

# **Mainstream school place planning: Forward view 2025**

Access to Education, Employment  
and Training

 **March 2025**

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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.

As a result of significant planned demographic growth and despite substantial capital investment in numerous schemes over the past few years, this document continues to show 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](mailto: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

Plan:MK, which was adopted in 2019, replaced the remaining planning policies kept from the Milton Keynes Local Plan (adopted December 2005) and the Milton Keynes Core Strategy, and became part of the Development Plan to be used in the determination of planning applications within the city. Plan:MK is the new Local Plan for Milton Keynes up to 2031 and sets out the vision and development strategy for the future of the city. Plan:MK will deliver a minimum of 26,500 net dwellings across the city of Milton Keynes over the period 2016-2031.

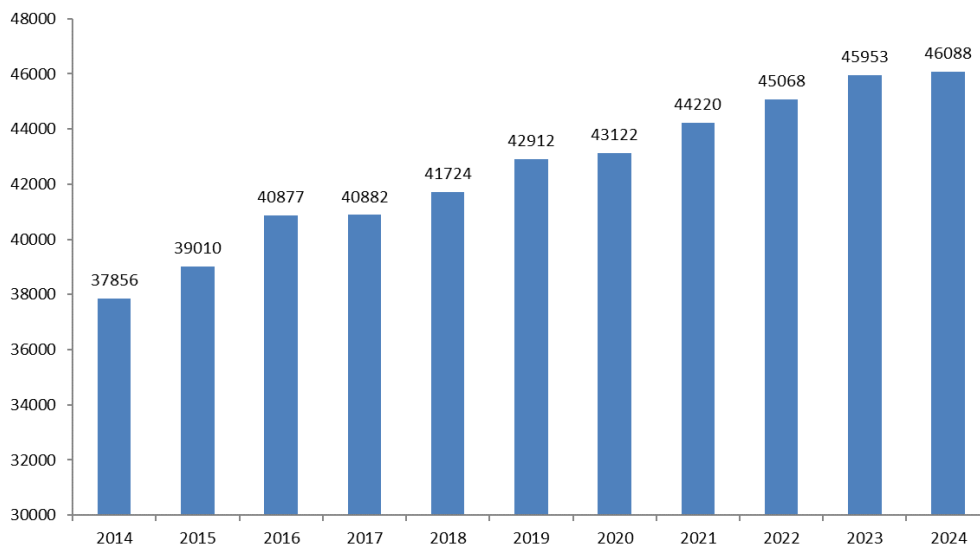
There is significant planned development across Milton Keynes with over 14,500 homes scheduled to be delivered over the next eight years, with a significant proportion of this being delivered in the new development areas of Milton Keynes. In order to support these communities growing it is right and important that new local school places are delivered within these areas in line with the additional demand the developments bring as they build out across the years.

As a Local Authority we are currently developing our new local plan which will plan the city's development until 2050. The New City Plan will take forward Milton Keynes City Council's Strategy for 2050 which set out a bold and ambitious vision for Milton Keynes over the next 25 years, including equal opportunities for all, 'lifelong' homes that suit people at all stages of their life, and a pioneering mass rapid transit system. The plan currently proposes up to an additional 34,000 homes with the ambitions of the city growing to a population of 410,000 by 2050. This plan will include considerations of what mainstream education provision is required for the future of the city across all educational phases.

We intend to consult on a final version of the MK City Plan 2050 in early 2025. We then intend to submit the plan to the Secretary of State for examination in public by the end of June 2025. If and when adopted, the MK City Plan 2050 will replace the existing Plan:MK.

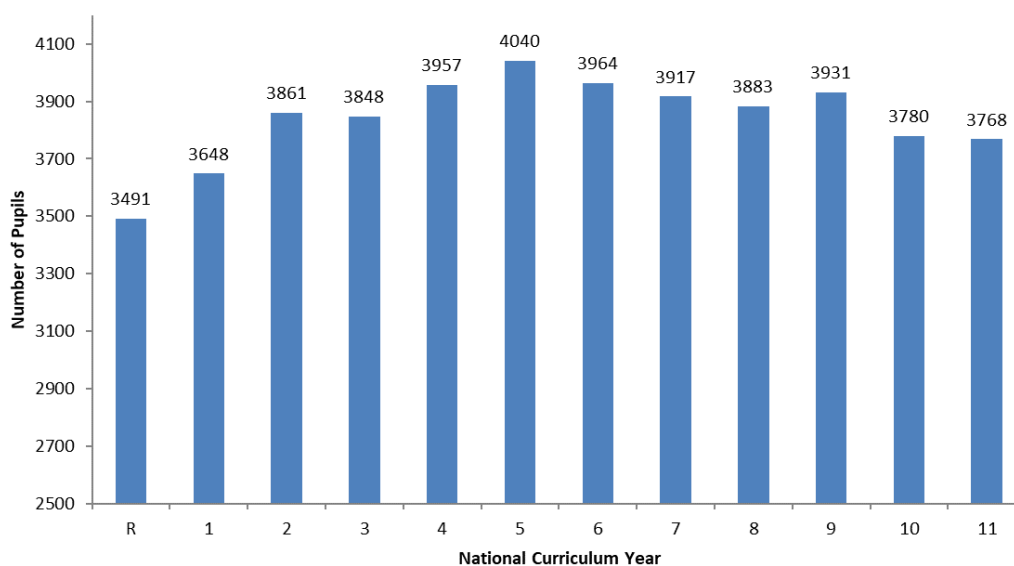
## Pupil demographics

Since 2017, the pupil population has increased by 5,206 children which represents a 12.7% increase. There was a significant drop in births in 2017/18 of approximately 230 births (Annex B). Birth trends are continuing to fall year on year, following the national trend, although there are indications that births in Milton Keynes may now have plateaued. Given this significant reduction over time, it is possible that even with pupil yield from new housing, the overall pupil cohort may plateau over the coming years.



**Figure 1:** Total number of primary and secondary mainstream pupils, 2014 to 2024 (excluding post-16, special schools and alternative education). Source: School Census October 2024

The table below shows that recent growth has focused on primary year groups, particularly Year 4 to Year 6. 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 2024 (excluding post-16, special schools and alternative education). Source: School Census October 2024

## 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 mean 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 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 also 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' either. 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 five and ten percent 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 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 547 places at the point of entry to the school (Year R) and 90 places at the point of entry to secondary school (Year 7).

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, 1,498 places have currently been removed from year groups in the primary phase and 270 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](mailto: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.



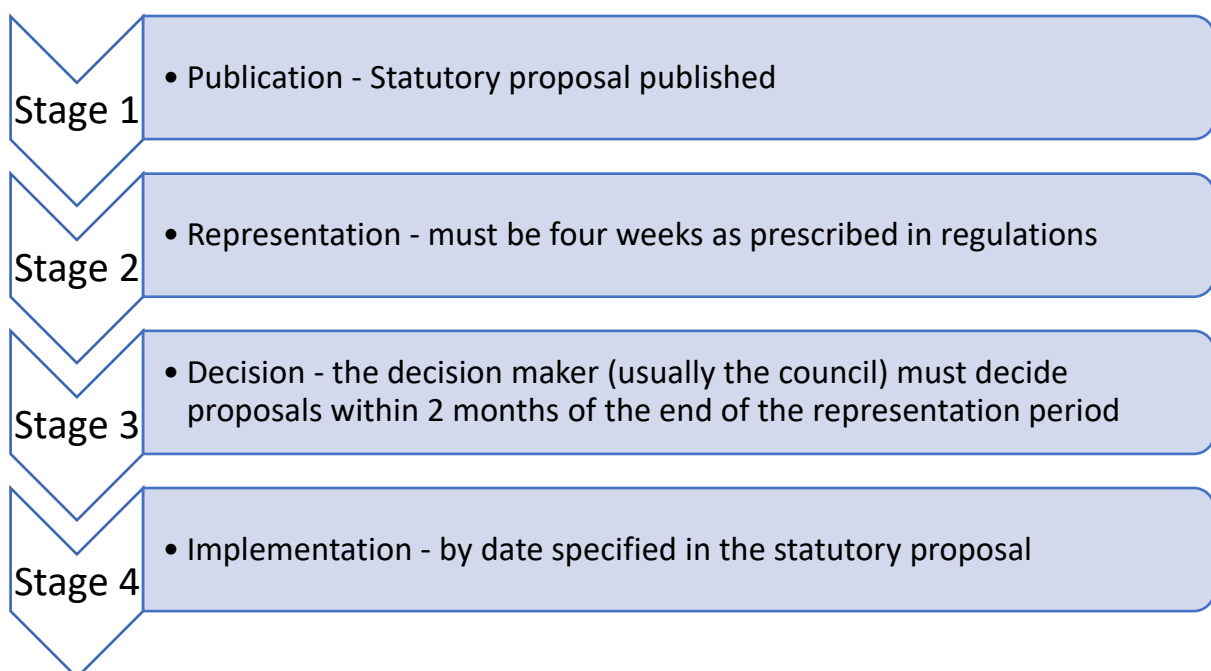
## Proposals to make significant changes (maintained schools)

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 – October 2024](#)'.

These regulations are accompanied by '[Opening and closing maintained schools – October 2024](#)', which clearly outlines what must legally take place. The statutory process has 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)**

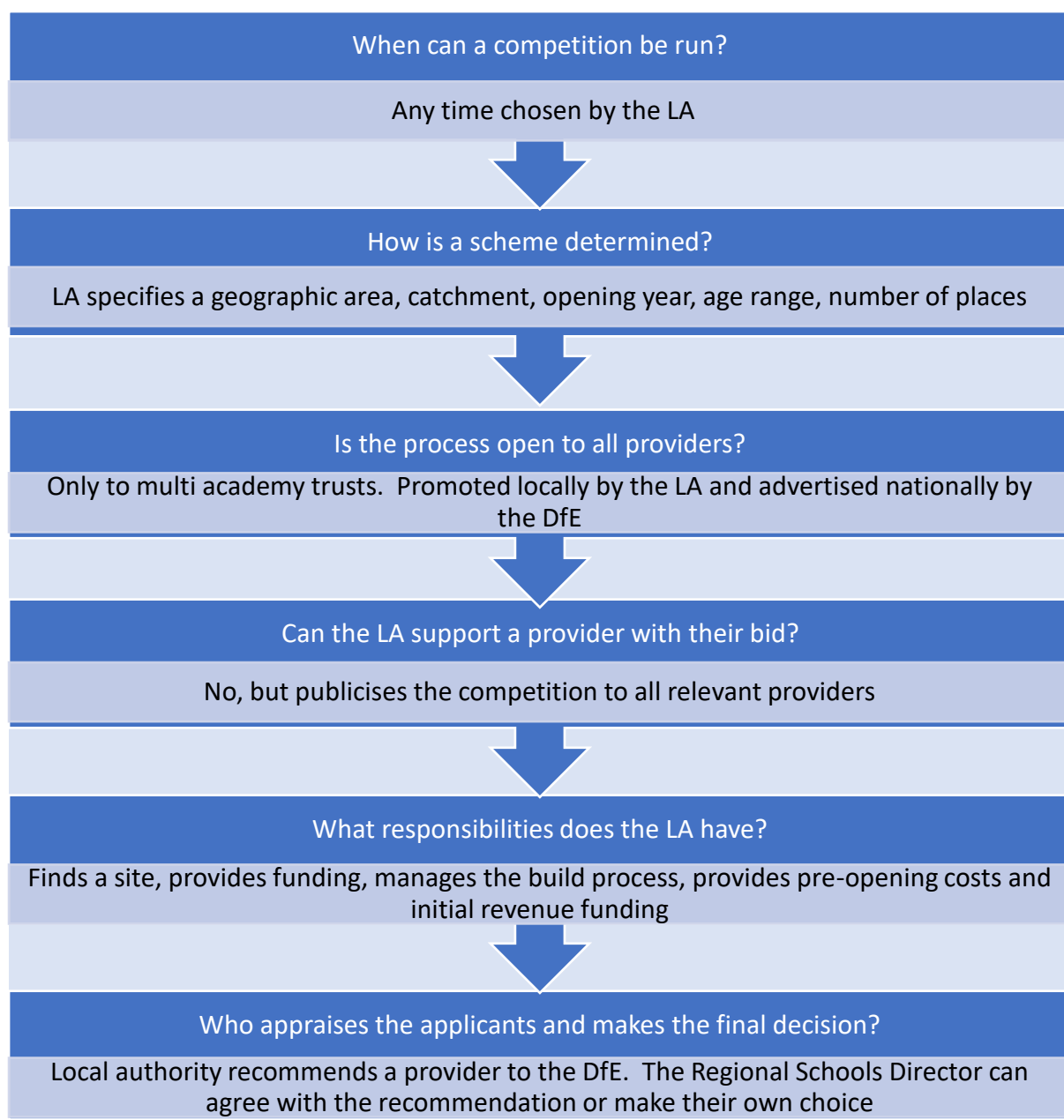
For changes involving a significant change to an existing academy the council will need to work with the academy concerned but, if a proposal is agreed, the council is not able to propose this itself. Instead the academy must have regard for the DfE guidance ['Making significant changes to an academy, October 2024'](#) and ['Closure of an academy by mutual agreement, October 2024'](#). 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 categories (or tiers) and the guidance sets the processes for academies to follow.

## Establishing new provision

When there is a need for establishing a new school in the local area, the local authority will 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.

### Presumption competition



# Current plans for new provision

This section outlines secured school sites in Milton Keynes to meet expected additional demand from new development areas and clarifies the proposed governance where determined and the total number of places that will be provided by each scheme. Please note that for schools opening in new residential developments, it is recommended that places are opened on a phased basis in alignment with housing completions.

## Primary school places – confirmed schemes

<b>Location</b>	<b>Primary 4, Western Expansion Area</b>
<b>Name</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Type</b>	New school
<b>Size</b>	630 primary places
<b>Governance</b>	Subject to free school competition
<b>Date</b>	September 2028
<b>Status</b>	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)

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

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

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Primary 2, 3 and 4, MK East</b>
<b>Name</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Type</b>	New schools
<b>Size</b>	Up to 1470 primary places
<b>Governance</b>	Subject to free school competition
<b>Date</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Status</b>	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)

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>South East Milton Keynes</b>
<b>Name</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Type</b>	New school
<b>Size</b>	630 primary and 1050 secondary places
<b>Governance</b>	Subject to free school competition
<b>Date</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Status</b>	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 G.

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

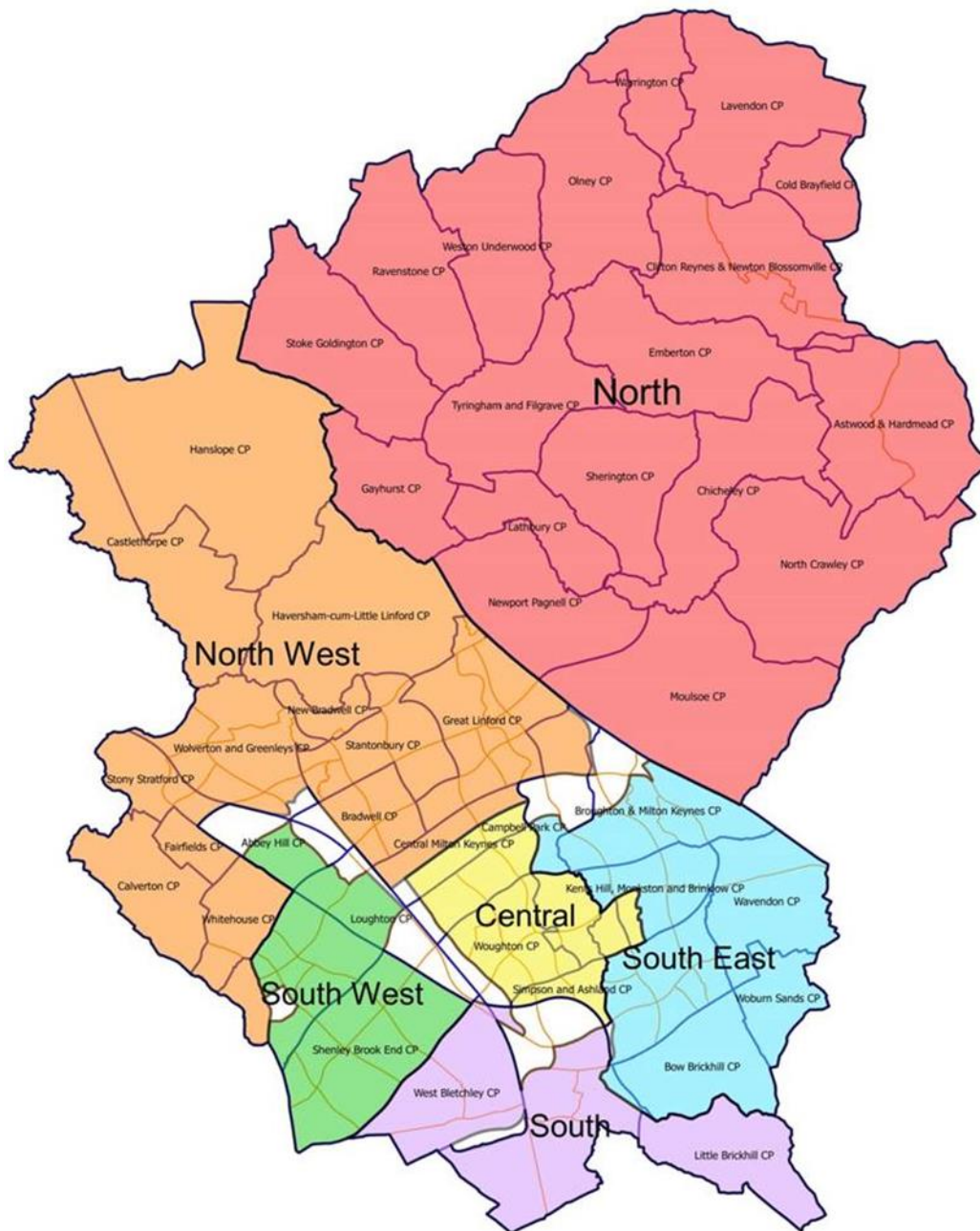
Please note:

- The Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) reflect those set in September 2025 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 2027 are calculated using periodic ONS birth data trends.
- The total PAN from 2026 onwards is not yet set and subject to change, should it be decided that additional places are required.

## Data Sources

- October 2024 School Census
- ONS Birth Data
- DfE National Statistics
- MKCC 2024 Housing Schedule
- 2017 Pupil Yield Survey: [Pupil Product Ratio Study – Milton Keynes Council 2017](#)

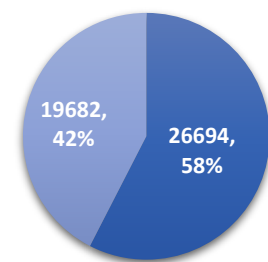
# Milton Keynes overview



## Key statistics

- ❖ 46376 pupils reside and attend school in Milton Keynes (excluding nursery and post 16)
- ❖ 27 infant schools
- ❖ 11 junior schools
- ❖ 52 primary schools
- ❖ 12 secondary schools
- ❖ 3 all-through schools
- ❖ 6 special schools
- ❖ 2 alternative education provisions

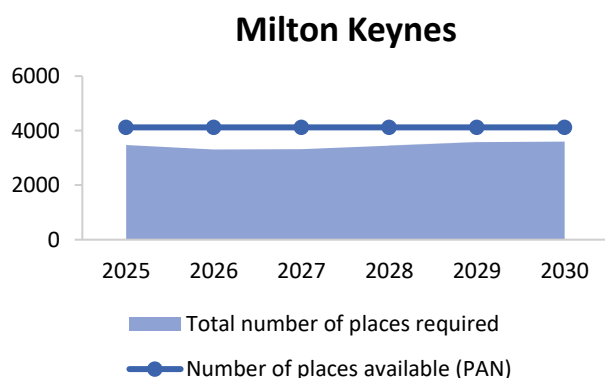
## Pupil breakdown



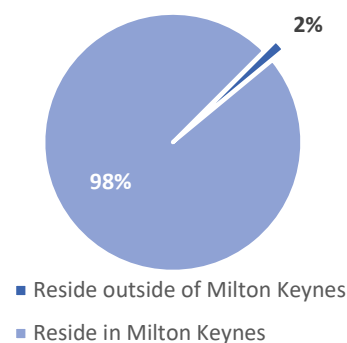
■ Primary ■ Secondary

## Primary sector

Milton Keynes Overview: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	4120	4120	4120	4120	4120	4120
Total number of places required for Year R	3470	3309	3321	3445	3582	3599
Balance of Places	650	811	799	675	538	521
Surplus/Deficit	16%	20%	19%	16%	13%	13%

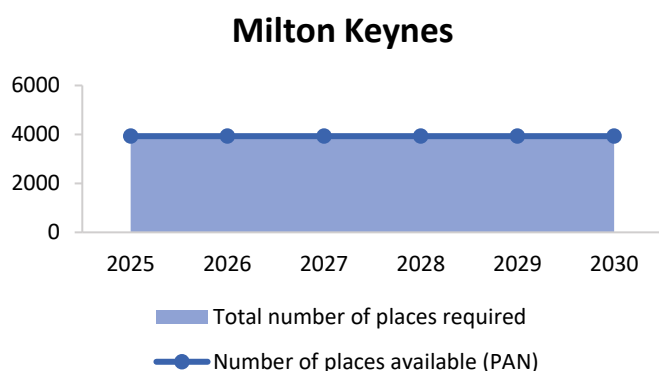


Primary pupils attending school in Milton Keynes

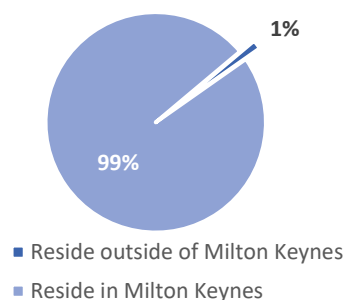


## Secondary sector

Milton Keynes Overview: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	3990	3990	3990	3990	3990	3990
Total number of places required for Year 7	3835	3979	3945	3939	3971	3855
Balance of Places	155	11	45	51	19	135
Surplus/Deficit (%)	3.9%	0.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.5%	3.4%



Secondary pupils attending school in Milton Keynes

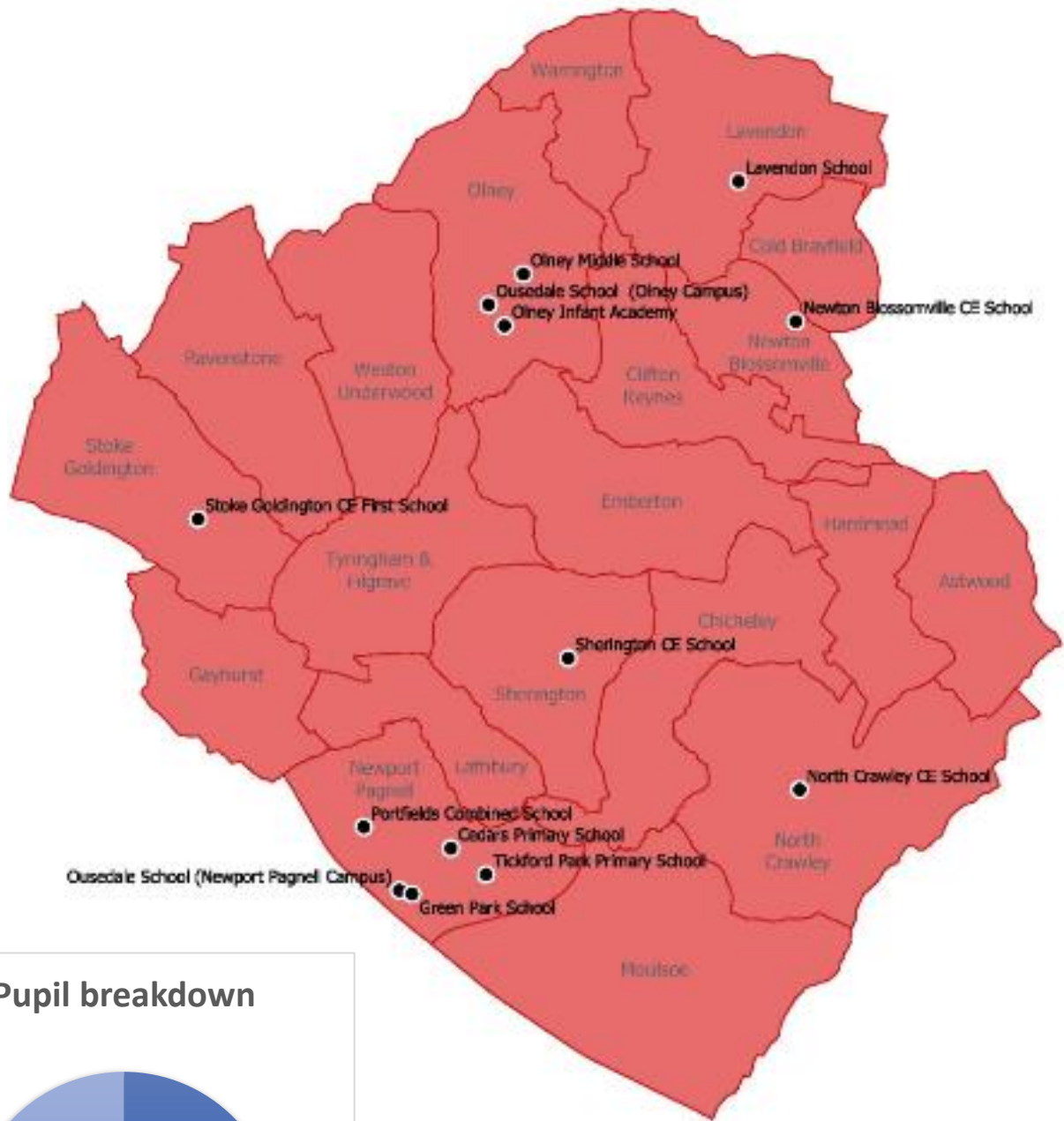


### Key points

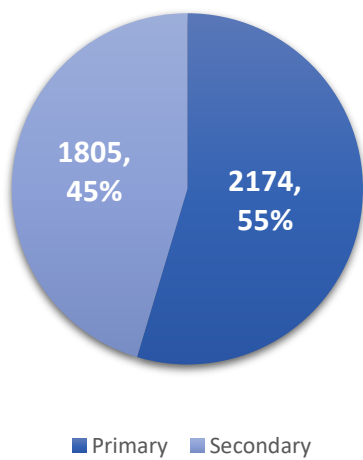
- ❖ The primary sector shows a significant fall in demand due to a dip in birth rates. Despite additional housing demand, projections indicate there will be a significant surplus of primary places at Year R.
- ❖ Demand for additional secondary school places will grow but fluctuate over the years across the city. The council is working with Milton Keynes Secondary Heads to release additional places as appropriate to ensure sufficiency duties are met whilst avoiding an over-supply of places.



# North planning area



## Pupil breakdown

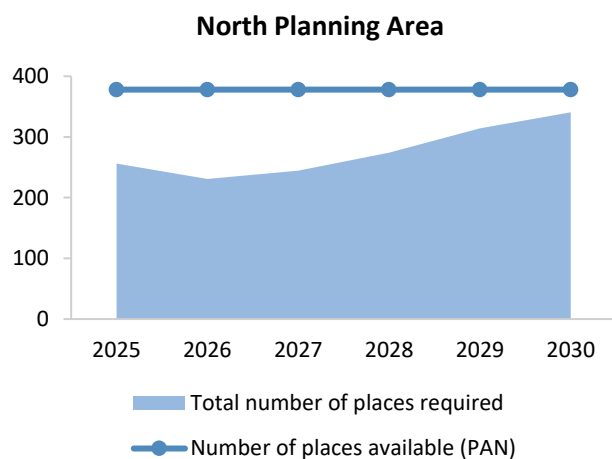


## Key statistics

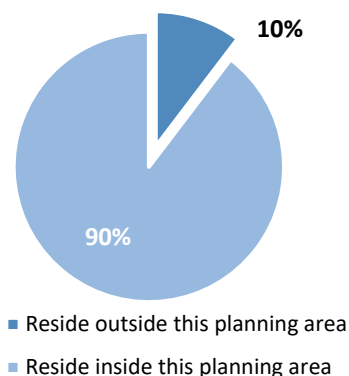
- ❖ 3979 school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ 5 infant schools
- ❖ 1 junior school
- ❖ 5 primary schools
- ❖ 1 secondary school

## Primary sector

North Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	378	378	378	378	378	378
Total number of places required for Year R	256	231	244	274	314	341
Balance of Places	122	147	134	104	64	37

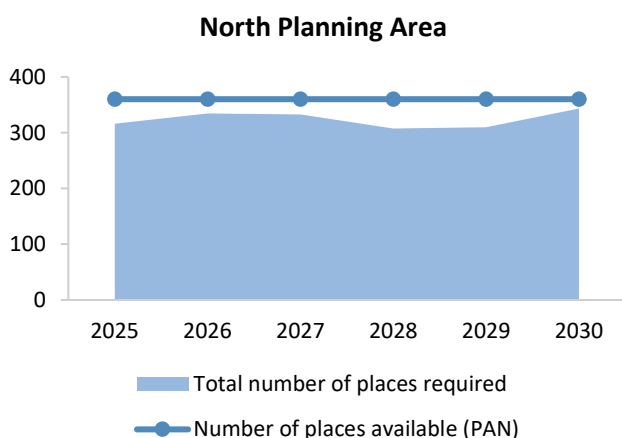


### Primary pupils attending school in this area

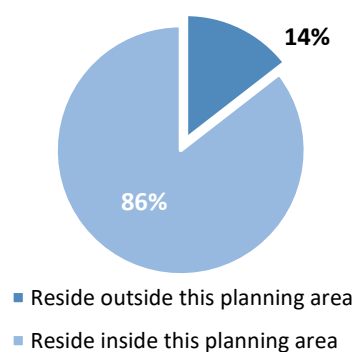


## Secondary sector

North Planning Area: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	360	360	360	360	360	360
Total number of places required for Year 7	316	335	332	307	310	343
Balance of Places	44	25	28	53	50	17



### Secondary pupils attending school in this area



### Key points

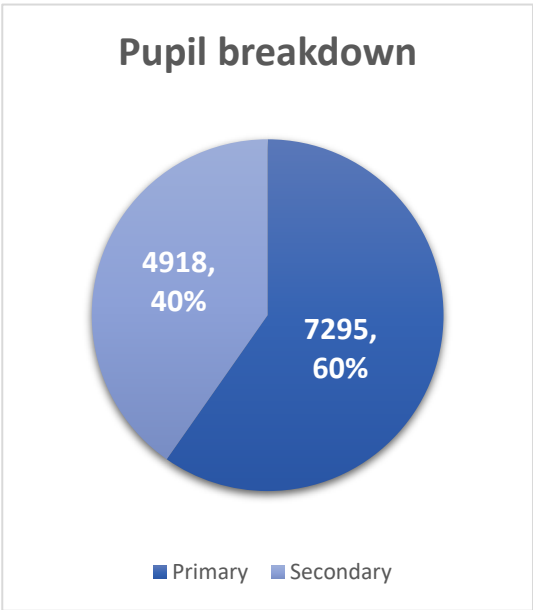
- ❖ **Tickford Fields** – development site of up to 930 dwellings at Tickford Fields identified within the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan. A site for a new 2FE primary school has been secured within the site to support pressure from new housing. Current need and potential timing is being monitored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

# North West planning area



**Key statistics**

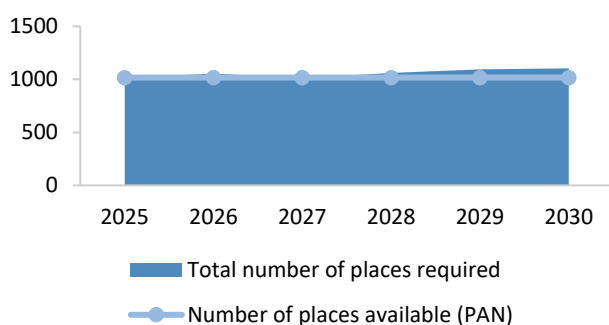
- ❖ 12213 school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ 11 infant schools
- ❖ 5 junior schools
- ❖ 12 primary schools
- ❖ 3 secondary schools



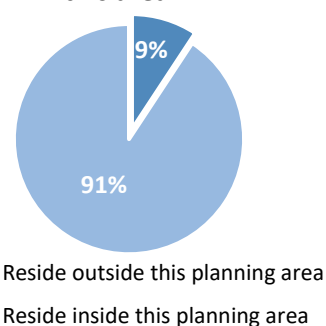
## Primary sector

North West Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	1017	1017	1017	1017	1017	1017
Total number of places required for Year R	1014	1054	1010	1061	1093	1104
Balance of Places	3	-37	7	-44	-76	-87

North West Planning Area



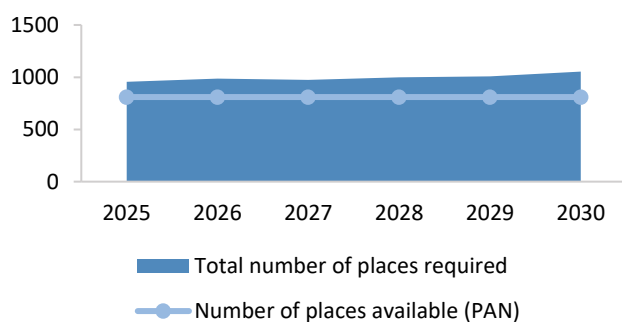
Primary pupils attending school in this area



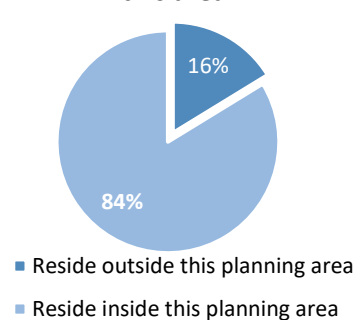
## Secondary sector

North West Planning Area: Year 7						
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Number of places available (PAN)	810	810	810	810	810	810
Total number of places required for Year 7	955	987	973	999	1008	1054
Balance of Places	-145	-177	-163	-189	-198	-244

North West Planning Area



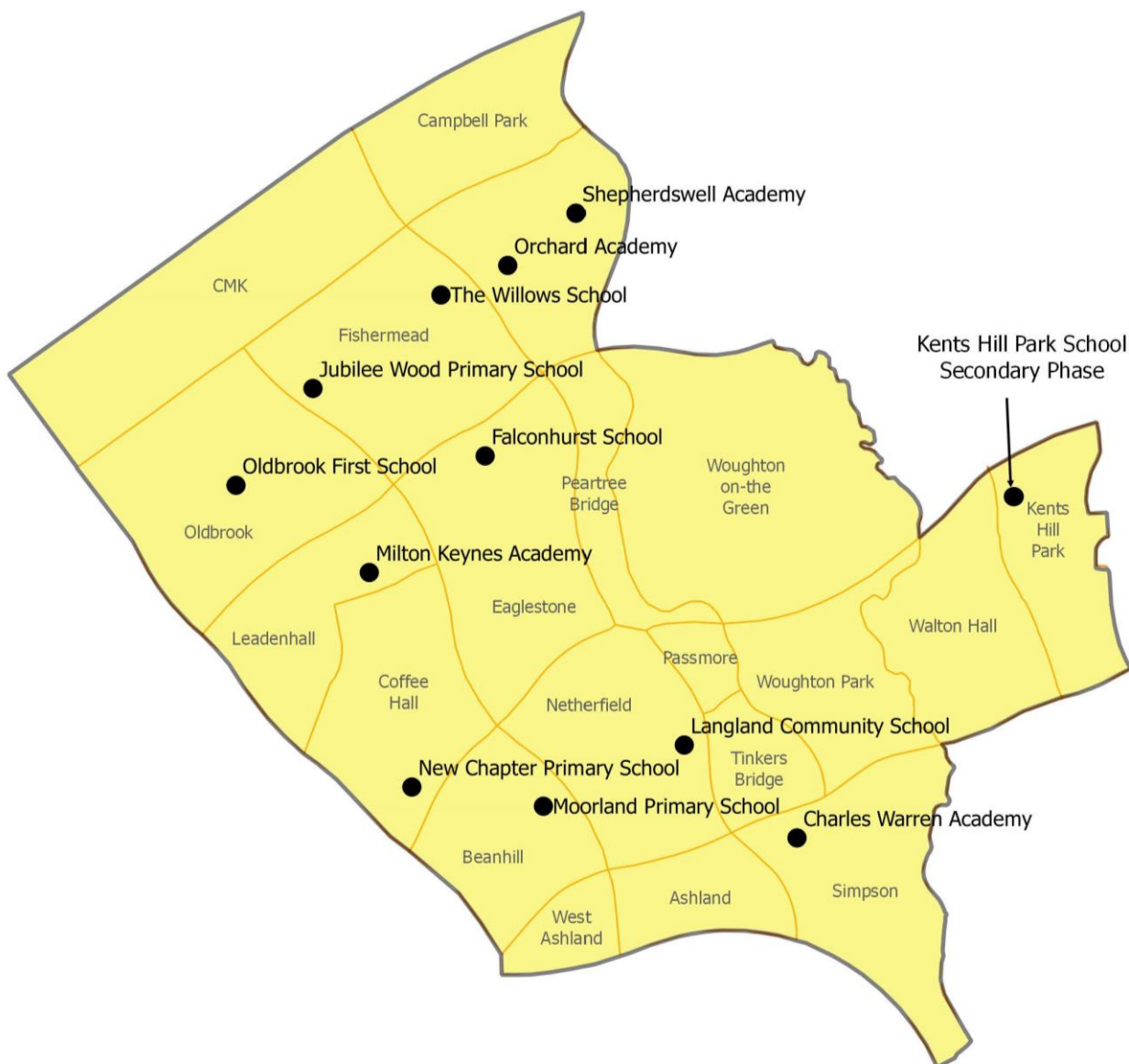
Secondary pupils attending school in this area



### Key points

- ❖ **Western Expansion Area** – a development of up to 6,600 dwellings is currently underway and set to continue beyond 2030. Three primary schools (Whitehouse, Fairfields and Watling Primary) and the secondary school (Watling Academy) are already open. 6FE of the new secondary school opened in 2020 with the remainder to be opened gradually in line with demand. The final primary school for the area is proposed to be required by September 2028.
- ❖ **Primary Provision** – whilst projections currently show a shortfall in some future years this position does not take into account the additional places available once all new schools in the area provide places up to their built capacity. Once these places are released a shortfall is no longer projected. We will continue to monitor the position and work with the primary sector on the timing of release of any new places to reduce the likelihood of oversupply.
- ❖ **Secondary provision** – there is a projected need for additional secondary school places in the area, however in 2023 not all the places available were allocated for children starting Year 7, as some parents chose to access provision in other planning areas. This position will continue to be monitored in partnership with the sector.

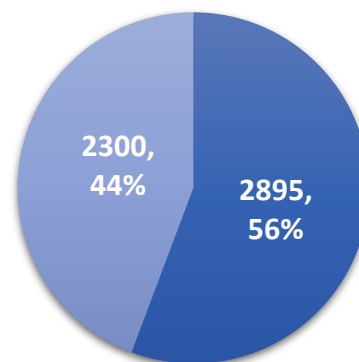
## Central planning area



### Key statistics

- ❖ **5195** school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ **3** infant schools
- ❖ **1** junior school
- ❖ **6** primary schools
- ❖ **2** secondary schools

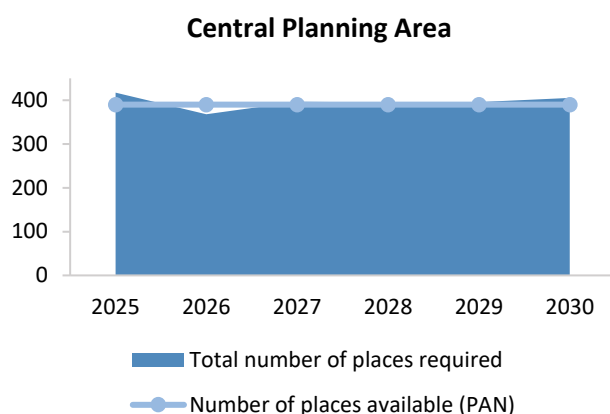
### Pupil breakdown



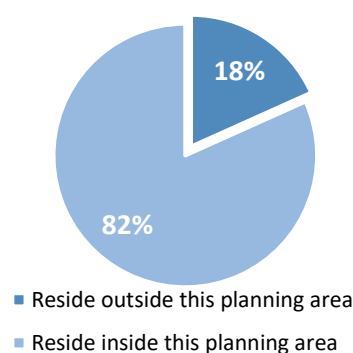
■ Primary ■ Secondary

## Primary sector

Central Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	390	390	390	390	390	390
Total number of places required for Year R	417	368	396	395	395	406
Balance of Places	-27	22	-6	-5	-5	-16

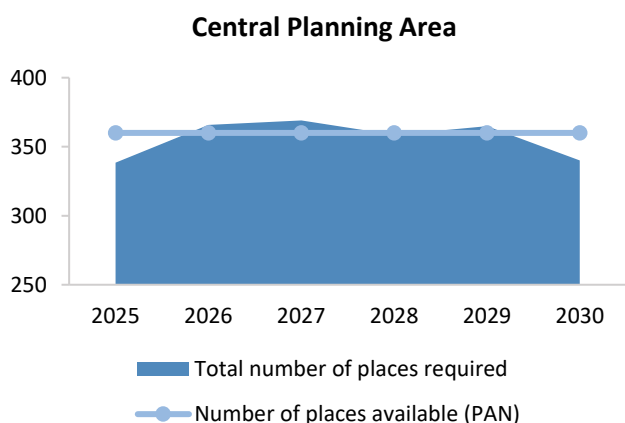


**Primary pupils attending school in this area**

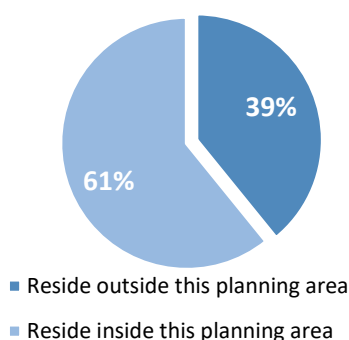


## Secondary sector

Central Planning Area: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	360	360	360	360	360	360
Total number of places required for Year 7	338	366	369	359	365	340
Balance of Places	22	-6	-9	1	-5	20



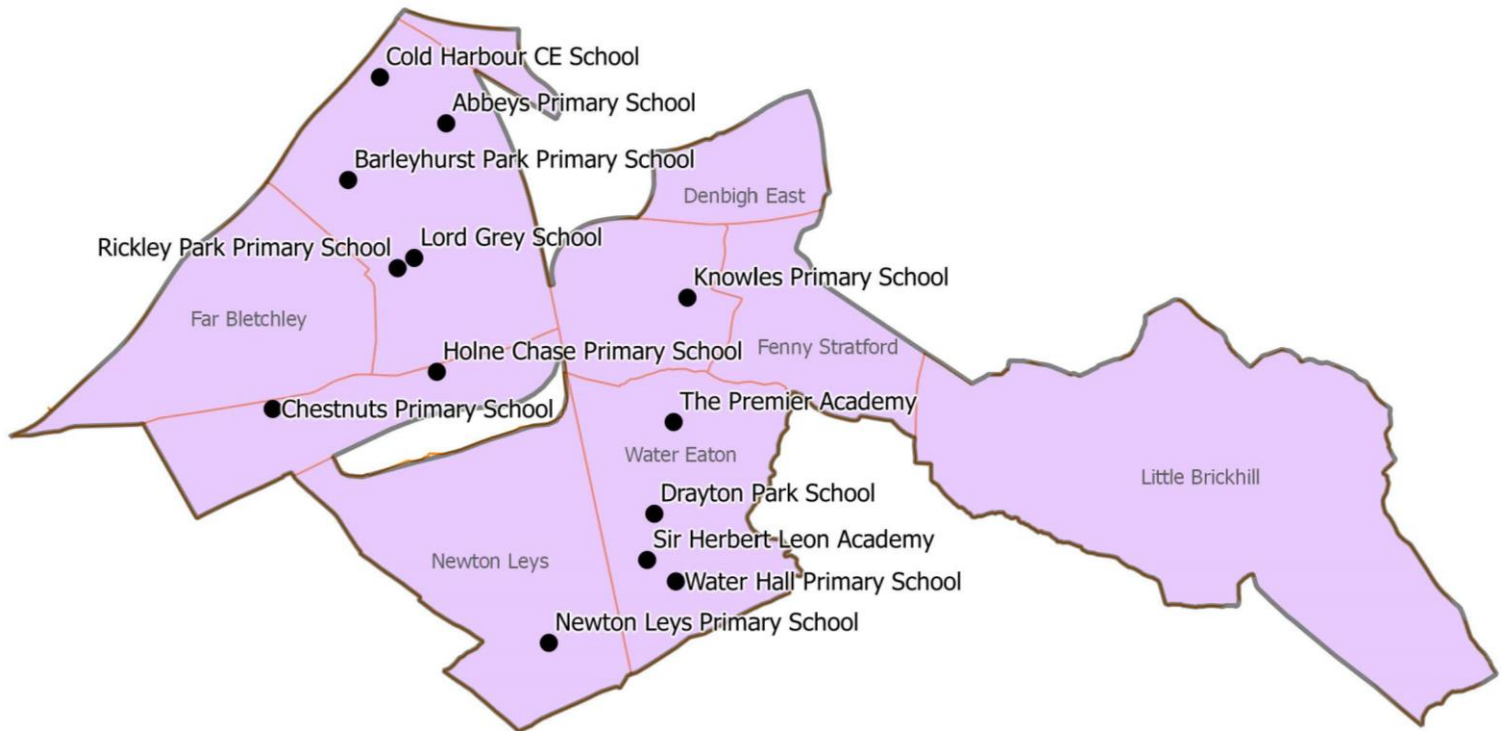
**Secondary pupils attending school in this area**



### Key points

- ❖ **Central Milton Keynes and Campbell Park** – over 5,000 dwellings projected to be delivered over the next ten years. A significant proportion of these dwellings are likely to be flats/apartments and usually generate lower pupil yield; therefore, it is possible that additional demand could be accommodated within existing local schools. The position will continue to be monitored.
- ❖ **Primary and secondary provision** – there is a small projected need for additional primary and secondary school places in the area in some future years, however in 2023 not all the places available were allocated for children starting Year 7, as some parents chose to access provision in other planning areas. This position will continue to be monitored in partnership with the secondary sector to carry out any action required to ensure local children can access local provision.

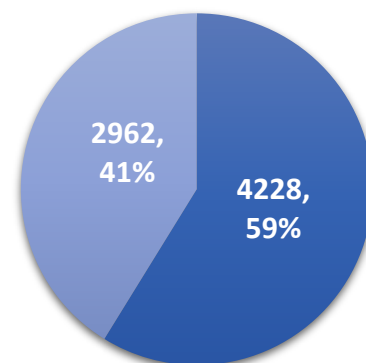
## South planning area



### Key statistics

- ❖ **7190** school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ **11** primary schools
- ❖ **2** secondary schools

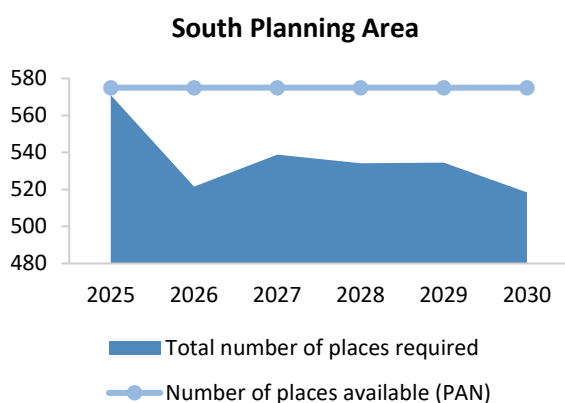
### Pupil breakdown



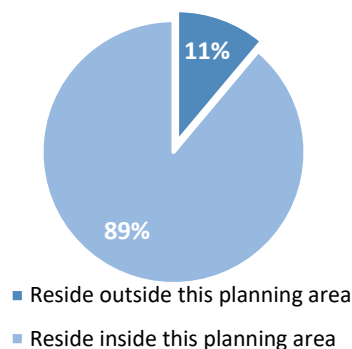
■ Primary ■ Secondary

## Primary sector

South Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	575	575	575	575	575	575
Total number of places required for Year R	571	521	539	534	534	518
Balance of Places	4	54	36	41	41	57

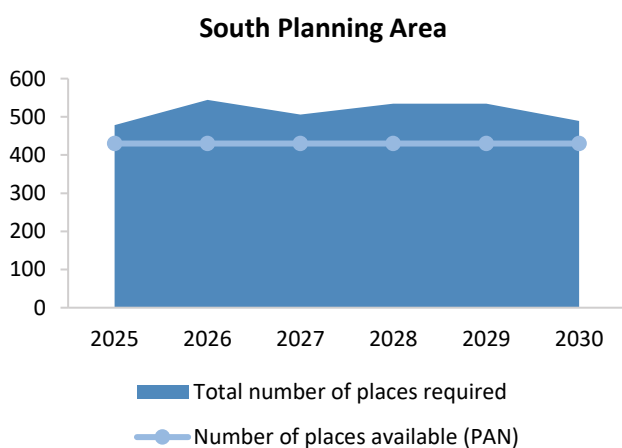


### Primary pupils attending school in this area

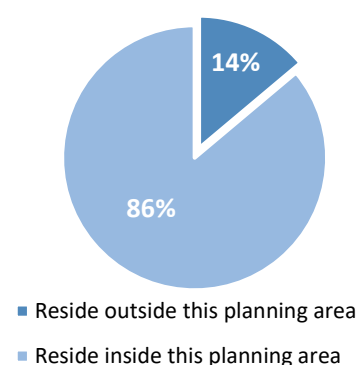


## Secondary sector

South Planning Area: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	430	430	430	430	430	430
Total number of places required for Year 7	478	544	506	535	535	489
Balance of Places	-48	-114	-76	-105	-105	-59



### Secondary pupils attending school in this area

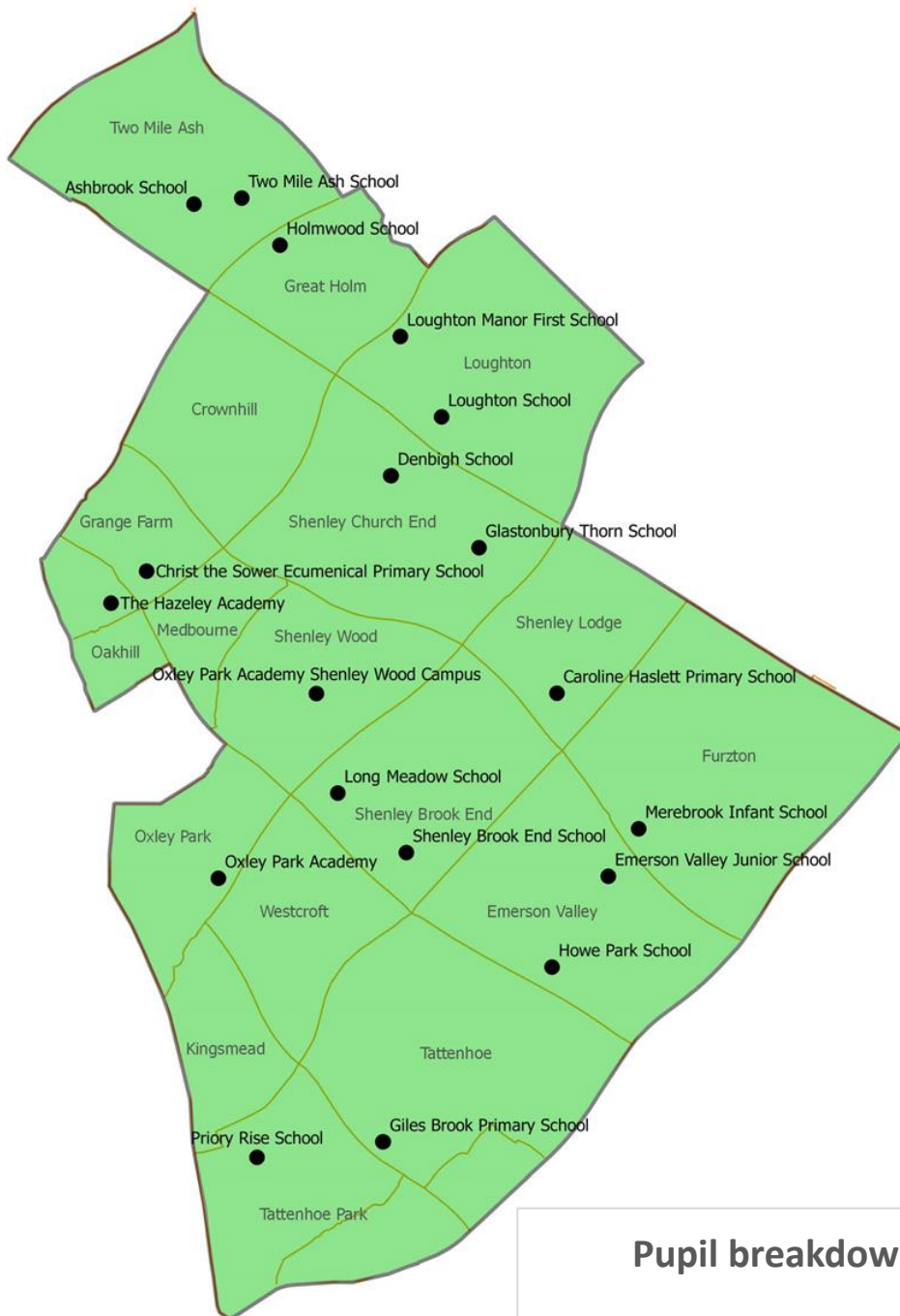


### Key points

- ❖ **Eaton Leys** – Development underway for up to 450 dwellings, site secured within the development for 1FE primary school. Development currently scheduled for completion financial year 25/26.
- ❖ **Secondary provision** – whilst current projections indicate there is a need for additional secondary school places in the area, admissions data shows that the current number of places available is sufficient for demand as some parents are choosing to access provision in other planning areas. As a result of this a number of schools in this area have recently reduced their PAN. This position will continue to be monitored in partnership with the sector.



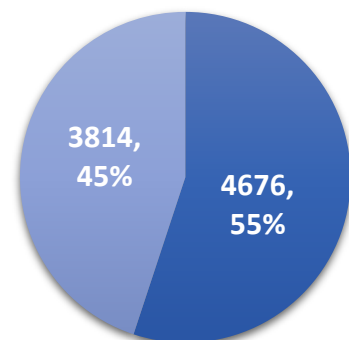
## South West planning area



### Key statistics

- ❖ **8490** school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ **6** infant schools
- ❖ **3** junior schools
- ❖ **6** primary schools
- ❖ **3** secondary schools

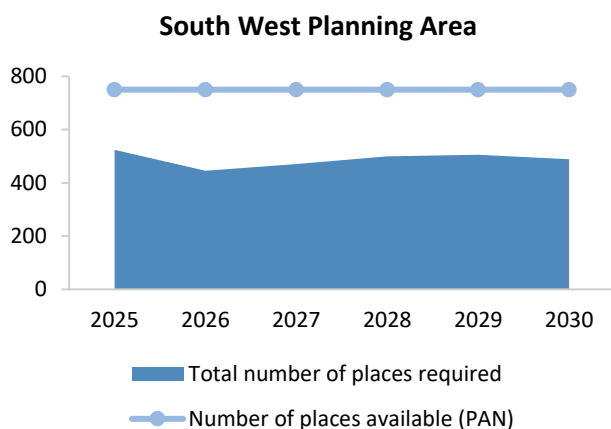
### Pupil breakdown



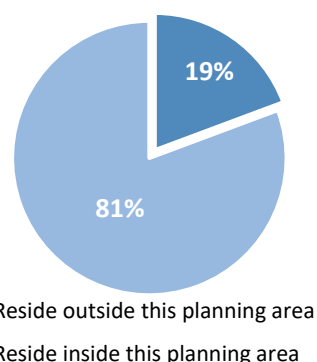
■ Primary ■ Secondary

## Primary sector

South West Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	750	750	750	750	750	750
Total number of places required for Year R	524	445	471	499	505	489
Balance of Places	226	305	279	251	245	261

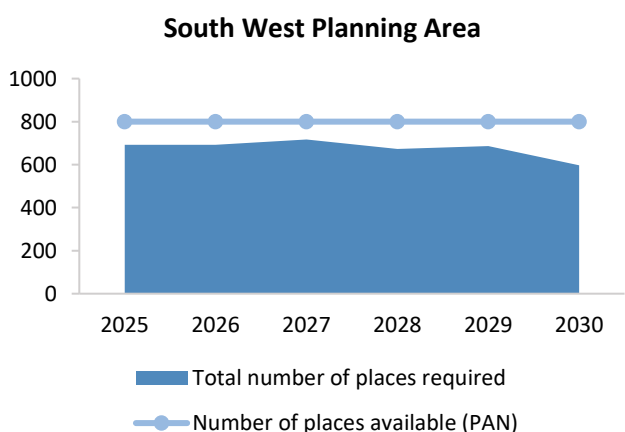


### Primary pupils attending school in this area

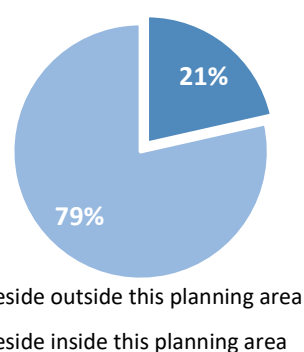


## Secondary sector

South West Planning Area: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	800	800	800	800	800	800
Total number of places required for Year 7	692	693	717	673	687	597
Balance of Places	108	107	83	127	113	203



### Secondary pupils attending school in this area



### Key points

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

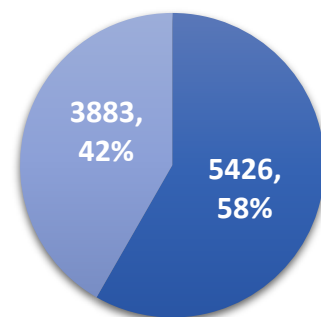
## South East planning area



### Key statistics

- ❖ 9309 school pupils reside in this area (excluding nursery and post-16)
- ❖ 2 infant schools
- ❖ 1 junior schools
- ❖ 7 primary schools
- ❖ 1 secondary school
- ❖ 2 all-through school

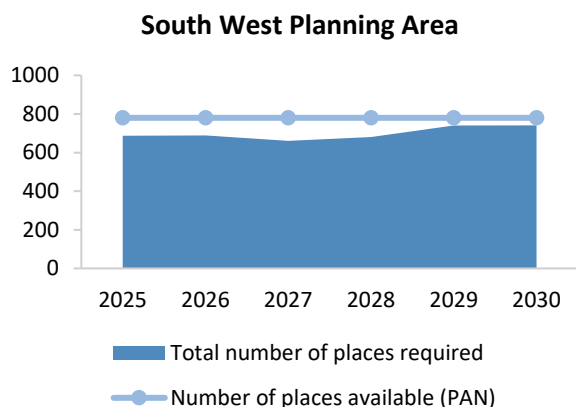
### Pupil breakdown



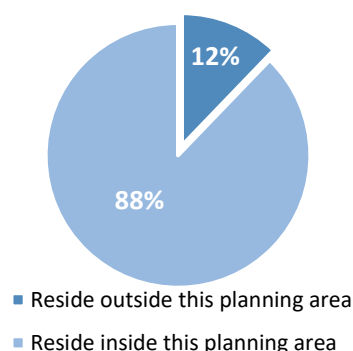
■ Primary ■ Secondary

## Primary sector

South East Planning Area: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	780	780	780	780	780	780
Total number of places required for Year R	688	689	660	681	739	741
Balance of Places	92	91	120	99	41	39

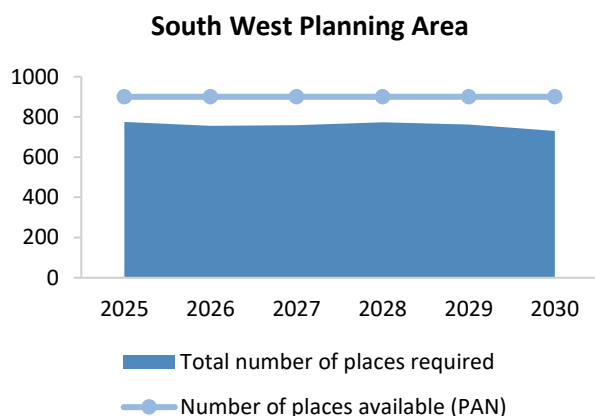


### Primary pupils attending school in this area

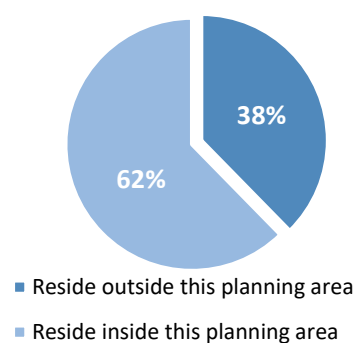


## Secondary sector

South East Planning Area: Year 7						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	960	960	960	960	960	960
Total number of places required for Year 7	775	755	758	774	761	731
Balance of Places	185	205	202	186	199	229



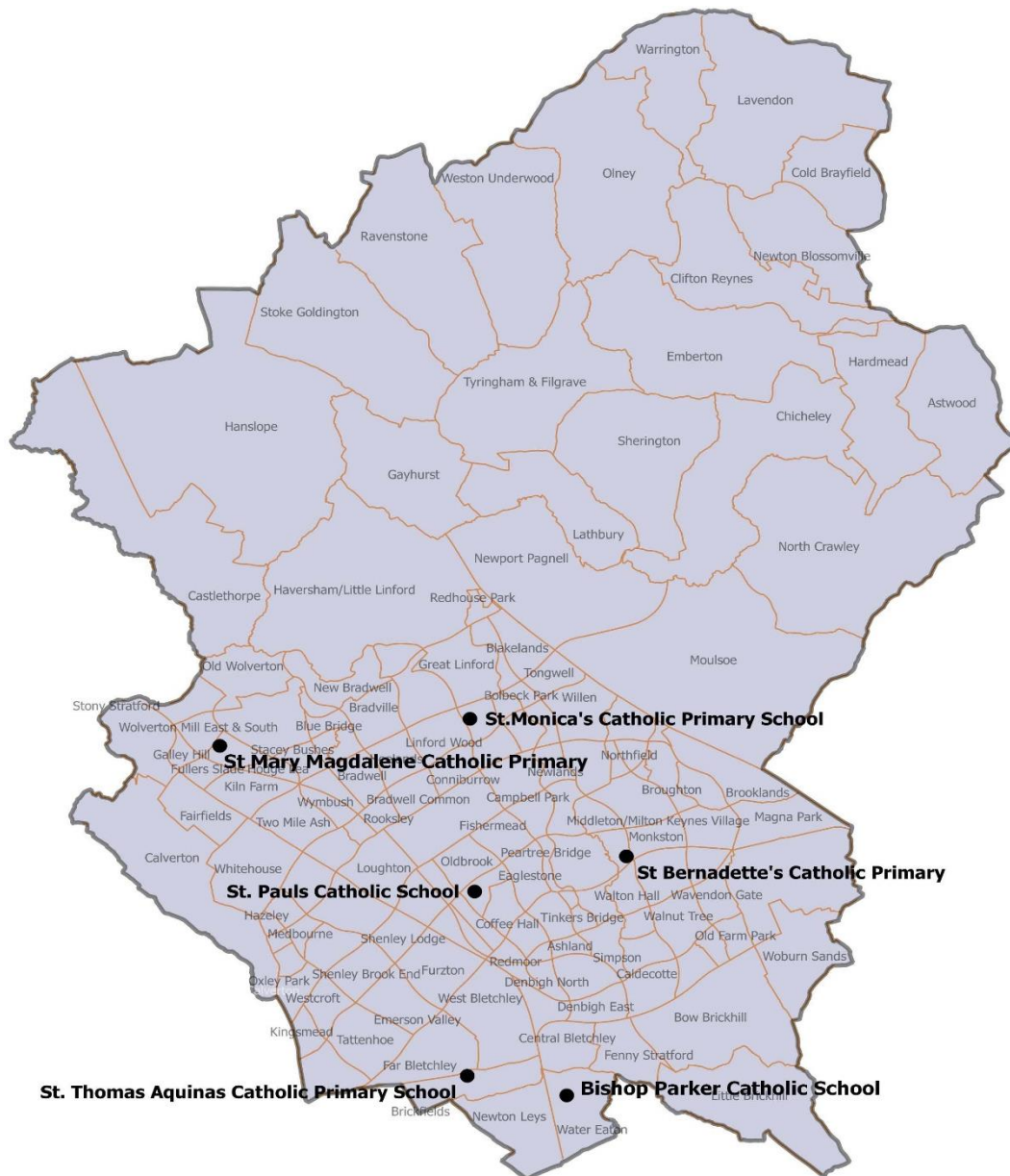
### Secondary pupils attending school in this area



### Future developments

- ❖ **Strategic Land Allocation** – this new development is currently underway and will deliver up to 2,750 dwellings when complete. The development is expected to be completely finished within the next 18 months. Glebe Farm (an all-through school) opened in 2023 with capacity for up to 3FE in the primary phase and up to 6FE in the secondary phase.
- ❖ **South East Milton Keynes** – this area has been identified for a new development of up to 3,000 dwellings. Two 3FE primary school sites and a 7FE secondary school site have been secured within this development.

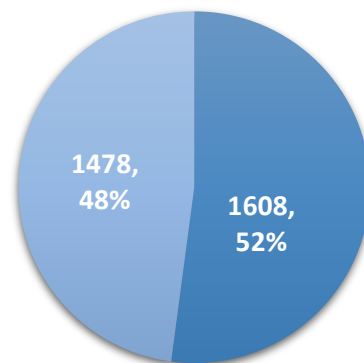
# Catholic provision



## Key statistics

- ❖ 3086 children attend Catholic provision (excluding post-16)
- ❖ 5 primary schools
- ❖ 1 secondary school

## Pupil breakdown

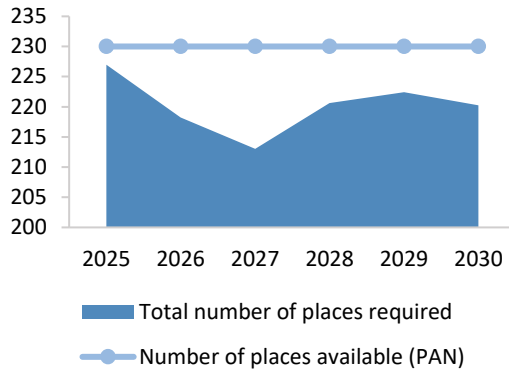


■ Primary ■ Secondary

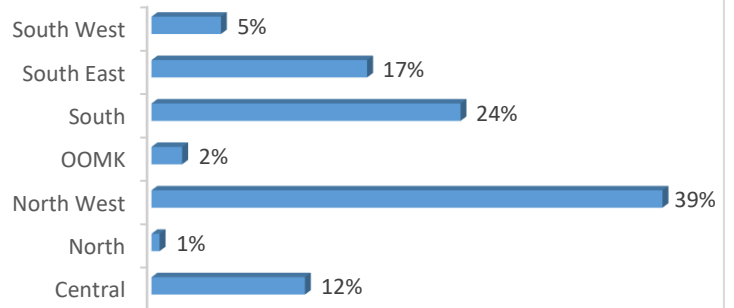
## Primary sector

Catholic School Group: Reception year						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of places available (PAN)	230	230	230	230	230	230
Total number of places required for Year R	227	218	213	221	222	220
Balance of Places	3	12	17	9	8	10

Catholic provision



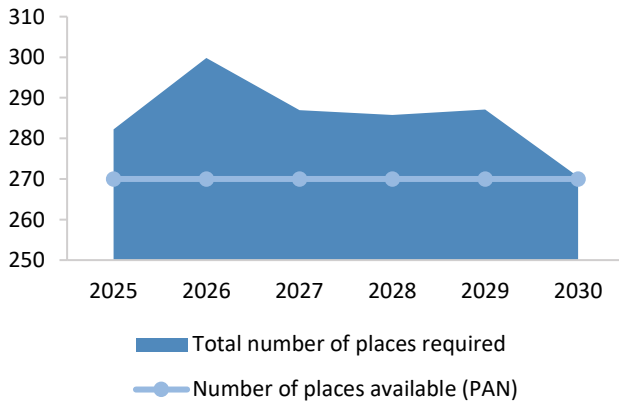
Residency of Catholic primary pupils



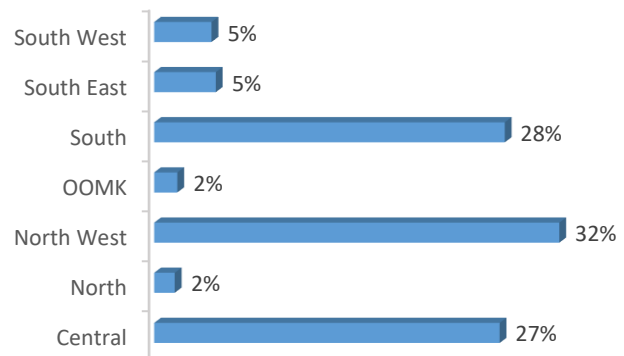
## Secondary sector

Catholic Planning Area: Year 7						
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Number of places available (PAN)	270	270	270	270	270	270
Projected Demand for places	282	300	287	286	287	271
Balance of Demand	-12	-30	-17	-16	-17	-1

Catholic provision



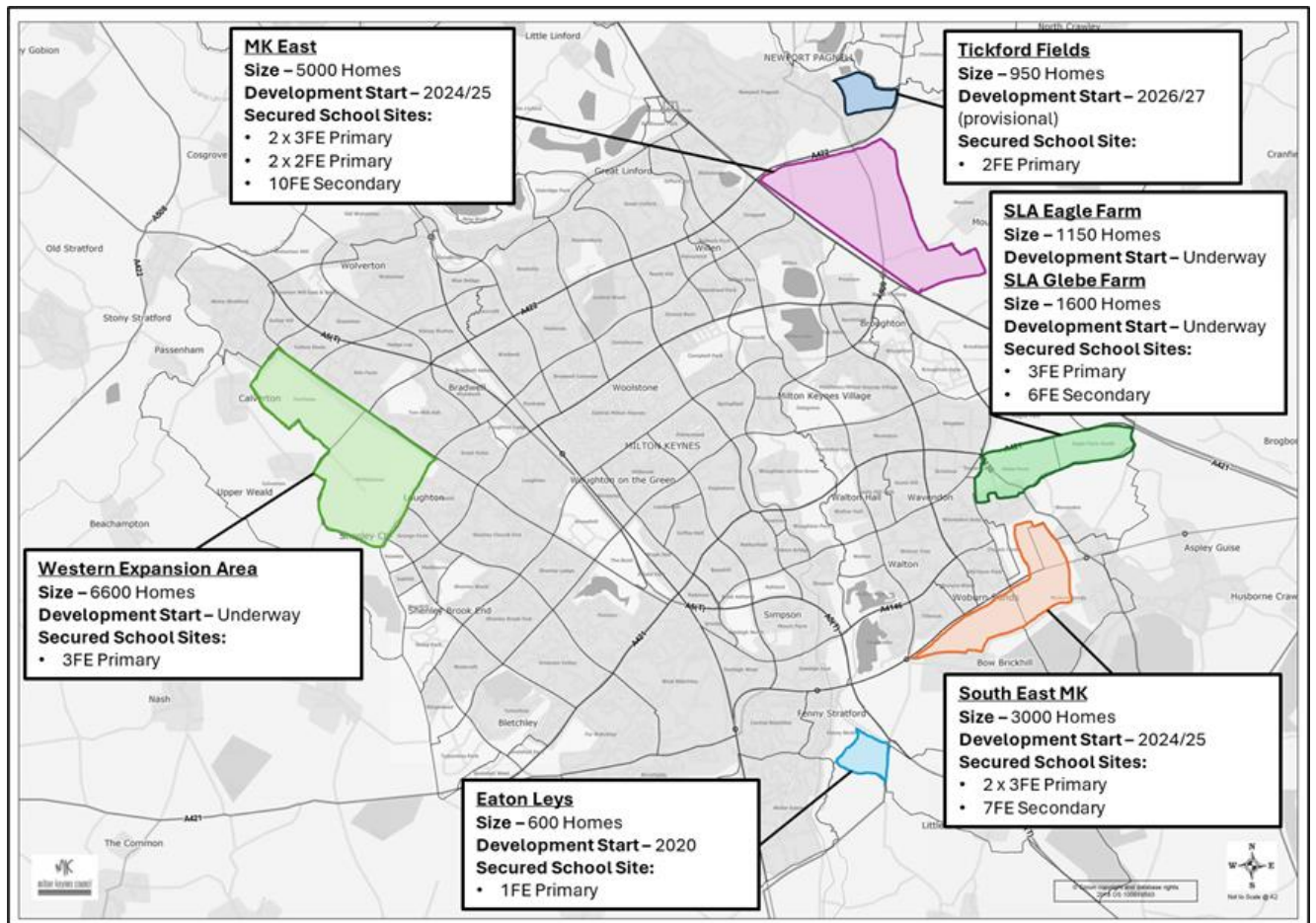
Residency of Catholic primary pupils



### Key points

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

# Summary of future development



## Annex A – School place planning methodology

In order that the council can meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available, the balance of places is assessed for the admission entry points for primary (Year R), junior (Year 3) and secondary (Year 7). This identifies where there are pressures and where there are surplus places.

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 way the demand is projected is different 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 Planned Admission Number (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

**Figure F1:** 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 Aug)	Year R intake (Oct 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

**Figure F2:** 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						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<b>Number of places available (PAN)</b>	4120	4120	4120	4120	4120	4120
<b>Births</b>	3262	3069	3127	3282	3403	3391
<b>Demand expected from new houses</b>	469	485	431	418	436	465
<b>Births + Housing Demand @ retention rate</b>	3470	3309	3321	3445	3582	3599
<b>Pupils projected to attend Catholic provision</b>	227	218	213	221	222	220
<b>Total number of places required for Year R</b>	3470	3309	3321	3445	3582	3599
<b>Balance of Places</b>	650	811	799	675	538	521
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	16%	20%	19%	16%	13%	13%

**Figure F3:** 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 2024 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.

Milton Keynes City: Year 3			
	2025	2026	2027
<b>Number of places available (PAN)</b>	1254	1254	1254
<b>Total number of places required for Year 3</b>	1039	1003	906
<b>Balance of Places</b>	215	251	348

**Figure F4:** 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 95.4%. This takes into account 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 Figure F1 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.

<b>Milton Keynes Overview: Year 7</b>						
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Number of places available (PAN)</b>	3990	3990	3990	3990	3990	3990
<b>Total Cohort @ Year 6</b>	3937	4045	3951	3865	3823	3615
<b>Cohort @ Retention Rate</b>	3756	3859	3769	3686	3646	3450
<b>Demand expected from new houses</b>	44	84	141	218	289	369
<b>Children from out of county</b>	35	35	35	35	35	35
<b>Total number of places required for Year 7</b>	3835	3979	3945	3939	3971	3855
<b>Balance of Places</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit (%)</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

**Figure F6:** Impact of projected demand for Year 7 places (assuming no change in supply)

### **Catholic provision**

Within Milton Keynes there are five Voluntary Aided Catholic primary schools which seek, through their admissions oversubscription criteria, to provide education for Catholic families and those that desire a Catholic education. Attendees 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 people 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: Birth 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 22% fall in births, as ONS birth data recorded only 3151 births in the 2022/23 academic year. This is a reduction equivalent of over 27 forms of entry which will eventually feed through to the primary and secondary sectors.

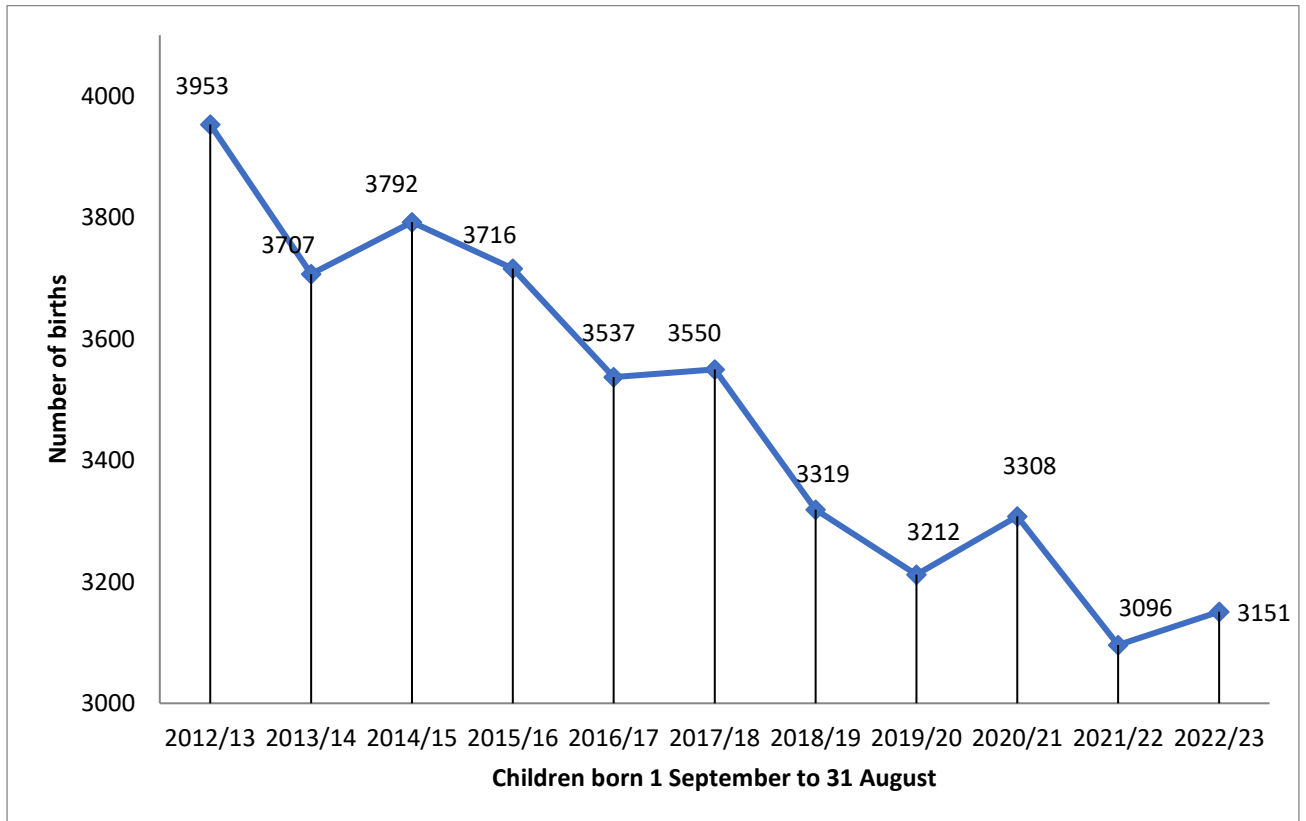


Figure B1: Births for Milton Keynes 2012/13 to 2022/23. Source: ONS Birth Data

## Annex C: Types of schools

There are currently 115 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	Community	Voluntary Controlled	Voluntary Aided	Foundation	Academy
Nursery	2	0	0	0	0
All Through	0	0	0	0	3
Primary	16	1	6	2	27
Infant	12	5	0	3	7
Junior	2	0	0	3	6
Secondary	0	0	1	1	10
Special	5	0	0	0	1
Alternative	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>As %</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>49%</b>

Figure C1: Schools by category and phase, January 2025

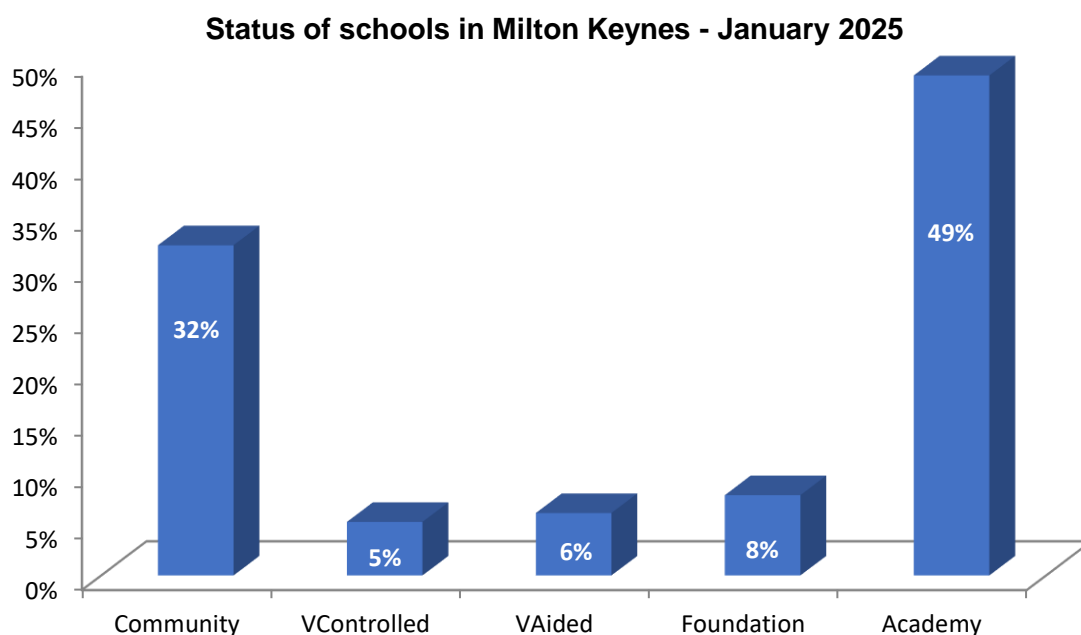
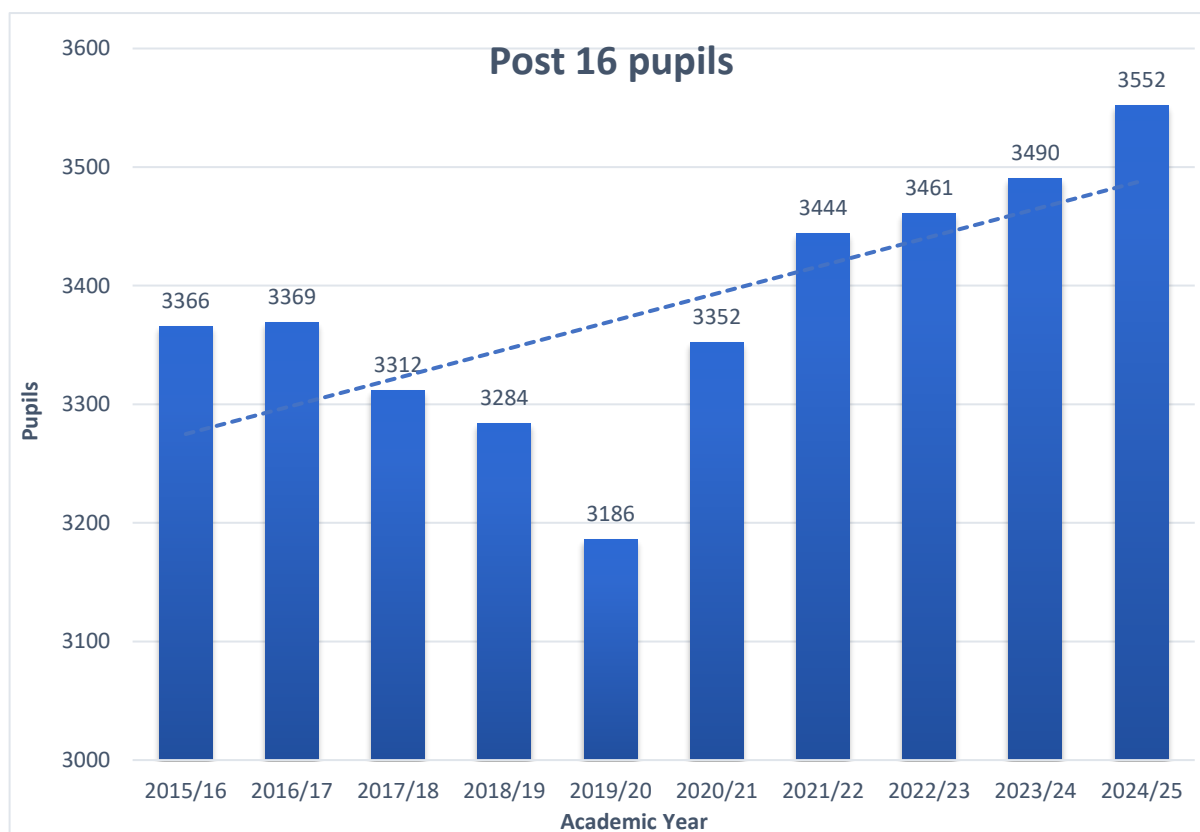


Figure C2: Status of schools in Milton Keynes, January 2025

## 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 felt in the primary sector will feed through to the post 16 sector in time. It must be noted that the table below does not include all pupils accessing post 16 provision; it only shows those pupils accessing post 16 provision in a Milton Keynes secondary school.



## Annex E: Diversity of population

Milton Keynes has a rich and growing diverse population. 54% of pupils of primary age are BME, compared to 48% of those of secondary school age.

	Primary	Secondary	Total
White British	11902 (43%)	9587 (49%)	21489(46%)
Other Ethnic Groups	15691 (55%)	10034 (51%)	25727 (54%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>27593</b>	<b>19621</b>	<b>47214</b>

**Figure E1:** Ethnicity of Milton Keynes pupils by phase of education, January 2024 School census (YR to Y11 only)

Ethnic Group	2018		2024		Difference No. of pupils	% Growth Difference
	No. of pupils	% of Total	No. of pupils	% of Total		
Indian	1684	3.98%	2903	6.15%	1219	72.39%
Pakistani	1311	3.10%	1768	3.74%	457	34.86%
Bangladeshi	665	1.57%	676	1.43%	11	1.65%
Any other Asian background	1320	3.12%	1665	3.53%	345	26.14%
Black African	4666	11.03%	5520	11.69%	854	18.30%
Black Caribbean	337	0.80%	359	0.76%	22	6.53%
Any other Black background	728	1.72%	679	1.44%	-49	-6.73%
Chinese	211	0.50%	1112	2.36%	901	427.01%
White British	23722	56.05%	21489	45.51%	-2233	-9.41%
White Other	3257	7.70%	4632	9.81%	1375	42.22%
Mixed background	3418	8.08%	4749	9.24%	1331	38.94%
Any Other Group	364	0.86%	788	1.67%	424	116.48%
Unknown	637	1.51%	1144	2.42%	507	79.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42320</b>		<b>47214</b>		<b>4894</b>	<b>11.56%</b>

**Figure E2:** Pupils on roll by ethnic groups, January 2018 and January 2024 School census (YR to Y11 only)

Comparing the statistics between 2018 and 2024, Milton Keynes has seen an 8.4% growth in the percentage of the school population that are BME (36.27% 2018, 44.68% 2024). The most significant growth has been the Chinese cohort which has grown by 427% (901 extra pupils). White British pupils have experienced a -9% decrease (2233 less pupils) compared to the number of pupils recorded in January 2018.

## Annex F: 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 2024, 99% were offered a place at one of their preference schools and 95% were offered their first preference. This is higher than the national average of 93%.

For children starting secondary school in September 2024, 95% were offered a place at one of their preference schools and 81% 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 2117 children and young people educated outside of the city.

Phase	Bucks	Central Beds	West Northants	Bedford	Other	Total
Primary	204	403	111	25	32	775
Secondary	665	370	231	14	32	1312
Special School	6	4	4	1	15	30
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2117</b>

**Figure F1:** Pupils that live in Milton Keynes and attend other local authority schools (excluding post 16 and nursery classes). Source: DfE National Statistics 2024

Should these pupils choose to be educated within the city, the total pupil population in Milton Keynes would increase by 4.6%; this percentage is in line with 4.5% in 2023, 4.7% in 2022 and 5% in 2021 (excluding the number of pupils attending special schools).

In contrast, the number of children living outside Milton Keynes but educated in Milton Keynes schools is 834 thus making Milton Keynes a net exporter of pupils.

Phase	Bucks	Northants	Central Beds	Outside England/unknown	Bedford	Other	Total
Primary	214	145	56	44	20	14	493
Secondary	72	120	77	8	6	11	294
Special School	15	12	7	5	2	6	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>834</b>

**Figure F2:** Pupils who attend schools in Milton Keynes and live in other local authorities (excluding post 16 and nursery classes). Source: DfE National Statistics 2024



If these pupils were not educated in Milton Keynes schools, the total Milton Keynes school population would decrease by approximately 1.8% (excluding the number of pupils attending special schools). This percentage is in line with 1.6% in 2023, 1.3% in 2022 and 1.7% in 2021.

## Annex G: All schools in Milton Keynes

Planning area	School	Phase	Type of school
North	Ousedale School	Secondary	Academy
	Cedars Primary School	Primary	Community
	Green Park School	Primary	Foundation
	Lavendon School	Primary	Academy
	Newton Blossomville C of E School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	North Crawley C of E School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Olney Infant Academy	Infant	Academy
	Olney Middle School	Junior	Academy
	Portfields Primary School	Primary	Foundation
	Sherington C of E School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Stoke Goldington C of E First School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	Tickford Park Primary School	Primary	Academy
North West	Stantonbury School	Secondary	Academy
	The Radcliffe School	Secondary	Foundation
	Watling Academy	Secondary	Academy
	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 School	Primary	Academy
	Pepper Hill School	Infant	Community
	Priory Common School	Infant	Community
	Russell Street School	Infant	Community
	Southwood School	Junior	Foundation
	St Andrew's C of E Infant School	Infant	Voluntary Controlled
	St Mary & St Giles C of E Aided School	Primary	Academy
	Stanton School	Junior	Foundation
	Summerfield School	Primary	Community
	Watling Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Whitehouse Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Willen Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Wood End First School	Infant	Community
Wyvern School	Infant	Foundation	

Planning area	School	Phase	Type of school
Central	Milton Keynes Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Kents Hill Park School	All through	Academy
	Charles Warren Academy	Primary	Academy
	Falconhurst School	Primary	Community
	Jubilee Wood Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Langland School	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 Willows School & Early Years Centre	Infant	Community
South	Lord Grey Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Sir Herbert Leon Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Abbeys Primary School	Primary	Community
	Barleyhurst Park Primary School	Primary	Community
	Chestnuts Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Cold Harbour C of E School	Primary	Voluntary Controlled
	Drayton Park School	Primary	Academy
	Holne Chase Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Knowles Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Newton Leys Primary School	Primary	Community
	Rickley Park Primary School	Primary	Academy
	The Premier Academy	Primary	Academy
	Water Hall Primary School	Primary	Academy
South West	Denbigh School	Secondary	Academy
	Shenley Brook End School	Secondary	Academy
	The Hazeley Academy	Secondary	Academy
	Ashbrook School	Infant	Academy
	Caroline Haslett Primary School	Primary	Community
	Christ The Sower Ecumenical Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Emerson Valley Junior 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
Two Mile Ash School	Junior	Academy	

Planning area	School	Phase	Type of school
South East	Glebe Farm School	All through	Academy
	Oakgrove School	All through	Academy
	Walton High	Secondary	Academy
	Bow Brickhill C of E Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided
	Brooklands Farm Primary School	Primary	Community
	Broughton Fields Primary School	Primary	Community
	Heronsgate School	Junior	Academy
	Heronshaw School	Infant	Academy
	Kents Hill School	Infant	Academy
	Middleton Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Monkston Primary School	Primary	Academy
	St Mary's Wavendon C of E Primary School	Primary	Academy
	Wavendon Gate School	Primary	Community
Catholic Provision	St Paul's Catholic School	Secondary	Voluntary Aided
	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 Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School	Primary	Voluntary Aided

### Special Schools in Milton Keynes

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

### Alternative Provision in Milton Keynes

School	Phase	Type of school
Bridge Academy	Secondary to Year 14	Academy
Milton Keynes Primary Pupil Referral Unit	Primary	Academy



**Milton Keynes**  
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