

Cabinet – 16 September 2009

Supply of School Places

Portfolio: Councillor R Walker, Children's Services

Service: Walsall Children's Services - Serco

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary of report

The report advises Cabinet of the supply of school places in Walsall and the implications of demographic trends and changes in school rolls.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the data contained in the 2009 Return submitted to the DCSF.
- 2.2 That officers are asked to undertake further work to establish the likely demand for primary school places over the next few years and bring details of a strategy to address any issues to a future Cabinet meeting.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) requires all local authorities to complete annually a Supply of School Places Return which provides details of the supply of school places, together with future pupil projections and a commentary on how the Local Authority (LA) proposes to reduce surplus places.

SUPPLY OF SCHOOL PLACES RETURN 2009

- 3.2 The Return for 2009, which is attached as **Appendix 1**, must be submitted to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.
- 3.3 The Return is in a standard format and includes, for each school, the number of pupils on roll, the net capacity, and the number of surplus places. The DCSF takes the view that 'actual surplus' figures are more appropriate than 'net surplus' figures. In the commentary section, LAs are required to provide additional information for every school with a high level of surplus places; relevant

comments are therefore included for those schools with more than 25% surplus places.

- 3.4 The government requires this information in order to monitor the efficiency and cost effectiveness of school place provision in authorities.

SURPLUS PLACES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- 3.5 Following a period of decreasing rolls, the total number of pupils in primary schools reached a low of 22,656 in January 2009. Pupil numbers are projected to increase steadily from 2010 over the years to 2013/14 and beyond.
- 3.6 There are 2,495 surplus places (10%) which is approximately the same level as in 2008 when there were 2,428 surplus places (9.7%). In previous years there had been a significant reduction in the level of surplus places in the primary sector as a result of the implementation of school organisation changes and which had been offset in part by a fall in the number of primary pupils during the period.
- 3.7 The number of Walsall primary schools with surplus places in 2009 is 72, a slight increase from the previous level. The number of schools with 25% or more surplus places remains steady with only eight schools in this category compared to 19 in 2006.
- 3.8 The projected pupil numbers indicate that the level of surplus places will reduce significantly over the next few years.

SURPLUS PLACES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 3.9 The total number of pupils on roll in secondary schools peaked in January 2003 at 21,836 and has since fallen to 18,748 in 2009; numbers are projected to fall gradually until 2014 and then increase slightly in 2016. From 2004 these figures exclude pupils on roll at the Walsall Academy and, from 2009, at Shelfield Community Academy and projections are therefore lower than would otherwise be the case.
- 3.10 The total number of surplus places in the secondary sector (excluding the Academies) in 2009 is 2,015. This equates to 9.9%, an increase from the 2008 level of 8%.
- 3.11 There are some surplus places at eleven secondary schools and two of these have 25% or more surplus places.

PUPIL NUMBER FORECASTS

- 3.12 In the primary sector, the total number of pupils on roll is forecast to increase in 2009/10 as a result of an increase in reception admissions. This will mark the start of a trend of increasing numbers following a period of decline during which a number of primary schools became unviable and were closed as part of the Council's strategy to reduce the high level of surplus places in the primary sector. Admissions to reception in 2010 are forecast to be in the region of 200 higher than in 2009 and this higher level of admissions is forecast to be sustained for

the next five years or so. However, it should be noted that these forecasts are based on ONS (Office for National Statistics) birth projections and that there is a significant period (in excess of 18 months) between the occurrence of births and the data being released to local authorities. The data also include an uplift for pupil yield associated with residential developments in the borough but, given the economic situation, the rate at which dwellings will be completed over the next few years is very uncertain. In view of this, officers will undertake further work to establish the likely demand for primary school places over the next few years and bring details of a strategy to address any issues to a future Cabinet meeting.

- 3.13 Details of the forecast pupil numbers in the primary and secondary sectors are provided in Table1 below.

Table1 Forecasts for all LA, foundation and voluntary schools

Academic Years	Primary	Secondary		
	Reception to Year 6	Years 7 - 11	Years 12 & 13	Total Secondary
Actual				
2008/09	22,656	15,757	2,991	18,748
Forecasts				
2009/2010	22,775	15,591	3,064	18,655
2010/2011	23,144	15,448	3,099	18,547
2011/2012	23,484	15,432	3,120	18,552
2012/2013	23,976	15,315	3,127	18,442
2013/2014	24,446	15,166	3,185	18,351
2014/15		15,101	3,258	18,359
2015/16		15,132	3,267	18,399

- 3.14 In the secondary sector, the total number of pupils is forecast to continue to decrease through to 2013/14 as a result of smaller cohorts transferring from the primary sector at age 11. These figures are affected by the opening of the Sheffield Community Academy in January 2009 and will be further reduced when the Grace Academy Darlaston opens. This is because LAs are required to exclude pupils attending academies from the data. There will be an increase in the number of post-16 pupils as a result of the raising of the participation age from 2015. In September 2008, approximately 53% of the previous Year 11 cohort continued in a school sixth form. In 2015, it is forecast that this will have increased to 65% and this increase has been factored in to projections for the intervening years. As in the primary sector, these projections include an uplift for pupil yield associated with residential developments across the borough. The level of surplus places in this sector has increased and there will be further significant increases unless action is taken to reduce the level of surplus places.

4. Resource considerations

- 4.1 **Financial:** High levels of surplus places are inefficient and are not cost effective; they also impact adversely on the level of revenue funding all schools receive through the formula.
- 4.2 **Legal:** All LAs are required to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the supply of and demand for school places in order to secure provision of an efficient and cost effective education service. In the event that LAs do not implement strategies to address imbalances between the supply of and demand for school places, the Secretary of State may direct that action is taken.
- 4.3 **Staffing:** There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

5. Citizen impact

The efficient provision of school places enables greater resources to be targeted at teaching and learning thereby contributing to the raising of standards.

6. Community safety

There are no safety implications as a result of this report.

7. Environmental impact

There are no direct environmental impacts as a result of this report.

8. Performance and risk management issues

- 8.1 **Risk:** All LAs are statutorily required to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the supply of and demand for school places in order to secure provision of an efficient and cost effective education service. In the event that LAs do not implement strategies to address imbalances, the Secretary of State may direct that action is taken.
- 8.2 **Performance management:** The overall percentage of surplus places and the number of schools with more than 25% surplus places are performance indicators

9. Equality implications

The efficient provision of school places enables greater resources to be targeted at teaching and learning thereby enhancing equality of opportunity.

10. Consultation


The report has not been subject to any community consultation.

Background papers

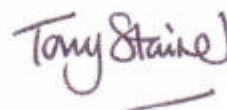
Supply of School Places 2009: Annual Return to DCSF

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Signed:
Executive Director:
Pauline Pilkington
Date: 7 September 2009



Signed:
Managing Director, Walsall Children's
Services - Serco
Date: 7 September 2009



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor R Walker
Date: 7 September 2009

APPENDIX 1

Surplus Places Return 2009

SUMMARY OF SCHOOL DATA

1. Total number of schools maintained by the Authority as at 1.4.2009

For which:

1. (a) Total NOR at January PLASC count date

1. (b) Total summer term admissions to reception classes

1. (c) Total NCA Capacity

2. Number of schools where in January NCA capacity exceeds NOR

For which:

2. (a) Total NOR at January PLASC count date

2. (b) Total NCA capacity

2. (c) Total surplus (2b less 2a)

3. Number of primary schools where NCA exceeds NOR after any summer term admissions to reception classes have been added

For which:

3. (a) Total January NOR plus summer term admissions to rec class

3. (b) Total NCA Capacity

3. (c) Total surplus (3b less 3a)

Primary	Secondary
86	17

22,656	18,748
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0

24,893	20,415
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72	11
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17,992	11,351
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20,487	13,366
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2,495	2,015
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72

17,992

20,487

2,495

PUPIL NUMBER FORECASTS

LA-WIDE FORECASTS

Time of Year

Primary	Secondary	
Schools	Under 16	16 & Over
Sept	Jan	Jan

Table A. Forecasts for all LA, foundation and voluntary schools

Academic Years

Actual

2008/09

Primary	Secondary		
Reception to Year 6	Years 7 - 11	Years 12 & 13	Total Secondary
22,656	15,757	2,991	18,748

Forecasts

2009/2010

2010/2011

2011/2012

2012/2013

2013/2014

2014/15

2015/16

Primary	Secondary		
22,775	15,591	3,064	18,655
23,144	15,448	3,099	18,547
23,484	15,432	3,120	18,552
23,976	15,315	3,127	18,442
24,446	15,166	3,185	18,351
	15,101	3,258	18,359
	15,132	3,267	18,399

SCHOOL PLACES RETURN 2009
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

DCSF Number	School Name	NOR	NCA	Surplus Capacity Jan 2009	% Surplus	Excess
2041	Abbey	152	210	58	27.62%	0
2001	Alumwell Infant	265	270	5	1.85%	0
2000	Alumwell Junior	346	360	14	3.89%	0
3329	Barcroft	325	413	88	21.31%	0
2247	Beacon	247	315	68	21.59%	0
2033	Bentley Drive JMI	379	420	41	9.76%	0
2101	Bentley West	374	420	46	10.95%	0
3114	Birchills CE	289	315	26	8.25%	0
2234	Blackwood	530	630	100	15.87%	0
2002	Blakenall Heath Junior	183	240	57	23.75%	0
3001	Bloxwich CE JMI	304	315	11	3.49%	0
3301	Blue Coat CE Infant	241	265	24	9.06%	0
3300	Blue Coat CE Junior	324	350	26	7.43%	0
2225	Brownhills West	133	205	72	35.12%	0
2004	Busill Jones	233	315	82	26.03%	0
2006	Butts	203	210	7	3.33%	0
2123	Caldmore	203	210	7	3.33%	0
2222	Castlefort JMI	191	210	19	9.05%	0
3000	Christ Church CE JMI	203	210	7	3.33%	0
2250	Chuckery	378	420	42	10.00%	0
2249	Cooper & Jordan CE	426	420	0	0.00%	6
2117	County Bridge	179	210	31	14.76%	0
2047	Croft	187	206	19	9.22%	0
2012	Delves Infant	267	270	3	1.11%	0
2043	Delves Junior	352	324	0	0.00%	28
3805	Edgar Stammers	333	315	0	0.00%	18
2016	Elmore Green	305	292	0	0.00%	13
3326	Fibbersley Park	405	420	15	3.57%	0
2018	Green Rock	187	243	56	23.05%	0
2239	Greenfield	225	241	16	6.64%	0
2241	Harden	235	315	80	25.40%	0
2236	Hatherton	369	420	51	12.14%	0
2246	Hillary	348	420	72	17.14%	0
3010	Holy Trinity CE	207	208	1	0.48%	0
2102	King Charles	147	210	63	30.00%	0
2106	King's Hill	256	315	59	18.73%	0
2024	Leamore	203	210	7	3.33%	0
2245	Leighswood	490	490	0	0.00%	0
2235	Lindens	295	315	20	6.35%	0
3003	Little Bloxwich CE	195	210	15	7.14%	0
2238	Lodge Farm JMI	270	256	0	0.00%	14
2042	Lower Farm	404	372	0	0.00%	32
5202	Manor	269	315	46	14.60%	0
2240	Meadow View JMI	243	390	147	37.69%	0
2220	Millfield	171	210	39	18.57%	0
3327	Moorcroft Wood	195	210	15	7.14%	0

DCSF Number	School Name	NOR	NCA	Surplus Capacity Jan 2009	% Surplus	Excess
2243	Mossley	195	210	15	7.14%	0
2114	New Invention Infant	252	270	18	6.67%	0
2122	New Invention Junior	327	339	12	3.54%	0
2244	North Walsall	200	210	10	4.76%	0
3100	Old Church CE	305	300	0	0.00%	5
2030	Palfrey Infant	270	270	0	0.00%	0
2028	Palfrey Junior	357	360	3	0.83%	0
5200	Park Hall Infant	270	238	0	0.00%	32
5201	Park Hall Junior	408	319	0	0.00%	89
2237	Pelsall Village	204	315	111	35.24%	0
5203	Pheasey Park Farm	601	630	29	4.60%	0
2103	Pinfold Street JMI	324	406	82	20.20%	0
2119	Pool Hayes	203	210	7	3.33%	0
2228	Radleys	187	210	23	10.95%	0
3101	Rosedale CE Infant	174	182	8	4.40%	0
2104	Rough Hay	248	315	67	21.27%	0
2205	Rushall JMI	199	210	11	5.24%	0
2224	Ryders Hayes	405	390	0	0.00%	15
2105	Salisbury	188	315	127	40.32%	0
2116	Short Heath Junior	218	240	22	9.17%	0
3324	St Anne's RC	204	210	6	2.86%	0
3325	St Bernadette's RC	165	210	45	21.43%	0
3322	St Francis RC	191	200	9	4.50%	0
3102	St Giles CE	285	315	30	9.52%	0
2248	St James	171	210	39	18.57%	0
3111	St John's CE	312	315	3	0.95%	0
3310	St Joseph's RC	208	210	2	0.95%	0
3323	St Mary of the Angels RC	205	210	5	2.38%	0
3302	St Mary's the Mount RC	210	210	0	0.00%	0
3110	St Michael's CE	314	315	1	0.32%	0
3304	St Patrick's RC	205	210	5	2.38%	0
3306	St Peter's RC	201	210	9	4.29%	0
3312	St Thomas of Canterbury RC	159	209	50	23.92%	0
2003	Sunshine Infant and Nursery	158	180	22	12.22%	0
2218	Walsall Wood	194	210	16	7.62%	0
2219	Watling Street JMI	181	210	29	13.81%	0
2214	Whetstone Field	216	210	0	0.00%	6
2031	Whitehall Junior	302	320	18	5.63%	0
2032	Whitehall Nursery and Infant	210	260	50	19.23%	0
2118	Woodlands	364	420	56	13.33%	0
-	Total	22,656	24,893	2,495	10.02%	258

SCHOOL PLACES RETURN 2009
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

DCSF No	School Name	NOR Jan 09	NCA	Surplus Capacity Jan 09	% Surplus	Excess
5405	Aldridge	1504	1489	0	0.00%	15
4017	Alumwell	937	1145	208	18.17%	0
5406	Barr Beacon	1383	1487	104	6.99%	0
4602	Blue Coat CE	947	1062	115	10.83%	0
4057	Brownhills	751	955	204	21.36%	0
4100	Darlaston	928	1365	437	32.01%	0
4016	Frank F Harrison	904	1028	124	12.06%	0
4007	Joseph Leckie	1124	1414	290	20.51%	0
4106	Pool Hayes	1159	1084	0	0.00%	75
5404	Queen Mary's Grammar	719	643	0	0.00%	76
5403	Queen Mary's High	706	710	4	0.56%	0
5402	Shire Oak	1362	1370	8	0.58%	0
4107	Sneyd	892	1355	463	34.17%	0
4606	St Francis of Assisi RC	1091	999	0	0.00%	92
5401	St Thomas More RC	1417	1475	58	3.93%	0
5400	Streetly	1364	1341	0	0.00%	23
4105	Willenhall	1560	1493	0	0.00%	67
-	Total	18,748	20,415	2,015	9.87%	348

SCHOOL PLACES RETURN 2009

1 BASIS OF FORECASTS

Sources of data

The following sources of data are used:

- Walsall tPCT data showing the number of pre-school children by postcode
- ONS births data and estimates
- Parental preference data from the previous three years' admissions rounds
- Pupil numbers and postcode information based on January 2009 Annual Schools Census
- Estimates of pupil yield from new housing developments based on information from Walsall Council

Processing

Primary Sector

ONS birth figures provide detailed information about the number of births at local authority and ward level and this data is used for our projections. Unfortunately there is a time-lag before this data is available; for example, in July 2009, the most recent births data available is that for births during 2007; it is not known when data for 2008 will be released.

Our forecasts are therefore based on actual births and projected birth rates. The relationship between actual births data and the associated reception intakes is modelled and then applied to actual births and birth projections to give estimates of future reception admissions.

Data from Walsall's tPCT is also used to inform this process as it provides details of the number of children likely to require a reception place in each of the next four years by postcode and is updated annually. There are some inconsistencies in this data but it does provide additional information about the expected demand for school places.

This data is adjusted to take account of cross-border pupil flows. The percentage of children entering Walsall schools but living outside the Borough and a similar figure for those Walsall children attending a school outside Walsall is derived from the latest admissions data.

All other year group estimates are calculated by rolling forward the numbers in each year group. The one exception is the transfer between paired infant and junior schools. In these cases, the survival ratios of the cohorts that have transferred over the previous three years are used to calculate an average survival ratio for each pair of schools.

Secondary Sector

Similar analyses take place at transfer to secondary schools using the Year 6 cohort and determining the percentage intake of the cohort into Year 7. This is calculated for a three-year period and averages taken and trends identified. This, together with admissions information, enables account to be taken of extra-district pupils.

All other year group estimates are calculated by rolling forward the numbers in each year group. Post 16 pupil numbers are calculated by modelling the relationship between the number of pupils in Year 11 (January PLASC) and Year 12 numbers in the following year. The staying on rate from year 12 to 13 is similarly modelled and these relationships are then applied to generate estimates of post 16 numbers. Our projections take account of the raising of the participation age.

Walsall is a net importer of pupils and although the number of Walsall pupils educated outside the Borough has remained steady for a number of years, the number of extra-district pupils in Walsall schools can vary significantly from year to year.

Additional Factors

In some parts of the Borough, schools attract considerable numbers of extra-district pupils. This is particularly the case in the secondary sector where numbers are also affected by the movement at age 11 of some pupils into academies and a small number into independent schools.

The effect of approved housing developments in Walsall is also taken into account. Pupil yields are based on 21 primary children and 15 secondary children per 100 dwellings with an adjustment for the number of bedrooms and for dwelling type. These pupils are factored in over a ten-year period.

Subject to the signing of the Funding Agreement for the Grace Academy Darlaston by the Secretary of State and the sponsor, Darlaston Community Science College (the predecessor school) will close on 31 August 2009. Projections have not been adjusted to take account of this.

Potential Variations

At a localised level, a small number of Walsall schools is affected by temporary short term population movements because of proximity to a women's refuge, the Showman's Guild site and traveller sites.

Any Other Factors

None.

2 COMMENTARY

PRIMARY SECTOR

General Trends

Following a period of decreasing rolls, the total number of pupils in primary schools reached a low of 22,656 in January 2009. Pupil numbers are projected to increase steadily from 2010 over the years to 2013/14 and beyond.

There are 2,495 surplus places (10%) which is approximately the same level as in 2008 when there were 2,428 surplus places (9.7%). In previous years there had been a significant reduction in the level of surplus places in the primary sector as a result of the implementation of school organisation changes and which had been offset in part by a fall in the number of primary pupils during the period.

The number of Walsall primary schools with surplus places in 2009 is 72, a slight increase from the previous level. The number of schools with 25% or more surplus places remains steady with only eight schools in this category compared to 19 in 2006.

The projected pupil numbers indicate that the level of surplus places will reduce significantly over the next few years.

Schools with 25% or more surplus places

Salisbury Primary School (40.3%)

For a number of years Salisbury Primary School has effectively operated as a 1 FE school although it has an admission number of 45. Following an increase in the number of births in the local area, 44 pupils will be admitted to the reception year group in September 2009 and it is expected that the level of surplus places will reduce further over the next few years.

Meadow View JMI (37.7%)

The number of pupils on roll has increased slightly over the last few years and this trend is expected to continue. Reception admissions for September 2009 are higher than for 2008 and pupil numbers will be monitored closely.

Pelsall Village Primary (35.2%)

Although the number of pupils admitted to the reception year group has decreased over the last few years, admissions are projected to increase and in view of this pupil numbers will be monitored closely.

Brownhills West Primary (35.1%)

The school is in special measures and is being supported through a range of strategies to address the issues identified in the Ofsted inspection report. A new headteacher has taken up post. After a period of declining numbers on roll, pupil numbers are stabilising and are projected to increase. Pupil numbers will be monitored closely.

King Charles Primary (30%)

King Charles Primary School (1 FE) has been in a hard federation with Bentley West Primary School (2 FE) for several years and this partnership has helped the school to develop strategies to halt the decline in pupil numbers. The level of surplus places at King Charles has reduced following the admission of a larger reception cohort in September 2008 and this downward trend will continue next year as 30 pupils will be admitted to the reception year group in September 2009.

Abbey Primary (27.6%)

Pupil numbers are stabilising and are projected to increase. The number of pupils on roll will be monitored closely.

Busill Jones Primary (26%)

Pupil numbers have been relatively stable for a number of years and are projected to increase as a result of increased reception admissions. The number of pupils on roll will be monitored closely.

Harden JMI (25.4%)

This school is located in an area of housing regeneration and pupil numbers are affected by the redevelopment of the area. The number of pupils on roll will be monitored closely.

SECONDARY SECTOR

General Trends

The total number of pupils on roll in secondary schools peaked in January 2003 at 21,836 and has since fallen to 18,748 in 2009; numbers are projected to fall gradually until 2014 and then increase slightly in 2016. From 2004 these figures exclude pupils on roll at the Walsall Academy and, from 2009, at Shelfield Community Academy and projections are therefore lower than would otherwise be the case.

The total number of surplus places in the secondary sector (excluding the Academies) in 2009 is 2,015. This equates to 9.9%, an increase from the 2008 level of 8%.

There are some surplus places at eleven secondary schools and two of these have 25% or more surplus places.

Sneyd (34.2%)

The number of pupils on roll at the school has fallen steadily over recent years as a result of lower admissions associated with smaller Year 6 cohorts in the borough and also because of standards issues. In 2005 the school was placed in an Ofsted category when special measures were required. By November 2006, after a period of substantial support, the school was removed from special measures and deemed satisfactory. However, the school has not been able to either sustain or further these improvements and the overall effectiveness of the school was judged, once again, as inadequate by Ofsted in November 2008.

Walsall Council undertook consultation on the future of the school in the summer term 2009 and there will be a further short consultation on one option in September 2009. The proposal is to close the school from August 2012 with pupils transferring to other schools on a phased basis (at the end of their key stage) from 2010.

Darlaston (32%)

Subject to the signing of the Funding Agreement by the minister, Darlaston will close in August 2009 to enable the Grace Academy Darlaston to open in September 2009.
