

Report to the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission (18 July 2022)

Pupil Places: Looking at shortfalls in primary pupil numbers across the borough

Information requested around:

1. Impact of Brexit
2. Falling population rates
3. Pupil premium
4. Migration to outside of London.
5. Planning Policy and overall house-building programme

Scale of Problem

Across the 73 Southwark primary schools we have 924 surplus places in Reception and a total of 5,850 surplus places across the primary school system. This has put pressure on individual school finances as schools are funded for each pupil on roll. For the 57 local authority maintained primary schools this represents a financial risk to the council.

The current Pupil Admissions Number for Reception (correct as at June 2022) is 3,581.

The current capacity for all year groups (correct as at June 2022) is 26,399.

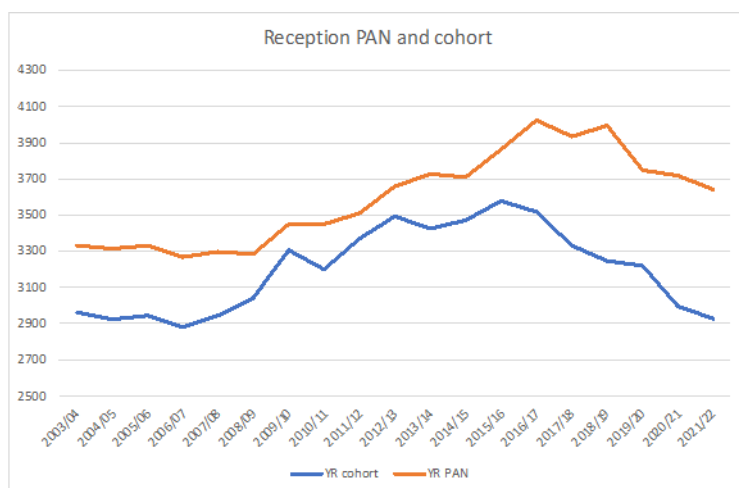
Years	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
September 2022 Capacity	3,581	3,641	3,686	3,746	3,905	3,905	3,935	26,399
September 2022 Roll	2,657	2,910	2,902	2,994	2,967	3,030	3,089	20,549
September 2022 Vacancies	924	731	786	751	940	874	849	5,856
% Vacancies	26%	20%	21%	20%	24%	22%	22%	22%

2. Falling Population Rates (Births)

- Births fell by over 1100 (20%) between 2011 and 2019, from nearly 5200 to under 4100.
- Births in 2020 fell by another 500 to just over 3500 – this is the 2024/25 Reception cohort.
- Reception cohorts have fallen by 650 (18%) between 2015/16 and 2021/22.
- Reception cohort was 68.5% to 70.5% of the corresponding births until 2020/21 and 2021/22 when it dropped to below 67%.
- Cohorts have historically reduced by 5-10% between YR and Y6, although this may be 12% for the 2022/23 Year 6 cohort.

- Children already born affect Reception cohorts until 2024/25 – births for the 2024/25 Reception cohort were 800 lower than for the 2021/22 Reception cohort.
- If Reception cohorts remain below historic level of around 70% of births it further reduces cohort size.

Impact of demographics



The impact of reducing Reception cohorts is a growth in surplus places.

Surplus places have increased from below 150 in 2011/12 to over 700 for 3 of the four years from 2018/19.

The Reception Year PAN has reduced by nearly 400 places (nearly 10%) between 2016/17 and 2021/22, involving 15 schools.

The PAN reduction, however, has only kept pace with the reduction in Reception cohort size – it has not reduced the number of surplus places.

In 2020/21 and 2021/22 the 700+ surplus places have equated to almost 20% of all Reception places. 700 places is equivalent to 24 1FE schools having no intake at all (Southwark has 25 1FE schools).

A number of schools 2021/22 had an intake of 10 or less children into the Reception year

Future forecasts and their implications

Reception Year cohorts are expected to continue to decline. In the short-term this expectation is based upon actual birth data for cohorts up to and including 2024/25. Beyond that, it is based upon GLA forecasts of births. [Note – updated GLA pupil projections are expected shortly which would affect this section]

Reception Year cohort	Reception Year as 67% of births	Reception Year as 70% of births
2022/23	2850	2980
2023/24	2740	2860
2024/25	2380	2450
2025/26	2540	2650
2026/27	2480	2590
2027/28	2480	2590
2028/29	2470	2580
2029/30	2460	2570
2030/31	2450	2560

Forecasts are based upon a set of assumptions, each of which may prove more or less accurate. If birth rates and / or conversion rates from birth to Reception increase then the possible Reception cohort sizes above may prove pessimistic. Similarly, if births or conversion rates fall further, Reception cohorts could be lower.

Admissions data indicates that the September 2022 Reception cohort is likely to be below 2750. If correct, this would be represent a further reduction in the conversion rate from birth to Reception to around 64%. If that was to become a recurrent level, the indicative Reception cohorts above would need revising downwards by another 90-100 pupils.

3. Pupil Premium

3.1 The local authority's role in managing pupil premium funding

The local authority acts as a passporting agent for central government in allocating pupil premium funds to maintained or community schools. The amount each school receives in pupil premium is based on the census information held about the children on their roll. Academies receive this allocation directly from central government.

3.2 Pupil eligibility

3.2.1 "Ever 6" free school meals children

For mainstream and special schools, the pupil premium for 2022 to 2023 will include pupils recorded in the October 2021 school census who have had a recorded period of FSM eligibility since January 2016, as well as those first recorded as eligible in October 2021.

For PRUs and AP academies, the pupil premium for 2022 to 2023 will include pupils recorded in the January 2022 school census who have had a recorded period of FSM eligibility since May 2016, as well as those first recorded as eligible in January 2022.

3.2.2 Children of families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) who are eligible for free school meals

For 2022 to 2023, pupil premium funding will be allocated in respect of children of families with NRPF who are eligible for free school meals, and for whom successful claims have been submitted to the ESFA. Details on the claims criteria for these pupils is being published separately.

For the purposes of this note, these pupils are collectively referred to as 'NRPF pupils'.

3.2.3 Looked-after children (LAC)

Looked-after children (LAC) are defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority.

In June 2022, a provisional allocation will be calculated using the number of children looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2021 children looked-after data return (SSDA903) and aged 4 to 15 on 31 August 2020.

A final allocation in December 2022 will use the number of children looked after for at least one day during the year ending March 2022, as recorded in the March 2022 children looked-after data return (SSDA903) and aged 4 to 15 on 31 August 2021.

3.2.4 Previously looked-after children (PLAC)

For mainstream and special schools, the pupil premium for 2022 to 2023 will include children recorded in the October 2021 school census who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).

For PRUs and AP academies, the pupil premium for 2022 to 2023 will include PLAC recorded in the January 2021 school census.

3.2.5 Service children

A school's PPG will include an allocation of Service Pupil Premium (SPP) based on the number of pupils for whom any of the following apply:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service)
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census since 2016

For mainstream and special schools, the SPP for 2022 to 2023 will include pupils recorded in the October 2021 school census who have been recorded as a service child at any point since the January 2016 census, as well as those recorded as a service child for the first time in the October 2021 school census.

For PRUs and AP academies, the service premium for 2022 to 2023 will include these pupils, as well as those recorded as a service child for the first time in the January 2022 school census.

3.3 Rates for eligible pupils

The PPG per pupil rate for 2022 to 2023 is set out below.

Pupils who are recorded as LAC/PLAC and FSM Ever 6 will attract the LAC/PLAC per pupil amount only. Eligible service children will attract the SPP rate on top of any other PPG eligibility rate.

Disadvantaged pupils	PPG per pupil rate
Pupils in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as FSM Ever 6, plus NRPF pupils in these year groups who are eligible for FSM	£1,385
Pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as FSM Ever 6, plus NRPF pupils in these year groups who are eligible for FSM	£985
Looked-after children (LAC)	£2,410
Previously looked-after children (PLAC)	£2,410

Service children

SPP per pupil rate

Eligible service children in year groups reception to year 11

£320

Where national curriculum year groups do not apply to a pupil, the pupil will attract PPG if aged 4 to 15 as recorded in the October 2021 school census for mainstream and special schools, and in the January 2022 school census for PRUs and AP academies.

3.4 Number and percentage of children eligible for Deprivation Pupil Premium in Southwark's schools

School Phase	Number eligible for Deprivation Pupil Premium	Percentage of total roll
Primary	8,077	37.4%
Secondary	7,046	43%

(source:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084221/PP_allocations_2022_to_2023_Q1_June.ods)

3.5 Number of pupils eligible for Deprivation Pupil Premium and who have an EHCP for SEND

Total: 948

(Source: January 2022 Census)

3.6 Examples of how schools spend their pupil premium

Schools are required to publish on their websites what they spend their pupil premium on. Here are some examples taken from school websites:

- Additional CPD (continued professional development) opportunities for teachers and teaching assistants
- Additional teaching interventions targeted at supporting PPF pupils
- Targeted pastoral and emotional well-being support particularly for PPF pupils

(Camelot Primary School)

- providing small group work with an experienced teacher focussed on overcoming gaps in learning support
- additional teaching and learning opportunities provided by teachers, TAs or external agencies
- additional support for assessments, training and advice from specialists such as speech therapists, educational psychologists etc.
- access to therapeutic interventions and advice
- activities that broaden the curriculum

(Rye Oak Primary School)

- Provision for pupils with complex needs
- One to one Tutoring
- Homework clubs
- Laptop provision
- Phonics training

(Ark Globe Academy)