

Mainstream school place planning: Forward view 2026

**Access to Education, Employment
and Training**



March 2026

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Introduction

This document sets out the local authority’s main legal duties and powers in relation to current and future mainstream school place provision.

It is intended for use as a guidance document to support both the local authority and education providers in detailing where places are available and in planning where additional places may need to be secured in the future.

Significant demographic growth continues to place pressure on school capacity across the city. Although substantial capital investment has been made in recent years, the evidence shows that there is a need to grow places in a number of areas across the city in future years. It sets out the process for expanding existing provision or opening new provision to address these gaps and lists the areas and schemes where we are planning to secure additional places.

The information provided in this document may change, not least as a result of policy or funding announcements by the Department for Education.

Comments and feedback about this document are welcomed and can be sent to sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Please note – it is not a statutory requirement to produce this document. However, we believe it is helpful to the local and national education system that this data is openly shared. The accuracy of mainstream school place planning is dependent on a multitude of demographic and economic factors, all of which are beyond our control and can be volatile. We therefore ask the reader to accept that all projections provided are a best estimate based on current data at the time of publication.

Milton Keynes – Planned growth

Milton Keynes has undergone rapid and sustained growth since its designation as a new town in 1967. Originally planned for 250,000 people, it has now evolved into one of the UK's fastest-growing cities, driven by population growth, strong economic performance, and proactive housing delivery.

Milton Keynes currently has an estimated population of around 306k residents, based on the mid-2024 Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimate. However, with continued diverse growth comes challenges. The Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IMD 2025) ranks Milton Keynes as the 102nd most deprived local authority out of 153 upper-tier local authorities in England on the overall Rank of Average Score measure. However, within Milton Keynes, there is considerable variation in deprivation levels across the area, with pockets of marked deprivation concentrated in the Woughton & Fishermead, Stony Stratford, Bletchley East and Wolverton wards. Overall, eight LSOAs fall within the most deprived 10% nationally whilst ten LSOAs are among the least deprived 10% nationally. We therefore need to take this into consideration when we plan for services across the city.

We are currently in the process of delivering our new city plan which outlines our vision up to 2050. The plans seek to provide 60k additional homes over the time period. Through previous local plans, neighbourhood plans and planning permissions (excluding CMK) we already have close to 23,000 new homes due to come forward by 2050. This means the MK City Plan 2050 seeks to allocate land that can deliver around 37,000 additional homes by 2050 which could mean the city's population could approach 500,000.

The Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 has completed its Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Consultation phase and aims to submit the proposed submission to the Secretary of State in March 2026 for examination. Subject to approval, it is anticipated that the new plan will be adopted in late 2026 or early 2027.

The New City Plan will take forward Milton Keynes City Council's strategy for 2050 which sets out a bold and ambitious vision for Milton Keynes over the next 28 years, including equal opportunities for all, 'lifelong' homes that suit people at all stages of their life, and a pioneering mass rapid transit system. Included within this plan is what we believe our principal requirements are for education provision to support the city's future growth.

A significant proportion of the new housing proposed is planned for new development areas of Milton Keynes. It is therefore important, as far as practically possible, that new education provision is delivered within these new areas and delivered in line with the additional demand new housing brings as developments build out across the years to ensure that residents continue to have access to local high quality education provision.

Pupil demographics

Over the last decade (2015–2025), the pupil population grew by 6,824 children, a 17.5% increase. However, in 2025 overall pupil numbers fell for the first time compared with the previous year’s cohort. This marks a significant milestone and reflects the sustained year-on-year decline in birth rates since their 2010/11 peak—a 19% drop by the 2023/24 academic year, equivalent to around 25 forms of entry (Annex B).

Although birth rates appear to have stabilised recently, the scale of the long-term decline means that, even with pupil yield from new housing, overall pupil numbers may continue to fall in the coming years.

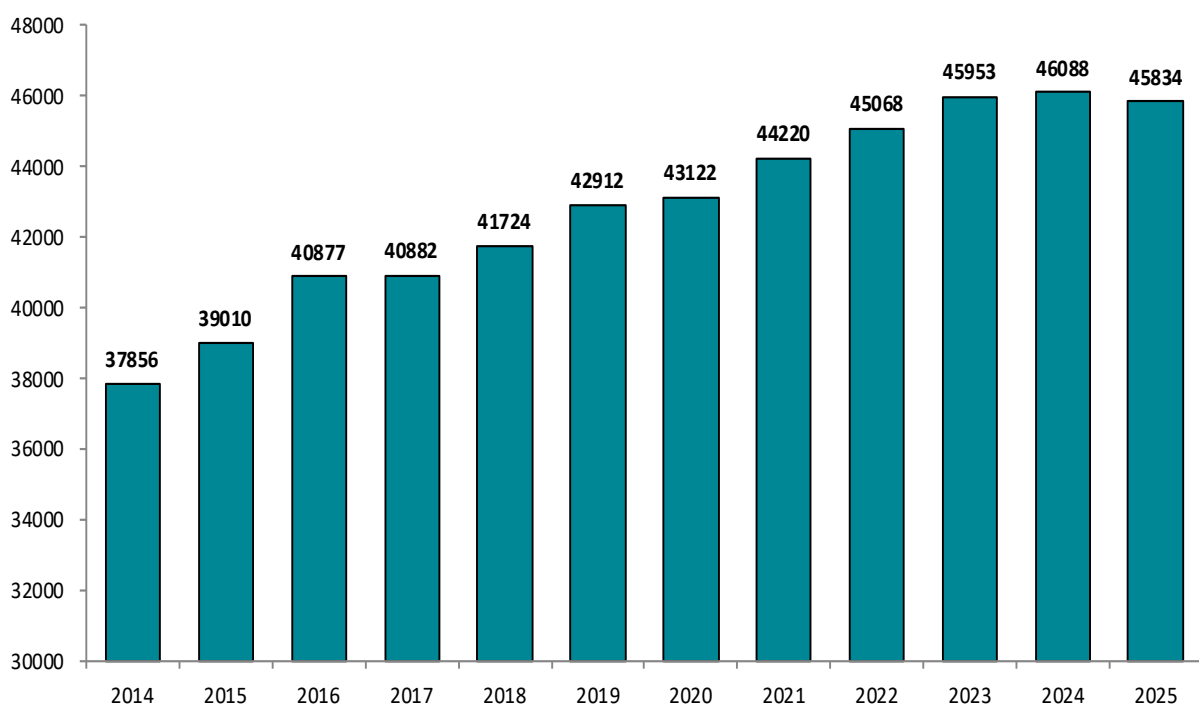


Figure 1: Total number of primary and secondary mainstream pupils, 2014 to 2025 (excluding post-16, special schools and alternative education). Source: School Census October 2025

The table below shows Years 5 and 6 are the year groups with the greatest number of pupils as a result of previous birth peaks and demographic growth from new housing. The growth in the primary phase will naturally progress through to the secondary phase in the coming years.

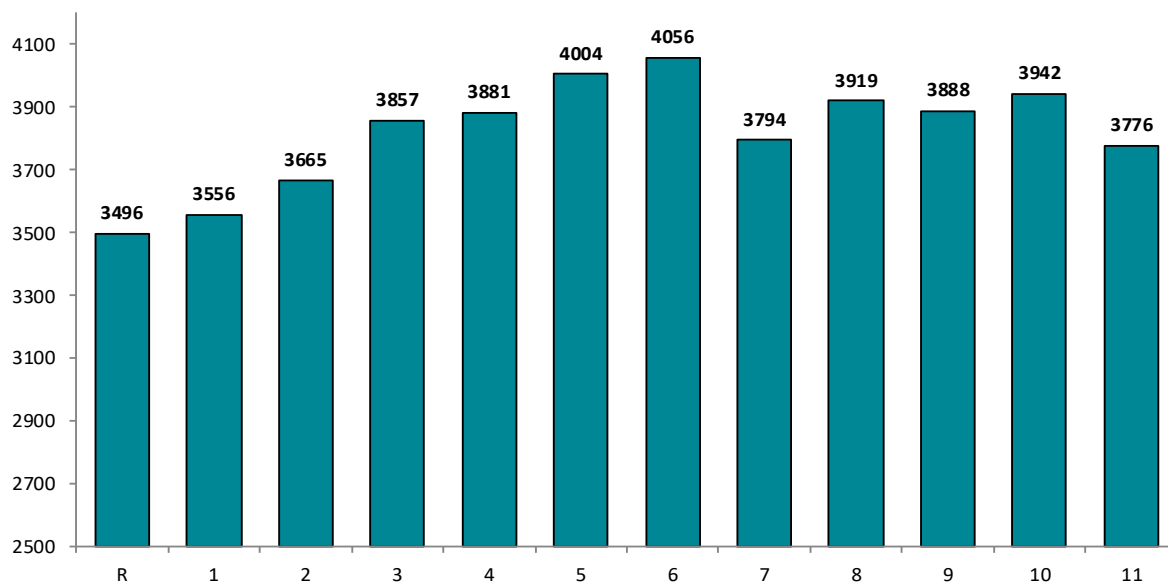


Figure 2: Total number of pupils in each year group, October 2025 (excluding post-16, special schools and alternative education). Source: School Census October 2025

Diversity

Milton Keynes has a rich and growing diverse population. 57% of pupils of primary age are ethnic minorities backgrounds, compared to 50% of those of secondary school age.

	Primary	Secondary	Total
White British	11,212 (41%)	9,531 (48%)	20,743 (44%)
Other Ethnic Groups	15,408 (57%)	10,044 (50%)	25,452 (54%)
Not Disclosed	635 (2%)	438 (2%)	1,073 (2%)
Total	27,255	20,013	47,268

Table 1: Ethnicity of Milton Keynes pupils by phase of education, January 2025 School census (YR to Y11 only)

Ethnic Group	2018		2025		Difference	% Growth Difference
	No. of Pupils	% of Total	No. of Pupils	% of Total		
Indian	1684	3.98%	3097	6.55%	1413	83.91%
Pakistani	1311	3.10%	1868	3.95%	557	42.49%
Bangladeshi	665	1.57%	663	1.40%	-2	-0.30%
Asian - British	-	-	10	0.02%	10	-
Any Other Asian background	1320	3.12%	1720	3.64%	400	30.30%
Black - African	4666	11.03%	5672	12.00%	1006	21.56%
Black - Caribbean	337	0.80%	350	0.74%	13	3.86%
Black - British	-	-	13	0.03%	13	-
Any Other Black background	728	1.72%	684	1.45%	-44	-6.04%
Chinese	211	0.50%	1245	2.63%	1034	490.05%
Gypsy / Roma	25	0.06%	31	0.07%	6	24.00%
White British	23722	56.05%	20743	43.88%	-2979	-12.56%
White	152	0.36%	167	0.35%	15	9.87%
White and Asian	689	1.63%	958	2.03%	269	39.04%
White and Black Caribbean	732	1.73%	826	1.75%	94	12.84%
White and Black African	748	1.77%	913	1.93%	165	22.06%
Any Other White Background	3080	7.28%	4754	10.06%	1674	54.35%
Any Other Mixed Background	1249	2.95%	1743	3.69%	494	39.55%
Any Other Ethnic Group	364	0.86%	738	1.56%	374	102.75%
Unknown	637	1.51%	1073	2.27%	436	68.45%
Total	42320		47268		4948	11.69%

Table 21: Pupils on roll by ethnic groups, January 2018 and January 2025 School census (YR to Y11 only)

Comparing the statistics between 2018 and 2025, Milton Keynes has seen an 9.1% growth in the percentage of the school population that are from ethnic minorities backgrounds (35.28% 2018, 44.38% 2025). The most significant growth has been the Chinese cohort which has grown by 490% (1034 extra pupils). White British pupils have experienced a - 12.56% decrease (2979 less pupils) compared to the number of pupils recorded in January 2018.

Getting the balance right

In a system full of contextual changes, many of which are not controlled by the council, there are a number of factors that influence strategic thinking such as:

- Housing market and the number of homes sold
- Timing of families moving into homes and applying for school places
- Number of children living in each home
- Phasing, timing and alterations to housing developments
- Economics; recessions
- Global situations; Ukraine, Syrian and Afghan refugees and Hong Kong nationals
- Birth rates both nationally and locally
- Parental preferences
- Ofsted ratings
- Admission responsibilities; maintained schools and own admission authority schools
- Changes to being an importer versus an exporter of pupils
- Neighbouring local authority activities
- Central Government agenda and policies

The above plus many other factors means the 'right' number of places for the medium to long term future is challenging to predict. Whilst a shortfall in provision would result in the council not being able to meet its statutory duty and emergency plans being put in place to address this, a surplus in provision brings other risks and challenges such as school financial sustainability.

Providing extra places at schools in the developing areas of Milton Keynes can result in children moving out of their current schools into these places (sometimes for no clear reason), precluding those yet to move into the area from obtaining a place, and destabilising existing schools. Such mobility is not supportive of improving outcomes for children. Further to this, the capital resources provided to the council to ensure sufficiency of school places are limited. It would therefore be inappropriate to invest in creating 'empty places' in the system.

This fine balance is further complicated by the need to increase places in the growth areas of Milton Keynes whilst simultaneously working with schools as appropriate, to contract or consider their operating models in more established areas that may be experiencing reduced demand due to a fall in birth rates or parental preference.

It is critical that places are available not only at the typical point of entry but also 'in year'. Not all unfilled school places can be considered 'surplus'. A level of spare school capacity is necessary to not only accommodate children 'in-year' but to also provide flexibility for unexpected influxes of children and expressions of parental preference. Government recommends that it is reasonable for authorities to aim for between 5-10% surplus to allow for this flexibility. Getting the balance of places available right is therefore key for a sustainable system in a rapidly growing city.

Reducing surplus school places

There is currently a significant surplus of school places at primary level as the previous birth peaks leave the primary phase and enter the secondary phase. This significant drop in birth rates since the 2011 peak has particularly impacted pupil numbers within the established communities of Milton Keynes. The council's strategy is to proactively work in partnership with those schools in Milton Keynes that are experiencing a decline to see how they can be supported to stabilise their pupil numbers or to consider whether there may be alternative delivery models available.

Stabilisation of pupil numbers is typically achieved through a PAN change, PAN cap implementation or a combination of both.

PAN reductions are implemented following engagement with the council and the completion of a statutory consultation process. This reduces the number of children the school are legally required to admit at the point of entry in future years.

PAN caps are a flexible option available to schools that can be promptly implemented or removed at any time in partnership and following engagement with the council. Caps can only be applied after the coordinated admission process for the particular year group has concluded (i.e. 1 September of the normal point of entry'). They can be applied individually to particular year groups and limit the number of pupils that will be admitted to any existing year group.

To further support schools in their future planning, projected demographic demand data is shared with schools annually. This includes demand regarding their own catchment area, school liaison group and across the city. All schools are encouraged to engage with the sufficiency team if they are concerned about future pupil numbers so that the team can understand how best they can be supported.

Since 2018, we have worked with a number of schools to reduce PANs permanently, removing 577 places at the point of entry to the school (Year R) and 90 places at the point of entry to secondary school (Year 7).

Additionally, we have worked with a number of schools over the past three years to introduce PAN caps to support the current reduction in demand. In partnership with the sector, 1,516 places have currently been removed from year groups in the primary phase and 370 places removed from year groups in the secondary phase to support school stability.

However, there is still more work to do to ensure that schools across Milton Keynes remain sustainable during this period of reduced demand. If you would like to know more about reducing school places at your school, please get in contact at sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Provision of new school places

The Education Act 1996 legislated that local authorities should have regard to sections 13, 13A and 14 of the Education Act 1996 which require local authorities to: ensure that sufficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of their population; ensure that their education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards; ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential. **This duty still stands.**

This section outlines the legal framework around the delivery of that duty.

Despite the current diversity of the school system and the reduced legal powers local authorities now hold, the council continues to be responsible for ensuring that every child living in Milton Keynes is able to access a school place.

However, this duty sits alongside the increasing number of self-governed academies, multi-academy trusts and free schools and therefore the role of the council is to work in partnership with all education providers.

If, as part of its planning to fulfil this duty, the council identifies that there is a significant change to a school required, such as expansion or change of age range, it is required to follow separate legal processes, depending on the type of school to which the change would apply

Funding to commission new school places

To support the sufficiency statutory duty, the council is allocated 'Basic Need' funding. This is allocated to the council for all types of school, including academies. The amount provided is generated by the completion of the School Capacity Collection (SCAP) which each council is required to complete annually in the summer term.

When additional school places are opened, the local Schools Forum is able to determine that a proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant is retained centrally in order to revenue fund those places in advance of the school's budget. This enables schools to resource new places in a way which is timely, effective and maximises the chance of those places being of high quality whilst also supporting to limit the impact on neighbouring local schools and schools across the local system.

Local authorities are expected to negotiate financial contributions (known as Section 106 or Planning Obligations) from developers where new housing will mean that additional school places are required. Those contributions could be any or a combination of finance, land or buildings.

Proposals to make significant changes (maintained schools)

The following examples may be deemed to be a 'significant change':

- Enlargement of premises or expansion onto an additional site (or satellite site)
- Reducing pupil's numbers in mainstream schools
- Change of age range or adding or removing a sixth form
- Closing an additional site or transfer to a new site
- Changes of category
- Establishing, removing or altering SEND provision or changing types of need catered for by a special school
- Boarding provision

For proposals involving a significant change to existing maintained schools (community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided and foundation) the council will need to work with the school(s) concerned and, if a proposal is agreed by the governing body, the council can propose this change itself. In so doing, the council must have regard for the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance ['Making significant changes to maintained schools – August 2025'](#).

If a change is required to follow the statutory process there are four stages:

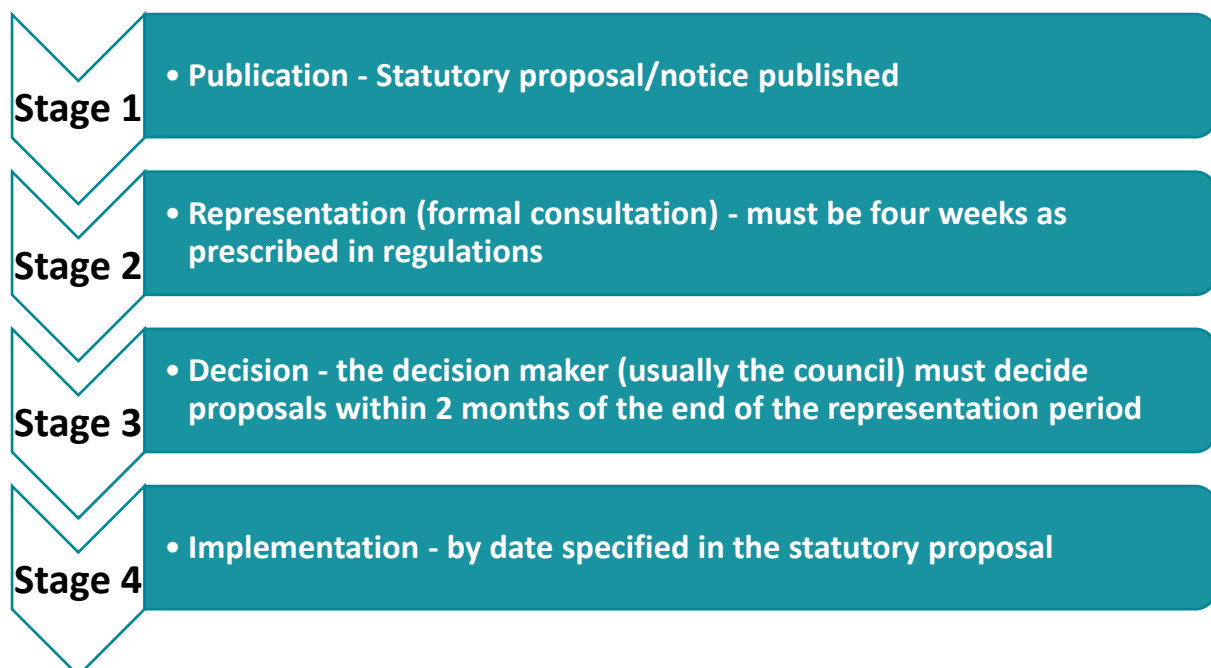


Figure 3: Statutory process for making prescribed changes to maintained schools

There is not a prescribed 'pre-publication' consultation period for significant changes, but the guidance is clear that there is a strong expectation on councils to informally consult with interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication. It is best practice to consult during term time.

Proposals to make significant changes (academies)

For changes involving a significant change to an existing academy the council will need to work with the academy concerned but, if a proposal is agreed, the council is not able to propose this itself. Instead the academy must have regard for the DfE guidance [‘Making significant changes to an academy, August 2025’](#). This DfE guidance document provides advice to academy trusts on what they need to do to make a significant change (which in general has an impact on the number, type and / or location of school places) to an open academy. Changes fall within three tiers and the guidance sets the processes for academies to follow.

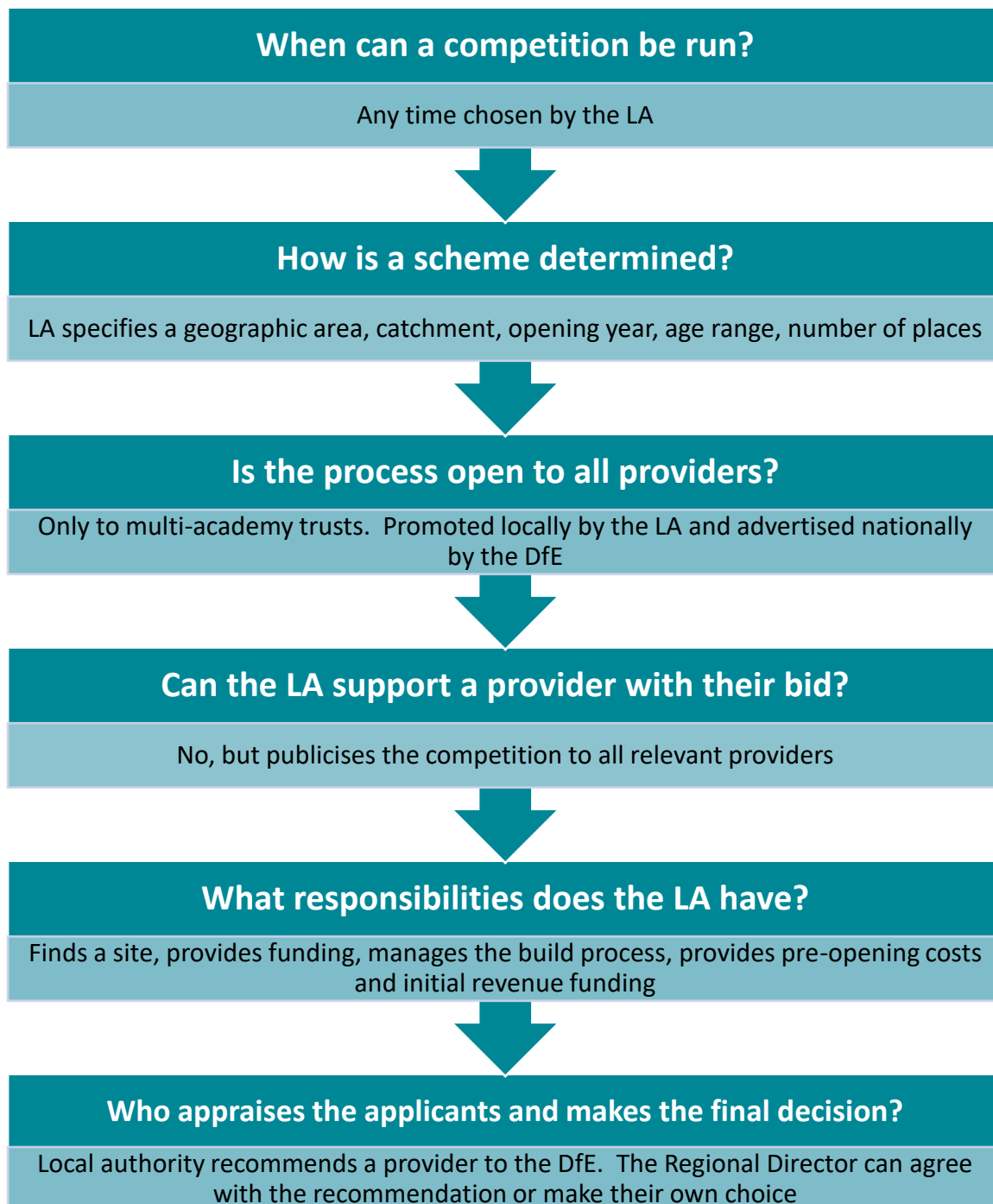
There is a clear expectation from the DfE that Trusts work collaboratively and constructively with local authorities, other trusts, dioceses and the DfE on place planning, and should determine up-to-date capacity assessments to support LA’s sufficiency duties.

Establishing new provision

When there is a need for establishing a new school in the local area, we run a free school presumption competition whereby new school proposers (academy trusts) are able to submit an application.

The illustration below shows the process of establishing a new school.

Presumptive Competition



Current plans for new provision

This section sets out the school sites that have been secured to meet additional demand arising from new development areas. It outlines the proposed governance arrangements and the capacity that each scheme is expected to deliver. Where schools are located within new residential developments, places are expected to be opened on a phased basis to reflect the timing of housing completions.

Primary school places – confirmed schemes

Location: Primary 4 - Western Expansion Area	
Name	To be confirmed
Type	New school
Size	630 primary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	September 2028
Status	Subject to planning permission

Primary school places – unconfirmed schemes (school sites have been secured within these areas but scheme timings have yet to be determined and may be subject to planning permission or the statutory consultation process)

Location: Tickford Fields, Newport Pagnell	
Name	To be confirmed
Type	New school
Size	420 primary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	To be confirmed
Status	Subject to planning permission

Location: Eaton Leys	
Name	To be confirmed
Type	New school
Size	210 primary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	To be confirmed
Status	Subject to planning permission

Location: South East Milton Keynes	
Name	To be confirmed (SE Primary 2)
Type	New school
Size	630 primary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	To be confirmed
Status	Subject to planning permission

Location: Primary 2, 3 and 4, MK East	
Name	To be confirmed (SE Primary 2)
Type	New schools
Size	Up to 1470 primary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	To be confirmed
Status	Subject to planning permission

All-through school places – confirmed schemes

Location: MK East	
Name	To be confirmed
Type	New school
Size	630 primary and 1500 secondary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	Primary phase only - September 2027 Secondary phase - TBC
Status	Subject to planning permission

All-through school places - Unconfirmed schemes (school sites have been secured within these areas but complete scheme timings have yet to be determined and may be subject to planning permission or the statutory consultation process)

Location: South East Milton Keynes	
Name	To be confirmed
Type	New schools
Size	630 primary and 1050 secondary places
Governance	Subject to free school competition
Date	To be confirmed
Status	Subject to planning permission

Planning areas and opportunities

For school place planning purposes, Milton Keynes is divided into the following planning areas:

- North planning area
- North West planning area
- Central planning area
- South planning area
- South West planning area
- South East planning area

Milton Keynes also accommodates six voluntary aided Catholic schools which attract pupils from across the city and therefore do not sit within any of the planning areas.

A detailed list of schools included in each planning area can be found at Annex F.

The following analysis of the planning areas shows current and projected supply and demand of school places, with opportunities for new provision highlighted.

Please note:

- The Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) reflect those set in September 2026 and any increases in PAN from new schools or expansions are based on estimated timescales as detailed earlier in this document. These can be subject to change dependent on external factors such as development build out and planning permission.
- The total number of places required is based upon current numbers on roll and projected pupil yield from expected housing. The timing and pupil yield from new housing is also subject to change.
- Reception year projections are calculated using ONS birth data. Projections beyond 2028 are calculated using periodic ONS birth data trends.
- The total PAN from 2027 onwards is not yet set and subject to change, should it be decided that additional places are required.

Data Sources

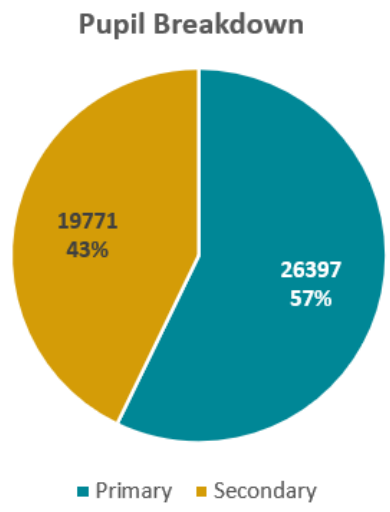
- October 2025 School Census
- ONS Birth Data
- DfE National Statistics
- MKCC 2025 Housing Schedule
- 2017 Pupil Yield Survey: [Pupil Product Ratio Study – Milton Keynes Council 2017](#)

Milton Keynes overview



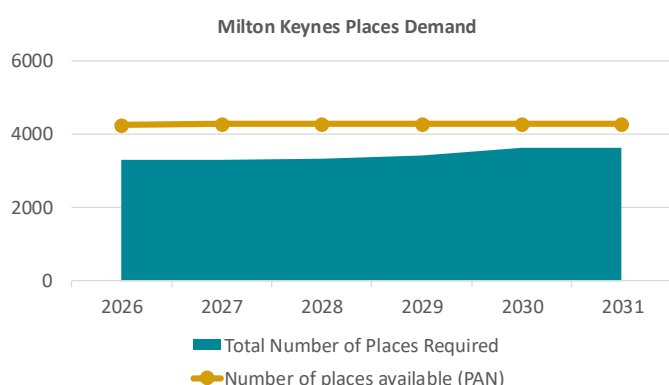
Key Statistics

- **46,168** pupils reside and attend school in Milton Keynes (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **26** infant schools
- **11** junior schools
- **52** primary schools
- **12** secondary schools
- **3** all-through schools
- **6** special schools
- **1** alternative education provision

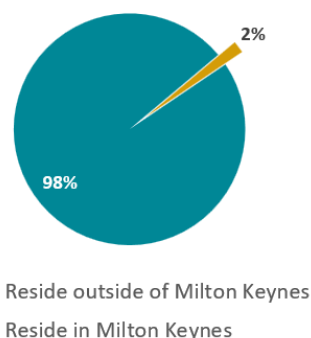


Primary Sector

Milton Keynes Overview: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	4240	4285	4285	4285	4285	4285
Total number of places required for Year R	3300	3303	3331	3407	3611	3631
Balance of Places	970	982	954	878	674	654
Surplus/Deficit (%)	23%	23%	22%	20%	16%	15%

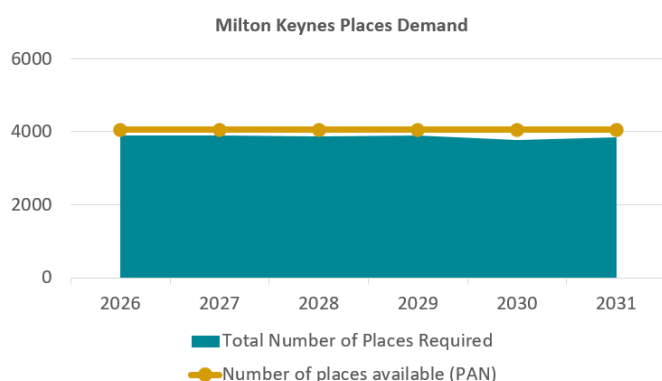


Primary pupils attending school in Milton Keynes

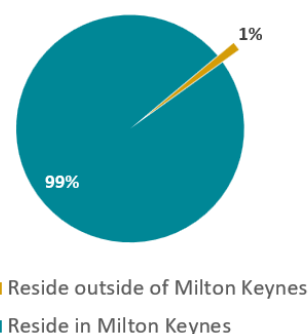


Secondary Sector

Milton Keynes Overview: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050
Total number of places required for Year 7	3899	3905	3873	3903	3773	3754
Balance of Places	151	145	177	147	277	296
Surplus/Deficit (%)	3.7%	3.6%	4.4%	3.6%	6.8%	7.3%



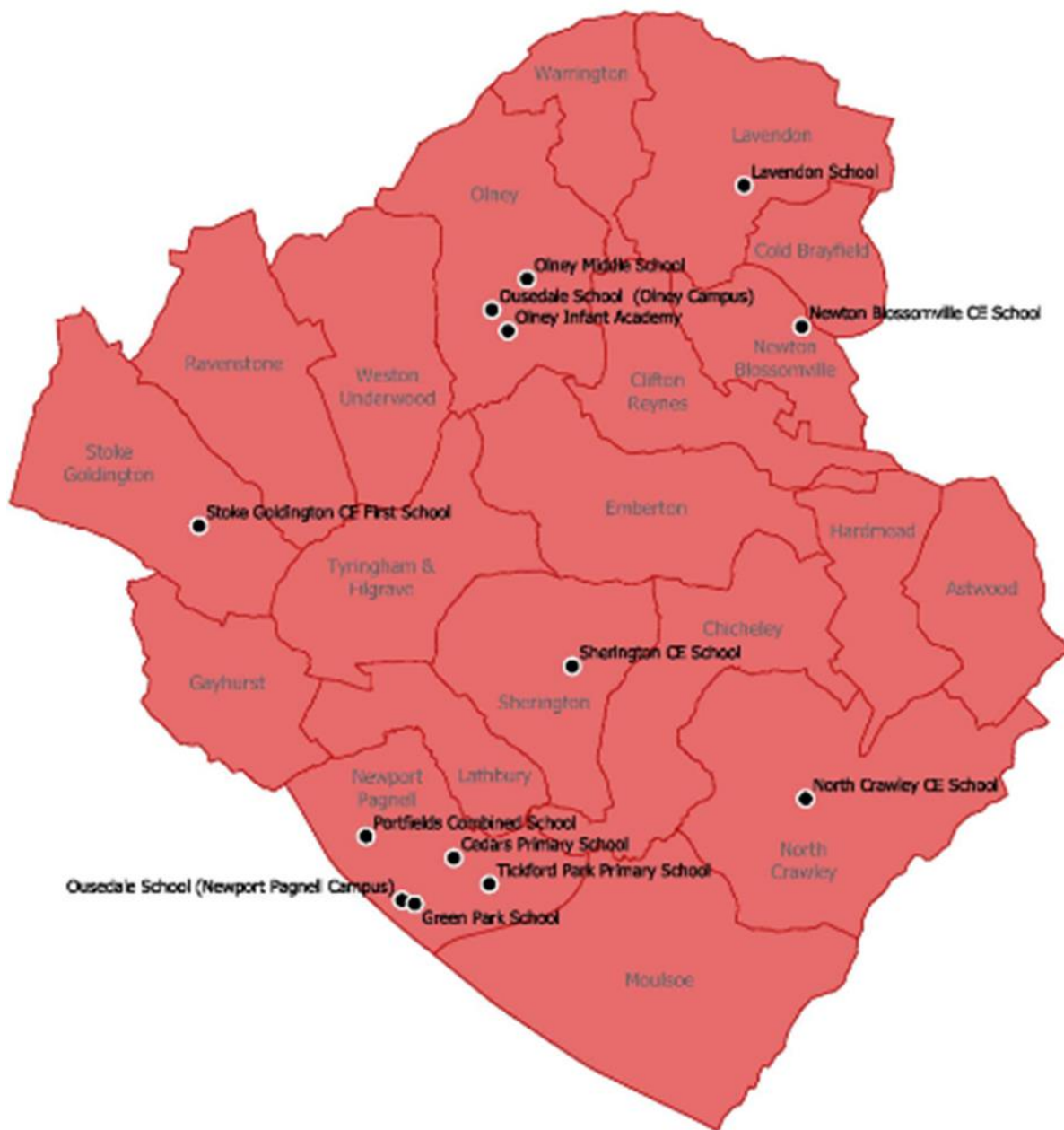
Secondary pupils attending school in Milton Keynes



Key Points

- The primary sector is experiencing a marked decline in demand due to falling birth rates. Even with additional pupils generated from new housing, projections show a substantial surplus of Year R places.
- Demand for secondary school places is expected to grow, though this will vary year-on-year across the city. The council is working closely with Milton Keynes secondary headteachers to release additional places where necessary, ensuring statutory sufficiency duties are met while avoiding an over-supply.

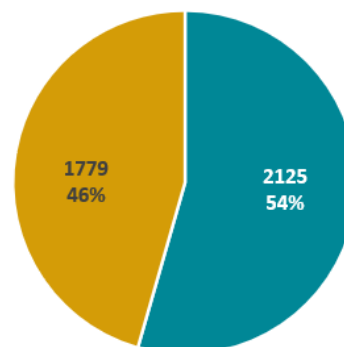
North Planning Area



Key Statistics

- **3,904** pupils reside and attend school in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **5** infant schools
- **1** junior schools
- **5** primary schools
- **1** secondary school

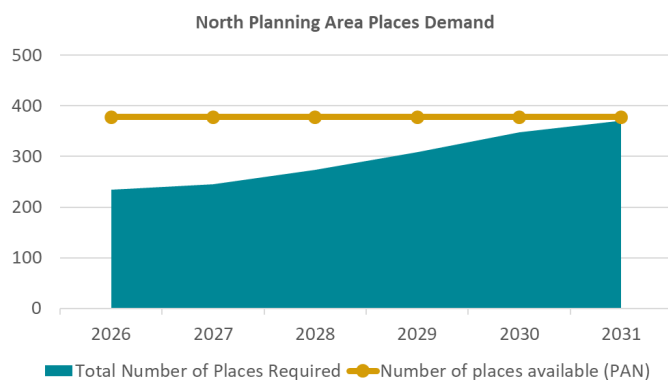
Pupil Breakdown



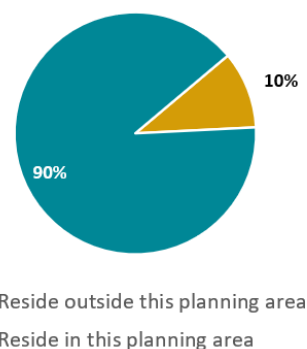
■ Primary ■ Secondary

Primary Sector

North Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	378	378	378	378	378	378
Total number of places required for Year R	234	245	274	309	348	371
Balance of Places	144	133	104	69	30	7

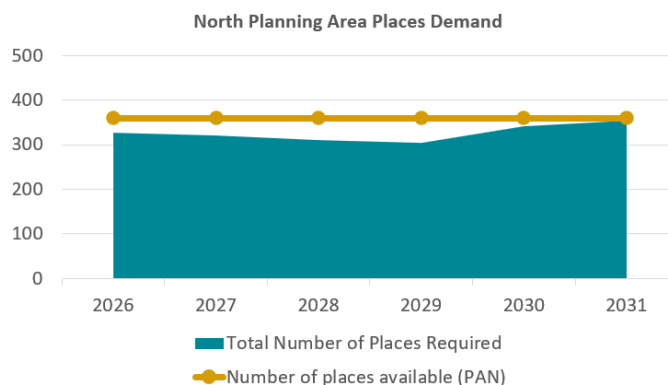


Primary pupils attending school in this area

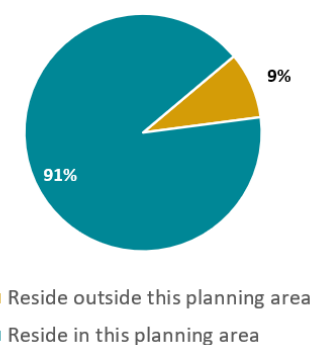


Secondary Sector

North Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	360	360	360	360	360	360
Total number of places required for Year 7	328	322	311	304	341	355
Balance of Places	32	38	49	56	19	5



Secondary pupils attending school in this area



Key Points

- Tickford Fields – development site of up to 930 homes at Tickford Fields identified within the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan. A site for a new 2FE primary school secured to support pressure from new housing. Current need and potential timing is being monitored and reviewed annually.
- MK East – a development consisting of up to 5000 homes planned. The primary phase building of the all-through school has been delivered and will open from September 2027. The secondary phase will be delivered at a later point.

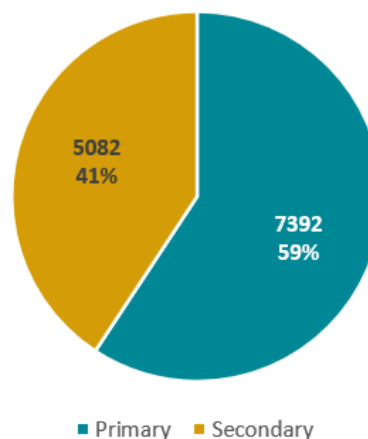
North West Planning Area



Key Statistics

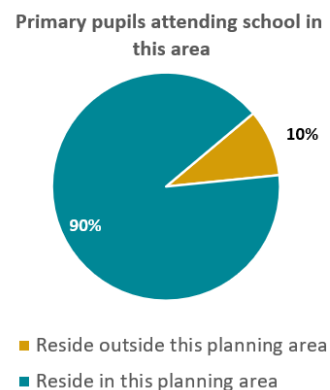
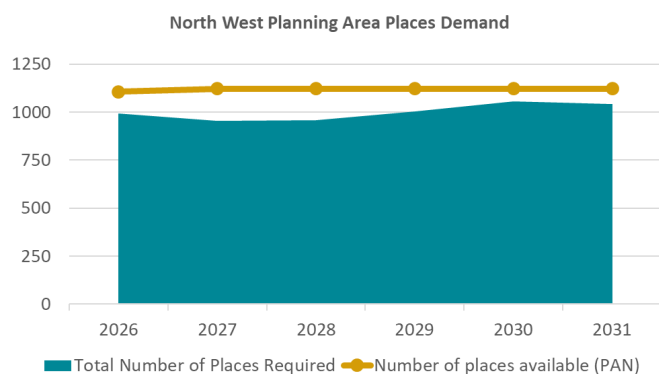
- **12,474** pupils reside and attend schools in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **10** infant schools
- **5** junior schools
- **12** primary schools
- **3** secondary schools

Pupil Breakdown



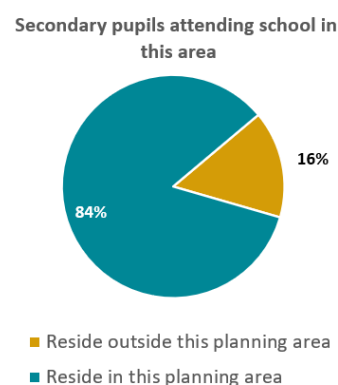
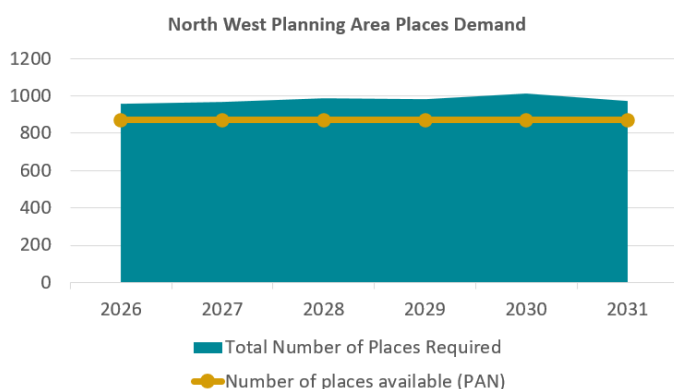
Primary Sector

North West Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	1107	1122	1122	1122	1122	1122
Total number of places required for Year R	992	953	957	1005	1057	1042
Balance of Places	62	119	129	87	26	17



Secondary Sector

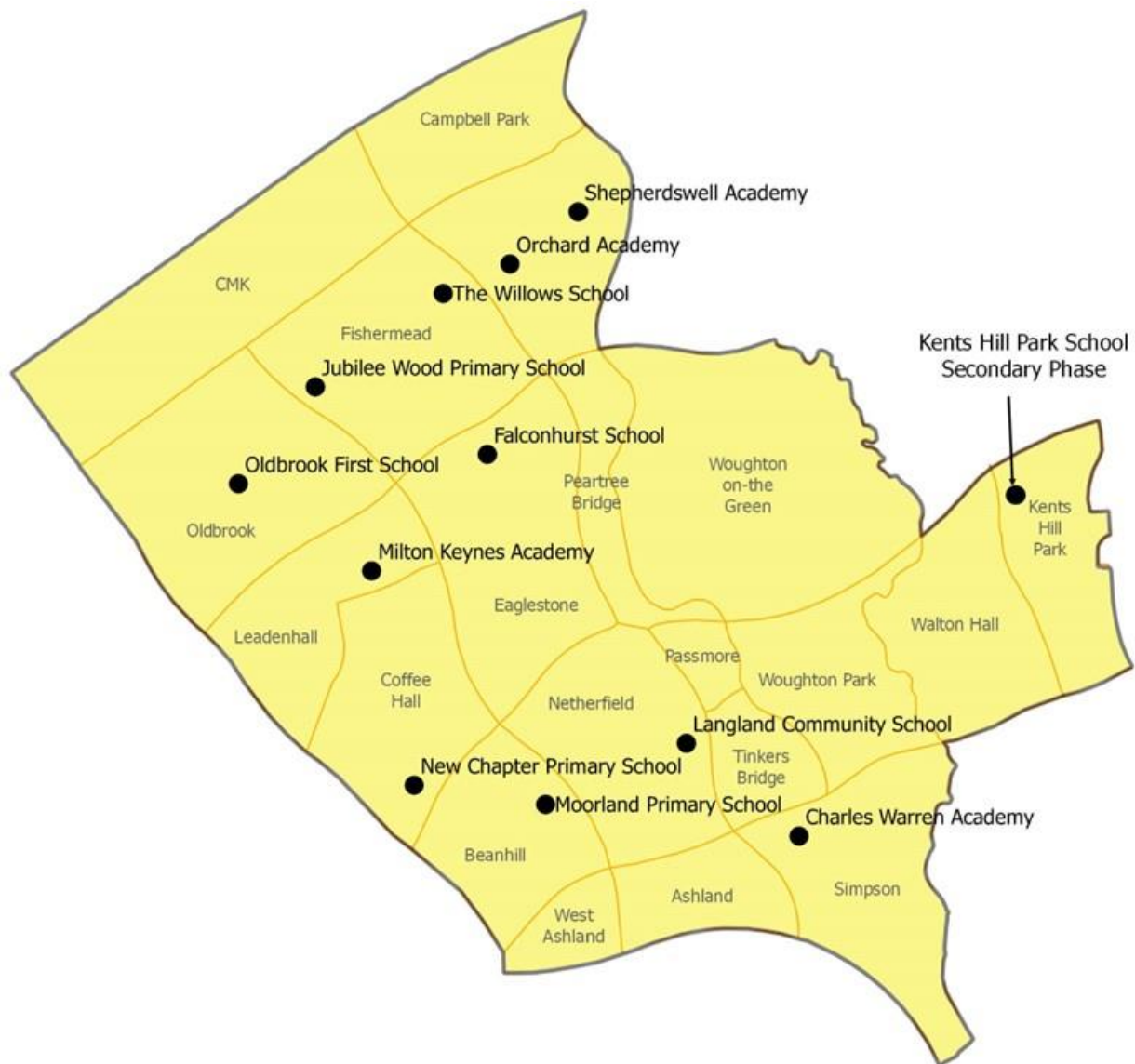
North West Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	870	870	870	870	870	870
Total number of places required for Year 7	958	968	988	984	1015	973
Balance of Places	-88	-98	-118	-114	-145	-103



Key Points

- Western Expansion Area – Development of up to 6,600 homes is underway and will continue beyond 2030. Three primary schools (Whitehouse, Fairfield and Watling Primary) and Watling Academy secondary school are already open. The final primary school is scheduled to open in September 2028.
- Secondary provision – Although projections show a need for additional places, not all available Year 7 places were taken up, as some families opted for schools in other planning areas. We will continue to monitor this position closely with partners across the sector.

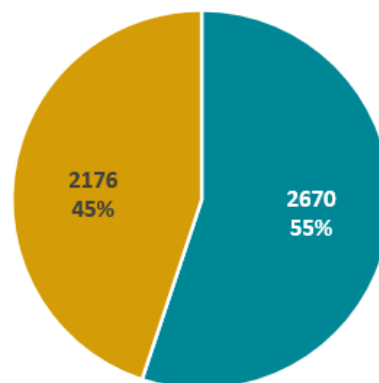
Central Planning Area



Key Statistics

- **4,846** pupils reside and attend school in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **3** infant schools
- **1** junior schools
- **6** primary schools
- **1** secondary school
- **1** all-through school

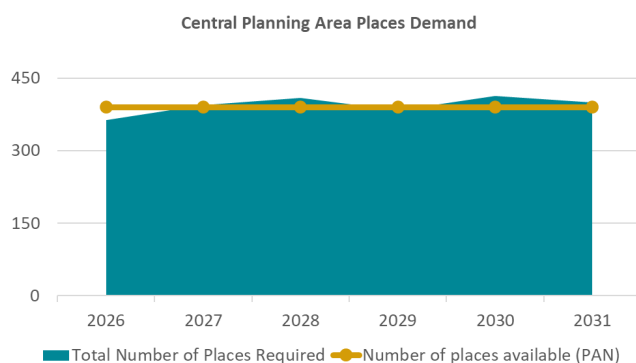
Pupil Breakdown



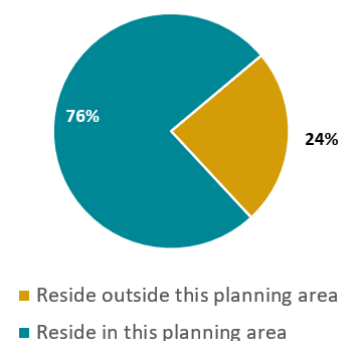
■ Primary ■ Secondary

Primary Sector

Central Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	390	390	390	390	390	390
Total number of places required for Year R	363	394	409	383	413	399
Balance of Places	27	-4	-19	7	-23	-9

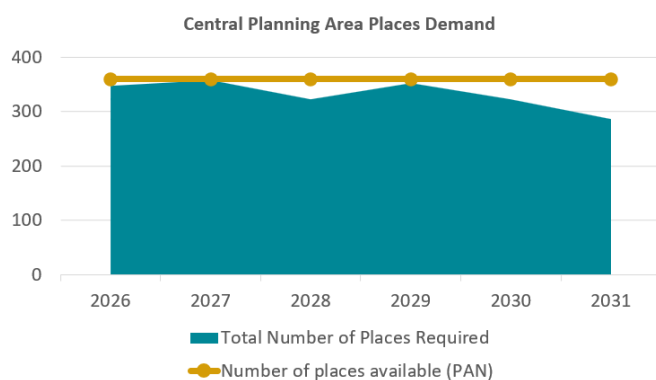


Primary pupils attending school in this area

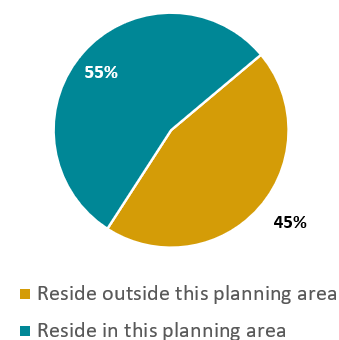


Secondary Sector

Central Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	360	360	360	360	360	360
Total number of places required for Year 7	347	357	323	353	323	287
Balance of Places	13	3	37	7	37	73



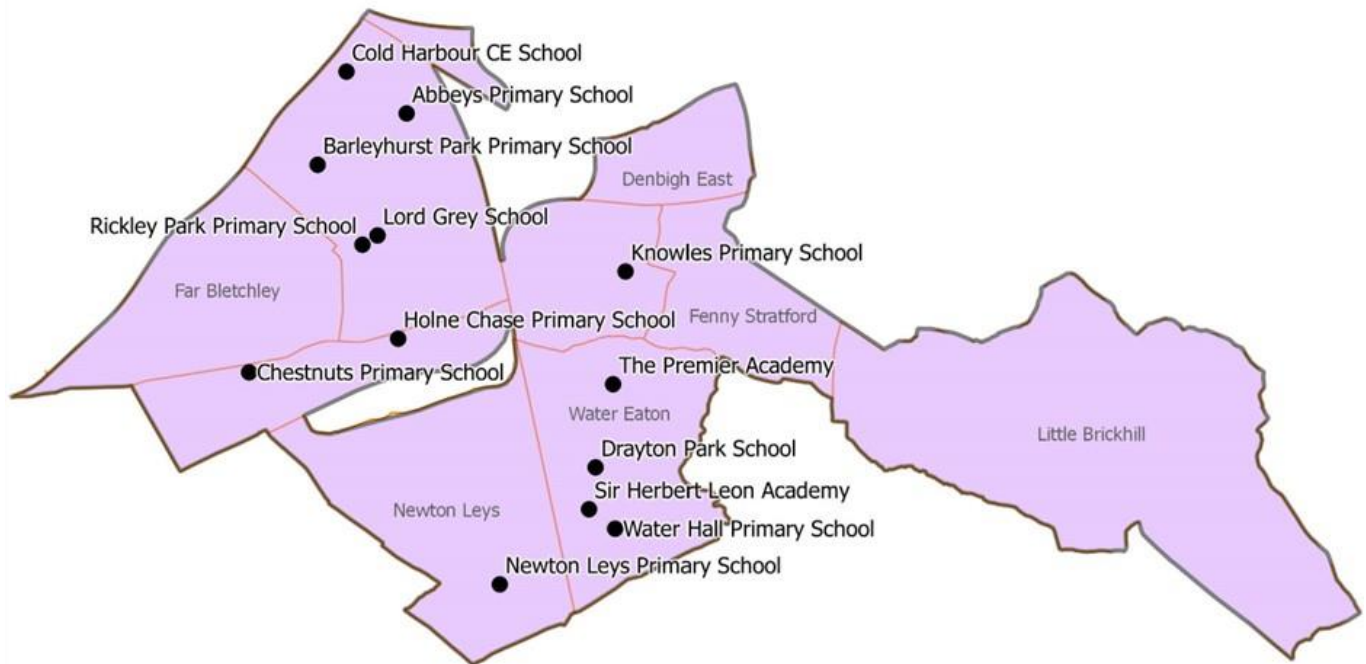
Secondary pupils attending school in this area



Key Points

- Central Milton Keynes and Campbell Park – over 4,000 new homes are expected to be delivered over the next five years. As a significant proportion are likely to be flats/apartments, which typically generate lower pupil yield, it is possible that additional demand can continue to be met by existing local schools.
- Primary provision – there is a small projected need for additional primary places in some future years, however not all Year R places available were allocated in 2025, as some parents chose schools in other planning areas. This position will continue to be monitored in partnership with the primary.

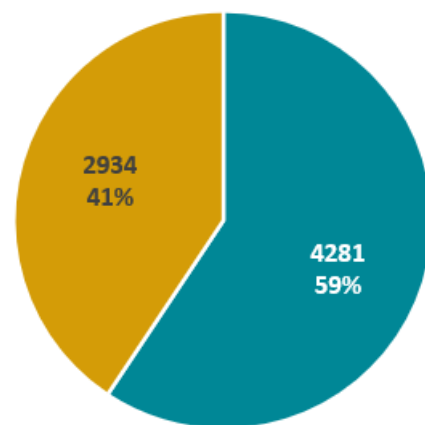
South Planning Area



Key Statistics

- **7,215** pupils reside and attend school in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **11** primary schools
- **2** secondary schools

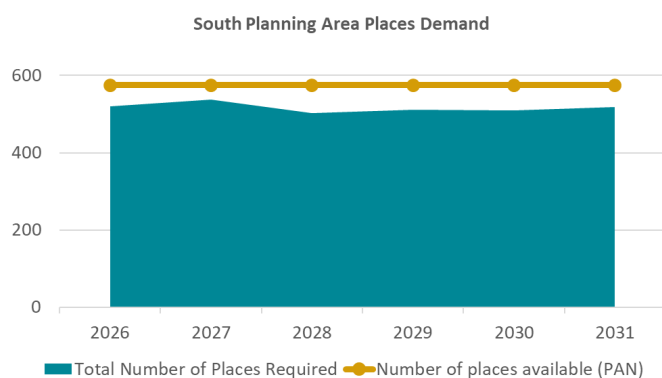
Pupil Breakdown



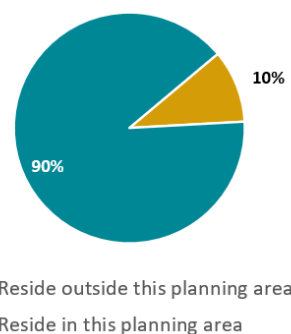
■ Primary ■ Secondary

Primary Sector

South Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	575	575	575	575	575	575
Total number of places required for Year R	521	538	502	511	510	518
Balance of Places	54	37	73	64	65	57

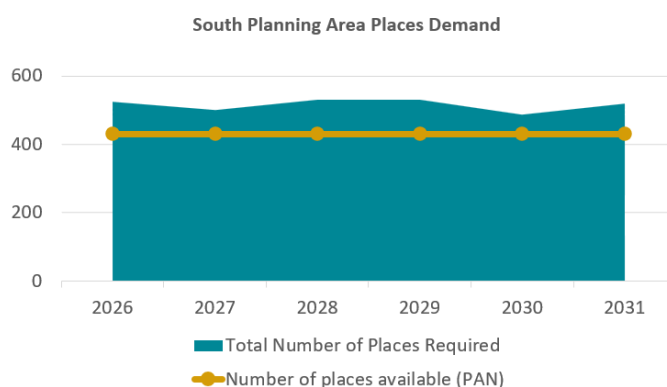


Primary pupils attending school in this area

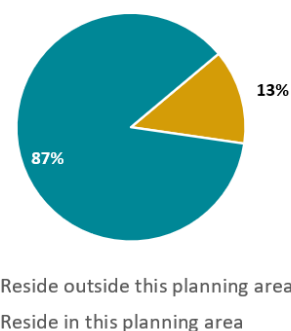


Secondary Sector

South Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	430	430	430	430	430	430
Total number of places required for Year 7	523	501	529	529	488	519
Balance of Places	-93	-71	-99	-99	-58	-89



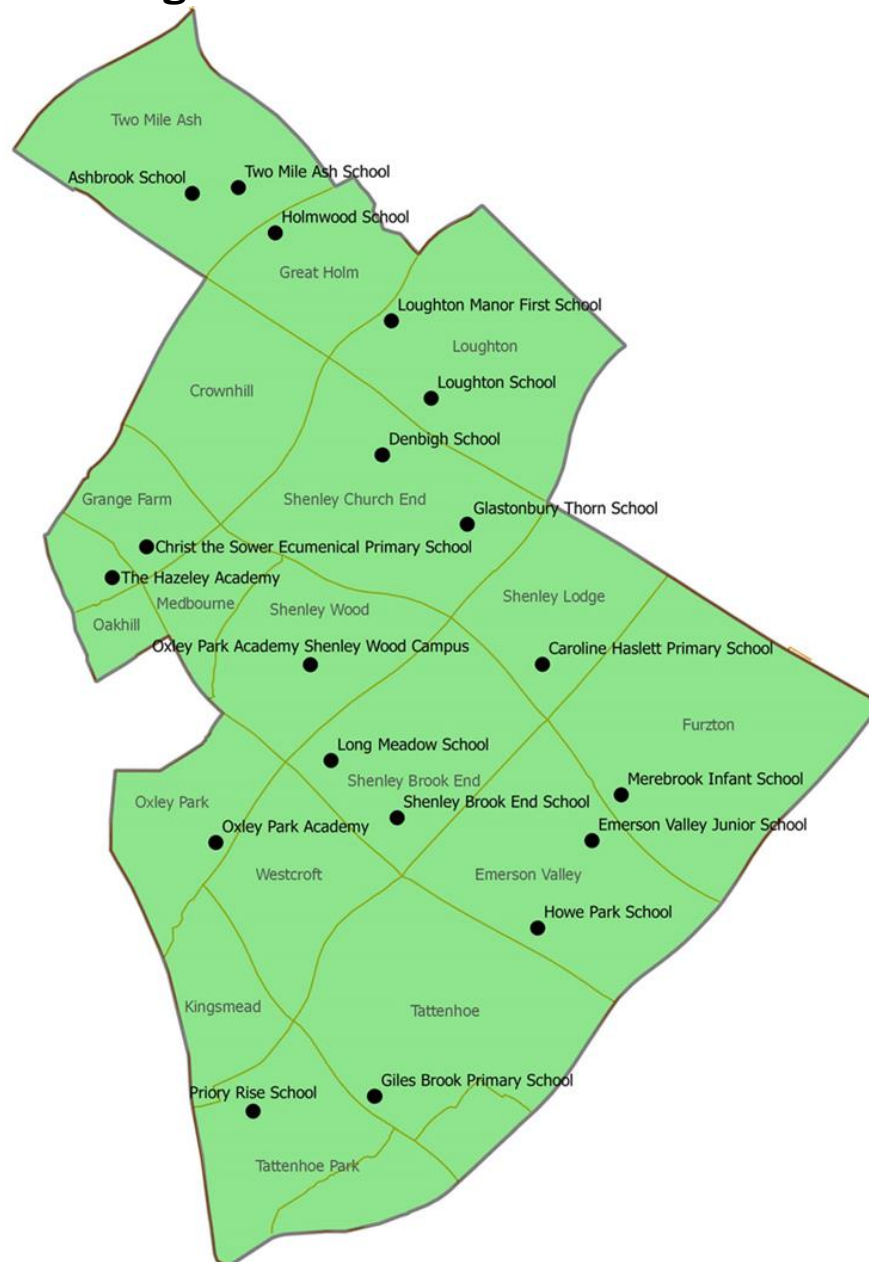
Secondary pupils attending school in this area



Key Points

- Eaton Leys – development underway for up to 450 homes, site secured within the development for 1FE primary school. Development currently scheduled for completion financial year 26/27.
- Secondary provision – although projections indicate a need for additional secondary places in the area, admissions data shows that current provision is sufficient, as some parents are choosing schools in other planning areas. This position will continue to be monitored in partnership with the secondary sector.

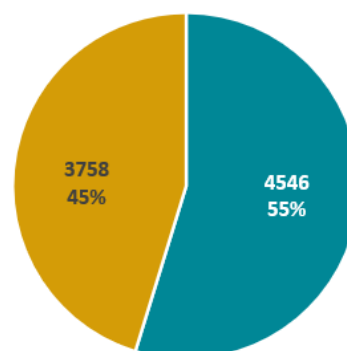
South West Planning Area



Key Statistics

- **8,304** pupils reside and attend school in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **6** infant schools
- **3** junior schools
- **6** primary schools
- **3** secondary schools

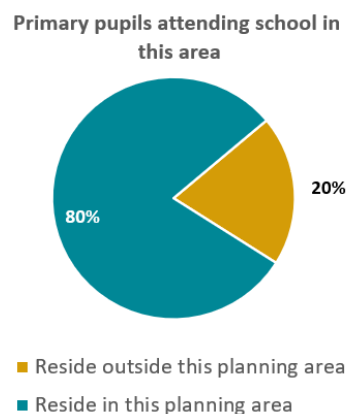
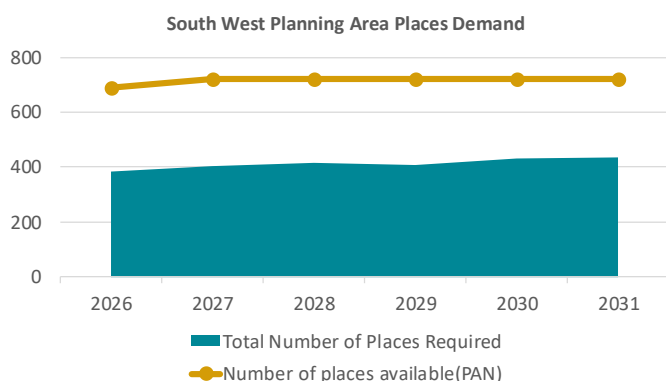
Pupil Breakdown



■ Primary ■ Secondary

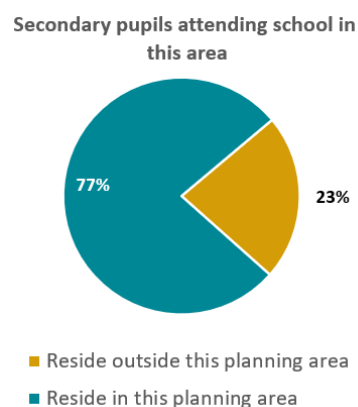
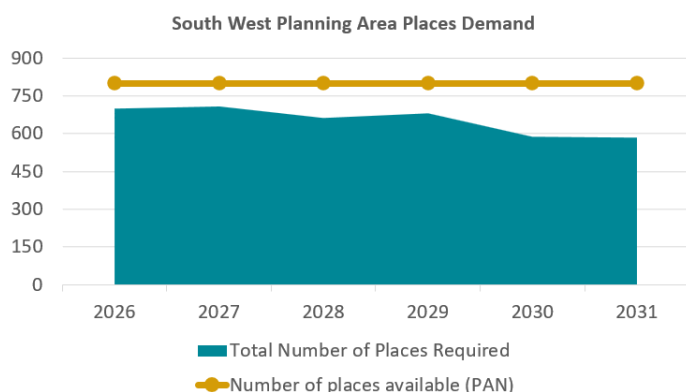
Primary Sector

South West Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	690	720	720	720	720	720
Total number of places required for Year R	384	403	416	408	430	437
Balance of Places	289	260	247	254	241	258



Secondary Sector

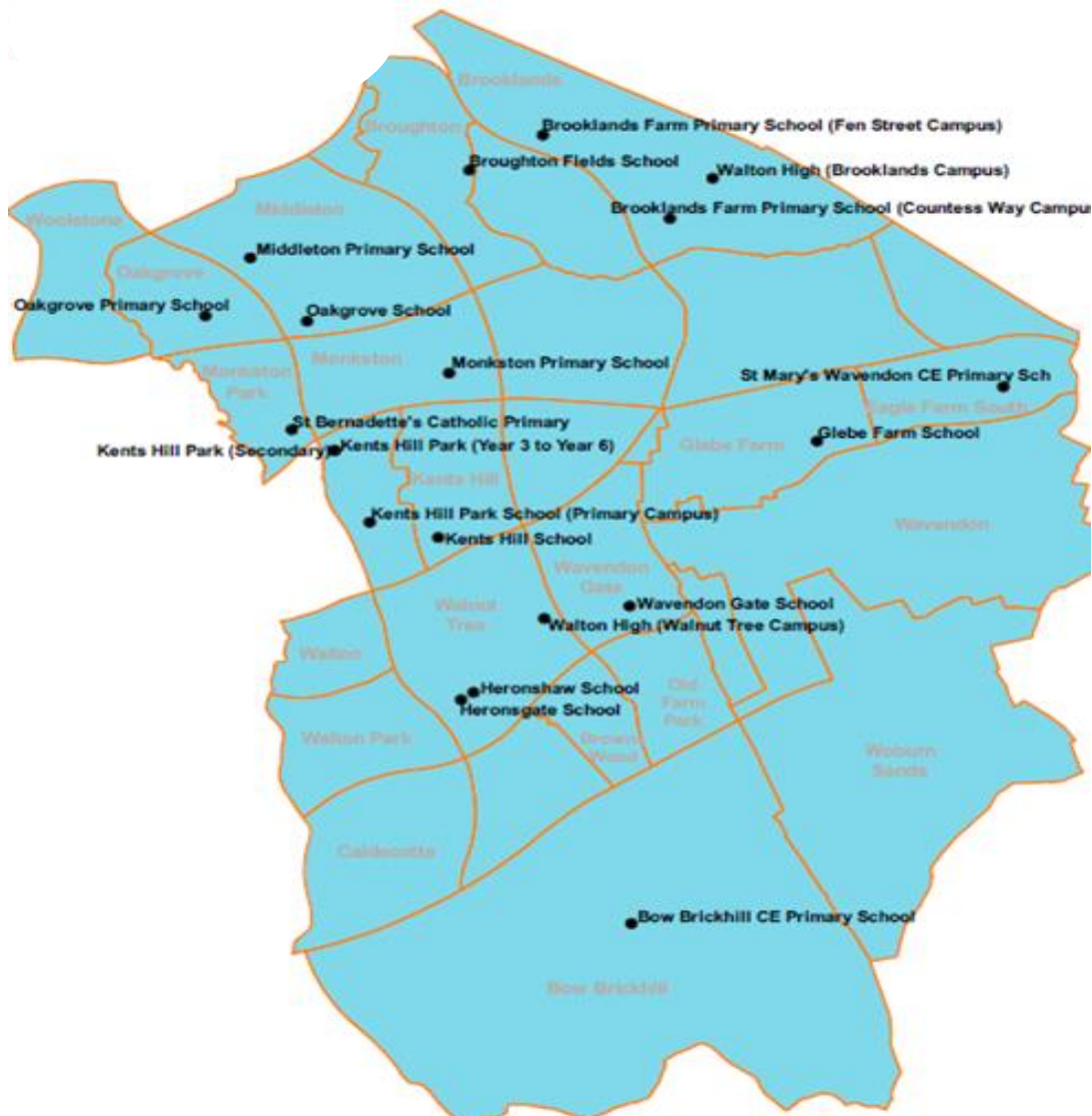
South West Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	800	800	800	800	800	800
Total number of places required for Year 7	701	708	663	683	588	586
Balance of Places	99	92	137	117	212	214



Key Points

- No new major planned growth identified for this area at present.

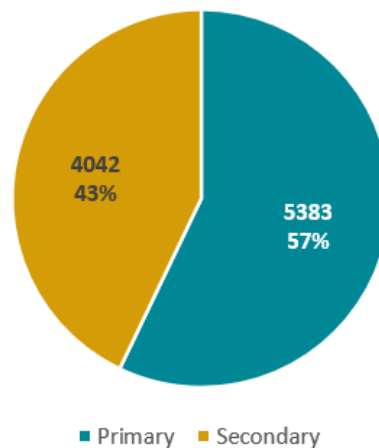
South East Planning Area



Key Statistics

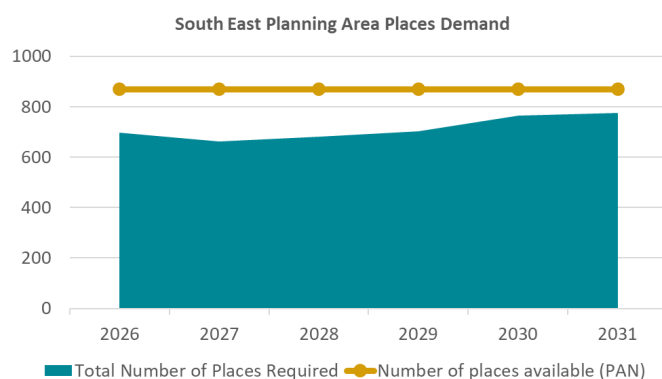
- **9,425** pupils reside and attend school in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **2** infant schools
- **1** junior schools
- **7** primary schools
- **1** secondary school
- **2** all-through schools

Pupil Breakdown

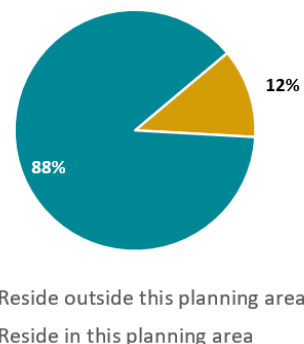


Primary Sector

South East Planning Area: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	870	870	870	870	870	870
Total number of places required for Year R	697	663	681	702	765	777
Balance of Places	173	207	189	168	105	93

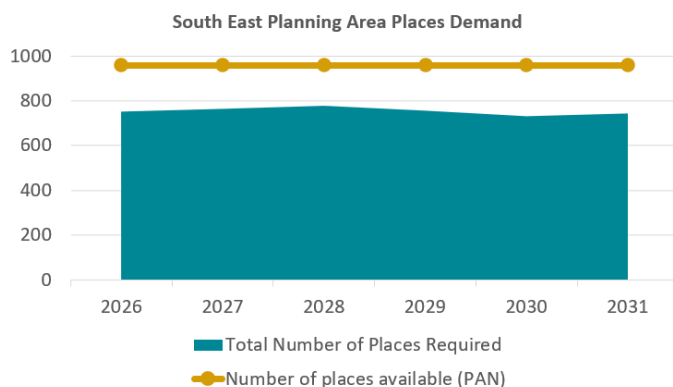


Primary pupils attending school in this area

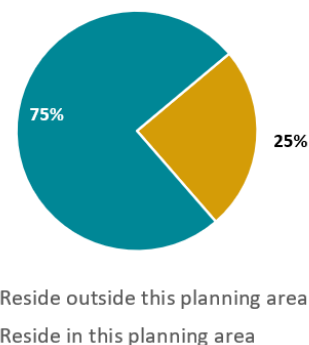


Secondary Sector

South East Planning Area: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	960	960	960	960	960	960
Total number of places required for Year 7	753	763	777	758	730	743
Balance of Places	207	197	183	202	230	217



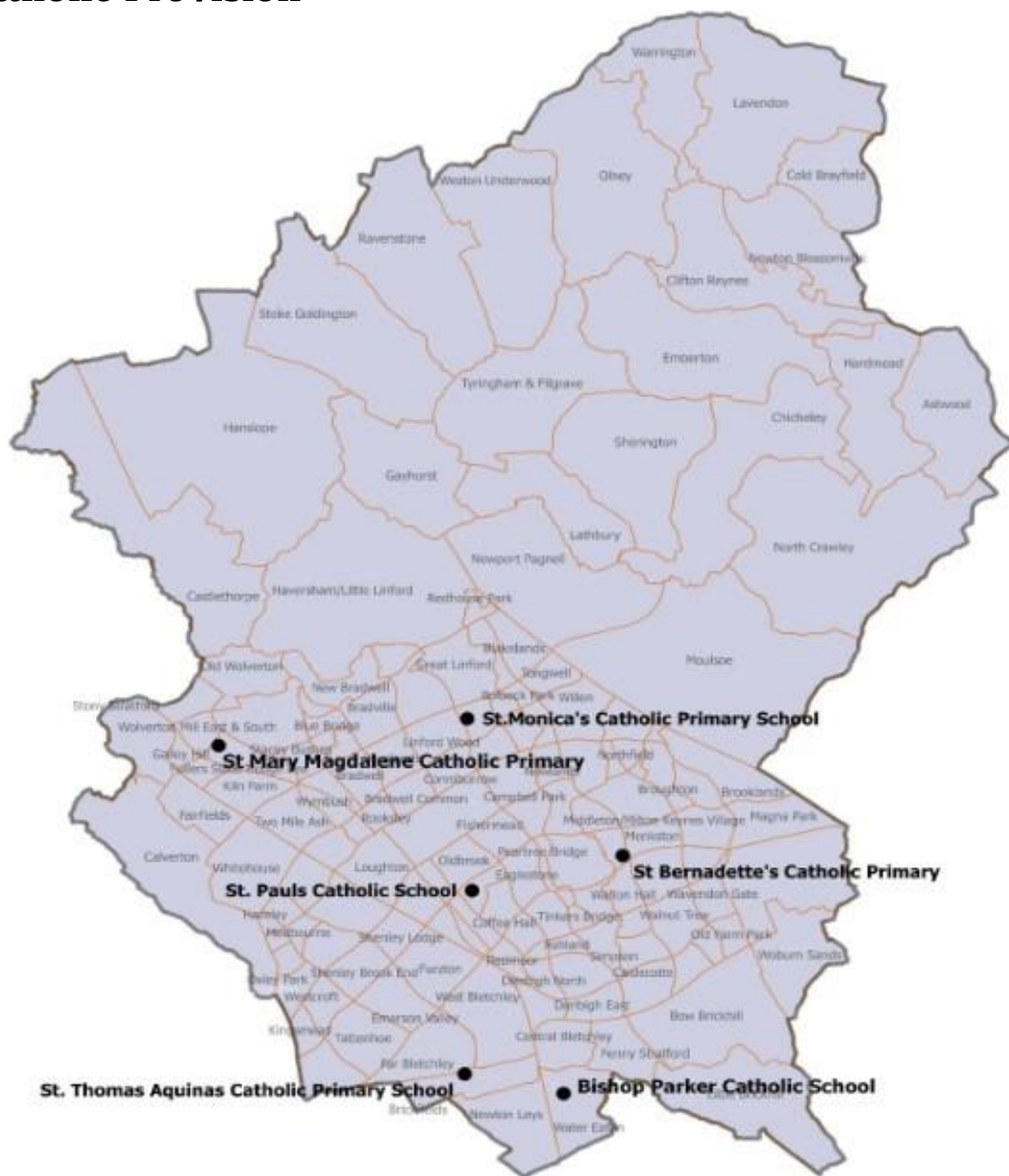
Secondary pupils attending school in this area



Key Points

- Strategic Land Allocation – This development is underway and will deliver up to 2,750 homes with build completion expected by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. Glebe Farm all-through school opened in 2023, with capacity for 3FE in the primary phase and 6FE in the secondary phase, and is expanding in line with local demand.
- South East Milton Keynes – This development is also underway and will deliver up to 3,000 homes. The plan includes two 3FE primary school sites and a 7FE secondary school site to meet projected local pupil needs.

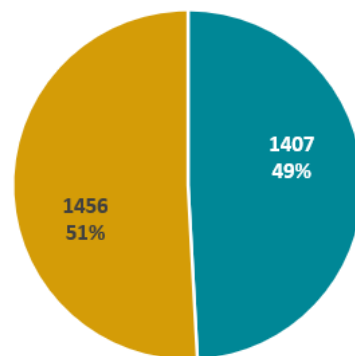
Catholic Provision



Key Statistics

- **2,863** children attend Catholic provision in Milton Keynes (excluding nursery and post-16)
- **5** primary schools
- **1** secondary school

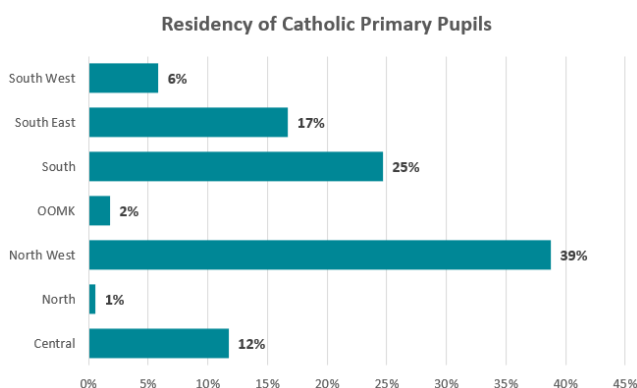
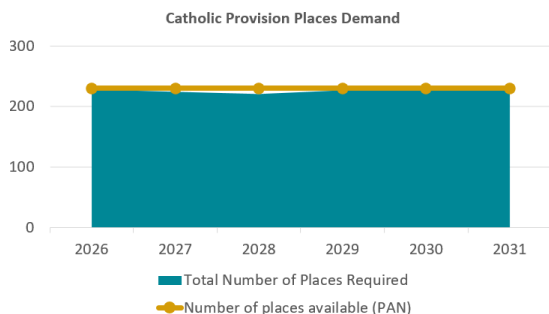
Pupil Breakdown



■ Primary ■ Secondary

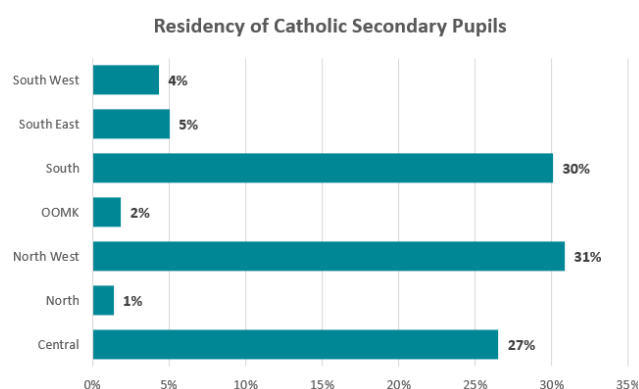
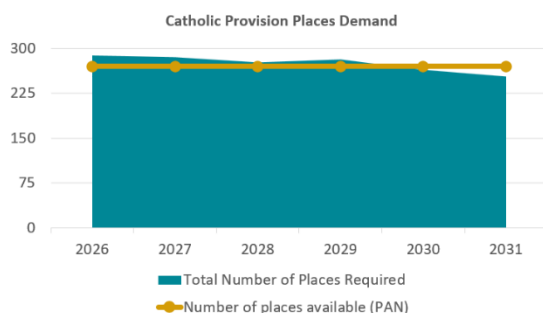
Primary Sector

Catholic Schools Group: Reception Year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	230	230	230	230	230	230
Total number of places required for Year R	228	225	221	227	233	229
Balance of Places	2	5	9	3	-3	1



Secondary Sector

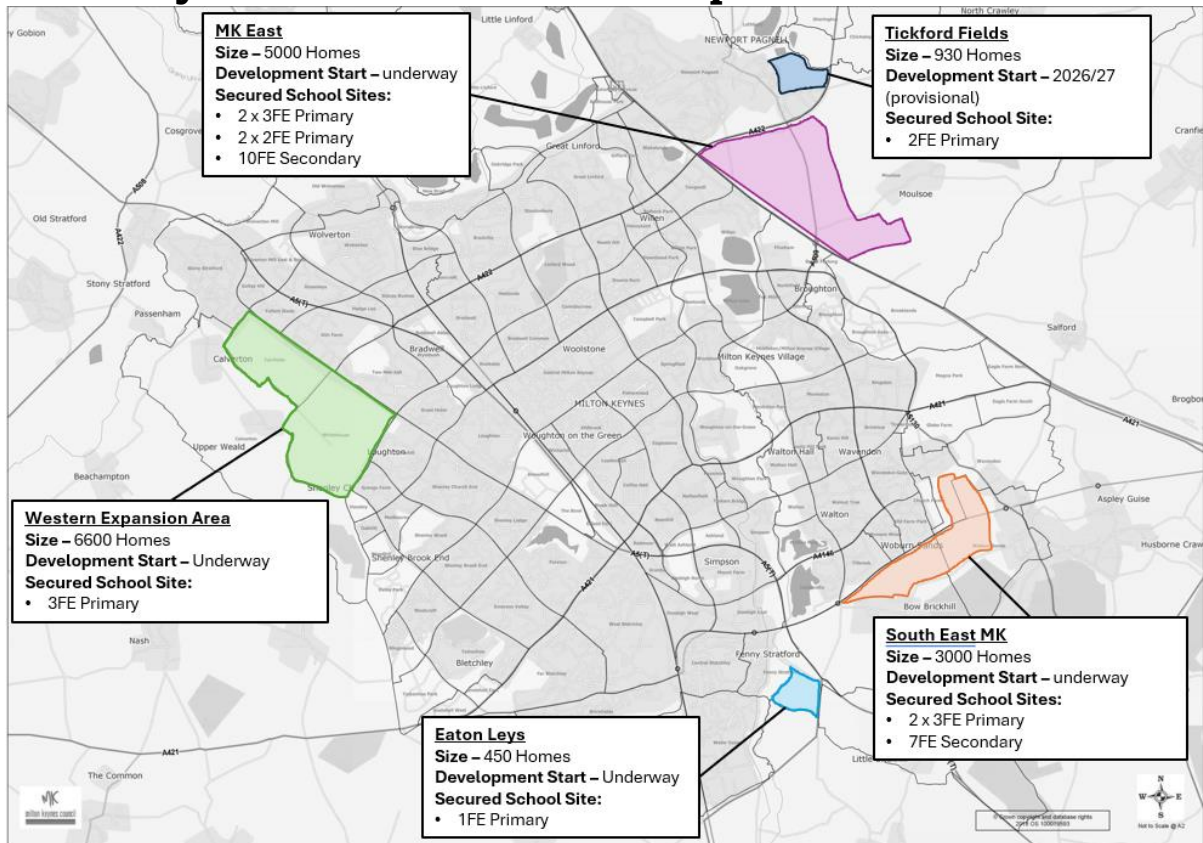
Catholic Schools Group: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	270	270	270	270	270	270
Total number of places required for Year 7	288	285	277	282	264	253
Balance of Places	-18	-15	-7	-12	6	17



Key Points

- No plans currently to increase local catholic provision. This position with the sector will continue to be monitored.

Summary of future schools' development



Annex A

School place planning methodology

To meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, the council assesses the balance of places at each key admission point: primary (Year R), junior (Year 3) and secondary (Year 7). This analysis identifies where pressures are likely to occur and where surplus capacity may exist.

To identify the balance of places, the current supply is considered against the projected demand for places, which considers the demand from the existing demographic as well as the projected demand from new housing. The method for projecting demand differs for Year R, Year 3 and Year 7. These are detailed below in Primary planning, Junior planning and Secondary planning.

As the Published Admission Number (PAN) is the legal number of places up to which a school must admit, this number is considered to represent the number of places available. The current supply of places is not considered as the 'net capacity' of a school, which is a government determined formula used to calculate the capacity of a building based on the amount of teaching space available. Although the net capacity can be used to inform the PAN, the two figures are not directly related, and a PAN can often be higher or lower than the net capacity of a school.

Planning for the impact of new housing

Any new housing is considered to generate additional pressure on the demand for school places, and as such is factored into the forecast demand. The number of pupils generated from new housing developments is based on a pupil-product-ratio survey completed by Cognisant Research in August 2017, as shown in the table below:

Child Age	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15
Yield Ratio	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02

Table 3: Extract adapted from Cognisant Research: Pupil Product Ratio Study – Milton Keynes Council 2017

To determine the number of new children estimated to arise from new housing; the number of new homes is multiplied by the relevant yield rate. For example, 100 houses are estimated to yield 6 Year R (age 4) pupils on average. The delivery rate of the housing schedule is moderated based on the average completion rate of the previous three years.

[Access to the full pupil yield survey can be found here.](#)

School provision for new housing is planned in two ways. Large developments, which may include multiple smaller developments, over a total of 2,500 homes, are usually planned for independently. Such developments include the Western Expansion Area, the Strategic Land Allocation, MK East and the South East MK development. For these developments, primary

and secondary provision will usually be identified and commissioned exclusively for that development.

Developments that are not as large are planned for within the existing provision of Milton Keynes. This means that the anticipated pupil yield from new housing is considered in addition to the anticipated pressure from birth rates or pupils already within the school system.

Where possible the intention is for young people who move into these new houses to be served by existing provision, which may need to be expanded to meet new demand, either on the existing site or on a separate campus site. Where the existing provision is unable to meet the anticipated new demand, a new provision will be established.

Primary place planning

Live birth data (published annually by the Office of National Statistics) is used as a base for forecasting the number of children due to start school in the corresponding year. A retention rate is applied to the birth data to reflect the proportion of children born who will subsequently start at a Milton Keynes school. For each primary school an area retention rate is calculated and applied to the number of births in the catchment area. This retention rate considers various factors that have applied in the period between the birth of the children and the corresponding Year R intake. These include families that have moved away or moved into the area; children on roll in Milton Keynes mainstream schools but living in other local authority areas, children living in Milton Keynes but attending schools in other local authority areas, and children who enrol in other provision such as special schools, the private education sector, and other alternative settings.

Year	ONS Births (Sept to August)	Year R intake (October School Census)
2021	3536 (born 2016-17)	3539
2022	3522 (born 2017-18)	3618
2023	3319 (born 2018-19)	3565
2024	3212 (born 2019-20)	3504
2025	3308 (born 2020-21)	3506

Table 4: Birth data comparison to actual Year R intake

Projected demand arising from new housing is calculated separately as development in Milton Keynes is significant and can vary substantially with the economic climate. The projected demand from new housing is calculated by aggregating and multiplying the pupil product ratio by the number of completions in the catchment area. The projected number of additional children for each Year R intake is then added to the adjusted birth data referred to above.

Where it is not yet available from ONS, birth projections for future years are generated using a three-year average figure. The city wide demand for Year R places is therefore as follows:

Milton Keynes Overview: Reception year						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	4240	4285	4285	4285	4285	4285
Births	3069	3127	3187	3255	2418	3389
Demand expected from new houses	489	427	406	423	476	528
Births + Housing Demand @ retention rate	3300	3303	3331	3407	3611	3631
Pupils projected to attend Catholic provision	228	225	221	227	233	229
Total number of places required for Year R	3300	3303	3331	3407	3611	3631
Balance of Places	940	982	954	878	674	654
Surplus/Deficit (%)	22%	23%	22%	20%	16%	15%

Table 5: Impact of projected demand for Year R places (assuming no change in supply)

Junior place planning

Junior place planning uses the data from the October 2025 census for projecting demand at the infant to junior transition point in Year 3. For Year 3 projections relating to cohorts not currently on roll, the reception year projections generated through the primary place planning are used. We project that we will have a significant surplus of junior provision across the city in future years.

Milton Keynes Overview: Year 3			
	2026	2027	2028
Number of places available (PAN)	1254	1254	1254
Total number of places required for Year 3	979	897	940
Balance of Places	275	357	314
Surplus/Deficit (%)	22%	28%	25%

Table 6: Impact of projected demand for Year 3 places (assuming no change in supply)

Secondary place planning

To project the future demand for secondary places a similar 'retention rate' is generated by comparing the number of children on roll in Year 6 in the May school census against the number of children attending a Milton Keynes mainstream secondary school in the October school census of the same year for the past three years and taking an average. This retention rate has remained consistent over the last few years fluctuating only very slightly. The figure used for current projections is 94.8%. This considers various factors, including children on roll in Milton Keynes mainstream schools but living in other local authority areas, children living in Milton Keynes but attending schools in other local authority areas and children who enrol in other provision such as special schools, the private education sector and other alternative settings.

To forecast demand beyond the current Year 6, the additional demand which will arise from new housing development in future years must be accounted for. Whilst the impact from new housing will eventually affect all year groups, analysis shows that pupil yield is initially higher in the younger year groups than it is in the older year groups.

By applying the weighted pupil yield figures set out in Table 1 to the adjusted housing schedule projections from developers, the potential number of additional pupils in each year group per year can be estimated to support future Year 7 projections.

In addition, the methodology also includes a layer to include children that may attend MK schools that live in other local authority areas.

Milton Keynes Overview: Year 7						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Number of places available (PAN)	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050	4050
Total Cohort @ Year 6	4032	3997	3905	3852	3633	3516
Cohort @ Retention Rate	3823	3792	3700	3654	3443	3332
Demand expected from new houses	35	73	132	209	290	382
Children from out of county	40	40	40	40	40	40
Total number of places required for Year 7	3899	3905	3873	3903	3773	3754
Balance of Places	151	145	177	147	277	296
Surplus/Deficit (%)	3.7%	3.6%	4.4%	3.6%	6.8%	7.3%

Table 7: Impact of projected demand for Year 7 places (assuming no change in supply)

Catholic provision

There are five Voluntary Aided Catholic primary schools in Milton Keynes which seek, through their admissions oversubscription criteria, to provide education for Catholic families and those that desire a Catholic education. Pupils at these schools come from across the city and therefore a separate demand figure is required to consider the impact of this provision at secondary level. This is not necessary for children moving on from Church of England primary schools since there is no Church of England secondary school.

A review of the historic oversubscription criterion point that the last pupil was offered a place at each of the Catholic schools in the coordinated admissions process demonstrates that more people than classified as ‘Catholics practicing their religion’ are accessing this provision. There is an ongoing dialogue with the Catholic diocese to consider the future needs of this provision, however there are no changes currently proposed.

Therefore, to plan for the wider impact of Catholic provision on other schools in the locality, the PAN is considered to remain constant and a percentage rate of pupils accessing each Catholic provision per planning area is calculated based on the current attendance trends. Future demand is adjusted proportionately across each planning area to account for the growing population.

Annex B

Births Data

In the 2010/11 academic year, the birth rate in Milton Keynes peaked with 3979 births recorded by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). However, over subsequent years the birth rate has reflected the downward trend experienced nationally with Milton Keynes experiencing a fall in births.

In total, since 2010/11 Milton Keynes has experienced a 19% fall in births, as ONS birth data recorded only 3219 births in the 2023/24 academic year. This is a reduction equivalent to 25 forms of entry which will eventually feed through to the primary and secondary sectors.

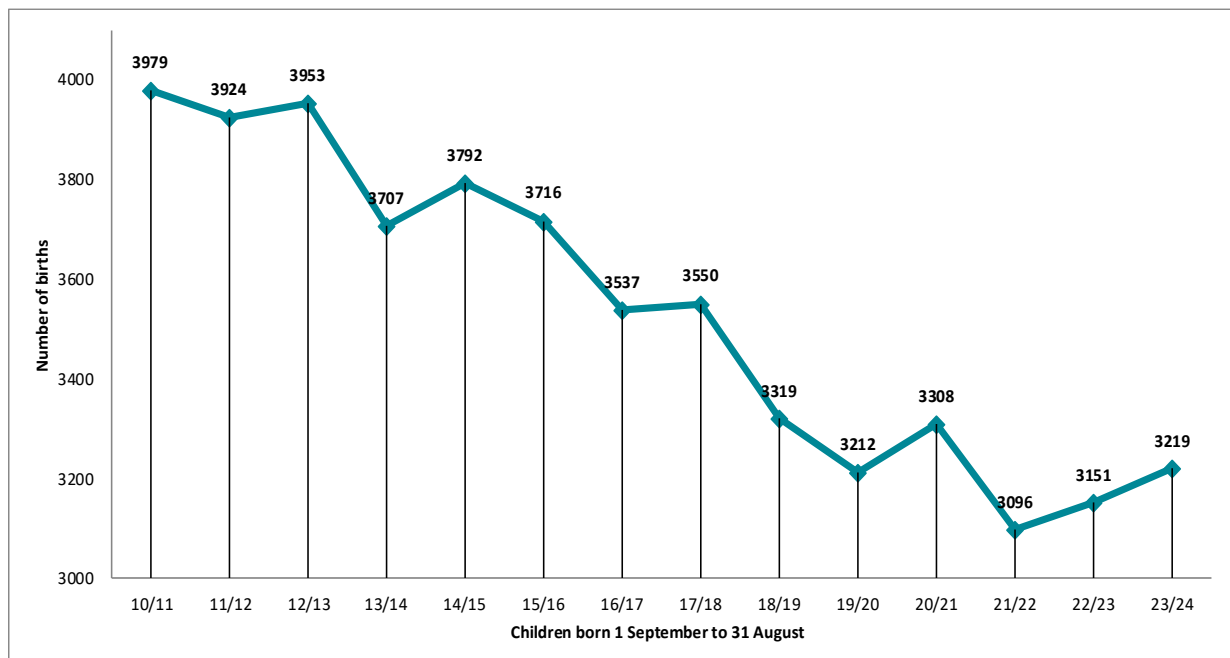


Table 8: Births for Milton Keynes 2010/11 to 2023/24. Source: ONS Birth Data

Annex C

Types of schools

There are currently 113 schools in Milton Keynes. This number can change in line with the way schools are organised, for example, schools may be amalgamated, new schools opened, or schools can be closed.

All schools in Milton Keynes are co-educational admitting both boys and girls. There is a range of all categories including community, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled, foundation and academy schools. All schools in Milton Keynes are non-selective. The council continues to oppose any form of academic selection in Milton Keynes.

School Type	Academy	Community	Foundation	Voluntary Aided	Voluntary Controlled	Total
Nursery	0	2	0	0	0	2
All Through	3	0	0	0	0	3
Primary	28	15	2	6	1	52
Infant	7	12	3	0	4	26
Junior	6	2	3	0	0	11
Secondary	10	0	1	1	0	12
Special	1	5	0	0	0	6
Alternative	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	56	36	9	7	5	113
As %	50%	32%	8%	6%	4%	

Table 9: Schools by category and phase, January 2025

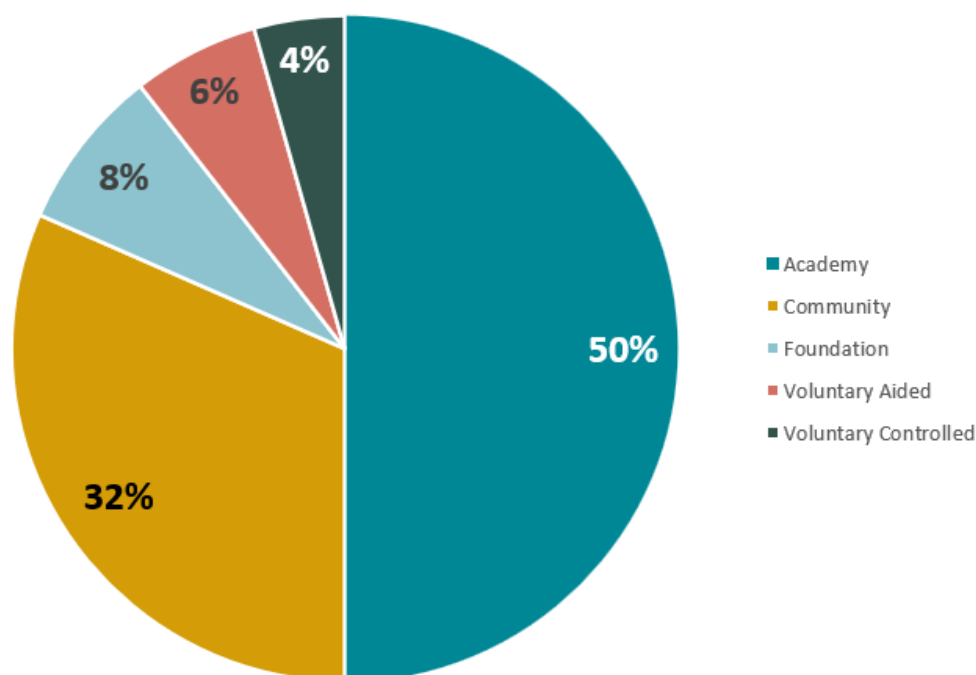


Table 10: Status of schools in Milton Keynes, January 2025

Annex D

Post-16 Provision

The majority of secondary schools in Milton Keynes have post-16 provision. Demand is likely to increase as the number of pupils in the secondary sector grows. However, the reduction currently being experienced in the primary sector will eventually impact post-16 provision. It should also be noted that the table below does not capture all pupils accessing post-16 education; it only reflects those pupils enrolled in post-16 provision at a Milton Keynes secondary school.

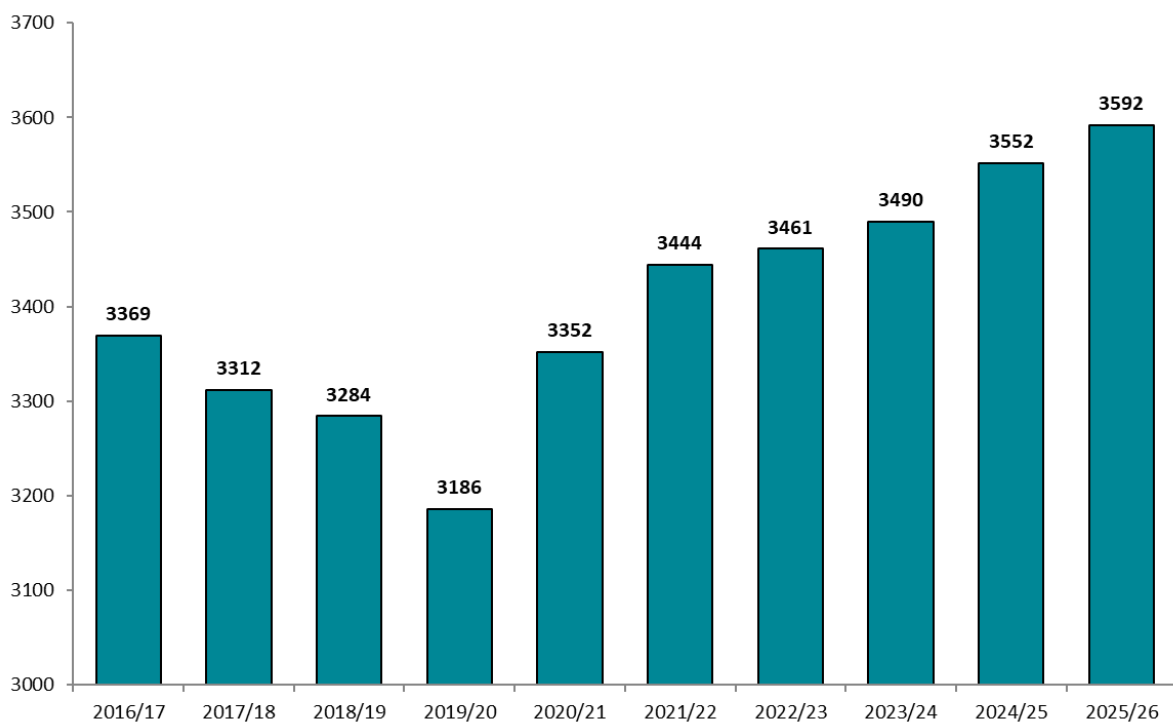


Table 11: Total number of Post-16 pupils, 2016/17 to 2025/26 (excluding special schools and alternative education). Source: School Census October 2025

Annex E

School preferences

Despite significant expansion in the size of the population, a high percentage of Milton Keynes' young people receive a place at one of their preference schools.

For children starting school for the first time at Year R, in September 2025, 99% were offered a place at one of their preference schools and 93.1% were offered their first preference, slightly higher than the national average of 92.6%.

For children starting secondary school in September 2025, 97.2% were offered a place at one of their preference schools and 83.2% were offered their first preference. This is broadly in line with the national average and illustrates the pressure for places in the system.

Parental choice and local geography are such that Milton Keynes experiences significant levels of cross-border movement, both in and out of the city. In total, there are 2192 children and young people educated outside of the city.

Phase	Bucks	Central Beds	West Northants	Bedford	Other	Total
Primary	191	389	149	19	58	806
Secondary	649	412	238	18	42	1359
Special School	6	7	2	1	11	27
Total	846	808	389	38	111	2192

Table 122: Pupils that live in Milton Keynes and attend other local authority schools (excluding post-16 and nursery classes). Source: DfE National Statistics 2025

Should these pupils choose to be educated within the city, the total pupil population in Milton Keynes would increase by 4.8%; this percentage is in line with 4.6% in 2024, 4.5% in 2023, and 4.7% in 2022.

In contrast, the number of children living outside Milton Keynes but educated in Milton Keynes schools is 956 thus making Milton Keynes a net exporter of pupils.

Phase	Bucks	Northants	Central Beds	Outside England/unknown	Bedford	Other	Total
Primary	243	160	70	49	15	48	585
Secondary	79	92	79	15	13	18	321
Special School	11	13	8	6	2	7	50
Total	333	293	157	70	30	73	956

Table 133: Pupils who attend schools in Milton Keynes and live in other local authorities (excluding post-16 and nursery classes). Source: DfE National Statistics 2025

If these pupils were not educated in Milton Keynes schools, the total Milton Keynes school population would decrease by approximately 2.1%. This percentage is in line with 1.8% in 2024, 1.6% in 2023, and 1.3% in 2022.

Annex F

All schools in Milton Keynes

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
North	Cedars Primary School	Primary	Community
	E-Act Ousedale School	Secondary	Academy
	Green Park School	Primary	Foundation
	Lavendon School	Primary	Academy
	Newton Blossomville Church of England School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	North Crawley CofE School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Olney Infant Academy	Infant	Academy
	Olney Middle School	Junior	Academy
	Portfields Primary School	Primary	Foundation
	Sherington Church of England School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Stoke Goldington Church of England School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Tickford Park Primary School	Primary	Academy

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
North West	Bradwell Village School	Junior	Community
	Brooksward School	Primary	Academy
	Bushfield School	Junior	Foundation
	Castlethorpe First School	Infant	Community
	Downs Barn School	Infant	Community
	Fairfields Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Germander Park School	Infant	Foundation
	Giffard Park Primary School	Primary	Community
	Great Linford Primary School	Primary	Community
	Greenleys First School	Infant	Community
	Greenleys Junior School	Junior	Community
	Hanslope Primary School	Primary	Community
	Haversham Village School	Primary	Community
	Heelands School	Infant	Community
	New Bradwell Primary School	Primary	Academy
Pepper Hill School	Infant	Community	

	Priory Common School	Infant	Community
	Russell Street School	Infant	Community
	Southwood School	Junior	Foundation
	St Mary and St Giles Church of England School	Primary	Academy
	Stanton School	Junior	Foundation
	Stantonbury School	Secondary	Academy
	Summerfield School	Primary	Community
	The Radcliffe School	Secondary	Foundation
	Watling Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Watling Primary	Primary	Academy
	Whitehouse Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Willen Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Wood End Infant & Pre-School	Infant	Community
	Wyvern School	Infant	Foundation

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
	Falconhurst School	Primary	Community
	Jubilee Wood Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Kents Hill Park all-through school	All Through	Academy
	Langland Community School	Primary	Academy
	Lift Charles Warren Academy	Primary	Academy
	Moorland Primary School	Primary	Academy
	New Chapter Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Oldbrook First School	Infant	Community
	Orchard Academy	Junior	Academy
	Shepherdswell Academy	Infant	Academy
	The Milton Keynes Academy	Secondary	Academy
	The Willows School and Early Years Centre	Infant	Community

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
South	Abbeys Primary School	Primary	Community
	Barleyhurst Park Primary	Primary	Community
	Chestnuts Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Cold Harbour Church of England School	Primary	Voluntary Controlled
	Drayton Park School	Primary	Academy
	Holne Chase Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Knowles Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Lift Sir Herbert Leon	Secondary	Academy
	Lord Grey Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Newton Leys Primary School	Primary	Community

	Rickley Park Primary School	Primary	Academy
	The Premier Academy	Primary	Academy
	Water Hall Primary School	Primary	Academy

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
South West	Ashbrook School	Infant	Academy
	Caroline Haslett Primary School	Primary	Community
	Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Denbigh School	Secondary	Academy
	Emerson Valley School	Junior	Academy
	Giles Brook Primary School	Primary	Community
	Glastonbury Thorn School	Infant	Foundation
	Holmwood School	Infant	Academy
	Howe Park School	Infant	Community
	Long Meadow School	Primary	Community
	Loughton Manor First School	Infant	Community
	Loughton School	Junior	Academy
	Merebrook Infant School	Infant	Academy
	Oxley Park Academy	Primary	Academy
	Priory Rise School	Primary	Academy
	Shenley Brook End School	Secondary	Academy
	The Hazeley Academy	Secondary	Academy
Two Mile Ash School	Junior	Academy	

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
South East	Bow Brickhill CofE VA Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	Brooklands Farm Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Broughton Fields Primary School	Primary	Community
	Glebe Farm School	All Through	Academy
	Heronsgate School	Junior	Academy
	Heronshaw School	Infant	Academy
	Heronshill School	Infant	Academy
	Middleton Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Monkston Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Oakgrove School	All Through	Academy
	St Mary's Wavendon CofE Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Walton High	Secondary	Academy
	Wavendon Gate School	Primary	Community

Planning Area	School	Phase	Type of School
Catholic Provision	Bishop Parker Catholic School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	St Paul's Catholic School	Secondary	Voluntary Aided
	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided

Special Schools in Milton Keynes

School	Phase	Type of School
Romans Field School	Year 1 to Year 6	Community
Slated Row School	All through	Community
Stephenson Academy	Year 5 to Year 11	Academy
The Redway School	All through	Community
The Woodlands School	All through	Community
White Spire School	Year 1 to Year 14	Community

Alternative Provision in Milton Keynes

School	Phase	Type of School
Bridge Academy	All through	Academy



Milton Keynes
City Council