

Brighton & Hove

Providing Primary School Places – Technical analysis

- To predict pupil numbers Brighton & Hove use GP registration data as this has been the most reliable form of data in recent years. Generally across the city as a whole approximately 88% of children registered with GP's look for a reception place in the maintained sector. This percentage is likely to alter slightly between different areas but we do not have the data to determine slight variations. In the current economic climate it is entirely possible that this percentage may increase.
- The table below shows the increase in numbers of children being registered with GP surgeries and is based on the home postal addresses of the children registered.

Birth Year	GP Data Total for B&H	Jan 09 School Census Total (or forecast from 09/05-08/06)	% in school (or forecast from 09/05-08/06)	Current School Year
09/99 – 08/00	2543	2244	88.2	5
09/00 – 08/01	2660	2351	88.4	4
09/01 – 08/02	2607	2327	89.2	3
09/02 – 08/03	2734	2394	87.5	2
09/03 – 08/04	2828	2450	86.6	1
09/04 – 08/05	2858	2521*	88.2*	R
09/05 – 08/06	2905	2556	88	-
09/06 – 08/07	3163	2783	88	-
09/07 – 08/08	3181	2799	88	-

*Actual places allocated/percentage as of 3rd July 2009

The percentage column shows the proportion of children registered with a GP who enrolled at a maintained Brighton & Hove school. On the basis of the previous several years data the figure of 88% has been used to forecast likely future numbers.

- If proposed developments such as the Gala Bingo Hall in Portland Road, the Caffyns site on Kingsway, the redevelopment of the Sackville trading estate and numerous developments along Church Road all come to fruition the numbers of pupils requiring a primary school place in this part of the city be significantly worsened.

- Added to these developments is the potential regeneration of Shoreham Harbour. It is anticipated that the development of the Harbour will in itself provide sufficient school places to render the development 'self sufficient in terms of school places. Consequently it has been omitted from the projection in pupil numbers.
- A major issue to consider in relation to providing a new school is the capacity of the school required and the availability of a suitably sized site. Schools are extremely land hungry establishments; a 2 form entry all through primary school requires a site of approximately 17,000m² if it is to comply with the recommendations within the DCSF publication BB99, A Briefing Framework for Primary Schools. BB99 is a guidance document and is seen as good practice, however in exceptional circumstances it is possible to depart from the area guidelines within the document. BB99 also includes a recommendation in site size for schools on confined sites. The guidance makes it clear that this is not the preferred model and that off site team games playing facilities should be available.
- In addition to the guidance within BB99 there are legislative requirements for the size of team games playing space set out in the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. A two form entry all through primary school requires a minimum of 5,000m² of team games playing space. If an all weather surface is provided this counts as twice its size. The recommendations within BB99 for schools on confined sites assume that a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is provided and gives a site size requirement of approximately 5,000m².
- The increase in pupil numbers in the last few years is not a problem peculiar to Brighton & Hove. It is happening up and down the country to greater and lesser degrees. In July this year the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) recognised this by allocating £200 million to providing additional pupil places from September 2011. Authorities were given the opportunity to bid for this funding by submitting a bid to the Basic Need Safety Valve. An example of the pressure on primary school places can be seen in Manchester where they are predicting a shortfall of 60 forms of entry by 2011
- Brighton & Hove submitted a bid on the basis that we need to provide a minimum of five forms of entry from September 2011. Unfortunately the bidding criteria was extremely restrictive and the funding being offered was reduced by 50% of the formulaic funding provided to authorities for the spending review period from 2008 to 2011. On this basis the application indicated that we could receive a maximum of £2.6million. Owing to the limited funding available and the tight criteria for eligibility it is not at all certain that we would receive even this level of funding.
- The DCSF have recently indicated that they may be prepared to consider further funding for additional pupil places in the next spending review period but this is unlikely to be before April 2011.