Commissioning Plan Post-16

The work of Pathways for All, the county's 16-19 review, is moving on rapidly. The strategic board is well established and the recommendation implementation groups have been working for over two years. A new chair has been appointed from within the county and is working with the Strategic Board to develop an updated strategy. The priorities from this strategy are:

- To secure a mechanism that creates joint ownership of knowledge and skills between providers and employers in Kent and Medway
- To create relevant and viable Level 3 provision across Kent and Medway that reflects regional skill needs, whilst providing meaningful choice, an outstanding learning experience and strong progression.
- To ensure there is an offer that enable learners who have SEMH needs to reengage with mainstream provision and perform as well as those cohorts that do not.
- To ensure there is an appropriate and local offer to enable learners who have SEND requirement to increase their life choices and meet their full potential.
- To increase the number of learners, including those with SEND, studying at Level 2 from a GCSE base of less than 2 (Level 1 entry criteria).

Another development is the establishment of Local Collaborative Partnership Areas (LCPAs), bringing together senior leaders in travel to learn areas across the county to plan a coherent offer at a local level. All areas have appointed a lead to drive the work in the area and have begun setting priorities.

10.1 The LCPAs and their Priorities

Dartford/Gravesham/Swanley

- Develop comms between education providers, parents and young people.
- Map and analyse the local post-16 offer.
- Widen participation and developing effective pathways for all young people.
- Pilot a more common approach to CEIAG across the area.
- Develop SEN provision and level 1/Entry qualifications.

West Kent

- Understand the context (Attainment, Provision, NEETs).
- Build sufficient provision at all levels and for all need types. (levels and SEND).

Maidstone

- Strategic conversations regarding planned curriculum offer and joint approach to qualification reforms.
- Map and analyse the local Post 16 offer.
- Widening participation and developing effective pathways for all young people.
- Working with RIG 2 to pilot a more common approach to CEIAG across the area.
- Developing a plan for students taking non-traditional routes.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey

- To set up and develop a genuine and formal collaboration between the post 16 providers in Sittingbourne and Sheppey District.
- To research, establish, review and communicate a shared understanding of the district offer at post 16 particular at level 2 and below.
- To work together to create a platform of communication and action that enable a wider set of experiences of different providers and courses for our vulnerable students that might otherwise become NEET.

Ashford

- Establish clear provision mapping of the current local provision for L1 – 3.
- Develop an updated offer for L1/2 learners.
- Develop an updated offer for L3 learners (mid to lower) to meet the needs of all learners as well as match the needs of the local economy.
- Develop new and collaborative approaches to communicating the Post 16 offer to students and their parents.

Folkestone and Hythe

- Consider the development of long transition programme and preparing for adulthood approach through KS3 and 4. Potentially using the future skills questionnaire to track their preparedness over time.
- Consider what a Folkestone cycle of business could look like. Setting about key points in the year which could support transition, collaboration, and strategic sharing of key information.
- Review and share the mental health support for learners across Folkestone.

Canterbury/Faversham/Thanet

- Set out, and consult upon, what the comprehensive local post-16 'area offer' should include as a minimum.
- Encourage schools with sixth forms, local GFEC(s) and work-based and other learning providers to construct their own 'area offer'. This should combine academic (A level) and vocational programmes to replace qualifications set to be discontinued.
- Encourage the strong collaboration required to deliver this offer, based on specific local circumstances and needs.
- Progressively review all collaborations to ensure they are delivering strong, effective and truly comprehensive area offers.
- Continue to lobby Government to moderate the impact of vocational qualification reforms and ensure adequate provision at Level 3 for those whose Level 2 attainment does not allow progression to T or A levels.

Dover

- difficulties have been encountered in this area in commencing those strategic discussions due to delays in appointing a chair. Work to develop priorities for this area only commenced during the Autumn Term 2024.

The low-level offer for learners outside of school and colleges is changing rapidly. As expected, the number of places available across the county declined from 1106 in 2022-23 to 733 in 2023-24. During the same period, the number of training providers dropped from 20 to 18. This was due to the ceasing of European Social Fund support and short term, covid related funding. Work with the DFE has been ongoing for several years to fill these gaps and they have now agreed to allocate an additional 450 places for the county. A new training provider also commenced delivery in September 2024 and some district councils have begun to allocate small amounts from their Shared Prosperity Fund allocation to support skills. This should begin to stabilise the training provision in most areas.

The defunding of applied general qualifications (BTECs etc) has been paused which means that the current Kent 6th form offer is likely to remain unchanged for at least the next year until a decision on how to proceed has been made by the new government. There had been concerns that the offer for lower achieving students wishing to study at Level 3 would narrow. This is now not the case.

To further enhance the forecasting and planning of provision for both mainstream Post 16 students and students with SEN, the FE colleges within Kent and Medway are working to produce robust assessments of their capacities which can be referred to in future iterations of the KCP. Previously the only data published was for school sixth forms which meant a full assessment of surplus or deficit place numbers could not be made for the sector.

11. Appendices

11.1 Forecasting Methodology Summary

To inform the process of forecasting Primary school pupil numbers, KCC receives information from the Kent Primary Care Agency to track the number of births and location of Pre-school age children. The Pre-school age population is forecast into Primary school rolls according to trend-based intake patterns by ward area. Secondary school forecasts are calculated by projecting forward the Year 6 cohort, also according to trend-based intake patterns. If the size of the Year 6 cohort is forecast to rise, the projected Year 7 cohort size at Secondary schools will also be forecast to rise.

It is recognised that past trends are not always an indication of the future. However, for the Secondary phase, travel to school patterns are firmly established, parental preference is arguably more constant than in the Primary phase and large numbers of pupils are drawn from a wide area. Consequently, forecasts have been found to be accurate.

Pupil forecasts are compared with school capacities to give the projected surplus or deficit of places in each area. It is important to note that where a deficit is identified within the next few years work will already be underway to address the situation.

The forecasting process is trend-based, which means that relative popularity, intake patterns, and inward migration factors from the previous five years are assumed to continue throughout the forecasting period. Migration factors will reflect the trend-based level of house building in an area over the previous five years, but also the general level of in and out migration, including movements into and out of existing housing. An area that has a large positive migration factor may be due to recent large-scale housebuilding, and an area with a large negative migration factor may reflect a net out-migration of families. These migration factors are calculated at Pre-school level by ward area and also at school level for transition between year groups, as the forecasts are progressed.

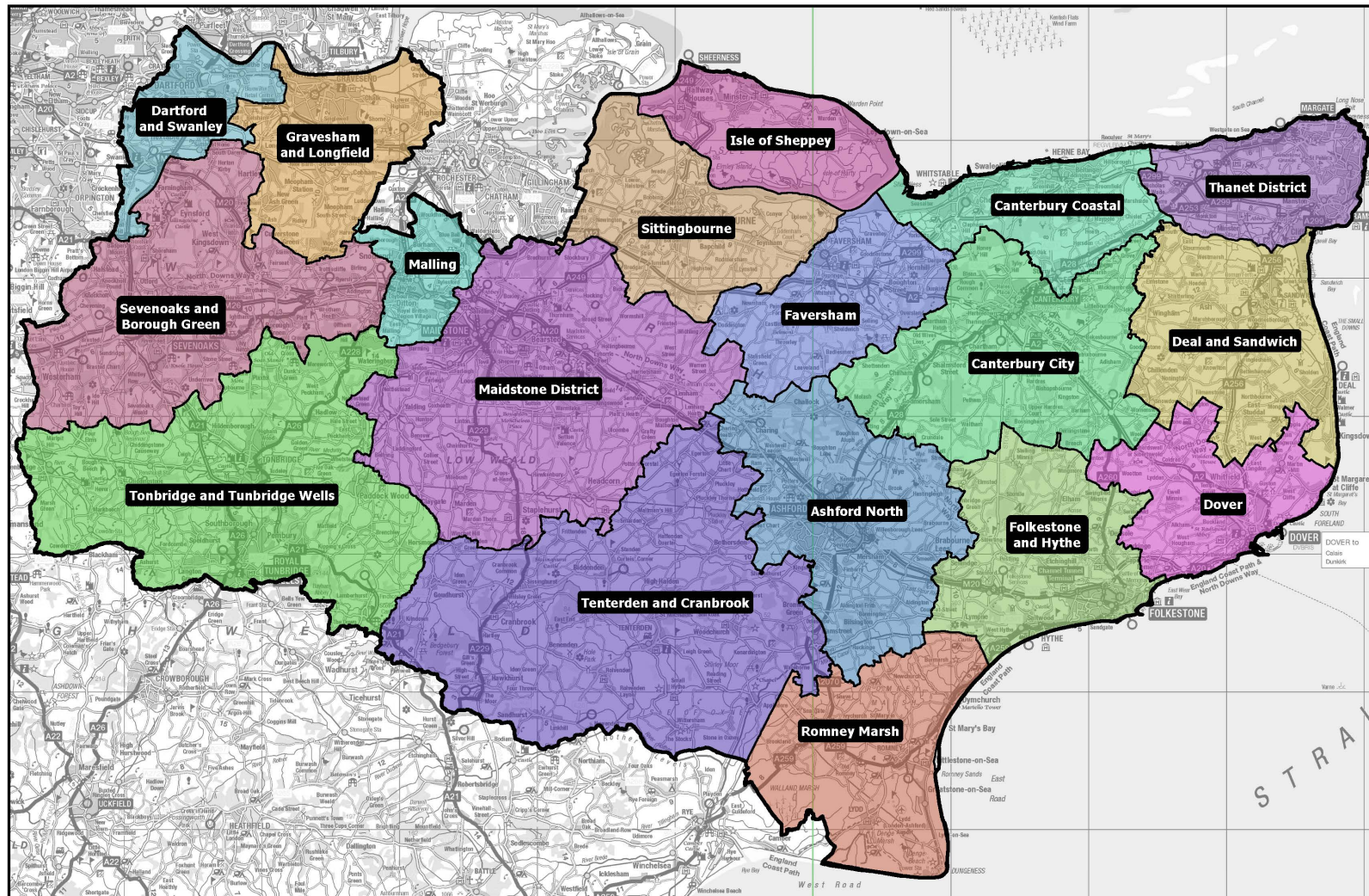
Information about expected levels of new housing, through the yearly Housing Information Audits (HIA) and Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategies is the most accurate reflection of short, medium and long term building projects at the local level. Where a large development is expected, compared with little or no previous house building in the area, a manual adjustment to the forecasts may be required to reflect the likely growth in pupil numbers more accurately.

Pupil product rates (the expected number of pupils from new housebuilding) are informed by the MORI New Build Survey 2005. KCC has developed a system that combines these new-build pupil product rates (PPRs) with the stock housing PPR of the local area to model the impact of new housing developments together with changing local demographics over time. This information is shared with district authorities to inform longer term requirements for education infrastructure and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) discussions at an early stage.

Forecasting future demand for school places can never be completely precise given the broad assumptions which have to be made about movements in and out of any given locality, the pace of individual housing developments, patterns of occupation and not least parental preferences for places at individual schools. This will be a function of geography, school reputation, past and present achievement levels and the availability of alternative provision.

11.2 Secondary Planning Group Maps

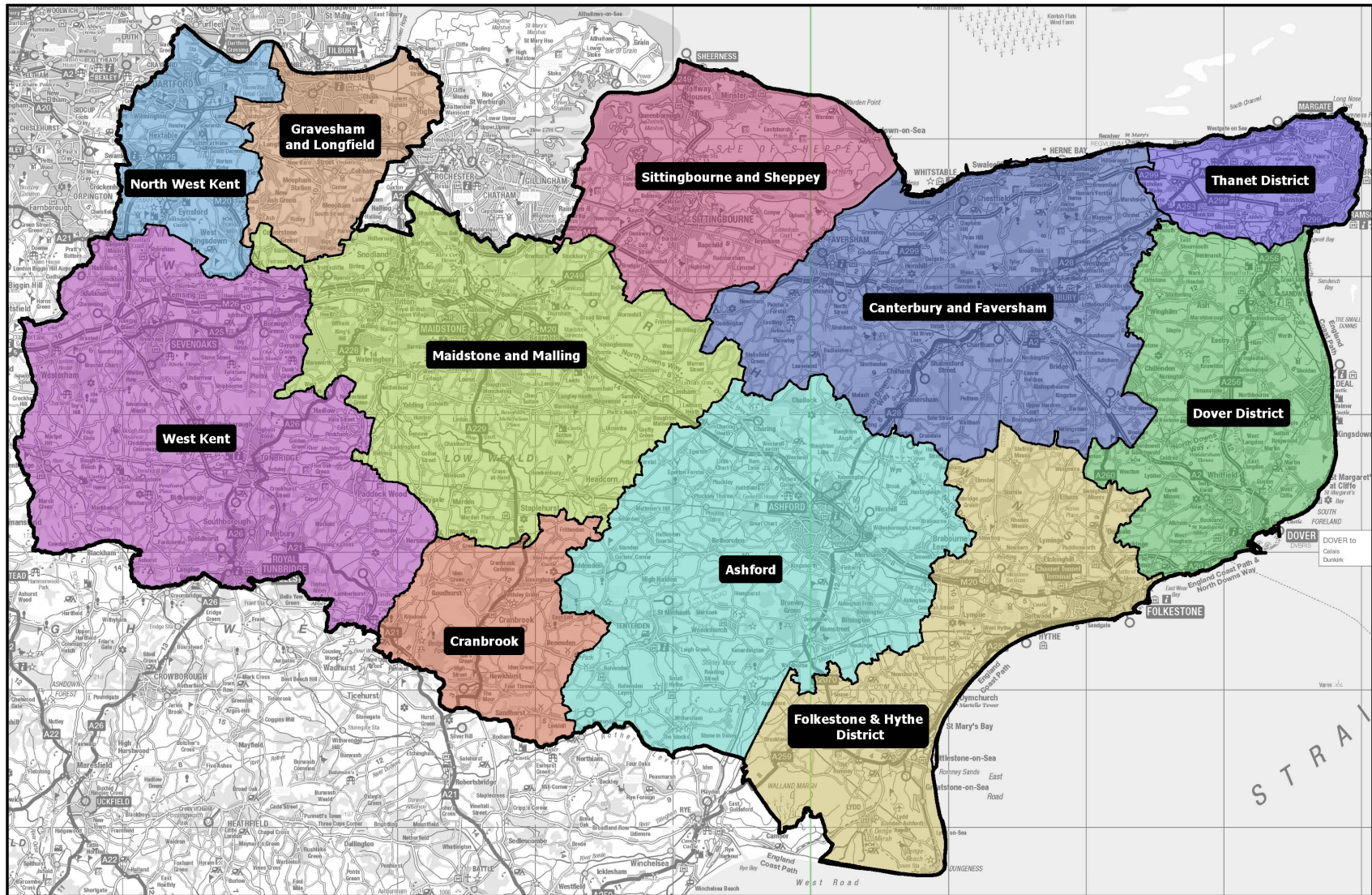
Kent Secondary Non Selective Planning Groups



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Kent Secondary Selective Planning Groups



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