

Brighton & Hove School Organisation Strategy

Secondary School Admissions

Engagement exercise October 2024



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Brighton & Hove Schools

Our objectives

- A school system where all pupils get access to a great education
- Improve the education offer for disadvantaged pupils by reducing some schools' barriers to success.
- Use all available options to maintain a broad curriculum and holistic school experience for all pupils.
- Better equality of outcomes – results not driven by economic advantage.
- Deliver a 'comprehensive' offer from our city schools as a more mixed pupil intake creates better outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
- To deliver change whilst ensuring a genuine alliance of city schools that considers the 'city child' and works in effective partnership.

Our Challenges

- Falling pupil numbers across the city.
- Disadvantaged pupils do not perform as well as other pupils in the city or nationally.
- The council does not control admission arrangements in all schools
- Financial challenge for some schools
- Journeys to school and associated costs
- Asset management

Evidence Based Proposals

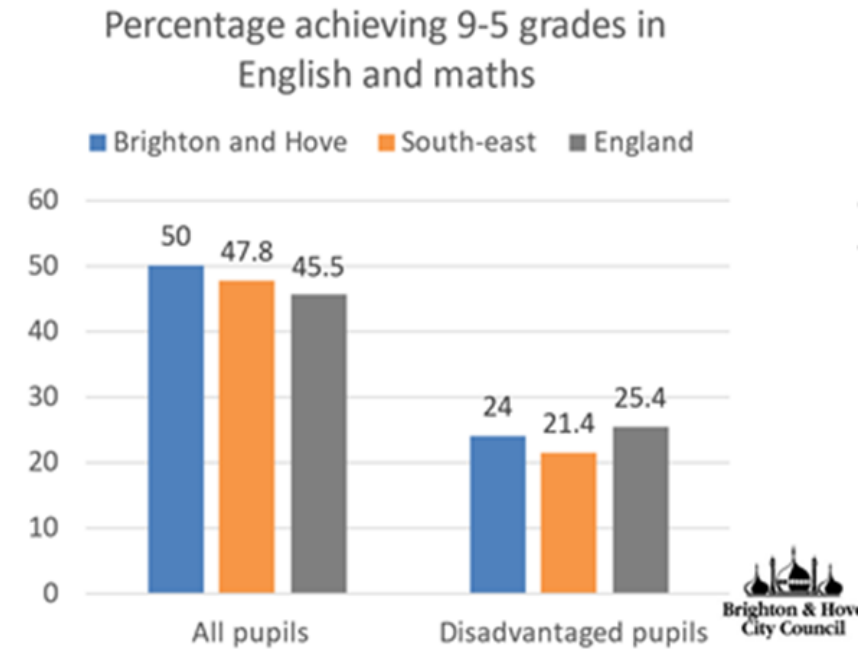
- Evidence suggests that all pupils do better when there is a mix of free school meals (FSM).

For example

- <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Social-Mobility-The-Next-Generation-Lost-Potential-Age-16.pdf> - School admissions should be reformed so there is a better socio-economic mix of pupils across schools, particularly in the most over-subscribed.
- https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/equity-in-education_9789264073234-en.html - impact of double disadvantage on some learners.

Addressing Educational Disadvantage – 2023 GCSEs

Outcomes in City high but Disadvantage remains a challenge at all ages. For example:



Changing Catchments and 'PANs' – Our Objectives

- Respond to the issue of falling pupil numbers. Ensuring that available places aligns closer with pupil numbers – in turn assisting with budget sustainability.
- Maintaining the geographic spread of secondary schools in the city. Losing a school in the West, North, or East of the city would be a strategic mistake (future growth in population).
- Aspiration for all secondary schools to be good or outstanding in all Ofsted areas. Currently, BACA and Longhill are rated 'Requires Improvement'.
- The Council has not yet improved educational outcomes of FSM pupils as much as it would have liked.

Falling Pupil Numbers – Secondary

There are currently **2560** secondary school places in the city.

Projected Number of Pupils:

- Sept 2025 – 2278 pupils
- Sept 2026 – 2276 pupils
- Sept 2028 – 2219 pupils
- Sept 2029 – 2101 pupils
- Sept 2030 – 2023 pupils

We are considering a step change in available places in Sept 2026 and then in Sept 2030.

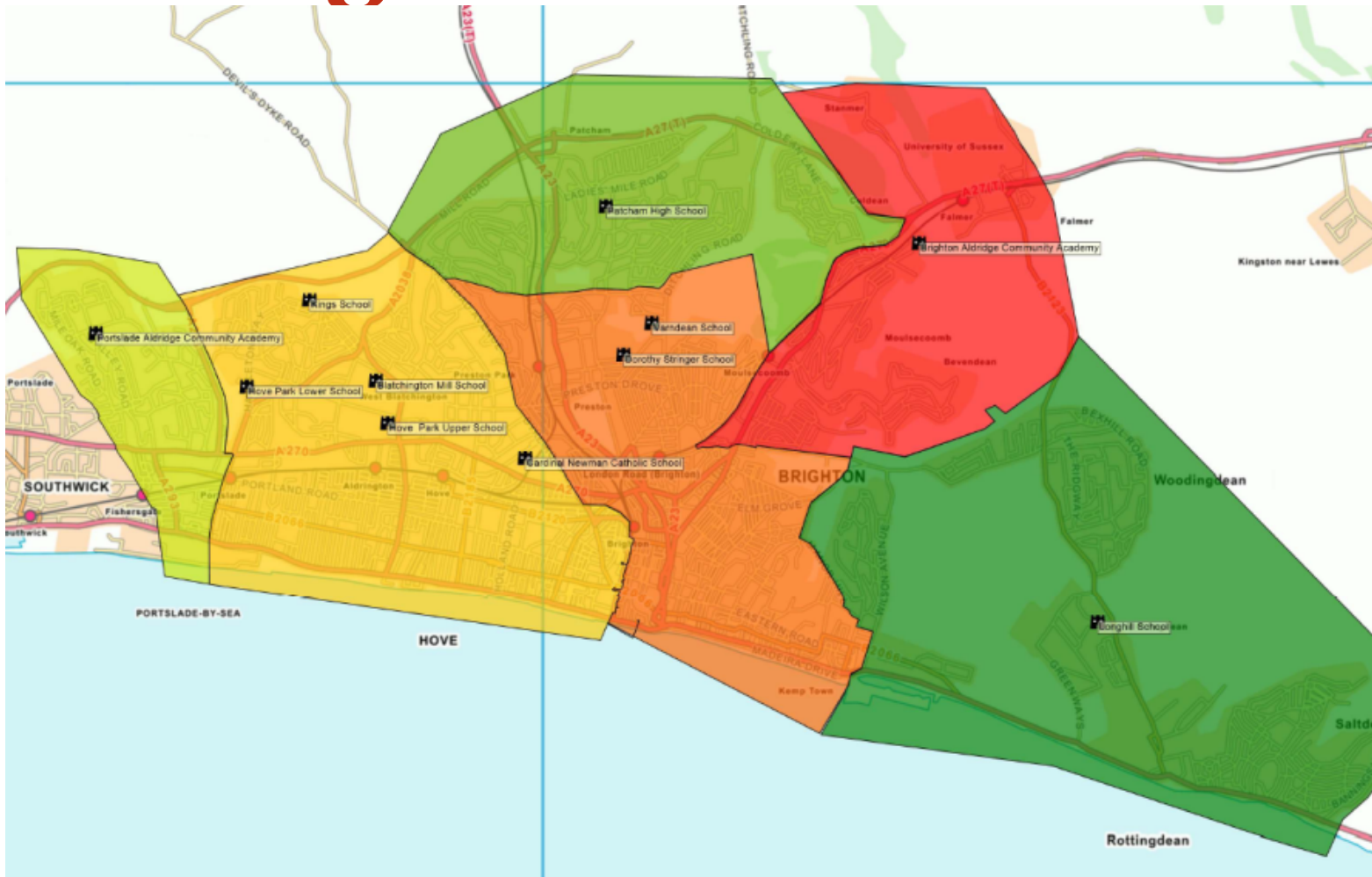
- Sept 2026 - 2410 places
- Sept 2030 - 2215 places

Proportion of Free School Meal in existing catchment areas

- PACA – 27%
- Hove Park and Blatchington Mill – 21%
- Varndean and Dorothy Stringer – 25%
- Longhill High School – 36%
- BACA 50%
- Patcham High School – 19%

(Estimated average percentage FSM 2025-2030)

Existing Catchment Areas and PANs



Please note: Cardinal Newman and Kings School do not have catchment areas (religious schools) and set their own priorities and admission numbers.

BACA and PACA maintain catchment areas, but also set their own priorities and admission numbers.

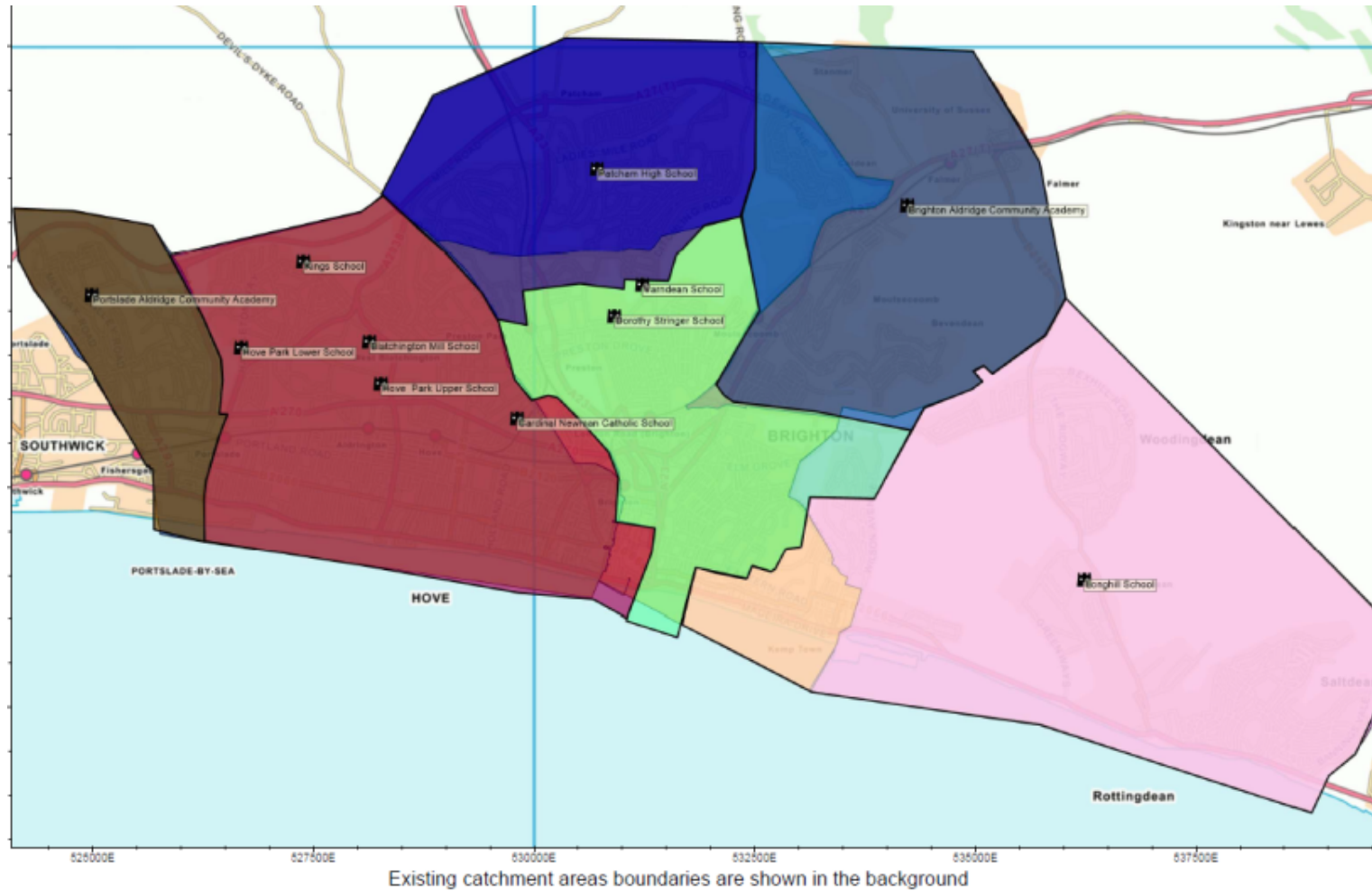
Existing Catchment Areas and PANs

School	Current PAN
Dorothy Stringer School	330
Varndean School	300
Blatchington Mill School	330
Hove Park School	180
Patcham High School	225
Longhill High School	270
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	360
Kings School	165
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	180
Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	220
Total	2560

Current FSM distribution in each school
(May 2024 – Yr 7 to 11)

Dorothy Stringer	20.9%
Varndean	21.0%
Blatchington Mill	18.3%
Hove Park	32.7%
Patcham High School	22.2%
Longhill High School	40.2%
CNCS	17.1%
King's School	16.6%
BACA	46.4%
PACA	30.7%

Option A: Modify Existing



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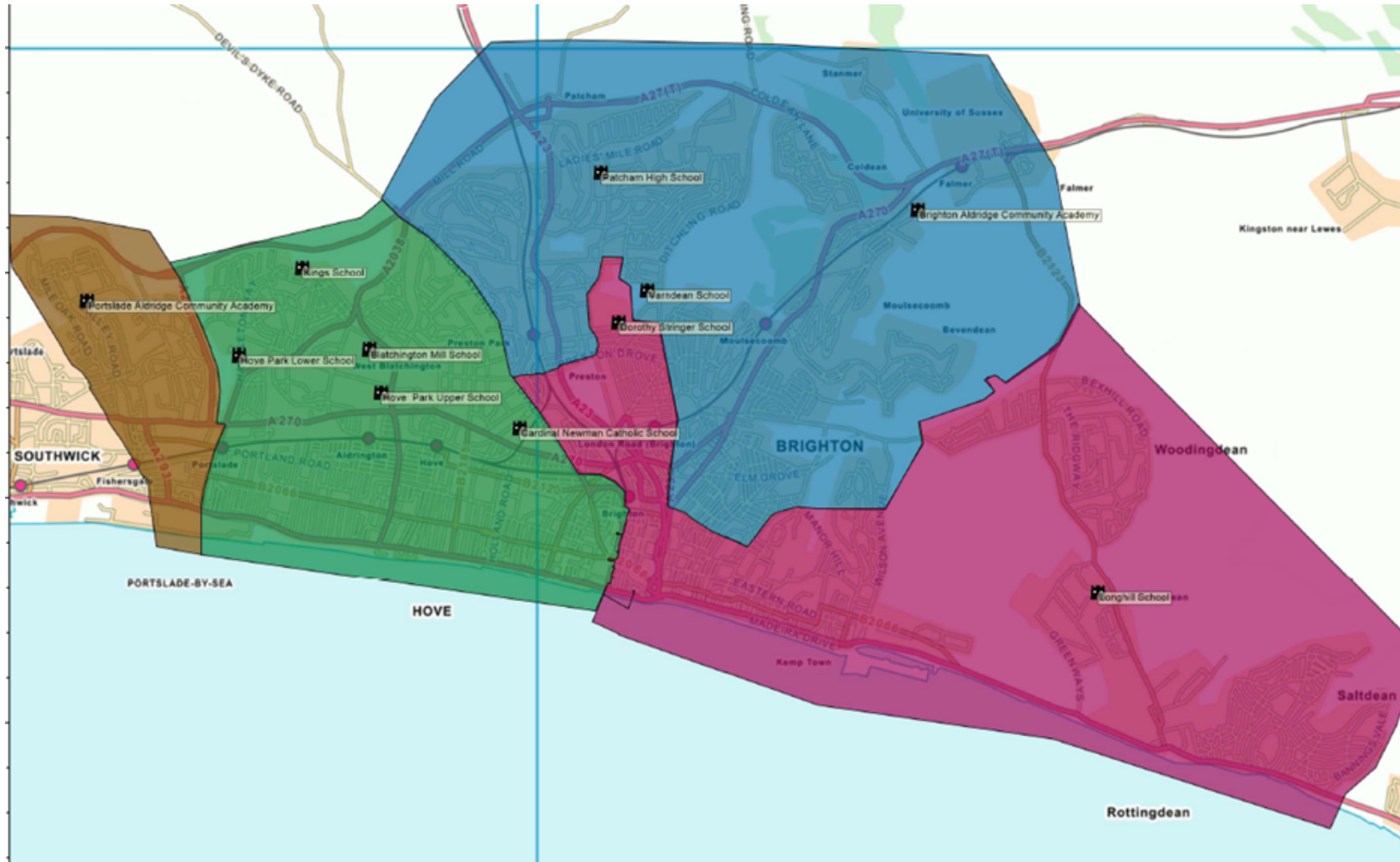
School	Current PAN	proposed PAN in 2026	Proposed PAN in 2030
Dorothy Stringer School	330	300	270
Varndean School	300	270	240
Blatchington Mill School	330	270	240
Hove Park School	180	180	180
Patcham High School	225	225	180
Longhill High School	270	240	180
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	360	360	360
Kings School	165	165	165
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	180	180	180
Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	220	220	220
Total	2560	2410	2215

catchment areas	Average percentage of FSM
PACA	27%
Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	20%
Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	28%
Longhill	33%
BACA	46%
Patcham	17%

Option A: Modify Existing

- Schools have catchment areas with pupil numbers that match their revised PANs.
- FSM distribution between schools is improved (19% - 50% to 17% to 46%).
- The FSM criteria retains some opportunity to realistically express a preference.
- Provides a platform for schools to continue to be sustainable and meet the needs of all learners.
- Closely aligns to the existing catchment areas.

Option B: 4 Catchment Areas



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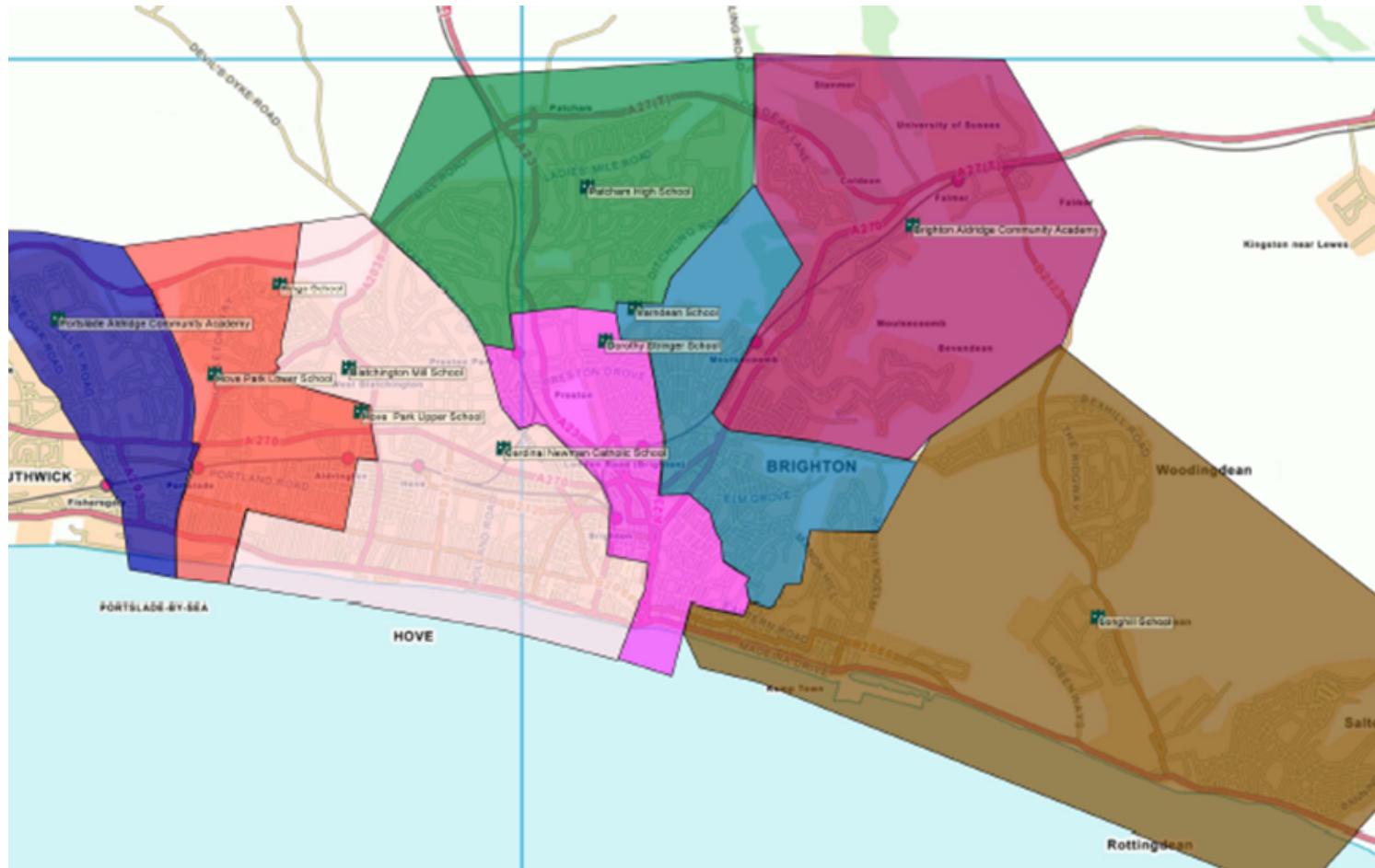
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Patcham High School	225	225	180
Longhill High School	270	210	180
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	360	360	360
Kings School	165	165	165
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	180	180	180
Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	220	220	220
Total	2560	2410	2215

Catchment areas	Average percentage of FSM
Portslade	27%
Hove	21%
North Brighton	30%
South Brighton	29%

Option B: 4 Catchment Areas

- More families have the opportunity to realistically express a preference for more than one school.
- FSM distribution between schools is improved (19% - 50% to 21% - 30%).
- Provides a platform for schools to continue to be sustainable and meet the needs of all learners.
- Schools have catchment areas with pupil numbers that match their revised PANs

Option C: Single School Catchments



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School	Current PAN	proposed PAN in 2026	Proposed PAN in 2030
Dorothy Stringer School	330	300	270
Varndean School	300	270	240
Blatchington Mill School	330	300	240
Hove Park School	180	180	180
Patcham High School	225	225	180
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Total	2560	2410	2215

Catchment areas	Average percentage of FSM
PACA	27%
Hove Park	23%
Blatchington Mill	19%
Dorothy Stringer	24%
Varndean	32%
Longhill	33%
BACA	46%
Patcham	17%

Option C: Single School Catchments

- Clear arrangements with certainty about the catchment area school.
- Develops a clear transition link between primary and secondary education.
- Provides a consistent approach across the city.
- Schools have catchment areas with pupil numbers that match their revised PANs.
- Supports the development of comprehensive, community schools who serve a community.
- The FSM criteria retains some opportunity to realistically express a preference. The FSM range does change slightly (19% - 50% to 17% - 46%).
- The model can fluctuate to take account of changing pupil numbers. Provides a platform for schools to continue to be sustainable and meet the needs of all learners.

Summary of Proposed Changes

Existing catchment areas	Average percentage of FSM (2025-2030)
PACA	27%
Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	21%
Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	25%
Longhill	36%
BACA	50%
Patcham	19%

Option A	Average percentage of FSM (2025-2030)
PACA	27%
Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	20%
Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	28%
Longhill	33%
BACA	46%
Patcham	17%

Option B	Average percentage of FSM (2025-2030)
Portslade	27%
Hove	21%
North Brighton	30%
South Brighton	29%

Option C	Average percentage of FSM (2025-2030)
PACA	27%
Hove Park	23%
Blatchington Mill	19%
Dorothy Stringer	24%
Varndean	32%
Longhill	33%
BACA	46%
Patcham	17%

Catchment areas	Existing PAN	Option A - 2026	Option A - 2030	Option B - 2026	Option B – 2030	Option C - 2026	Option C - 2030
Hove Park	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
Blatchington Mill	330	270	240	300	240	300	240
Dorothy Stringer	330	300	270	300	270	300	270
Varndean	300	270	240	270	240	270	240
Longhill	270	240	180	210	180	210	180
Patcham	225	225	180	225	180	225	180

What do we want to know?

- You can email schoolorganisation@brighton-hove.gov.uk attend a meeting or complete the YourVoice survey
- Do you think that the Council should maintain thriving and sustainable secondary schools in all areas of the city?
- Do you agree on a system that supports all children to achieve and thrive?
- Do you think that that larger schools should reduce in size to create a more balanced school offer?
- How much do you support the model proposed in Option A (amending current system)
- How much do you support the model proposed in Option B (creating 4 catchment areas)
- How much do you support the model proposed in Option C (creating single catchment areas)
- Please give your views on how a change could impact different communities in the city?

What Are We Doing and When?

Engagement

- City wide engagement exercise: 2 - 23 Oct 2024
- Your Voice
- 3 public meetings (8 Oct, 10 Oct & 16 Oct)
- People Overview & Scrutiny: 9 Oct 2024

Consultation on Proposed Admission arrangements for September 2026

- Cabinet: 14 Nov 2024
- Formal consultation on admission arrangements Sept 2026: Nov 24 – Jan 25
- Cabinet: 23 January 2025

