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SUMMARY

About this Plan

This Pupil Place Plan shows how we expect school provision to change over the next five years. It gives information about the supply of school places, the number of pupils in the schools maintained by the Authority, and forecast pupil numbers for the next five years. It sets the context of the provision of school places in the Authority.

Birth Rate

The proportion of live births in Thurrock has increased significantly over the last few years. The number of live births (2,454) in 2010-11 is higher than it has ever been in the last in twenty years. This puts pressure on Reception Year places.

Reception Year intake

Reception Year intake in Thurrock is projected to increase over the next few years as a result of the increased birth rate. The Authority will require additional places in the Reception Year. In particular, additional places will be required in the Chafford Hundred, Grays East, Grays North, Grays West, Purfleet, Corringham & Stanford-Le-Hope and some rural areas from September 2013 onwards. In these areas, 93 places will be required in 2013 and 148 places in 2014. 176 additional places have already been created across the Authority in this academic year to meet unforeseen demand for Reception places in 2012/13

Rising pupil numbers in primary schools

Overall, the total number of pupils in Thurrock primary schools is projected to rise every year for the next five years. There are however, still empty places in many of the upper age groups. Over the next few years, the number of empty places in those age groups will reduce over time as the Reception Year pupils move up through the school.

Falling pupil numbers in secondary schools

Pupil numbers in our secondary schools will continue to fall for about three years. They will decline to their lowest by 2015. By 2016, they will start rising and have fewer empty places as the higher numbers in primary schools move on to secondary schools.

Surplus places

The schools census in January 2012 showed that there were 1,759 vacant places in primary schools. This translates to a surplus capacity of 11% in Thurrock primary schools. Most of those empty places are in the upper age groups in primary schools. There were only 56 empty places in the Reception Years group across the entire Authority. By Sept 2017/18, we expect surplus capacity to reduce to 5% (this includes the expansion of some schools)

In the secondary sector, the schools census taken in January 2012 showed that there were 643 empty places or 6.8% surplus capacity in the Authority in 2011/12. Based on current estimates, the surplus capacity could increase to 9% by 2017/18

Options to address the situation

Feasibility studies are presently been undertaken to determine the best options to meet the increased demand for Reception Year places in the pressure areas across the Authority. This includes exploring all available options to increase places at Chafford Hundred, Grays East, Grays North, Grays West, Purfleet, Corringham & Stanford-Le-Hope and some rural areas. When the outcome of the feasibility is known, it will be discussed with schools.

INTRODUCTION

“Which school should my child attend?” is one of the most important questions facing parents. For the vast majority of parents, the answer involves state education.

Thurrock has a statutory duty to:

- ensure that suitable and sufficient places are available in Thurrock for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one.
- ensure fair access to educational standards;
- ensure parental choice and high educational standards
- help fulfill every child’s educational potential.
- promote diversity; and
- respond to any representations from parents who are not satisfied with the provision of schools in the local area. This could be regarding the size, type, location or quality of school provision.

How this statutory duty is discharged can involve adding places to existing schools where extra capacity is required or opening new schools. It can also involve rationalising school sizes, and considering federations, amalgamations and closure; as well as reducing surplus places where required. The challenge for Thurrock is to provide the right number of places in the right locations at the right time.

This challenge is heightened by recent legislative changes giving approval to free schools and existing state primary and secondary schools to become academies independent of the Local Authority. This means that the Authority is no longer solely responsible for school place planning. The Authority must work with these other providers to secure a wide range of education options for parents and families, whilst ensuring that there are sufficient good school places.

There are presently 35 Authority maintained schools and 15 academies in Thurrock. Together, these schools currently meet the education needs of approximately 13,700 primary and 9,031 secondary aged pupils on roll in the Authority.

School place planning is a complex process, fraught with uncertainty, more so now than ever before, as previous planning assumptions about mobility, housing yield, and demographic changes have been compromised by rapid shifts in economic conditions and patterns of migration. While there are similar factors affecting a number of local authorities, each Local Authority has its own unique set of local factors to take into account.

This Pupil Place Plan shows how we expect school provision to change over the next five years. It gives information about the supply of school places, the number of pupils in the schools maintained by the Authority, and forecast pupil numbers for the next five years. It sets the context of the provision of school places in the Authority.

The Plan will be reviewed annually and updated in line with changes in the factors that influence the demand for places in the area such as new housing or changing demographic profile. Schools converting to Academies and emerging Free schools are included in this plan and will continue to be incorporated in the future.

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Overview of Pupil Numbers Nationally

The national pupil projections presented in the current statistical release produced by the Department for Education is shown below. They are based on the latest national population projections from Office of National Statistics and cover the period up to 2020.

Key points

- Overall pupil numbers (aged up to and including 15) in state-funded schools began to increase in 2011 and are projected to continue rising.
- Numbers in maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools started increasing in 2010 and are projected to continue rising. By 2020, numbers are projected to be 18% higher than in 2012, reaching levels last seen in the 1970s.
- Between 2012 and 2015, pupil numbers in maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools are projected to increase by 8%.
- State-funded secondary pupil numbers aged up to and including 15 have been declining since 2004 and are projected to continue to decline until 2015, after which the increases in primary pupil numbers will start to flow through.
- By 2015, the number of state-funded secondary pupils aged up to and including 15 is projected to be 4% lower than in 2012.
- By 2015, all regions in England are projected to have an increase in their primary aged population (aged 5 to 10) compared with 2010. This ranges from around 9% in the North East and South West to 18% in London

Impact of Recent Legislation

The Academies Act 2010 enabled more schools to convert to Academies, without always needing a sponsor. The Education Act 2011 further expands the programme to allow the establishment of 16 to 19 Academies and alternative provision Academies. The Act also makes changes to the arrangements for the establishment of new schools by introducing a presumption that when local authorities set up new schools they will be Academies or Free schools. If Local Authorities are unable to identify a suitable Academy provider the Secretary of State will work with them to find one.

The Department for Education (DfE) has described Free Schools as all-ability, state-funded schools, set up in response to parental demand. These schools can be set up by charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers, faith groups and groups of parents. Free Schools have the same legal requirements as academies and are accountable like other state schools and academies via inspections and tests. However unlike the new academies, which are a change from existing maintained schools, Free Schools are brand new schools which can be set up where there is parent-carer demand. It is the Secretary of State who makes a judgment on the potential of Free School project – based on criteria relating to educational aims and objectives, evidence of demand, potential premises and suitability of provider. The Secretary of State makes an assessment of whether the project has met all the criteria to allow a new school to be set up and receive state funding based on the final business case and plan

This legislation has a significant impact on the role of the local authority as the strategic commissioner of school places. The Authority cannot determine or change the number of school places or pupil age range of Academies. Academy places are set by the government in their funding agreement. However, if an Academy made a request to the Secretary of State to change its pupil numbers and/or age range the decision taken would be “informed” by the views of the Authority as the commissioner of pupil places.

Nonetheless, the capital funding for basic need for new pupil places in all government-funded schools, including academies is allocated to local authorities according to the relative need for new places - based on forecast data provided by authorities. Local authorities are expected to consider fairly both their maintained schools and local academies, and where the additional places will be of greatest benefit to their children when deciding where to use basic need funding to provide additional places.

Post-16

The Education and Skills Act 2008 means that from September 2013, all young people will be required to continue in education or training post 16. The minimum age at which young people can leave learning is being introduced in two stages: to the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015.

The first cohort to be part of this new requirement will be the young people who started secondary school in September 2008 and who will be in year 11 in September 2012. From September 2015, the participation age will be raised to 18 and will take effect with 17 year olds starting in September 2015.

New Schools – Competition Arrangements

If there is a need for a new school, the Authority must normally hold a competition to decide who should set up and run it. The competition arrangements operate as follows:

- The Authority issues a Public Notice explaining why the school is required. The Notice describes the size and age range of the school and invites proposals for the new school from any interested person or group. The Authority might decide to submit a proposal of its own into the competition.
- The Authority must publish all the proposals and hold at least one public meeting where the proposals can be discussed.
- If the Authority has not entered the competition, it will determine which proposal should win the competition.
- If the Authority has entered the competition it cannot also be the judge. In this case the Office of the Schools Adjudicator will determine the successful proposal

Increasing the capacity of schools

Statutory proposals are required for a proposed enlargement of the premises of the school which would increase the capacity of the school by both:-

- more than 30 pupils; and
- by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).

The proposal will need to come from the Admissions Authority. The Admission Authority for a community or voluntary controlled school is the Local Authority. The Admission Authority for a voluntary aided or foundation school is the school's governing body.

THURROCK DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

About Thurrock

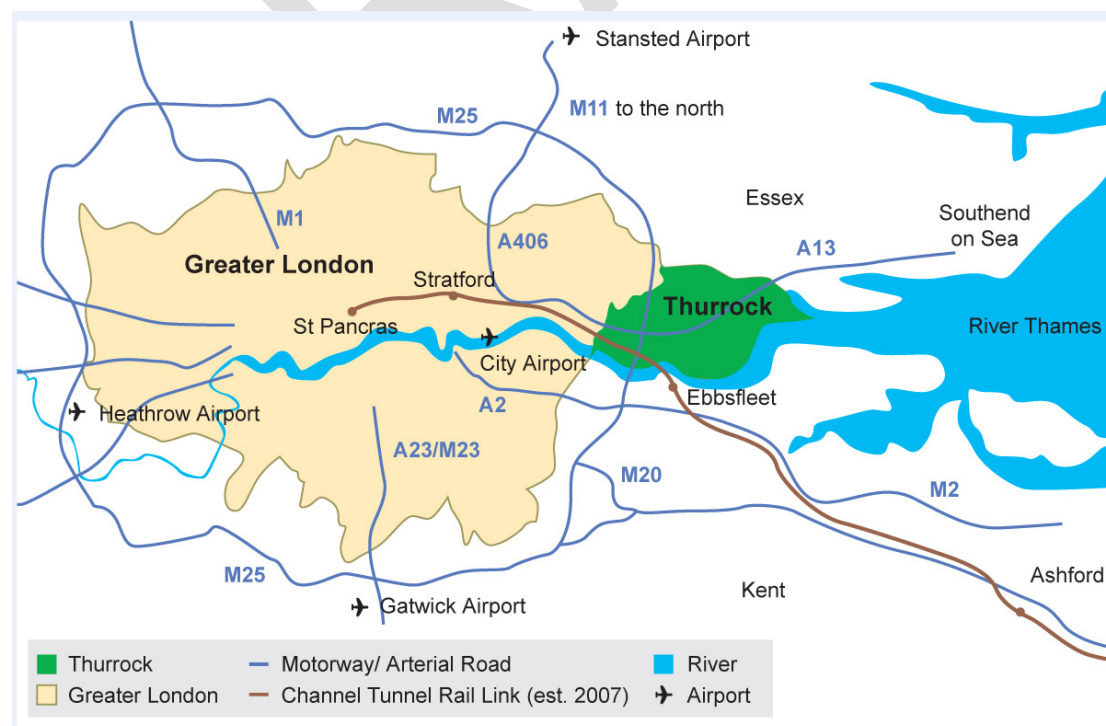
Thurrock is located on the north of the Thames, twenty miles east of central London. The Borough covers 165 sq km and has a diverse range of land uses and associated environmental issues. More than half of the land in Thurrock is designated Green Belt and the Borough has over 18 miles of riverfront.

Much of the riverside area of Thurrock is highly urbanised with a mixture of industrial and residential development at the west and eastern ends of the Borough. The Borough is characterised by five main urban communities plus a large rural area (including a significant swathe of Green Belt land) containing five main villages. The five urban communities are: -

- Grays plus the adjacent recent development at Chafford Hundred
- West Thurrock and Purfleet
- Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham
- Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary
- Aveley and Ockendon

Thurrock also has the developing community of Chafford Hundred and the Lakeside Regional Shopping Centre located west of Grays and east of the M25.

Thurrock benefits from a good location in terms of transport. The M25 London Orbital Motorway passes through the Borough, as does the A13 London to Southend trunk road, which connects with the M25 (Junction 30) just north of the Dartford Tunnel (Junction 31) and the Queen Elizabeth Bridge. The Channel Tunnel Rail link also passes through the Borough and the C2C Railway links London (Fenchurch Street) to Southend, with seven stations in the Borough. The existing Port of Tilbury provides international connections for both passengers and freight.



Population Overview

Thurrock has a population of approx 157,000 people, as at the 2011 census. There are 42,000 young people from 0 to the age of 19, of whom 12,000 are 4 years old or younger. 7.6% of the population are under five and 20.4% are under 15. These are some of the highest proportions in England and Wales. Thurrock is ranked 18th in England and Wales and second in the East region for proportion of under fives and 14th in England and Wales and second in the East region for under 15s

Number of Females

Thurrock also has a higher proportion of women in the 20-39 age group, than the national average, who are establishing their families.

ENGLAND AND WALES	26.41%
ENGLAND -	26.55%
THURROCK	28.91%

Females 20 – 39 as a proportion of females all ages

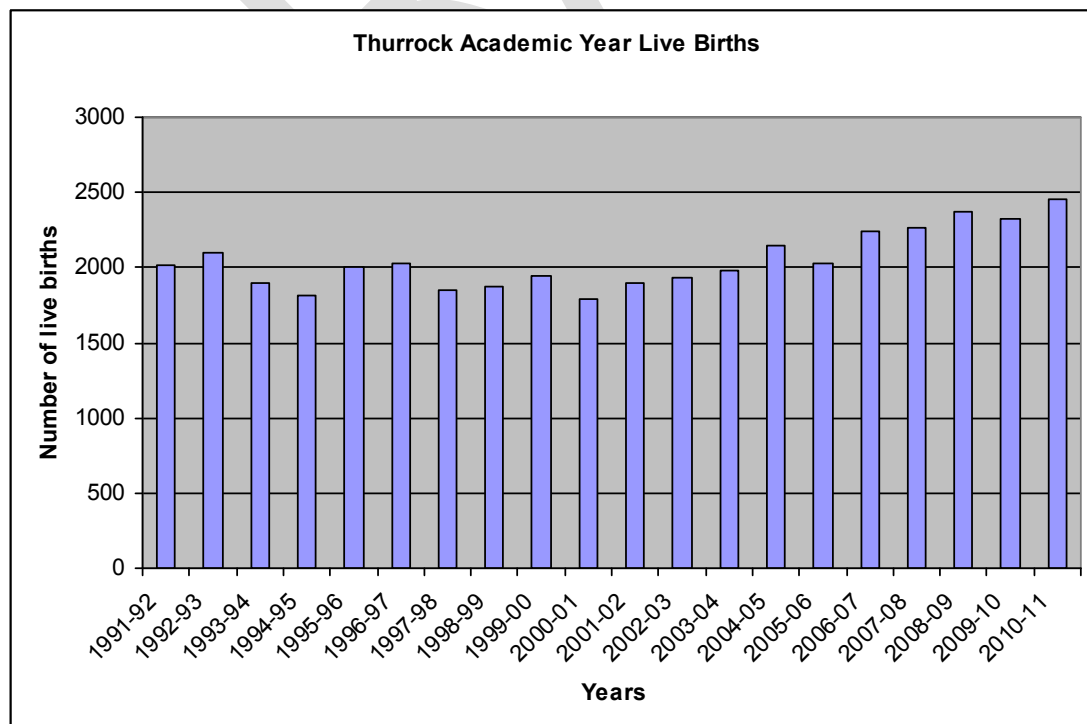
Furthermore, Thurrock also has a greater proportion of females aged 15 to 49 than the national average.

ENGLAND AND WALES	47.02%
ENGLAND	47.17%
THURROCK	49.81%

Females 15 – 49 as a proportion of females all ages

Birth Rate

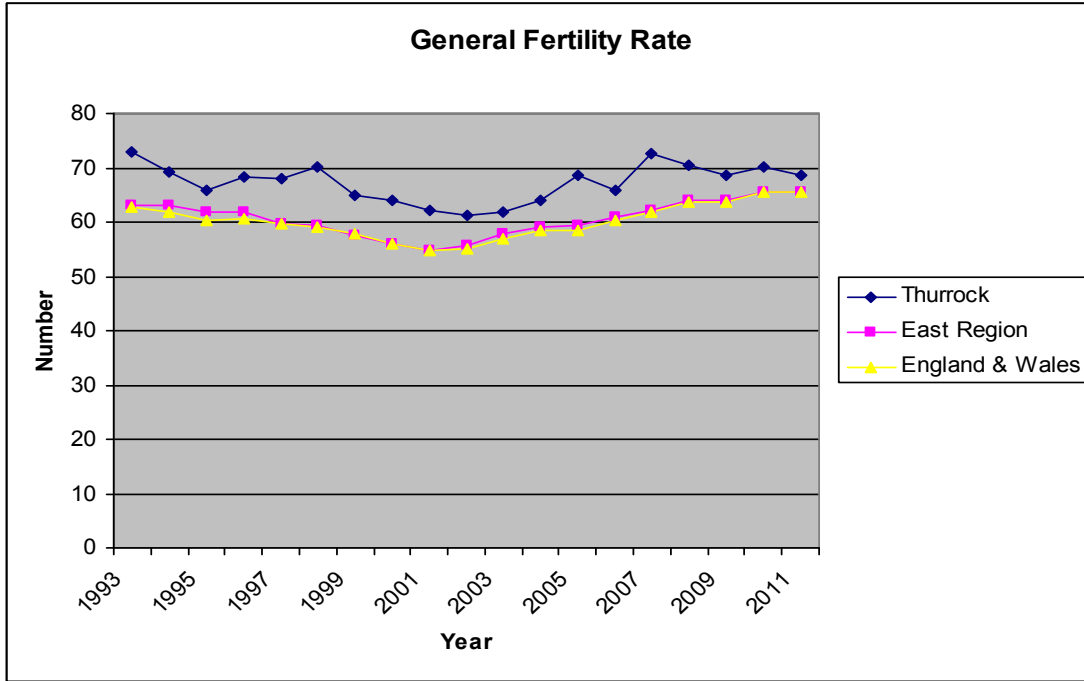
The proportion of live births in Thurrock has increased significantly over the last few years. The number of live births (2,454) in 2010-11 is higher than it has ever been in the last in twenty years



General Fertility Rate

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) in Thurrock according to the Office of National Statistics, has consistently been significantly higher than both the national and regional average over the last 19 years. The General Fertility Rate is the annual number of live births per 1,000 women of child bearing age (between 15 – 44).

The figures are demonstrated in the following graph.



Whilst the regional average shadows the national average, Thurrock Fertility rate is considerably higher than both.

Taking all the above three factors (no of females, birth rate and GFR) into consideration, it is highly likely that live births in Thurrock will continue to rise over the next few years. This alongside residential developments and migration will consequently impact demand on pupil places in Thurrock

SCHOOL ORGANISATION IN THURROCK

Pre-School and Nursery Provision

Nursery, pre-school and early years education is provided in partnership by the Authority and private and voluntary providers.

Education is not compulsory for children under the age of five, but local Authorities must ensure that a part-time nursery place is available for every three year old and four year old whose parents want one.

In Thurrock, all three and four year olds have access to 15 hours of free nursery education for 38 weeks of the year. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). The Free Entitlement is available in maintained nursery classes in schools, pre-schools, day nurseries and private nursery with accredited childminders.

Thurrock currently has 3 day nurseries (Little Pirates, Neptune and Community College pre-school), 22 nursery classes in maintained primary schools providing part time places and 47 PVI (private, voluntary and independent) settings.

Sufficiency of early years' provision is assessed annually. This is a statutory duty within the Childcare Act 2006.

Sure Start Children's Centres exist across Thurrock offering a range of services to meet the needs of 0-5 year olds and their families. Services operate from the centre and through outreach into other communities.

Primary Provision

There are 40 primary schools in Thurrock. All Infant and Junior schools in Thurrock share the same site, but are separate schools, with their own governing body and admission arrangements.

The table below summarises the number and type of primary sector schools in Thurrock

Category	Infant	Junior	Primary	Primary Catholic	Primary C of E	TOTAL
Community	1	1	24			26
Foundation					1	1
Voluntary Aided				4	1	5
Voluntary Controlled					1	1
Academy	1	1	4			6
Free			1			1
Total Schools	2	2	29	4	3	40
Total 5-11 Places	450	600	*12,561	1,463	504	15,488

*The number of primary places shown in this table is based on available number of places in 2012-13 academic year. It includes the 90 Yr 6 places available at The Gateway Free School in this academic year (2012-13).

Secondary Provision

Thurrock has 10 secondary schools. Thurrock secondary schools, are all 11-16 co-educational with the exception of Grays Convent School for Girls, which is a popular school serving Catholic Girls denominational requirements across a wide area. Special schools in the Borough have some provision for 16+.

Category	Secondary
Academy	8
Voluntary Aided	1
Community	1
TOTAL	10
Total 11 – 16 Places	9,285

Post 16 Provision

Post-16 education is provided by Basildon and Thurrock College, Palmers Sixth Form College, Thurrock Adult Community College, Gable Hall School, Hassenbrook School, St Clere's School and in two special schools for pupils with special educational needs.

From September 2013 young people will be required to continue to participate in education and training up to the age of 17. The first cohort to be part of this new requirement will be the young people who started secondary school in September 2008 and who will be in year 11 in September 2012. From September 2015 the participation age will be raised to 18 and will take effect with 17 year olds starting in September 2015.

Pupils will have a choice of how they participate in education. This could include:

- full-time education, such as school or college;
- work based learning, such as apprenticeships;
- part-time education or training, if they are employed, self-employed or
- volunteering more than 20 hours a week.

Special Needs Provision

Thurrock has a range of outstanding provision for pupils identified with special educational needs. The majority of children with special educational needs will have these met in their mainstream schools through the resources provided within these schools.

Thurrock has two Special Schools both of which are judged to be Outstanding in their most recent Ofsted Inspections and both of which have national reputations of excellence in relation to their educational provision.

Treetops is a day special school for pupils between the ages of three and nineteen. The school caters for children and young people with moderate learning difficulties or autism. The school is located in Grays, Essex, and is a Thurrock Local Authority maintained school.

Beacon Hill Academy is a day special school for children and young people between the ages of three and nineteen who have Profound and Severe Learning Difficulties and complex medical needs. The school is located in South Ockendon, Essex, and is an Academy.

In addition to the two special schools Thurrock has a number of mainstream resource bases attached to mainstream schools and academies which provide places and

support to pupils with a range of special educational needs. The details of these mainstream resource bases is set out below

Special Schools

School	Type of Provision	Age Range	Number of Places
Treetops School	Special school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and ABA unit	3 - 19	268
Beacon Hill	Special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties & physical impairment	3 - 19	72

Schools with specialist provision within the primary sector

School	Type of Provision	Age Range	Number of Places
Warren Primary	Resource base for pupils with hearing Impairment	4 - 11	14
Stanford-le-Hope Primary	Resource base for pupils with visual impairment	4 - 11	5
Stanford-le-Hope Primary	Nursery non specific SEN		2FTE
Corringham Primary	Resource base for pupils with speech & language impairment	4 - 11	20
Harris Primary Academy	ICAN Unit	4 - 11	5 FTE
Dilkes Primary	Resource base for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties	4 - 11	10
Lansdowne Primary	Resource base for pupils with moderate learning difficulties.	4 - 11	8

Schools with specialist provision within the secondary sector

School	Type of Provision	Age Range	Number of Places
Ormiston Park Academy	ASCEND unit (BESD)	11 - 19	15
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	Resource base for pupils with speech, language and communication impairment.	11 - 19	20
St Clere's School	Resource base for pupils with visual & learning impairment	11 - 19	6 in VI Unit 11 in HI Unit

Education otherwise than at School

The Authority recognises the right of parents to choose to educate their children otherwise than at school. This is referred to as Elective Home Education. Where parents make this choice, the Authority will monitor the quality of provision to ensure that the child is receiving an education of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

The Local Authority maintains a Primary and Secondary Pupil Referral Unit which offers suitable education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who because of illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made.

Promoting Diversity

The current pattern of school provision includes Faith schools and Foundation schools, Trust schools, which are Foundation schools with Trust governance, and Academies which were subject to new legislation from July 2010. The governors of these schools as well as the Catholic and the Church of England dioceses work closely with the Authority.

There is currently good diversity in school provision in Thurrock and the Authority is committed to maintaining such provision in the future. All the secondary and special schools have at least one specialism. Three secondary schools have Sixth Forms. A list of schools and their specialisms are shown in the table below:

Chafford Hundred (A)	Business & Enterprise
Gable Hall (A)	Performing Arts
Gateway Academy (A)	The Arts
Grays Convent (VA)	Languages
Hassenbrook (A)	Technology
Ormiston Academy (A)	Creative & Media
St Clere's (A)	Science
The Grays Media (C)	Media & Arts
Ockendon Academy (A)	Maths & Computing
William Edwards (A)	Sports

A = Academy
VA = Voluntary Aided
C = Community

The Authority recognises that local communities are diverse and supports the local management of schools. This means that schools need to serve their local community and where the needs of the community are best served by some specialism or federated/trust type governance, the Authority will support it.

School Performance

Maximising pupil potential, raising achievement and improving educational standards is one of Thurrock's key priorities. School place planning is supported and informed by the work of the School Improvement Team. School planning decisions should promote the improvement of educational standards. This means the performance of a school or group of schools is a key factor to be considered when changes are being defined.

School Size

School sizes are often referred to in terms of a number of forms of entry (FE). Each form of entry is regarded as referring to a group of 30 reception pupils admitted as a

single year group; therefore a 1 form entry school would admit and contain a maximum of 30 pupils at the normal point of entry and in each year group.

School sizes in Thurrock reflect variations in population with smaller schools in the more rural communities and larger schools in major centres of population especially where there has been rapid growth.

Thurrock strives to plan school places in sizes that will support and enable:

- Viable class organisation structures
- Adequate curriculum coverage and curriculum choice
- Viable and sustainable schools which do not require disproportionate financial support
- Adequate non-contact time for staff

Expansion of successful and popular schools

Most parents generally want their children to attend good schools. Consequently, some schools become more popular than others; and when parents cannot get a place at the school they want for their child, they can be disappointed. In order to satisfy parental preference, the government has encouraged the expansion of popular schools by giving guidance that the existence of surplus places should not be used to prevent the creation of additional places at popular schools. However, the guidance set out in the DfE document titled *“Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form”* does not propose a definition of a successful and popular school. It is up to the Authority or Decision Maker to decide whether a school is successful and popular. However, the following factors must be taken into account:

(a) The school’s performance in terms of:

- Absolute results in key stage assessments and public examinations
- Comparison with other schools in similar circumstances (both in the same Authority and other Authorities)
- Value added
- Improvement over time in key stage results and public examinations.

(b) The number of applications for places.

In Thurrock, school place planning systems will usually trigger the expansion of successful and popular schools when a number of indicators become apparent. Some of the indicators include:

- Where a school is unable to accommodate catchment area pupils at the first point of entry.
- Where there is an observed rise in Reception Year intake that takes a school above its published admission number and the rise is sustained for three years. This will include taking into account the number of catchment area pupils in that year.
- Where infant class size regulations cannot be maintained and there are no spaces in schools within 2 miles
- Where the site of a school with rising catchment pupils participation allows for proportionate expansion.
- Where the provision of an additional classroom will not lead to surplus places or the filling of those places by children who have to travel a long distance to the school

- Where the yield from housing developments result in increases in catchment area pupils arriving at the school is observed and peaks at a level above the planned admission number

Response to Parental preference

In 2012, 86% of parents gained their first preference for primary school and 83% their first preference for secondary school.

Thurrock strives to meet parental preference wherever this is possible for all school admissions in accordance with the requirements of the law.

Accessibility and Transport

Thurrock is a compact area and a significant majority of pupils attend schools that are both local and easily accessed. Most primary pupils attend schools within two miles of their homes and most secondary school pupils attend schools within three miles of their homes.

The Authority's transport policy provides that, for primary pupils, assistance with transport is given where the pupil attends the "nearest appropriate" school and that school is more than two miles from the home address, measured by the shortest available walking route. For secondary pupils the distance is three miles.

In-Year Fair Access Protocol for children without a school place

The Authority strongly believes that all children should receive a good education to help them to fulfil their potential. However, for some children, that can be harder than for others. Sometimes children can find themselves without a school place because their personal circumstances are such that they have to move home or they have been excluded from school. To ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place, the Authority has a policy called 'In-Year Fair Access Protocol'. The protocol exists for those who cannot obtain a place through normal admissions procedures so that they are not out of education for excessively long periods of time. This also ensures that no school receives more than their fair share of vulnerable and challenging pupils.

All schools and Academies are under a duty to participate in the Authority's protocol.

The requirement to have an In Year Fair Access Protocol was introduced in the Education & Inspections Act 2006. Further guidance of this requirement is provided in the School Admissions Code published on 1 February 2012.

THURROCK PUPIL FORECAST METHODOLOGY

A number of sources of information are used in projecting the number of places that the Authority will need for its school-aged children [5 to 16 years of age]. This forecasting can predict fairly accurate figures over the next five years for primary and ten years for secondary. However, forecasting beyond that period is very difficult with any degree of accuracy. Forecasts are shared with schools for observations and local knowledge, and revised as appropriate.

Births

The Authority receives a list of all children born in Thurrock each year from the PCT. This information is collated and the number of births in each school's area determined using a list of roads forming the 'admission area'. The historical % of pupils needing school places at age 5, known as the admissions factor, is applied to the births figure providing an average number of pupils requiring places in 5 years time, when those children will be of reception age. Occasionally if the birth numbers, or the actual intakes, have been very much higher or lower than predicted and therefore give a false historical admission factor, the factor is adjusted to reflect more accurately the position at the school.

Residential Housing Development

As with the birth information, each residential development is assigned to a school, or schools, using the admission area roads. The number of pupils estimated to be produced from the development every year is calculated and added onto the projections. If the development is large, the developer will advise on the timescale and the number of properties due to be completed each year. The actual numbers of school-aged children from these developments are monitored by the Authority in order to assess the impact of the housing and to provide information for future development profiling.

All data relating to proposed housing developments with planning permission are provided by the Authority's Strategic Planning Team. Their inclusion here does not suggest that a particular development will necessarily go ahead. The data that has been incorporated in this year's forecast is the position at July 2012; it will need to be reviewed regularly in the coming months and years.

Number of Pupils on Roll

Information is collected 3 times a year, (January, October and May) on the number of children in the school, in each age group. This information informs us of any changes to year groups, up or down, and acts as a trigger for closer review and monitoring. If there are circumstances that are affecting this, such as a new school, adjustments are made to the year group figures to reflect this, based on residential development information from the Development Control Team. The Development Control Team is responsible for assessing planning applications for buildings in Thurrock.

Secondary Projections

Secondary forecasts are constructed using Year 6 number of pupils on roll on the primary forecasts, who should transfer to the feeder secondary school the following academic year. By comparing the historical Year 7 intake against historical Year 6, an admission factor is calculated. This applied to the year groups currently in primary schools, show a potential pupil product on the secondary forecast.

PUPIL FORECAST: PRIMARY SECTOR SCHOOL PLACES

Surplus Capacity

The schools census in January 2012 showed a total of 13,729 children attending primary schools with total capacity of 15,488 places (1,759 vacant places). This translates to a surplus capacity of 11% in Thurrock primary schools.

Most of those empty places are in the upper age groups in primary schools. There were only 56 empty places in the Reception Years group across the entire Authority.

By Sept 2017/18, we expect surplus capacity to reduce to 5% (this includes the expansion of some schools).

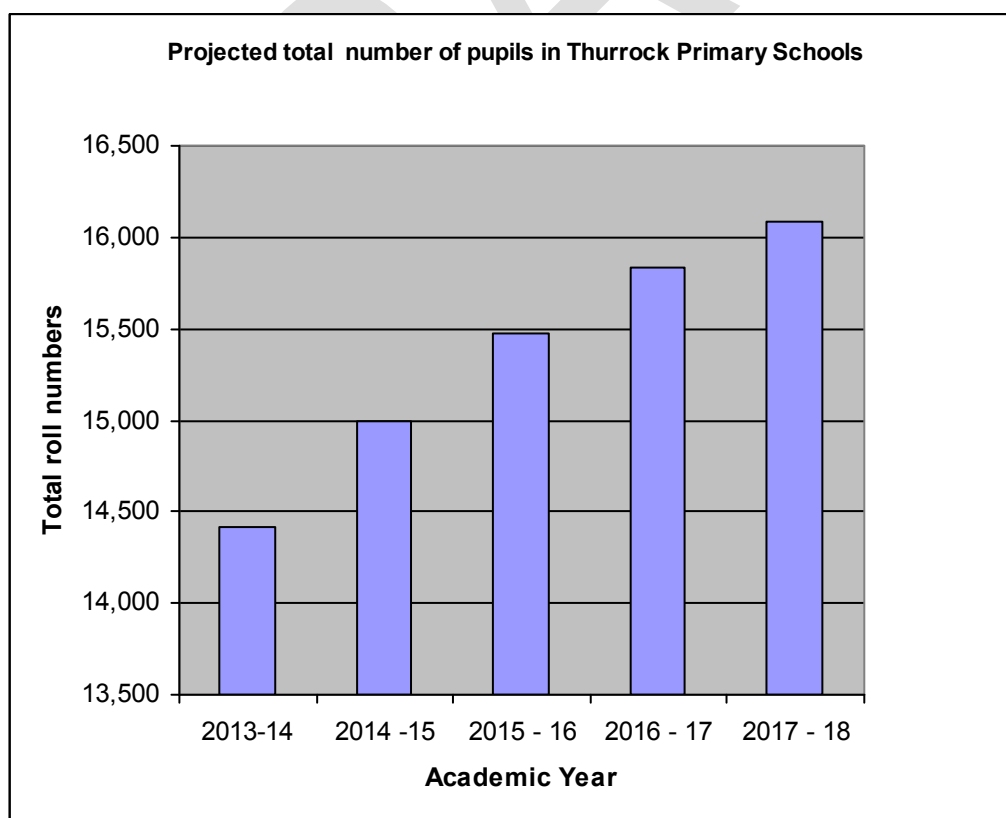
Projected Primary Total Pupil Numbers

The total number of pupils in Thurrock primary schools is projected to rise every year for the next five years. This is broadly in line with the national forecast highlighted in the current statistical release produced by the DfE (see page 4 of this report).

The table and graph below illustrates the rise in primary pupil numbers in Thurrock.

Sept 2013-14	14,414
Sept 2014 -15	14,995
Sept 2015 - 16	15,475
Sept 2016 - 17	15,839
Sept 2017 - 18	16,085

*The figures exclude pupils in nursery classes



Reception Year Pupil Numbers

When planning for school places, the capacity requirements of schools are largely driven by the forecast numbers for children that will require a place in the Reception Year rather than the total numbers on school roll.

In order to meet the demand for Reception places for this academic year (September 2012/13), some schools agreed to increase their Reception Year intake numbers by exceeding their published admission number (PAN). These increases in numbers have provided an additional 176 places across the Authority at the following schools:

- Stifford Clays Primary: Increase from 90 to 120 (accommodated by means of a demountable).
- Little Thurrock: Increase from 75 to 90 (accommodated by means of a demountable)
- Purfleet: Increase from 60 to 90 (accommodated by means of a demountable)
- Stifford Primary: Increase from 60 to 90
- West Thurrock: Increase from 60 to 90
- St Mary's: Increase from 34 to 45
- Quarry Hill: Increase from 60 to 90

Taking account of the temporary PAN increases for the aforementioned seven schools in this academic year and the 90 places now available in the new Gateway Free school, our projection indicates that there will be sufficient number of Reception Year places across the Authority in the next few years.

The table below shows the projected number of places across the Authority including the temporary increases in PAN for seven schools in this academic year (2012-13)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Projected Reception Year Numbers	2,252	2,347	2,281	2,371	2,332
Available Reception year places	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455
Surplus/(Deficit)	203	108	174	84	123

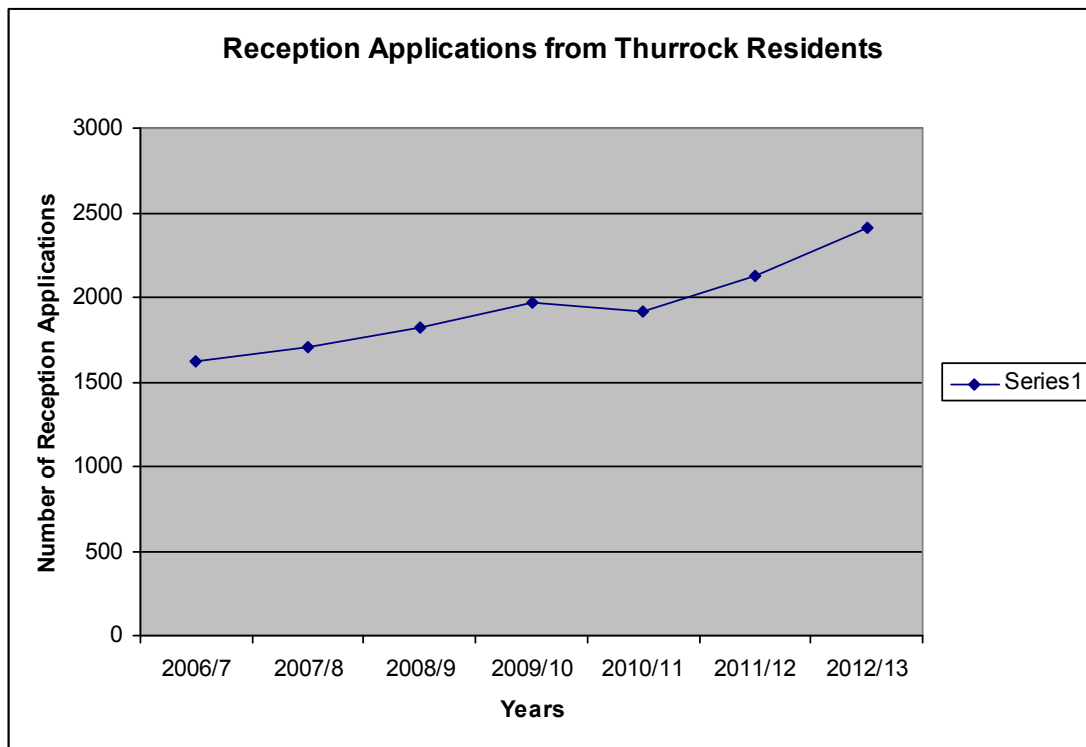
However, from September 2013, there will be pressure for additional places in certain areas like Chafford Hundred, Grays East, Grays North, Grays West, Purfleet, Corringham & Stanford-Le-Hope and rural areas where the demand is projected to exceed the available number of Reception Year places in the area.

Reception Year Applications

Reception applications from Thurrock residents are up from 1624 applications for reception admission in September 2006/7, to 2413 applications for admission in September 2012/13.

Year	Applications
2006-07	1,624
2007-08	1,704
2008-09	1,823
2009-10	1,967

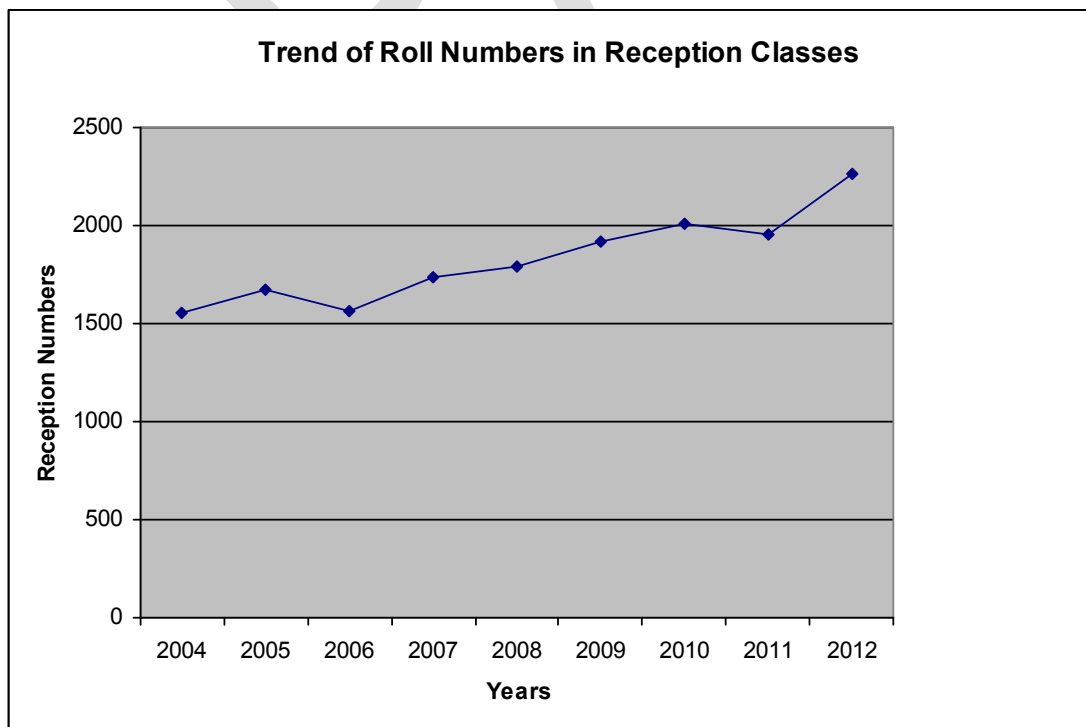
Year	Applications
2010 -11	1,920
2011-12	2,130
2012-13	2,413



With the increasing birth rate in the area, this trend is likely to continue.

Actual Number of children in Reception Year (2004 – 2012)

The number of children admitted into the Reception Year group in Thurrock has been steadily increasing since September 2007. This has been primarily driven by an increasing birth rate and the increasing popularity of some of our primary schools.



Key school capacity issues from our Primary forecast

The primary school forecasts indicate that additional Reception Year places will be required in a number of schools from September 2013 onwards. In particular, additional places will be required in the Chafford Hundred, Grays, West Thurrock and Purfleet areas.

Chafford Hundred Area

There are three primary schools in Chafford Hundred: Harris Primary Academy, Warren Primary and Tudor Court.

- Harris Primary Academy is a 3 form entry school admitting 90 pupils in each year group (Reception to Yr 6) across the school. The school was previously a two form entry school until last September (2011) when an additional form of entry was added. This enabled the school to start admitting 90 pupils instead of 60 in each year group (Reception to Yr 6)
- Warren Primary is a 2 form entry school admitting 60 pupils in each year group (Reception to Yr 6) across the school.
- Tudor Court until recently was a 3 form entry school. An additional form of entry was added in 2011 which now makes the school a 4 form entry school admitting 120 pupils in each year group (Reception to Yr 6).

There are presently 1,890 school places (excluding nursery classes) available across the three schools in all year groups including 270 Reception Year places. This is as a result of increasing the PAN at Tudor Court to 120, which now provides an additional 30 places per year group.

Presently in September 2012, there are a total of about 1,705 pupils on roll in the three schools with 1,890 places available in the area. This means that there are about 185 places still to be filled across Year 2 to Year 6 in the area. So if 100 children, for example, moved into the area and require a school place between Yr 2 and Yr 6, they can be accommodated until 2016 when projected demand for places will exceed the total available places across the three schools.

The immediate pressure however, lies in the number of places available in Reception classes for children of statutory age at the point of entry. There are presently 270 reception places available across the three schools and all the places have been taken up. This consequently means that any number of interests for reception places from local residents above the 270 Reception Year places available in the Chafford Hundred area cannot presently be accommodated.

The table below shows the projected shortfall or surplus in number of Reception Year places in the Chafford Hundred area from September 2013/14. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Harris Academy	90	-39	-21	-22	-3	-21
Tudor Court	120	-2	19	3	30	13
Warren	60	-6	0	-8	2	-3
TOTAL	270	-47	-2	-27	29	-11

This shows that additional Reception Year places will be required in the Chafford Hundred area over the next few years excluding 2016 when a surplus is predicted. Due to the way school places are allocated, the shortfall in Reception numbers shown against each school may need to be met elsewhere in the area – particularly, where the school is not capable of being expanded due to limited size areas.

The table below sets out the projected total pupil numbers (Reception to Yr 6)

	PAN	Capacity based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Harris Primary Academy	90	630	607	657	682	715	737
Tudor Court	120	840	684	698	725	727	744
Warren	60	420	475	473	476	472	444
TOTAL	270	1890	1766	1828	1883	1914	1925

The Authority is looking at all possible options to meet the demand for pupil places. Feasibility work is presently been undertaken to generate the appropriate option that will best meet demand for places in the area.

Grays North Area

Stifford Clays Primary School is a 3 form entry school admitting 90 pupils in each year group.

The rising birth rate in the Stifford Clays area indicates the need for additional reception provision at the school which is greater than the 90 pupils that the school normally admits. An additional temporary accommodation was added to the school this academic year (Sept 2012) in order to meet unforeseen demand for Reception Year places. This consequently means that the school admitted 120 reception pupils instead of 90 in September 2012; taking it above the school's published admission number.

Without maintaining the temporary increased PAN (120) in September 2013, the Reception Year projection for the school would mean that there would be a short fall of 34 reception year places in the Grays North planning area. The table below depicts the impact. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Deneholm	60	17	14	4	13	12
Stifford Clays Primary	90	-51	-12	-1	-12	-19
Surplus / (Deficit)	150	-34	2	3	1	-7

However, if the temporary increase in PAN is retained in 2013 and beyond, the Reception Year projection for the area will result in a shortfall of 4 places in September 2013 as shown below.

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Deneholm	60	17	14	4	13	12
Stifford Clays Primary	120	-21	18	29	18	11
Surplus / (Deficit)	180	-4	32	33	31	23

The overall total number of pupils at the school (Reception to Yr 6) is projected as follows:

	PAN	Capacity based on PAN	NOR Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Stifford Clays Primary	90	630	658	702	707	706	714	730
Stifford Clays Primary	120	840	658	702	707	706	714	730

It shows that the school's roll numbers will reach 730 places by 2017 as a result of the birth rate in the area.

The Authority is presently carrying out some feasibility work to determine how best to meet future demand for places in the Grays North area.

Grays East Area

For pupil planning purposes, this area consists of four schools: Little Thurrock Primary, Quarry Hill, Thameside Primary and St Thomas of Canterbury. The four schools have a combined capacity to admit 330 Reception Year pupils. In order to meet the increased demand in the area this academic year (2012-13), the Little Thurrock agreed to temporarily increase their PAN from 75 to 90. This enabled the school to admit an additional 15 Reception Year pupils over their standard PAN; and increased the combined capacity for the area to 330 Reception Year places.

Our Forecast for the area for the next 5 years shows that the total number of Reception Year places in the area will need to be maintained at a minimum level of 340 Reception Places in 2013-14. However, this will be 6 places short of the required numbers in 2014-15. The table below illustrates our forecast for the area with Little Thurrock maintaining a PAN of 90. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Little Thurrock	90	17	-7	37	11	14
Quarry Hill	60	-7	-12	-9	19	-3
Thameside Primary	90	23	13	18	1	14
St Thomas of Canterbury	90	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)	330	33	-6	46	31	25

The whole school (Reception to Yr 6) forecast below with the PAN for Little Thurrock still set at 90, shows that there will be sufficient number of places (2,310) across the school to meet demand

School Name	Capacity Based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Little Thurrock	630	531	553	534	538	541
Quarry Hill	420	447	462	471	452	455
Thameside Primary	630	467	495	523	526	536
St Thomas of Canterbury	630	629	629	630	630	630
Surplus / (Deficit)	2310	2074	2139	2158	2146	2162

It is impossible at this stage to predict whether the PAN for Little Thurrock primary will be set permanently at 90 or whether provision to meet the forecasted demand for Reception Year places will be met elsewhere in the area. Feasibility work is currently being undertaken to assess how the Authority will best meet the demand in the area.

Purfleet Area

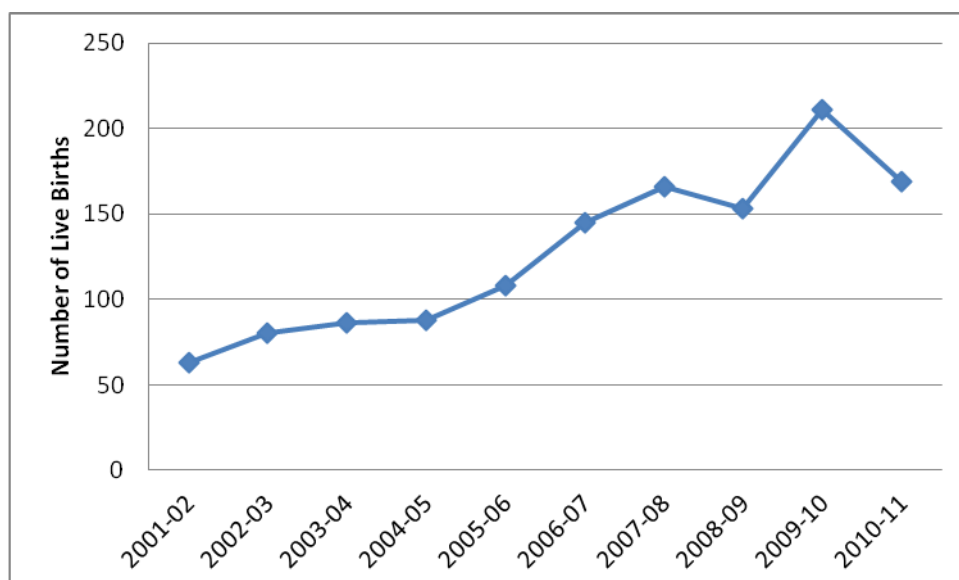
Purfleet primary is a two form entry school with 420 places. The PAN was increased temporarily from 60 to 90 this academic year to enable the school to accommodate the increased demand for Reception year places this academic year (2012/13). Our projections based on birth rate and housing developments indicate that demand for reception places will rise every year for the next five years. The table below shows the shortfall projection in Reception Year places in Purfleet (with the temporarily increase in PAN to 90 still in place). *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Purfleet	90	0	-13	-5	-41	-15
Surplus / (Deficit)	90	0	-13	-5	-41	-15

If the PAN remains at 90, provision for Reception places for the area in the 2013/14 academic year will be met. However, additional places will be required in future years as a result of the rising birth rate in the area. The projection of the total pupil numbers (Reception to Yr 6) below shows that another Form of Entry will be required by September 2016-17.

	PAN	Capacity based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Purfleet	60	420	376	445	492	575	635

The graph below illustrates the birth rate in the area.



The Authority is presently undertaking a feasibility work to assess how best to meet the demand for places in the area.

Grays West Area

Demand for Reception Places in the Stifford Primary and West Thurrock Primary area is projected to increase significantly over the next few years from 2013 as a result of the increased birth rate and planned residential housing development in the area.

Our projection shown below indicates that the existing number of Reception Year places in both schools is not sufficient to meet demand. By September 2013, an additional 32 places will be required in the area plus another 82 places by 2014. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Stifford	90	-41	-42	-42	-32	-39
West Thurrock	*90	-9	-40	-11	-40	-20
Surplus / (Deficit)	180	-32	-82	-53	-72	-59

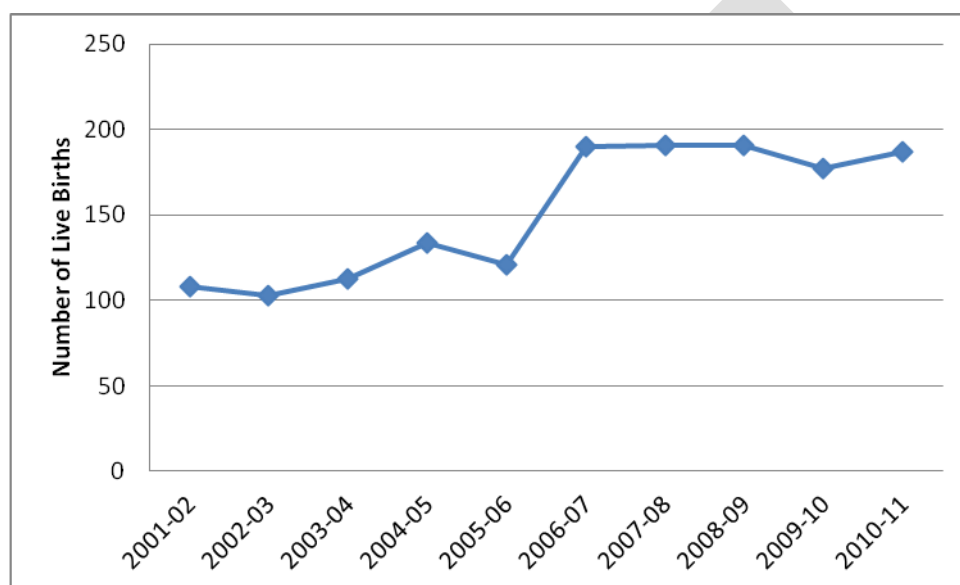
West Thurrock Primary agreed to temporarily increase its PAN from 60 to 90 this academic year to meet the increased demand for Reception Year places in the West Thurrock area.

Stifford Primary School presently admits 90 pupils per year group with a capacity of 630. West Thurrock has a capacity to admit 420 pupils excluding the temporary increase to the Reception intake this academic year. Forecast figures show that overall pupil numbers (Reception to Yr 6) at the Stifford Primary school and West Thurrock Primary will be 852 and 698 respectively by 2017.

	PAN	Capacity based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Stifford Primary	90	630	677	731	784	811	852
West Thurrock Primary	60	420	408	506	578	648	698
TOTAL	150	1050	1085	1237	1362	1459	1550

The total level of demand in the area within the next five years is equivalent to a 2.5 FE school.

Graph showing the live birth trend in the Stifford Primary area



To address the impending demand for primary places in the Grays West area, the Authority is undertaking feasibility work to assess how best to meet the need in the area.

Corringham & Stanford-Le-Hope Area

There are eight primary schools in this area with a total of 2,380 places across all the year groups in the schools including 340 places in the Reception Year.

Based on the January 2012 School Census, there is surplus capacity of 19% in this area mostly in the upper age group. However, the forecast for Reception Year places show that demand for places in 2014, 2016 and 2017 will exceed the 340 places currently available in the area.

The table below illustrates the projected shortfall or surplus in number of Reception Year places in the Corringham & Stanford-Le-Hope area over the next few years. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Corringham	60	17	-3	6	-23	-2
Giffards	60	-11	-1	-8	7	-4
Abbots Hall	30	0	-6	-5	-6	-4
Arthur Bugler Infant	60	8	8	20	11	12
Graham James	30	-9	-22	-17	-32	-21
Stanford Le Hope	60	10	-1	4	0	3
St Josephs RC	40	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)	340	15	-25	0	-43	-16

Due to the way school places are allocated, the shortfall in Reception numbers shown against each school may need to be met elsewhere in the area – particularly, where the school is not capable of being expanded due to limited size areas.

The projected number for the whole school (Reception to Yr 6) is set out below:

School Name	Capacity based on PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Corringham	420	419	419	412	431	429
Giffards	420	441	440	452	429	436
Abbots Hall	210	209	215	218	224	230
Arthur Bugler Infant	180	158	161	144	141	137
Arthur Bugler Junior	240	223	219	218	218	210
Graham James	210	218	240	258	289	311
Stanford Le Hope	420	350	374	399	399	399
St Josephs RC	280	272	272	273	274	278
Surplus / (Deficit)	2380	2290	2340	2374	2405	2430

This indicates that by 2016, the total number of places across all the year groups will not be sufficient to meet the demand.

Rural Areas

The three schools in this area are Bulphan, Horndon-on-the-Hill and Orsett Primary. All three schools are Church of England Schools. Between them, they offer a total of 72 Reception Year places, each year.

Our forecast indicates that from September 2013 to 2017, the demand for places will exceed the 72 places available. In 2013, there will be a shortfall of 10 places and 20 places in 2014.

The table below depicts the picture. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-)*

School Name	Reception PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Bulphan	12	-4	10	10	10	5
Horndon-on-the-Hill	30	6	0	4	4	4
Orsett	30	-12	-30	-28	-28	-26
Surplus / (Deficit)	72	-10	-20	-14	-14	-17

It is clear that more Reception places will be required to accommodate the number of children due to start school in this area over the next five years.

The projected numbers for the whole school (Reception to Yr 6) is shown below:

School Name	Capacity Based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Bulphan	84	83	73	61	58	55
Horndon on the Hill	210	198	201	196	195	191
Orsett	210	222	255	280	308	334
Surplus / (Deficit)	504	503	529	537	561	580

Free School

The Gateway Free School

A new Free school has opened in Tilbury this academic year (Sept 2012). This is the first in Thurrock. The new school will be a primary school with three forms of entry.

The proposer is The Gateway Academy. The proposer and the Department for Education have agreed for the new school to be located within the Gateway Academy site in Tilbury. The school is admitting pupils purely into year 6 this academic year (2012) with admissions into Reception and Yr 6 in September 2013 and all year groups from September 2014.

The Authority will be monitoring the numbers at the Free School and making corresponding adjustments to forecasted numbers in schools for pupil place planning purposes.

PUPIL FORECAST: SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

Surplus Capacity

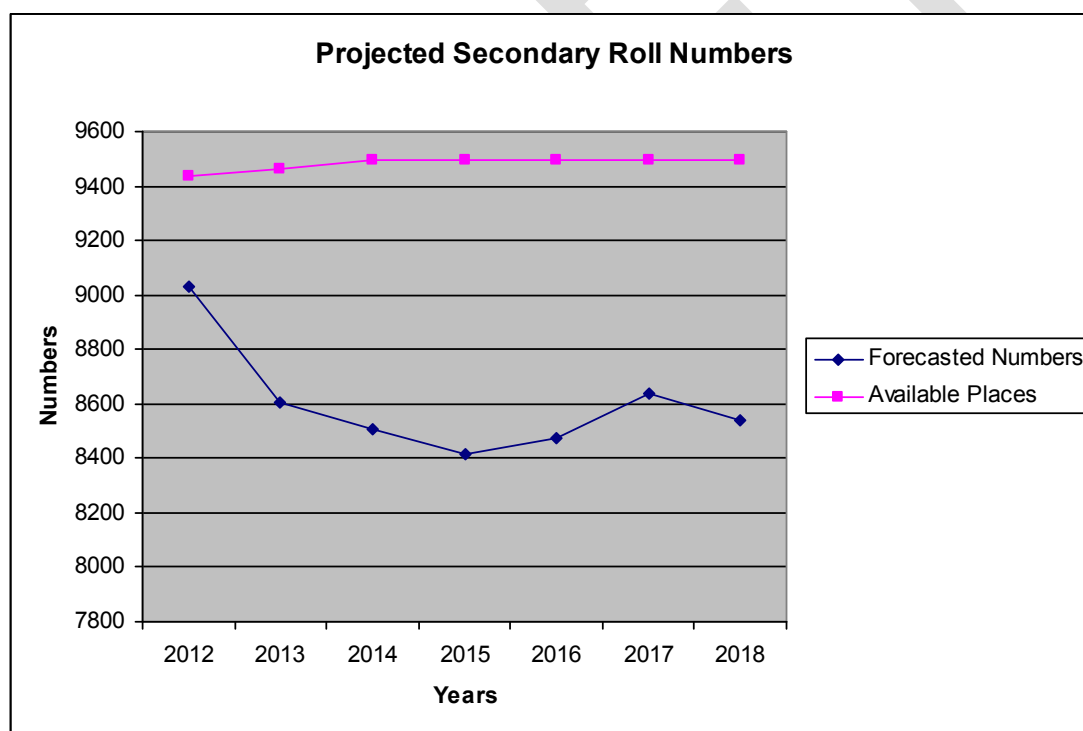
There are 9,435 secondary places available in Thurrock secondary schools. The schools census taken in January 2011 recorded a total of 8,792 pupils (excluding the 6th form) attending secondary schools. This means there were 643 empty places or 6.8% surplus capacity in the Authority in 2011/12. Based on current estimates, the surplus capacity could increase to 9% by 2017/18

Projected Secondary Pupil Numbers

Over the next five years, our forecast shows that there will be sufficient secondary school places available in the authority.

Pupil numbers are projected to decline to their lowest by 2015 and start rising again in 2016. This is similar to the forecast of other authorities and broadly in line with the national pupil projection outlined by the DfE. (see page 4 of this report).

The graph below illustrates the projected number of secondary school roll numbers between September 2013 and September 2018



	Forecasted Numbers	Available Places
September 2013 – 14	8,604	9465
September 2014 – 15	8,509	9495
September 2015 – 16	8,418	9495
September 2016 – 17	8,472	9495
September 2017 - 18	8,639	9495
September 2018 -19	8,539	9495

The projected numbers for individual secondary schools is shown in the attached appendix.

Projected Yr 7 Pupil Numbers

The table below shows that the projected number of Year 7 admissions will be below the available number of Yr 7 places across the Authority over the next five years. However, the intake into Yr 7 will rise each year as the higher numbers of primary pupils begin to move into secondary schools; and by 2017, that Yr group will be nearly full with only 22 empty places across the Authority.

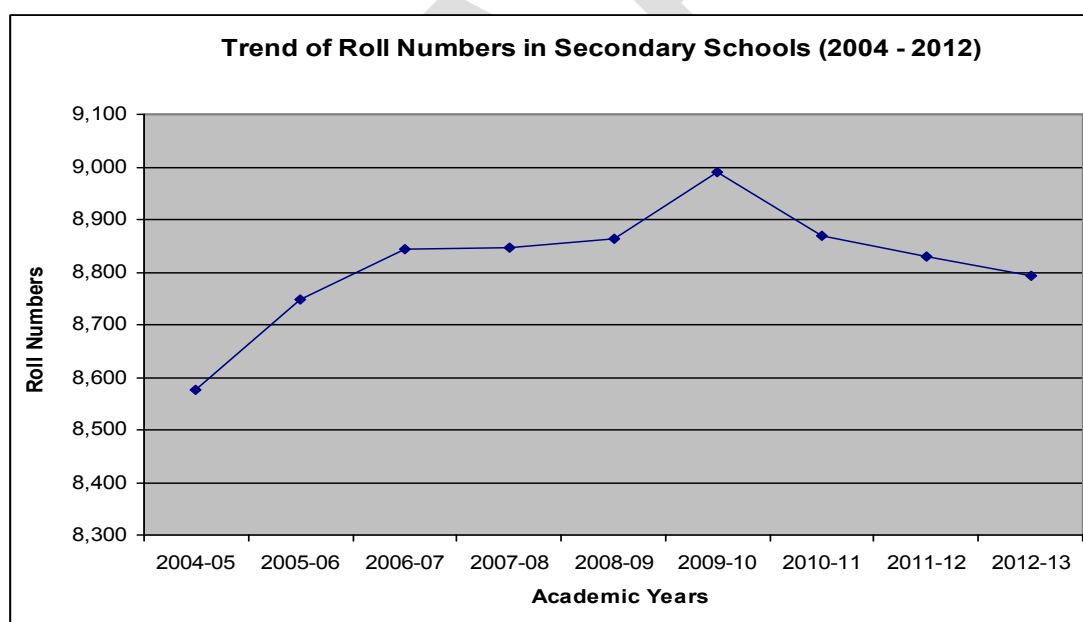
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Available Yr 7 Places	1917	1947	1947	1947	1947	1947
Projected Year 7 Numbers	1570	1651	1678	1797	1865	1796
Surplus/Deficit	347	296	269	150	82	151

Presently, the available number of places is 1887. However, this will increase as shown above in 2013 and 2014 to reflect the increase in PAN at Gateway Academy.

Historical Trend

There has been a steady rise in roll numbers in our secondary schools every year since 2004 with the exception of a slightly reduced number in 2009-10.

The graph and table below illustrates the trend.



*The figures are based on January Census

Academic Year	Roll number (Jan Census)
2004-05	8,577
2005-06	8,749
2006-07	8,843
2007-08	8,846
2008-09	8,863
2009-10	8,989
2010-11	8,869
2011-12	8,830
2012-13	8,792

Key capacity issue from our secondary forecast.Chafford Hundred Area

Harris Academy Chafford Hundred is a five form secondary school admitting 180 pupils in each year group. The school is the only secondary school in Chafford Hundred.

Our projection indicates that demand for Yr 7 places will exceed the 180 places presently available at the school from September 2013 to 2017.

The table below shows the projected shortfall in Year 7 places from 2013. *Shortfall is shown as a negative figure (-).*

School Name	School Type	Year 7 PAN 2012/13	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	A	180	-31	-29	-63	-47	-103

This shows that in September 2013, demand for places will exceed the PAN

The projected overall number on roll at the school (Yr 7 – Yr 11) is shown below:

School Name	School Type	Capacity Based on PAN	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	A	900	979	1003	1061	1102	1173

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL PLACES IN THURROCK

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. How this statutory duty is discharged can involve adding places to existing schools where extra capacity is required or opening new schools. It can also involve rationalising school sizes, and considering federations, amalgamations and closure; as well as reducing surplus places where required. The challenge for Local Authorities is to provide the right number of places in the right locations at the right time.

In Thurrock, pupil forecasts data including the associated planned residential housing development and school admission applications are key tools that guides the management of school places. The provision for school places can either be increased or decreased depending on a number of factors.

When we are considering increasing school provision, an increase will normally be justified where predicted sustained growth in pupil numbers is greater than the available number of school places within a planning area. This would usually be within a two mile radius for an infant, junior or primary schools and three mile radius for secondary schools depending on the availability of safe walking routes. Also, circumstances where the number of applications for admission to schools exceeds the available number of school places will trigger a need for additional places.

Wherever there is a demonstrable need for additional places, consideration will be given to the possibility of expanding existing successful and popular schools in the area. A planning factor of surplus places between 5% and 10% across any sector or within a planning area will be maintained to ensure that there is enough flexibility in the system to cope with any inward migration. Occasions when there is less surplus capacity than the planning factor would require a need for additional places. Any possible increases in the number of places in schools will always be subject to the suitability of school buildings and the size of the school site.

Thurrock adopts a three step approach to increasing provision.

Step 1: Temporary increase in the Planned Admission Number (PAN)

This will apply where there is sudden or unexpected increase in demand for places which is not anticipated to last or continue for long. In such cases, the Authority will increase the planned admission number for one year by adding another Form of Entry to cope with the bulge. This will be considered as a temporary increase; and the planned admission number will revert back to the initial figure thereafter.

Wherever there is a temporary increase to the PAN, the Authority will not erect or undertake any expensive permanent construction to the building until a sustained trend is observed. The temporary increase will be managed by other means.

Step 2: Permanent Increase of the Planned Admission Number

This will apply where increase in demand for places is sustained. In such cases, depending on the level of increased demand, the Authority will consider a permanent increase to the planned admission number or open a new school where appropriate.

Where there is a permanent increase to the PAN, the Authority will consider appropriate permanent accommodation to host the increased numbers.

Step 3: Opening a new School

This will apply where the Authority has considered all available options. This option will be dependent on the availability of appropriate suitable site and reflect DfE guidance in relation to opening a new school.

When the Authority is considering reducing the number of places, a decrease will normally be justified where the level of surplus places is greater than 25% for any school. This will usually be informed by sustained predicted decline in pupil numbers.

The removal of surplus places can either be temporary or permanent depending on the situation. Nonetheless, any considerations to remove surplus places will reflect parental preferences, the quality of education provided and value for money factor.

The Authority will adopt a three step approach to reducing provision.

Step 1 Temporary Reduction to Planned Admission Numbers

Where there is a temporary reduction to the PAN, the Authority will not remove any accommodation permanently in case numbers begin to rise again in the future to warrant increasing the PAN again. The Authority may however, consider alternative use of the accommodation area for community use or other usage in the short term

Step 2 Permanent Reductions to Planned Admission Numbers

This will only usually be considered where there is sustained decline in numbers and after the temporary reduction of the PAN has been effected. Such reductions will usually require the withdrawal of accommodation.

Step 3 School Closure

School closures only considered as a 'last resort' when all available options have been considered and where there is clear evidence of a long-term decline in pupil numbers which could result in a school or a group of schools becoming unsustainable if no action is taken. Even then, the Authority will assess how the change will impact provision in the area and have robust plans in place for the pupils in the school to be closed.

Academies

The Authority cannot determine or change the number of school places or pupil age range of Academies. Academy places are set by the government in their funding agreement. However, if an Academy made a request to the Secretary of State to change its pupil numbers and/or age range the decision taken would be "informed" by the views of the Authority as the commissioner of pupil places.

Parental Representation

Thurrock has a duty under Section 14A of the Education Act 1996 (inserted by section 3 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006) to consider parental representations about the exercise of their functions in relation to the provision of primary and secondary education. As the champion of parents and pupils, Thurrock will support new schools and new provision where there is real local sustainable demand from parents or where provision is poor. Thurrock will factor in parental views and wishes as part of the planning process in order to improve standards.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Academic Year

A period commencing with 1 August and ending with the next 31 July, as defined by the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

Admission Number (or Published Admission Number – (PAN))

The number of school places that the admission authority must offer in each relevant age group of a school for which it is the admission authority. Admission numbers are part of a school's admission arrangements.

Admission Authority

The body responsible for setting and applying a school's admission arrangements. For community or voluntary controlled schools, this body is the local authority unless it has agreed to delegate responsibility to the governing body. For foundation or voluntary aided schools, this body is the governing body of the school. For Academies, this body is the Academy Trust.

First Preference First

Number of applications received where the school is listed as the first preference by the parent(s) / guardian

Infant Class Size Limit

Section 1 of the SSFA 1998 limits the size of an infant class (i.e. a class in which the majority of children will reach the age of five, six or seven during the school year) to 30 pupils per school teacher

Reception Class

Defined by Section 142 of the SSFA 1998. An entry class to primary schools providing education suitable for children aged five and any children who are under or over five years old whom it is expedient to educate with pupils of that age.

Governing Bodies

School governing bodies are bodies corporate responsible for conducting schools with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. Governing bodies have three key roles: setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and monitoring and evaluation

Catchment Area

A geographical area, from which children may be afforded priority for admission to a particular school. A catchment area is part of a school's admission arrangements and must therefore be consulted upon, determined and published in the same way as other admission arrangements.

Bulge class

An additional class within a particular year group, not involving a permanent expansion of the total number of forms of entry for a school as a whole

A or Academies

Academies are independently managed, all-ability schools. They are set up by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) and the local authority. Together they fund the land and buildings, with the government covering the running costs. They have their own admissions policy.

C or Community

These are schools run by the local Authority who employ the staff and set the Admissions criteria.

F or Foundation

Foundation schools are run by their own governing body, which employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria. Land and buildings are usually owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation.

VA or Voluntary Aided

Voluntary-aided schools are mainly religious or 'faith' schools. As with foundation schools, the governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria. They normally own the School buildings and land. The Local Authority normally owns their playing fields

VC or Voluntary Controlled

These are Faith schools that, like community schools, are run by the Local Authority who employ and also set the Admissions criteria.

NOR

Numbers on roll. The actual number of pupils attending school.

Free Schools

Free Schools are all-ability state funded schools set up in response to parental demand. These schools can be set up by charities, universities, businesses, educational groups, teachers, faith groups and groups of parents.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

The PAN is the number of pupils admitted to each year in a school.

DRAFT