

# Primary Forum

***Lisa Fraser, Assistant Director  
Education and Early Years***

*17 March 2021*



# Full reopening of schools

- Thank you for your hard work to support pupils' return from last week
- Initial indications\* from the DfE attendance return have been very positive:
  - Birmingham 88.7%
  - National 88.7%
  - Core Cities 88.7%
  - West Midlands 89%
  - Statistical Neighbours 88%

Pupil Group	Birmingham	Core Cities	Statistical Neighbours	West Midlands	England
Pupils onsite (state funded schools)	88.7	88.7	88	89	88.7
Pupils not onsite due to phased return	1.3	1.4	2.6	2.3	1.4
Children with EHCP	82.8	81.8	83.2	83.3	81.8
Children with social worker	83.9	81.8	81.3	83.5	81.8
FSM Eligible	88.7	86	86.8	87.1	86

(\*data from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

# Support for reopening / Easter FSM

- The enforcement stages of our Fast Track attendance process are suspended, with additional support available to families (contact [attendance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:attendance@birmingham.gov.uk))
- Letter to families from Dr Justin Varney to encourage testing was shared with schools yesterday
- We are continuing to provide support (risk assessments, Public Health documents etc)
- Two weeks of supermarket vouchers for families eligible for free school meals have been made available to schools using COVID Winter Grant Scheme funding
- These vouchers will be uploaded later today (Weds 17<sup>th</sup> March)

# Primary offer day: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April

- In advance of primary offer day, Alan Michell and officers from the School Admissions team are holding a webinar for primary schools to discuss the offer of places on offer day as well as **in-year admission arrangements** and use of the portal.
- The webinar will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm and will be recorded for those who can't attend.
- Eventbrite link was circulated in our update to schools  
(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/primary-offer-day-webinar-tickets-145651586817>)
- The team will be sending information out to families before the Easter holidays that sets out what will happen on offer day
- This information will also be available on the BCC website and will be shared with schools.

# Supporting vulnerable children and young people, where Domestic Abuse is known or where it is suspected

*Micho Moyo, Head of Education Safeguarding*

*17 March 2021*



# Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023

- The Education Early Help and Safeguarding Team works with partners and schools to implement the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy.
  - Officers from the Education and Skills Directorate have attended a series of meetings convened by the Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Shadow Board to coordinate Birmingham's response to domestic abuse during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.
  - The council acknowledges the delays in implementing Operation Encompass and is aiming for the approach to be fully rolled out for September 2021.
  - The local DA strategy priorities are:
    - Safety and Support
    - Early Identification and Early Help
    - Changing Attitudes
-

# Children as victims of Domestic Abuse

- CASS audits of DA referrals identified that some referrals were heavily adult focused and with not enough description of the child's lived experience.
- BCC has committed £20K to support Operation Encompass rollout.
- Next steps (from September 2021). All schools to:
  - acknowledge children as victims of DA in their own right, provide spaces and opportunities for them to talk about their experience and develop relationships with trusted key adults in school
  - be able to access the available DA support for staff and pupils;
  - monitor and support affected children's outcomes including but not limited to: safeguarding; emotional health and well being; academic progress and attainment; attendance; behaviour and risk of exclusion
  - have signed up to Operation Encompass by September 2021.

# Operation Encompass

- Training materials and resources are available for schools about Operation Encompass:
  - [https://www.operationencompass.org/SM4/Mutable/Themes/operationencompass\\_theme/assets/documents/Operation\\_Encompass\\_and\\_OEtNS\\_Breaking\\_the\\_Cycle\\_of\\_Domestic\\_Abuse\\_.pdf](https://www.operationencompass.org/SM4/Mutable/Themes/operationencompass_theme/assets/documents/Operation_Encompass_and_OEtNS_Breaking_the_Cycle_of_Domestic_Abuse_.pdf)
  - <https://www.operationencompass.org/school-participation>
- We would also like to invite school DSLs to a webinar where more information about Operation Encompass and the next steps will be provided. This webinar will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2pm – 3pm.
- [Please book places using this Eventbrite link](#) and a Teams invite will be sent to you ahead of the session. We will record the session and share the recording with all schools.



# Pupil Place Planning Update

## Primary Forum March 2021

Education Infrastructure

[edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk)



# Agenda

- Birmingham's Primary school estate
- Headlines
- Challenges
- Pupil Place Planning Update
  - Births
  - Cohort Sizes
  - Growth
  - Housing
- Surplus Primary Places
- Next Steps

# Birmingham's Primary School Estate

School Phase	Number
Infants	18
Juniors	18
Primary	259
All Through	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>302</b>

School Type	Number
Academy	129
Community	107
Foundation	9
Free Schools	4
Voluntary Aided	49
Voluntary Controlled	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>302</b>

- Faith and non-faith provision
- Over 60 different Admission Authorities across primary schools (90 in total across all phases) – coordinated admissions are essential

# Headline Updates

- Falling birth rates
- Cohort growth has slowed and we are now seeing schools with falling numbers in-year
- Increasing oversupply of places in Primary schools
- Significant housing and regeneration developments
- Considerable challenges to forecasting and pupil place planning

# Challenges – data

## ▪ School census

- No May 2020 school census data giving no end of year picture for 2019/20.
- Lower numbers on roll than anticipated at Oct 2020, awaiting Jan 2021 census to validate.

## ▪ Births

- No data beyond 2018/19 (Reception entry in 2023/24).
- Will there be a further impact on birth rates due to COVID - 2025/26 *Covid+5 years?*

## ▪ Migration

- The International passenger survey which is normally used to predict migration has been suspended due to COVID.

# Challenges – Reasons for pupils leaving

- **Covid-19**
  - Increased number of pupils electing to Home Educate since early 2020. (Pupils can be accommodated within current vacancies.)
  - Potential impact of pandemic on processing time for in-year admissions.
  
- **Brexit**
  - More pupils leaving in-year than applying.
  - Anecdotal evidence from schools regarding migration of families to EU.
  
- **Housing clearance programmes**
  - Some areas of the city, e.g. Druids Heath, are seeing tower blocks being demolished and families rehomed in other areas.
  
- **Clean Air Zone**
  - Increased travel costs may have an impact on schools within CAZ

# Challenges – Reasons for pupils arriving

- **Hong Kong Nationals**

- Potentially a large number of visa holders arriving over 5 year period from April 2021. Birmingham identified as a potential destination.

- **SEND**

- Greater focus on inclusivity in mainstream.
- SEND Capital funding - Announcement pending. Previously the funding gap to resolve capacity in special school sector was offset through our Basic Need allocation.

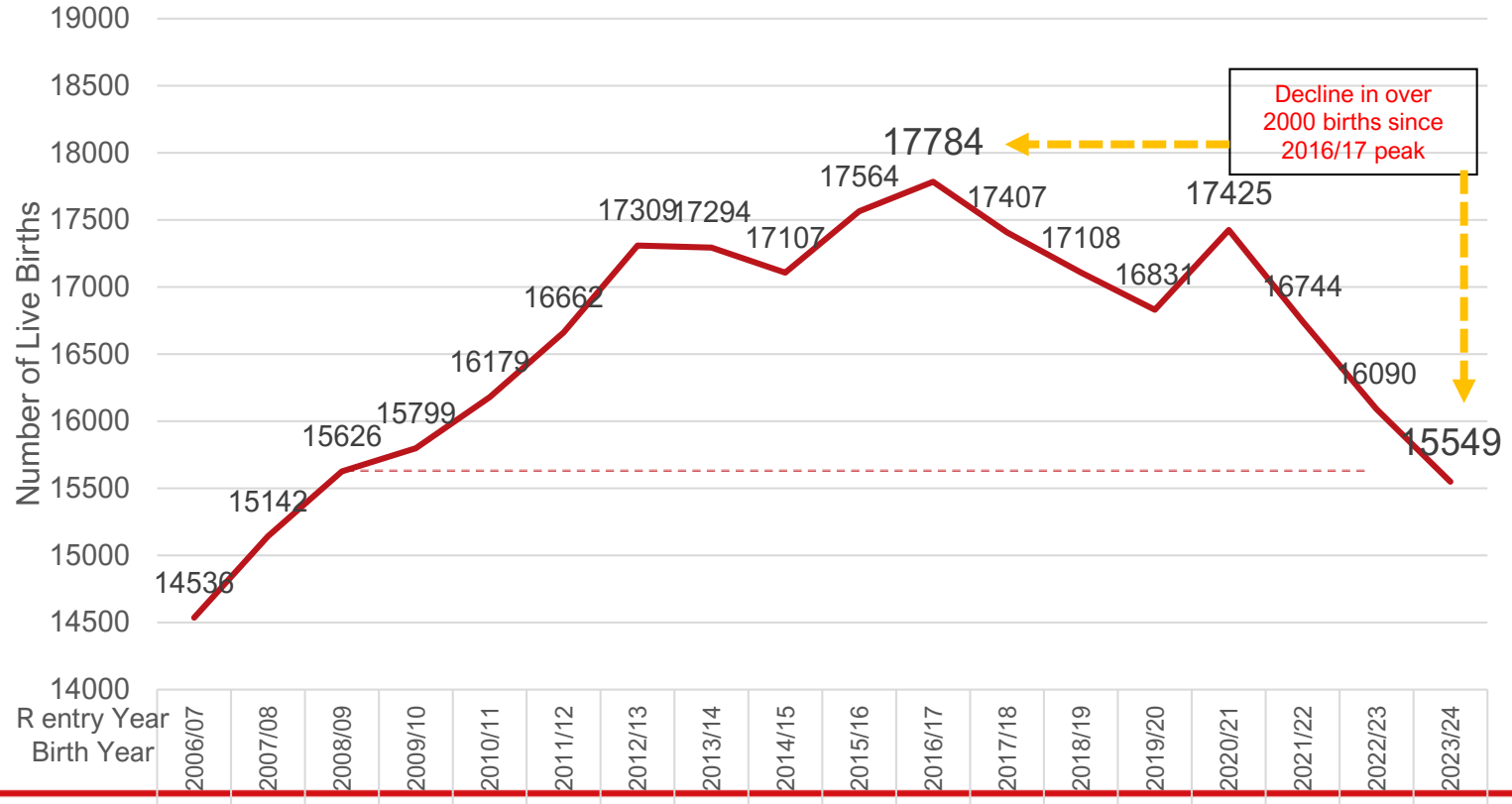
- **Housing developments**

- Substantial regeneration and housing programmes across the city; often protracted and lengthy timescales and limited information on tenure, size of houses and occupation rates.
- Higher housing target due to be imposed on Birmingham by government.

- **Temporary accommodation**

- Located across the city. Residence of families may be short-term only.

# Changing birth rates





# Birmingham's Pupil Cohorts (Oct 2020)

Lowest number in phase

Highest number in phase

Year Group	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
No. Pupils	15019	15092	15552	15927	16213	16340	15735
Surplus	9%	8%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%

Year Group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
No. Pupils	14434	14826	14251	14136	13728
Surplus	5%	3%	2%	3%	2%

Total
181,253
5%

- Both Reception and Year 7 intakes were substantially lower than anticipated.
- We are waiting to validate against Jan-21 census to see if we need to adjust forecasting assumptions.
- Working surplus rate to aim for is 2.5-3%.

# Growth by year group - Primary

Net number of pupils joining schools in a particular academic year

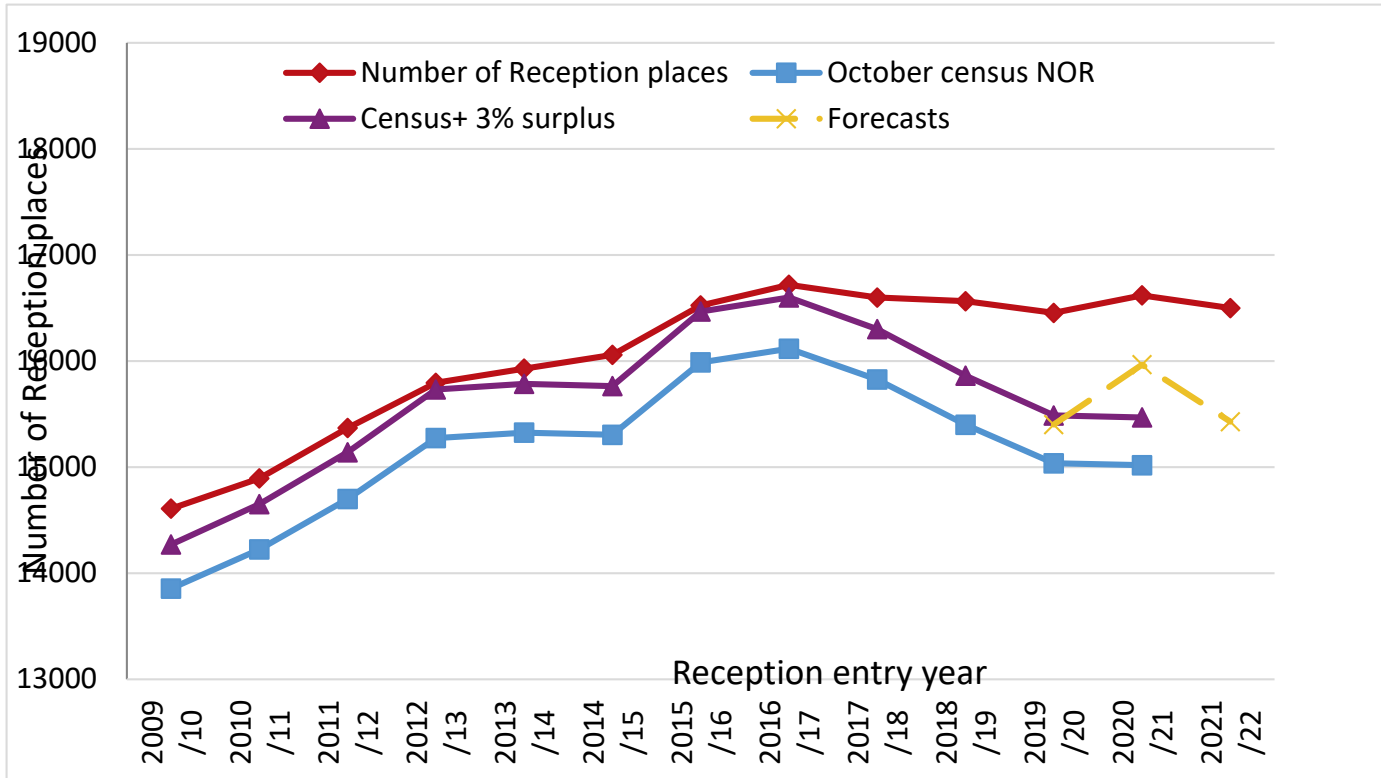
Academic Year	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total R-Y6
2014/15	294	153	138	105	142	143	41	+1016
2015/16	417	240	166	247	115	153	79	+1417
2016/17	225	91	6	93	6	23	62	+506
2017/18	201	72	-19	11	-20	34	-8	+271
2018/19	189	22	-99	-46	-55	-10	-12	-11
2019/20	55	-38	-123	-102	-91	-67	-8	-374

- Substantial decline in net growth since the measured peak when over 1400 pupils joined Birmingham schools (47FE) in 2015/16 .
- This is the net change and does not reflect the substantial in and out applications processed in schools.
- Growth is not evenly distributed across the city.

# Major Housing Development Sites

Name of Site	Site Address(es)	Number of Houses	Average Pupil Yield per year group	Occupation Start Date	Requirements
<a href="#">Langley Sustainable Urban Extension</a>	Sutton Coldfield	6000 (3000 in next 15 years)	252	2023	3 primary and 1 secondary new school onsite
North Worcestershire Golf Course	Frankley	800	34	TBC	1 primary school onsite
<a href="#">Perry Barr Masterplan (incl Regeneration)</a>	Perry Barr	5000	210	2022	1 secondary school onsite (opens Sept 2021)
<a href="#">Greater Icknield Masterplan</a>	Icknield Port Loop, out to Smethwick	5000 (3500 in next 15 years)	210	2025	1 secondary school onsite + primary contribution
<a href="#">Birmingham Smithfield Masterplan</a>	City centre	2000	84	TBC	TBC
Frankley SUE	Frankley	2500	105	TBC	TBC
<a href="#">Ladywood Regeneration (through Big City Plan)</a>					
<a href="#">Druids Heath Regeneration</a>					
<a href="#">East Birmingham Regeneration</a>					

# Reducing primary intakes



## Removing surplus places

- Keeping schools financially viable
- Reducing waste (keeping spend per pupil up)
- Increasing the proportion of pupils in good or outstanding provision
- Better targeting of capital resources
- Improving the overall condition of the building stock and our school estate

## High levels of surplus

- 8 primary schools (out of 302 primary schools) are operating at 25% surplus or above.
- 10 wards (out of 69) are operating at a surplus of 10%+

Ward	R-6 Capacity	R-6 Numbers on Roll	% Surplus
Nechells	2070	1740	16%
Handsworth Wood	1260	1080	14%
Bordesley & Highgate	1260	1096	13%
Frankley Great Park	630	550	13%
Birchfield	1470	1299	12%
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	2940	2609	11%
Pype Hayes	1050	942	10%
Bournville & Cotteridge	1374	1233	10%
North Edgbaston	1890	1697	10%
Druids Heath & Monyhull	1470	1320	10%

# Surplus Primary Places

## Immediate Considerations:

- **2020/21** – support schools to adjust admission limits (CPNs)
- **2021/22** – monitor offers and adjust Reception limits post-round.  
Support schools to apply for additional Falling Pupils Funding if eligible.

## Short Term Considerations:

- **2022/23** – seek variations to Reception PAN through consultation and decision from adjudicator or RSC.
- **2023/24** – consult on reduced Reception PAN from December 2021 and seek decision from Cabinet or Trust.
- Support schools to review their financial and staffing position, considering restructure or reorganisation if needed.

# Surplus Primary Places

## Longer Term Considerations:

- Amalgamation/Co-location with other schools
- Staffing restructure
- Reconfiguration of space to provide early years or special provision
- Leasing of accommodation for third party use
- Demolition of poorer building assets
- Closure



# Next Steps

- Publish Surplus Places Paper and area level forecasts April 2021.
- Continue to review school-level forecasting in light of changes and uncertainties but in the meantime publish school preference information.
- Await DfE guidance into planning areas to support a revision and improved local planning and communication (expected Autumn 2021).
- Await DfE study into pupil yield in (expected Summer 2021).

Continue to:

- Validate forecasts compared to latest numbers and any changes in demographics.
- Make representation to any proposal to increase provision where a detrimental impact on neighbouring schools is expected.
- Consider and process Falling Pupil Funding applications.



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