

# Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

## Planning for growth



**2021 - 2023**

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## Foreword

With the education landscape continuing to The London Borough of Bexley does not only provide school places directly but instead commissions them from a range of providers including schools, academy trusts and sponsors of academy chains. This Plan sets out how we will reach decisions on the number of mainstream school places, we will need to provide over the next few years ensuring that we meet our statutory requirement that every Bexley resident has a School place both now and in the future. In Bexley, we have seen the birth rate stabilise and less pressure on our Primary School places, however unlike a number of other Local Authority we have over the last few years seen a small annual rise in the number of applications for reception places whilst applications for Year 7 places in September 2021 rose. We also continue to every month experience pressure through the number of with in-year applications we receive meaning that we have to plan beyond national offer day. The work of the Local Authority and the Strategic Education Partnership is not only to ensure there are sufficient places but also to look at the possibility of reducing primary school PANs where necessary but ensuring we keep one eye on the future Housing Growth.

I am proud that we have continued to maintain our strong track record of providing those who apply on time with a school place during these uncertain times. Looking to the next two to three years, I believe the programme identified in this Plan provides a clear vision of what we can achieve based on the evidence available to us whilst also being realistic as capital funding for school building continues to be limited and uncertain. It also divulges our completed projects since the last Commissioning Plan for information. We must continue to deliver good value for money via cost-effective procurement and construction options, including through innovative, good quality buildings and making use where we can of Bexley's collective school estate.

As always, as champions of children, we will continue to work with our wider school community to ensure that every child has a school place of which we can all be proud.

This plan has been developed in consultation with the Strategic Education Partnerships, Places and Planning Sub-Group



Councillor John Fuller  
Cabinet Member for Education  
15 March 2021

## Section 1; Executive Summary

As the local strategic commissioner of education, The London Borough of Bexley has the statutory responsibility to provide a school place for every child resident in the borough and must take the essential steps in planning for required school places and the ongoing monitoring of available suitable places.

The last twelve years have seen increasing pressures on school places right across London and the wider South East. However, previously shared was that the latest evidence was showing that the birth rate has peaked and may be starting to fall across most of London which means that future plans for primary expansion at this stage should be cautious. We have listened to that advice and are currently finalising our final mainstream school expansion projects and where necessary temporary capping numbers which will be explained further within this report. It is still the case that within Bexley, unlike many parts of London and the South East, we continue to face a growing demand for in year primary school places with over 8415 primary in year applications received since January 2015. Our total in-year applications we have received since 2015 come to 3864 for Secondary. Whilst not all of these equate into actual school places this highlights the continual pupil place planning pressure that we have to continue to manage and the difficult decisions we face in terms of each planning area and mapping the varying levels of demand. This level of 'in year' applications means that Bexley has to not only ensure that we have sufficient school places on National Offer Day but for 7 years of in year growth and this level of applications bucks the trend across London. Our School Place Planning strategy looks between 3-5 years ahead and is based on known population projects, pipeline housing projects together with the likely level of 'in year' growth. This can sometimes result in places not being filled straight away but ensures that Bexley has sufficient places when required. Within the backdrop of the current financial pressures being faced by our schools this policy is sometimes not universally popular.

Currently, given the site capacity in our existing secondary schools and the expansion plans in surrounding boroughs, we do not anticipate a requirement for a new secondary school, although we had to temporarily increase our secondary capacity from 2017/18 we now have sufficient spaces within our Secondary schools so no permanent expansion is required.

Previous and current forecasts have indicated no immediate pressure on secondary places, and we have managed to continue by building a new secondary school in 2011/12 and through filling surplus places with pupils from neighbouring boroughs leading to us avoiding large scale PAN reductions. We have also been working closely with Head Teachers in secondary schools and through this we increased the intake at Blackfen Girls, Bexleyheath Academy and Townley Grammar School. We have also since then temporarily increased places at Bexley Grammar & St Columba's School for the past 2 years taking on 30 additional places each year which we reviewed this year and decided that 2020-2021 would be the last year due to a lower demand in places. In 2012 we carried out a large programme of works with 6 primary schools in the borough where the rate of children was exceeding the places, we had available. The pupils that arose as part of this large expansion started to come through into

Secondary places in September 2018 and we were able to meet this growth from the actions as explained above. All of this work is relative to working with our Secondary schools, all of which are academies and negotiating Admissions criteria and Public Admission Numbers. This is all subject to our neighbouring boroughs deliver sufficient growth within their own secondary schools and our four grammar schools do not elect to go super selective or that none of our secondary schools elect to go grammar. At this stage our biggest challenge remains “in year” applications in Secondary schools and monitoring their PAN.

The numbers and plans quoted in this report do not reflect the Council’s developing growth strategy and as this strategy takes shape a separate analysis of the education infrastructure needed to support this higher level of growth will be required with initial discussions having already taken place with the GLA and our neighbouring boroughs.

Bexley already has a diverse range of schools. There are 60 primary, infant and junior schools; 16 secondary schools; 5 special schools and a pupil referral unit. The borough is a net importer of children with the latest figures from the January 2020 census showing that 8% of primary and 30% of secondary places are taken up by children who do not live in Bexley driven predominantly by the 4 grammar schools. Since 2011, 16 primary schools have been permanently expanded with Parkway & Bursted Wood opening in 2018, Mayplace in 2019 and Birkbeck in 2020. Classrooms have been provided to facilitate bulge classes and temporary expansions and between 2010 until 2020/21 and can confirm that we have provided 4935 places. This is due to new free schools, bulge classes and permanent expansions. 630 places are due to be provided by 2022-23 via the Erith Quarry new school bringing the total of mainstream places provided since 2010 to 5565. Please note that some of these places were temporary bulge classes and not permanent expansions.

The ongoing challenge for school place commissioning is to decide the basis on which to plan and expand school places or where to temporarily cap places over the next few years. Given the scale of demand, and uncertainty around future demographic change, the programme over the next two years will use the January 2020 School Census figures and GLA Population Projections. From this our forecasts have become lower for the next few years due to various factors detailed further in the report.

We will continue to use clusters of schools in a locality, rather than individual institutions, as the basis on which to plan for new places. Our options to do so are, however, increasingly limited as our programme has developed over recent years reducing the number of schools with remaining capacity. The work of the new Education Strategic Partnership will also ensure that our school community comes with us on this continued journey.

Our analysis previously showed that that pressures on school places are not isolated but are arising across the borough and across year groups. Our challenge still remains to assess the current demand that seems to have slowed and even stabilised for the next few years. However, if we do experience another steep increase, we have some schools identified to expand if required.

## **Secondary schools**

For secondary schools despite the popularity of a number of our schools resulting in 30% of pupil places taken up by pupils from outside of the Borough, a marginal increase from our previous Commissioning Plan, we previously anticipated demand levels increasing by 2018-19 but there is currently still adequate capacity in the borough. The GLA forecasts, together with the primary school growth which began in 2012 suggest that Bexley will need to start looking into potentially increasing its Secondary capacity for future years. The data suggested by 2023 as many of 14 additional forms of entry may need to be provided but that was very much based on the delivery of Bexley's growth strategy and will be monitored. For future reference, if this were to materialise this increase will either have to be accommodated through existing schools increasing their planned admission number (PAN), temporary bulge classes or secondary school expansion. Over the past few years we have had an increase in Secondary places and have accommodated this with temporary bulge classes/increase in PAN in a number of our schools. However, numbers seemed to have levelled out in the last year resulting in us being cautious moving forward. However, new schools and new communities in neighbouring boroughs as well as the proposed housing schemes that were expected to come into play over the last two years to provide new homes will need new and improved education facilities have been delayed so therefore, we have not yet seen this influx. Therefore, these developments could influence the level and speed of demand for secondary places in Bexley, particularly in the identified Growth areas, being; Erith, Belvedere, Thamesmead, Slade Green and Crayford over the next 2 years.

We have met secondary demand with the use of moth-balled classrooms before the need to expand becomes apparent. We are confident that our Secondary schools will work with us if the need increases and requires temporary bulge classes in the future.

## **Early years**

Local Authorities have had a statutory duty to provide free early education to disadvantaged two-year olds since September 2013, when an extension to the existing entitlement for three and four year olds was introduced. Eligible families are entitled to up to 570 hours (the equivalent of 15 hours per week over 38 weeks) of funded early education for their two-year-olds.

The current level of take up in Bexley is compromised due to COVID-19. However, the average take up is between 65% and 70% of eligible children. There is currently a promotion and publicity campaign to increase this figure and the Early Years Team have been working closely with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) as part of their Together for Twos programme nationally. This campaign includes working in partnership with the Children and Family Centres and Bexley 0-19 Team to reach the most vulnerable families.

## Post 16 education

The Council has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-19, and up to the age of 25 for those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), who are resident within the borough. The Department for Education (DfE) provides funding for the provision of education and training with Apprenticeships for 16-19 year olds and those aged 19-25 with an EHCP. With all Secondary Schools within Bexley having Academy status, that means all funding for mainstream post-16 provision goes directly to the Schools, Colleges and Training Providers. We are committed to working in partnership with the learning community to ensure the needs of our young people are met through the development of clear progression pathways at all levels.

Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16- and 17-year olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training<sup>1</sup>. A key element of this is identifying the young people in their area who are covered by the duty to participate and encouraging them to find a suitable education or training place.

## Capital Projects

Over the last two years we have completed the primary expansion at Mayplace Primary School and Birkbeck Primary School, the new Cleeve Meadow SEN Free School has been handed over and is now entering the defects period. We have also carried out the expansion of Endeavour Academy and Aspire Academy to provide essential SEN places. Cornerstone Free School has come into fruition which is to be located in Belvedere, this will be our main expansion project over the next two years. More about the new Free School and SEN expansions can be found in our SEN Commissioning Plan. As part of the external funding secured to deliver pupil growth from the Thamesmead Housing Zone a feasibility study will be looking at a possible second 1FE expansion following the already completed 1FE expansion of Parkway Primary School. Any further expansion will only occur if there is likely to be sufficient additional child yield so as not to destabilise the existing schools. Due to the delay in the Peabody Housing Zone we are being cautious in expanding another primary school when it is not yet required.

Ensuring the right learning environment is critical and funding is extremely tight. Our expansion programme has been supported by a mix of capital funding from central government, the Council's own resources and, where available, those of schools as well. We also receive an annual School Condition Grant for our Community Schools which we allocate accordingly. This enables improvements in school buildings beyond the classrooms themselves to ensure the offer is at least as good as, if not better, than that currently available. Whilst some new building will continue to be required, we will also continue to work with schools to maximise the efficient use of the current estate.

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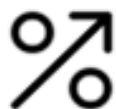
<sup>1</sup> Section 10 ESA 2008

## **Working Together**

We are very much aware that none of this can be achieved without the support of and close working relationship with Governors, Head teachers, staff, parents and residents underlining the essential partnership with schools, colleges and the wider community. We are grateful for all the help and co-operation we have received and for the ongoing dialogue in place to ensure that every child has the best quality of provision we can deliver.



At a glance...



The number of in-year applications continue to increase and are our current biggest pressure. We have received 8415 primary in-year applications since 2015.



Since 2011 we have received external investment of £64m to expand our schools and facilitate temporary and permanent bulge classes to meet the pressures. We are pleased to report this has now stabilised, but we are cautious of continuing pressures from the Growth Strategy & In-year applications.



Latest school roll projections assume a relatively stable future birth rate. However, the impact of the Growth Strategy creates an entirely new scenario for the Borough for which solutions will need to be developed including new schools for these new residents.



Bexley has a statutory requirement to provide a school place for every resident in the borough. Over the past 10 years we have expanded multiple schools and planned for potential growth. Whilst we are currently at stable capacity the demand never ceases.



We have successfully delivered 2 mainstream expansion projects since 2019 providing 420 places. Pictures of these are available throughout the plan. We also carry out maintenance work at our schools to ensure our assets are maintained.



At Bexley we aim to abide by our Corporate Plan, in particular to focus on the 'Growth that benefits all'. Our Growth Strategy plans for additional housing up until 2050 and we must be vigilant in managing our current school places and identify potential future need to meet this growth to a high-quality standard.

## **Summary for Head Teachers**

This Commissioning Plan has been developed in consultation with the Strategic Education Partnerships, Places and Planning Sub-Group. This group will monitor the delivery of the plan.

### **Purpose of the Commissioning Plan**

This Plan sets out how we will reach decisions on the number of school places, both mainstream and specialist, we will need to provide over the next three years ensuring that we meet our statutory requirement that every Bexley resident has a School place both now and in the future.

Predicting the number of new places we will need is an on-going challenge as Bexley, along with many other boroughs, experiences a period of demographic change.

### **In-Year Demand**

11,333 Primary & Secondary In-year applications received since Jan 2015

Due to Covid-19 in recent months the amount of applications has dropped slightly but this pressure remains with over 1,000 in-year applications received annually.

### **Early Years**

There are an estimated number of 6,550 children aged 3 and 4 years who are eligible to take up the Early Years Funding

There is sufficient places within the borough for early years provision starting from 2 years old

### **Primary Demand**

By 2022/23 we would have aimed to of provided 5040 school places since 2011.

We are currently meeting the demand and are planning ahead, so whilst some places may currently be vacant once pipeline Housing projects come into play, we are already prepared.

### **Secondary Demand**

We have not yet had the need to expand any of our Secondary Schools permanently however multiple schools have increased their PAN to accommodate extra pupils from September 2017. This has now stopped with the last planned bulge for ending in 2021. We have no current pressure to expand our Secondary schools and will be able to accommodate pupils within our existing schools.

### **Funding**

We have spent over £64m on School expansion projects since 2011.

We previously received funding from the Government which we allocated to expansion projects based on previous pressures in the five planning areas – Thamesmead/Belvedere, Erith/Crayford, Bexleyheath, Welling and Sidcup.

## Recently Completed & Current Projects

Project	Progress	Additional Capacity	Academy Trust (If Appropriate)	Completion Date
Mayplace Primary School 1 FE permanent expansion	Project was completed in June 2019 but has been taking pupils since September 2018.	210 additional places provided	Primary First Trust	Defects Period ended in September 2020
Birkbeck Primary School 1 FE permanent expansion	Project taken pupils from September 2019 and now completed.	210 additional places provided	n/a	August 2020
Cleeve Meadow Free School	School building has been handed over and is now within the Defects period, Planning application secured on 6 September, school to open from September 2019.	120 additional places provided	TKAT	June 2020
Cornerstone Free School	New SEN Free School (more details within the SEN Commissioning plan)	90 additional places provided	Trinitas	Anticipated September 2021
Limewood 3 FE Free School	First phase 1 FE due to open from September 2022.		Woodlands Trust	Anticipated 2022. It will be in line with the Housing development.

## Section 2; The Bexley Context

Bexley is situated in the South East of London and covers an area of 23 square miles (6,400 hectares). Bexley borders the Thames to the north, the boroughs of Royal Greenwich to the west and Bromley to the south and the County of Kent to the east. The borough has one Strategic Town Centre Bexleyheath, and has four major district centres – Crayford, Erith, Sidcup and Welling.

Our Council's Corporate Plan –2017-2025 sets out five main priorities: -

- Growth that benefits all
- Clean and green local places
- Strong and resilient communities and families
- Living Well
- Innovation and self sufficiency

Providing good school places is a key performance indicator under the Growth that benefits all priority. The provision of high-quality additional school places will support the development of a successful local economy and enhance Bexley as a place to live and work as well as keeping up with estimations that Bexley can deliver 31,500 new homes and 17,500 net new jobs across the borough by 2050 and the impact on school places this will bring.

As at January 2020 Census just under 44,000 pupils are educated in Bexley schools including nursery classes and special School census schools. There are 491 private and voluntary early years' providers and accredited child-minders and 84 primary, secondary and special schools and pupil referral units.

There are currently 60 primary, infant and junior schools. As at the date of publication, 8 are community schools, 8 are voluntary aided, 1 is voluntary controlled, 42 are Academies and 1 is a free school. One school is in the process of conversion to Academy status. 38 infant and primary schools have attached nursery classes for children aged 3 and 4.

There are 16 secondary schools, all of which are Academies. Four of the Academies are grammar schools and three are faith schools.

Bexley's schools are generally popular, and the borough is a net importer of children living in other areas. For the September 2020 reception and year 7 intake 4.7% of our primary places and 19% of our secondary offers (concentrated in our grammar schools) were provided to out borough children. As per the October 2020 School Census, there were 3,068 pupils in Reception in Bexley schools; 93.9% (2,881) of these pupils reside in Bexley. For Year 7 pupils in Bexley schools, there was a total of 3,253 pupils; 73.7% (2,398) of these pupils reside in Bexley.

We believe that children and teachers deserve high quality premises which support high aspiration and achievement, and are safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable.

By clearly setting out our commissioning plans on a regular basis, we hope that parents and providers will be in a better position to work collaboratively with us regarding how the need for more places can be met. We recognise that new providers are entering the market. We also recognise that popular schools may wish to expand or be under pressure from the local community to do so.

The role of the Local Authority;

The education world continues to evolve with Central Government pushing towards approving more academies and free schools. This will always create a level of tension between Central and Local Government all the time that the statutory duty to provide a school place for every resident remains with the Local Authority.

As strategic commissioners of education provision there is a strong interlink with the school improvement, regeneration and growth agendas. Our statutory duties include:

- The need to ensure sufficient places for 3 and 4-year-old children, and disadvantaged 2-year olds, to be able to access their free early years entitlement (15 hours a week, 38 weeks per year)
- A school place for all Bexley residents of statutory school age (5 to 16 years old) who require one
- Full time education for children who are not in school for reasons of ill health, exclusion of otherwise

All young people are in education or training up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

That children and young people assessed and, as necessary, issued with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans have appropriate provision. This may extend up to the age of 25. We have a separate Commissioning Plan for SEN Education which will detail this further.

The local authority's failure to provide sufficient school places could lead to the council being taken to court by parents for breach of its statutory duty potential safeguarding issues if these children are not in school potential for Department for Education intervention.

These requirements are defined in statute in:

- The Childcare Act 2006
- The Education and Skills Act 2008
- The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009
- The Education Acts of 1996, 2002 and 2011
- The Academies Act 2010
- The SEN and Disability Act 2001



Image of Birkbeck Primary School Expansion, completed in 2020.

## Section 3; Demand for Places

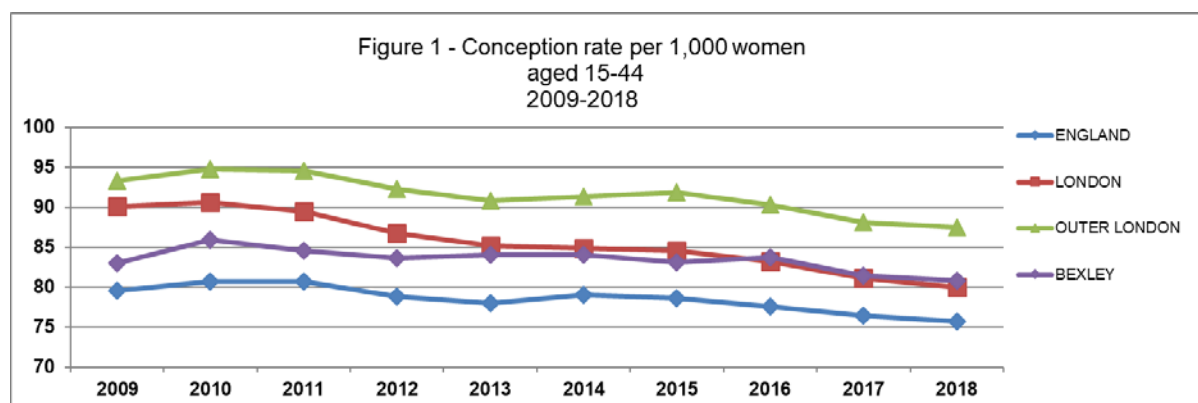
This section focuses on the demographic issues that lead to demand for school places in the Borough, including births; short, medium- and long-term population projections; admission patterns; and the impact of pupil migration. Population projections are analysed to forecast future demand for primary and secondary school places. Forecast demand for primary places is divided into five geographical planning areas to reflect local trends accurately.

The primary factor in the rise of school aged pupils in Bexley has been an increase in the overall population and crucially a rise in net migration into the borough, particularly by families with children who have already been born. This is being complemented by an increase in development in the Borough in the last five years and is projected to increase significantly as the growth strategy is delivered.

### Births and population forecasts

Due to current climates, it is too early to say if the effects of Covid-19 will have a positive or negative impact on future population and birth rates. We will need to monitor this over the next 2-3 years.

Figure 1 shows the conception rate in Bexley over 10 years compared to London, outer London and England. The graph shows that Bexley has a higher conception rate than the England average in all years. However, when compared to the London average, Bexley has a slightly lower rate from 2009 to 2015 with this being slightly higher than the London average in 2016 to 2018. The conception rate for London, Outer London and England has seen a slight fall since 2015, whereas Bexley saw a slight increase in conception rate between 2015 and 2016 with the fall in rate from 2016.

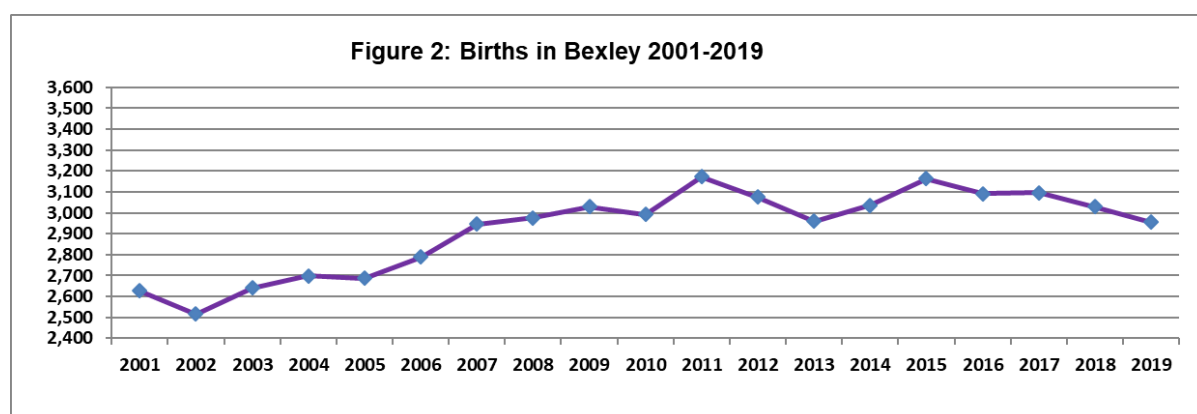


Source: ONS Conception Statistics England and Wales

Figure 2 illustrates how births have risen since 2001 peaking in 2011 - a rise of nearly 23.7% over the decade. Births fell in 2012 and 2013, in line with 26 of 33 London boroughs and showed a slight rise in 2014. In 2015 the number of births in Bexley was almost as high as the 2011 peak but has since reduced slightly. It is too early to say whether this is a short-term anomaly or a longer-term trend. The steady rise in births experienced in recent years may have come to an end and may return to historic norms. Our assessment is that the birth rate may stabilise at a certain level but not fall

back to the lower levels experienced between 2001 and 2006 given the higher population and key changes in the demographic profile of the borough. This view is underpinned by anticipated population growth which will result in more women of child bearing age living in Bexley. Latest projections show a stabilising of the birth rate and future projections envisage a relatively consistent number of births in the Borough with a slight fall in the total fertility rate compensated by a general rise in the population.

Latest school roll projections assume a relatively stable future birth rate, which needs to be viewed in the context of a rising projected population. This is likely to bring some stability for school place planning in terms of planning for the needs of the existing population. However, the impact of the Growth Strategy creates an entirely new scenario for the Borough for which solutions will need to be developed including new schools for these new residents in the localities with the greatest growth.



**Source: ONS: Live Births, General Fertility Rates and Total Fertility Rates, published September 2020**

The 2011 Census showed there were 231,997 residents in Bexley. The GLA population estimates for 2020, based on data from the ONS, indicate that the overall population has grown by 6.8% and the under 18 population has grown by 5.2%. Whilst the difference between births and deaths has remained broadly similar, the major factor in population growth has been an increase in net migration - often into areas seeing a surge in the private rented sector of the housing market but where there have been relatively fewer housing developments. We previously reported that some significant new development has added pressure on places particularly in the Crayford and Bexleyheath areas, some of which have been delivered and some to be delivered over the next few years. We have planned for this and have expanded 2 of our schools in the Bexleyheath area that overflows into Crayford.

Figure 3 shows the population pyramid by gender as at Mid-2018 (published February 2020). It demonstrates how the younger 4 - 9-year-old cohorts are smaller than the 10-15 year old cohorts; therefore, in line with the fall in conception and birth rates in recent years.

The 2011 Census results demonstrated how the Borough had changed in the previous decade with a much larger cohort of school aged children resident in Bexley. The



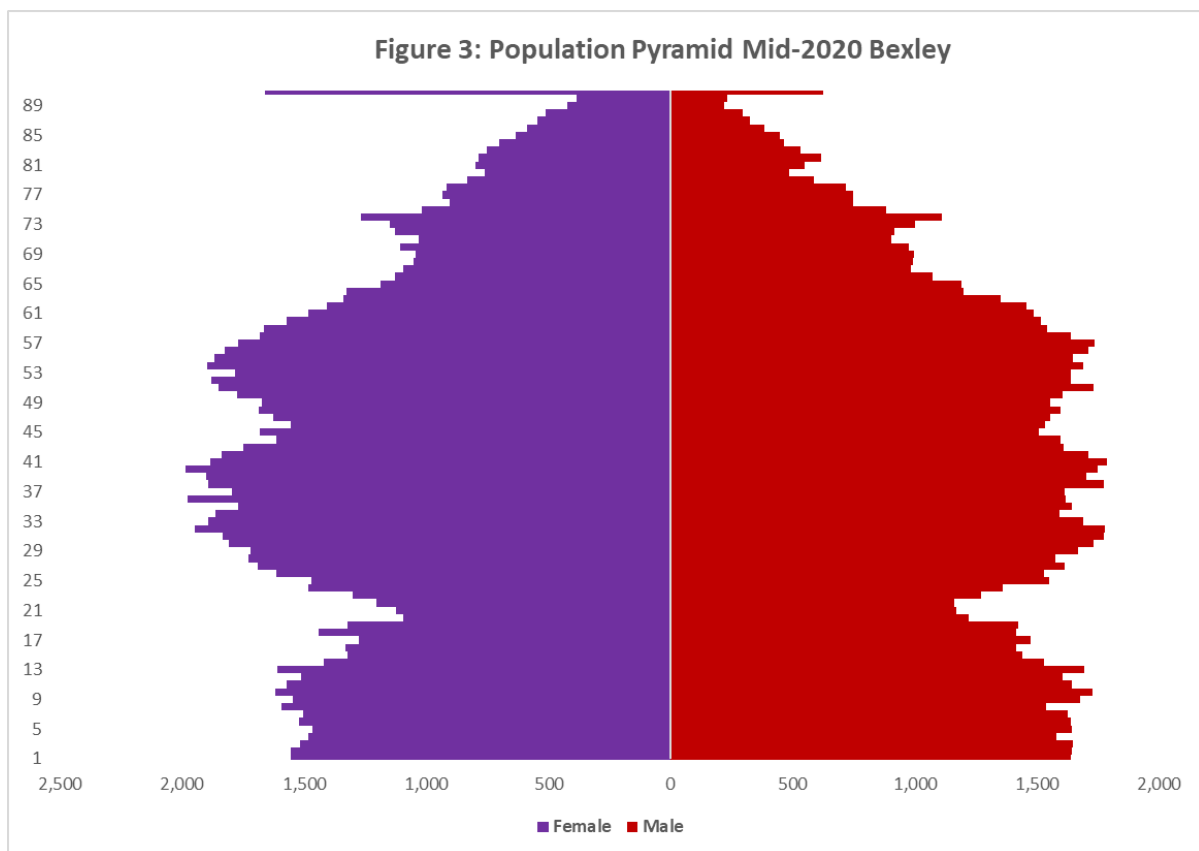
proportion of 0 - 4 year olds has grown at a slower rate since the 2011 Census as the largest birth cohorts move through the years and later potentially more stable births are added to the figures. The broad range of factors which help explain the rise in the population include:

An increasing and then stabilising birth rate

Increased net migration into the borough (from other parts of London, the UK and internationally)

The difference between the number of births and deaths is growing

Changes in demographic patterns, i.e. a rise in the number of residents renting privately in the Borough, more school aged children remaining resident in the Borough rather than moving out of Bexley.



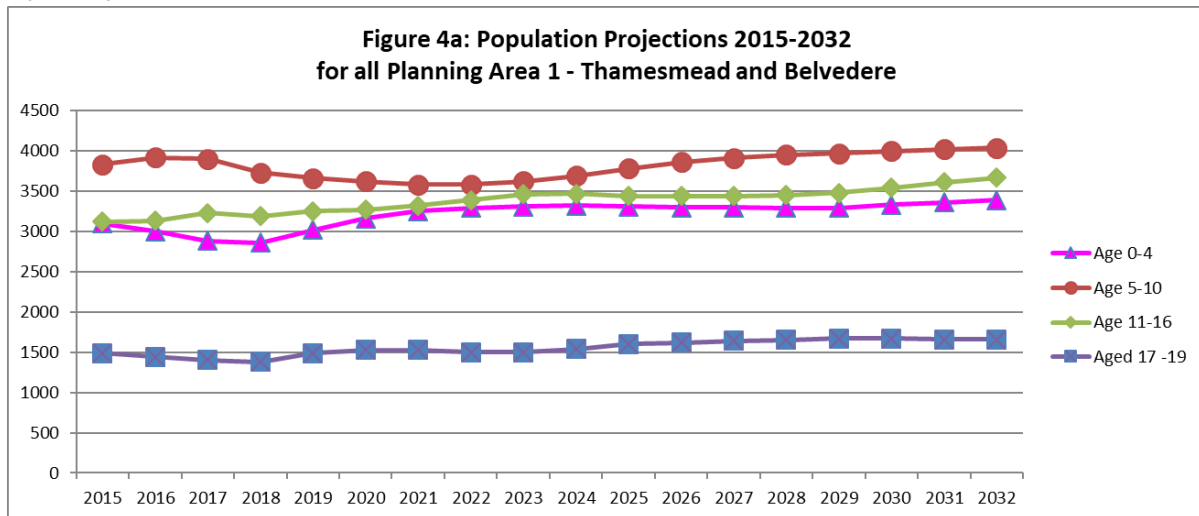
**Data Source: GLA 2020-based Demographic Projections (Housing-led)**

The Local Authority accesses a range of data in order to verify the accuracy of population estimates. For example, GP registration data is made available to the Local Authority and this can be used to validate the accuracy of forecasts.

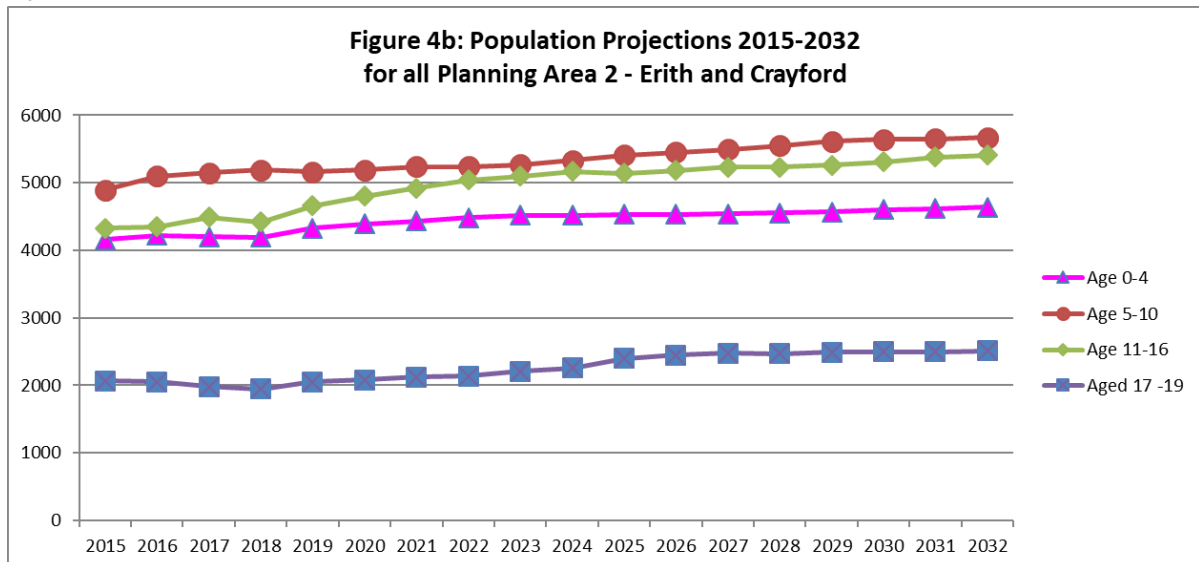
To understand the population projections for the five planning areas, Figures 4a to 4f show the forecast for the different age ranges from 2015 to 2032.

Tables 4a to 4e below show the projected increases in population across each area before considering any additional school aged population arising from the impact of the Growth Strategy. Varying degrees of projected growth in the number of 0 - 4 and 5 - 10 year olds over the next ten years are anticipated by area. Figure 4f shows the level of expected growth for the whole Borough. It shows a very small increase of 4.7% in the projected number of 0 - 4 year olds by 2030, reflecting a slowing in the rise in birth rate whilst the school aged 5 - 10 year old cohort is expected to rise by around 7.3%. The projected number of 11 - 16 year olds is expected to rise by an average of 12.9% with highest growth in Bexleyheath projected at 20.5% and lowest in Thamesmead and Belvedere at 8.3%. This is due to the delay in the Peabody Housing Zone -this is further detailed in this report. This re-enforces the trend that while children already born continue to age through the school years, fewer new babies are expected to be born.

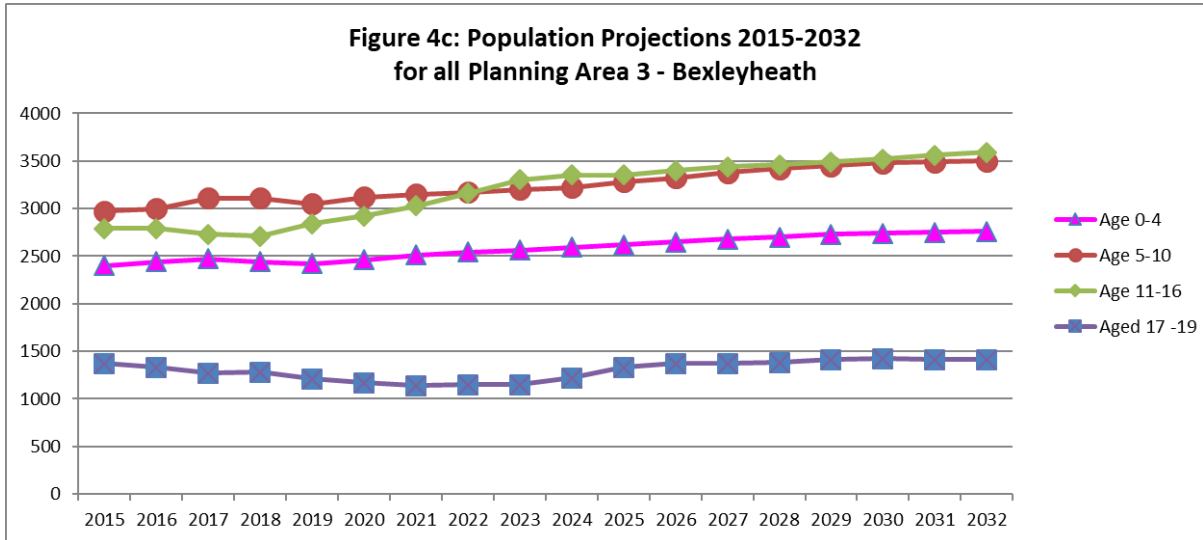
**Table 4a:**



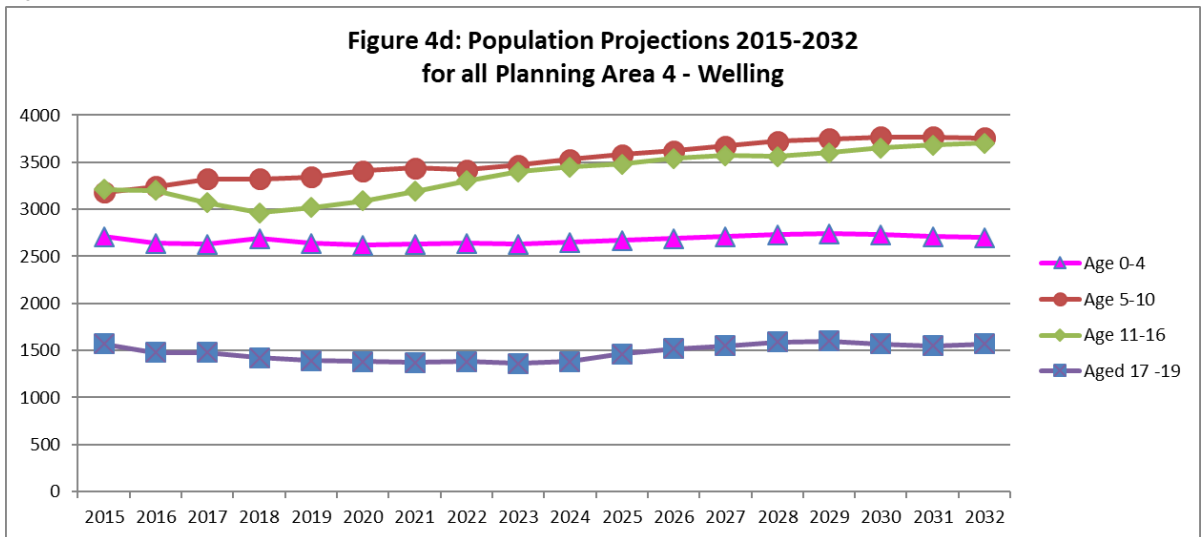
**Table 4b:**



**Table 4c:**



**Table 4d:**



**Table 4e:**

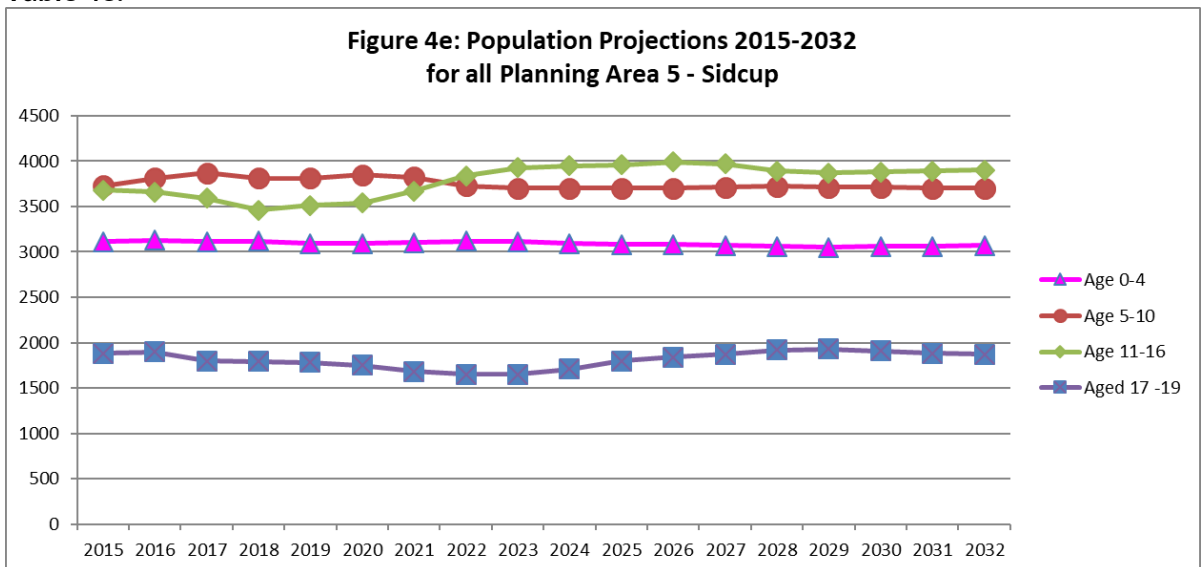
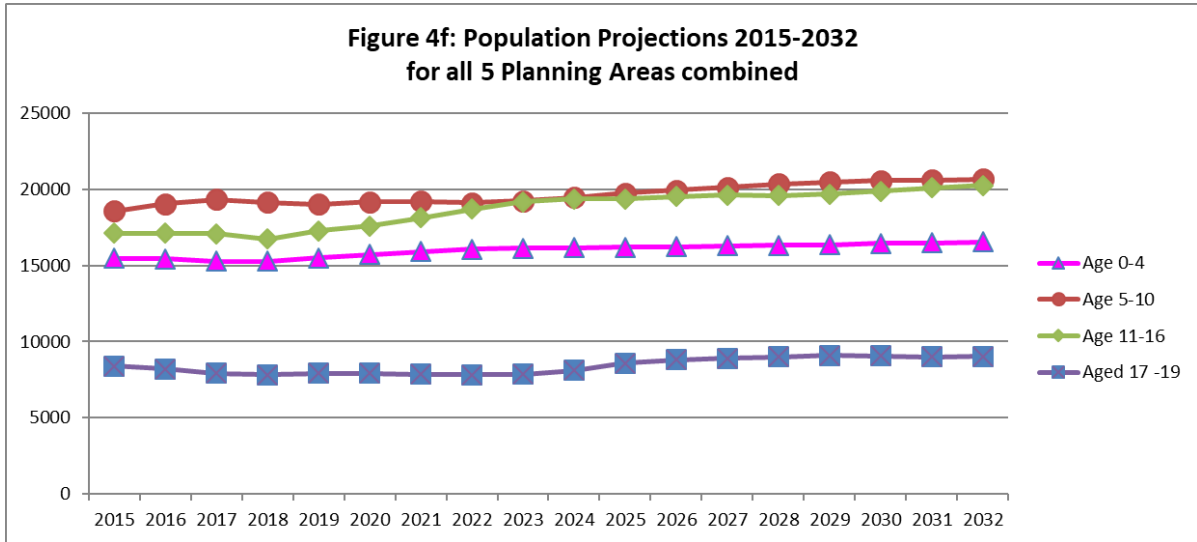


Table 4f:



Source for Tables 4a to 4f: GLA 2020 Population Projections

Figure 5 below provides data in tabular format for the projected number of 4 - 10 year olds (primary aged pupils) to 2030. Overall a net increase is projected across the Borough although there is a projected decrease in Planning Area 5 Sidcup. However, these projections are based on current trends and do not incorporate additional pupils arising from the implementation of the Bexley Growth Strategy.

**Figure 5:**

Projected Numbers of 5-10 Year Olds by Planning Area	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030
1 - Thamesmead and Belvedere	3620	3580	3690	3860	3950	4000
2 - Erith and Crayford	5190	5240	5330	5450	5550	5640
3 - Bexleyheath	3120	3170	3220	3320	3420	3480
4 - Welling	3410	3420	3530	3620	3720	3770
5 - Sidcup	3850	3730	3700	3700	3720	3710
<b>Total</b>	<b>19190</b>	<b>19140</b>	<b>19470</b>	<b>19950</b>	<b>20360</b>	<b>20600</b>

Data Source: GLA 2020 based Demographic Projections, round to the nearest 10

**Data source: GLA 2020 based Demographic Projections, round to the nearest 10**

Figure 6 below provides data in tabular format for the projected number of 11 - 16 year olds (secondary aged pupils) to 2030. Overall a net increase is projected across the Borough with the largest increases expected in Bexleyheath and Welling. However, these increases are based on current trends and do not incorporate additional pupils arising from the implementation of the Bexley Growth Strategy.

**Figure 6 :**

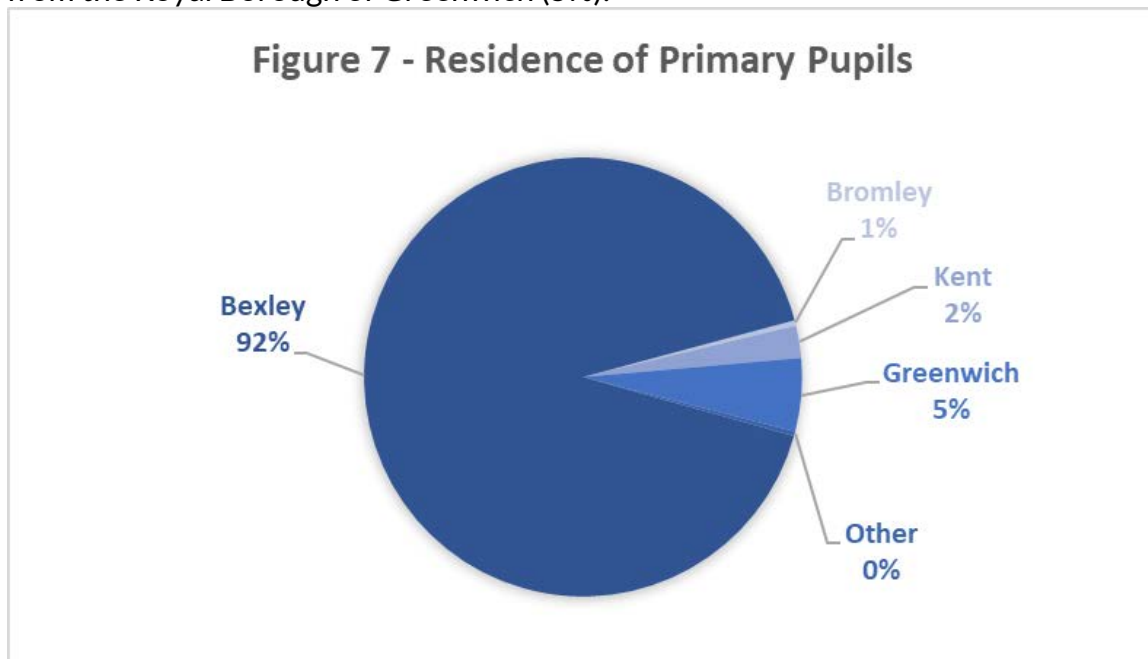
Projected Numbers of 11-16 Year Olds by Planning Area	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030
1 - Thamesmead and Belvedere	3270	3390	3470	3440	3450	3540
2 - Erith and Crayford	4800	5040	5170	5180	5230	5310
3 - Bexleyheath	2920	3160	3350	3400	3460	3520
4 - Welling	3090	3300	3450	3540	3560	3650
5 - Sidcup	3540	3840	3950	3990	3890	3880
<b>Total</b>	<b>17620</b>	<b>18730</b>	<b>19390</b>	<b>19550</b>	<b>19590</b>	<b>19900</b>

Data Source: GLA 2020 based Demographic Projections, round to the nearest 10

**Data source: GLA 2020 based Demographic Projections, round to the nearest 10**

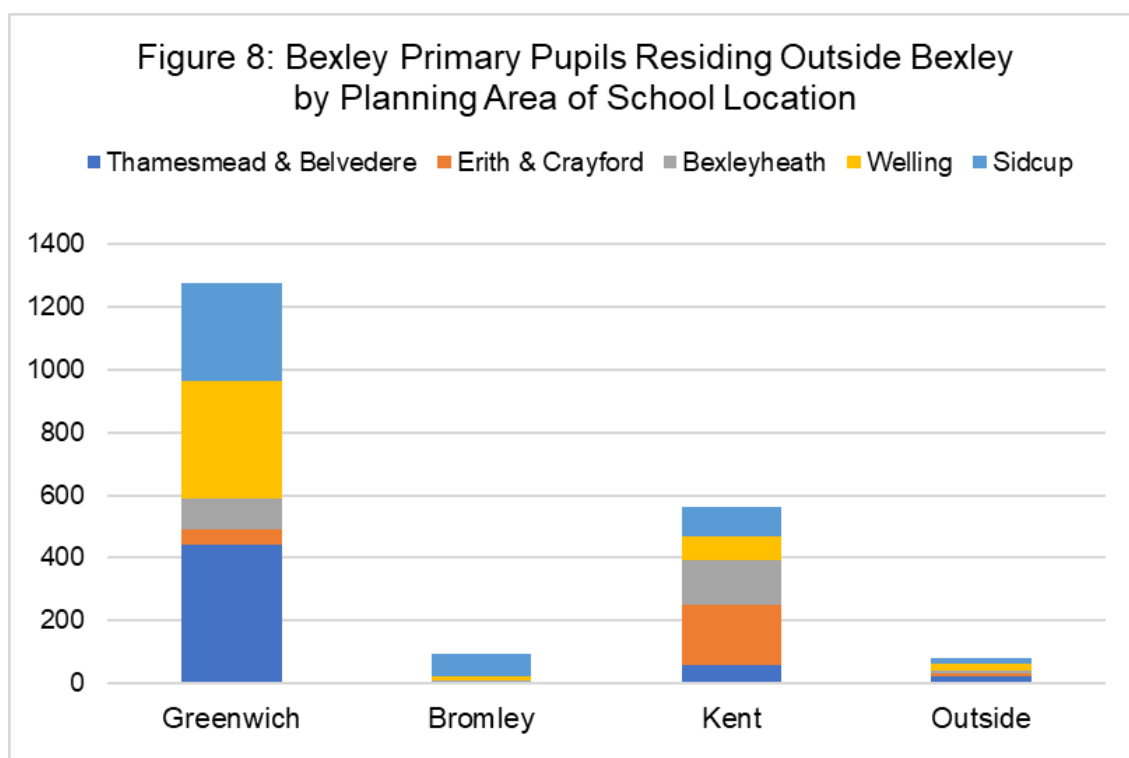
### Primary pupils' resident outside Bexley

Figure 7 shows the proportion of Bexley primary school pupils by their residing location. This highlights the majority of primary pupils who live outside Bexley come from the Royal Borough of Greenwich (5%).



**Data source: January 2020 School Census**

Figure 8 shows the largest number of Bexley primary pupils residing outside the borough are from the Royal Borough of Greenwich and primarily attend schools in both the Thamesmead & Belvedere and Welling planning areas. This reflects the geographical proximity of these planning areas to Greenwich. The planning area with the fewest primary pupils residing out of borough is Erith & Crayford.



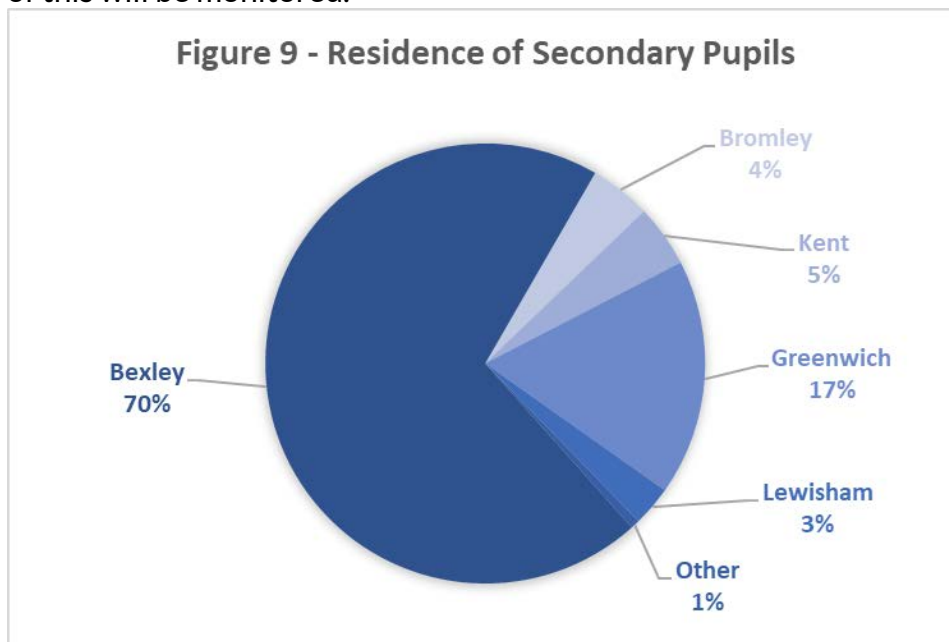
Data source: January 2020 School Census

### Secondary pupils' residing outside Bexley

Pupil mobility at secondary school level is much greater than at primary, resulting in a lower proportion of pupils in Bexley schools who are Bexley residents.

Figure 9 shows that 70% of pupils attending Bexley secondary schools live within Bexley, which has remained stable over the past few years. The largest proportion of Bexley Secondary pupils residing outside of the borough are from the Royal Borough of Greenwich (17%) followed by Kent (5%), Bromley (4%) and Lewisham (3%).

The Bexley selective system plays a significant role in this as pupils from boroughs without grammar schools choose to take the Bexley selective test and travel to Bexley for their education. The relatively short distances involved and free bus transport for 11-16 year olds within London also plays a role in enabling a high degree of cross-border migration of pupils. The debate regarding Free transport for 11-16 year olds is currently underway and could potentially change from 2021, if this occurs the impact of this will be monitored.

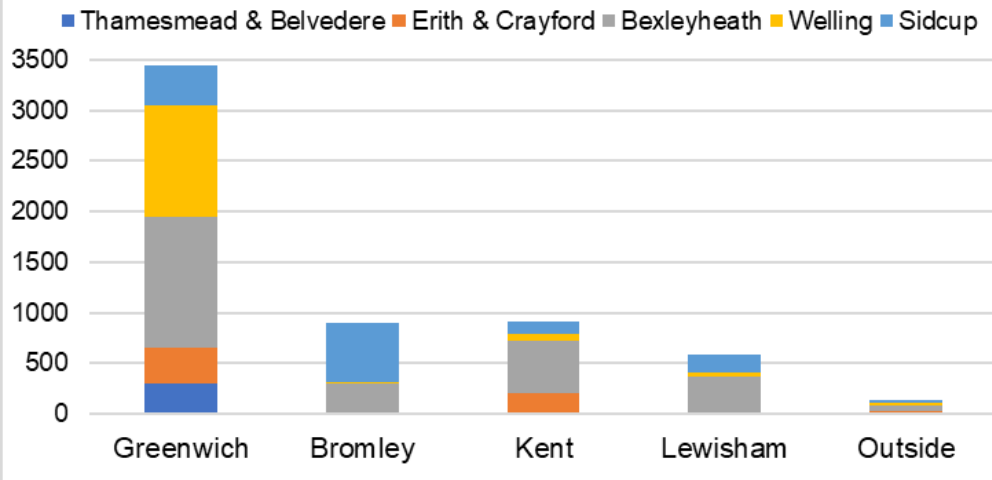


Data source: January 2020 School Census

Figure 10 shows the number of Secondary school pupils who live outside of Bexley, broken down by their school's Planning area. The largest number of pupils come from the Royal Borough of Greenwich and attend schools in Welling and Bexleyheath.

Unlike primary school pupils, the largest proportion of out of borough pupils attends schools in the Bexleyheath planning area. Pupils who live in Bromley mostly attend Sidcup schools.

Figure 10: Bexley Secondary Pupils Residing Outside Bexley by Planning Area of School Location



Data source: January 2020 School Census

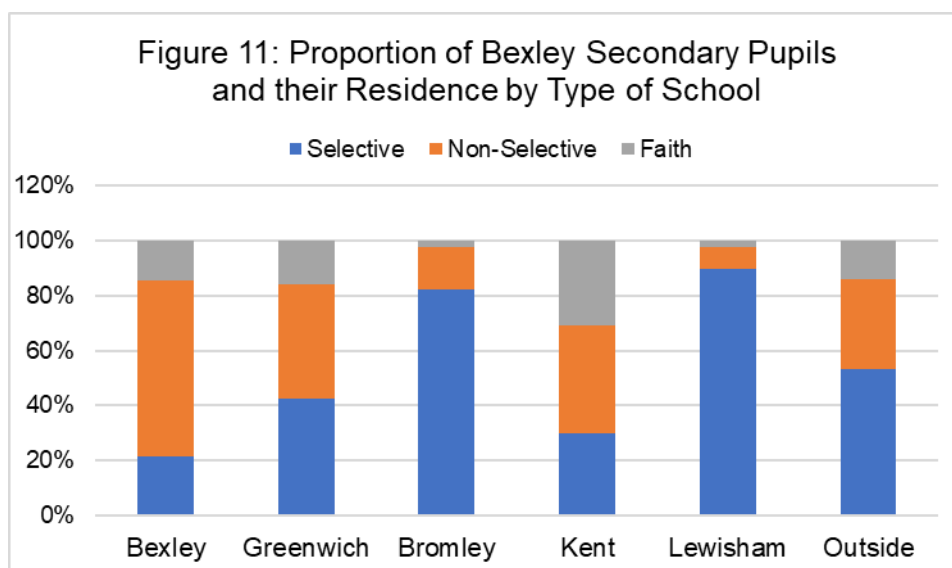


Secondary	Bexley	Greenwich	Bromley	Kent	Lewisham	Outside
Thamesmead & Belvedere	583	299	0	12	2	6
Erith & Crayford	3170	348	3	192	11	19
Bexleyheath	3782	1303	290	517	349	61
Welling	2838	1095	21	63	44	24
Sidcup	3492	398	580	122	177	20

Data source: January 2020 School Census

### Types of Secondary Schools in Bexley

Figure 11 shows the proportion of Bexley secondary pupils by their residence and the type of school attended. Bexley residents have the lowest proportion attending Selective schools in Bexley, however over 80% of Bromley residents attending a Bexley school, attend a Selective school. Bexley residents who attend schools outside of Bexley mainly choose schools close to the borough boundary in Royal Greenwich, Kent and Bromley.



Data source: January 2020 School Census

Secondary	Bexley	Greenwich	Bromley	Kent	Lewisham	Outside
Selective	21%	43%	82%	30%	90%	53%
Non-Selective	64%	41%	15%	39%	8%	33%
Faith	15%	16%	2%	31%	3%	14%

Secondary	Bexley	Greenwich	Bromley	Kent	Lewisham	Outside
Selective	2,960	1,469	736	271	524	69
Non-Selective	8,876	1,425	138	355	44	43
Faith	2,029	549	20	280	15	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,865</b>	<b>3,443</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>130</b>

Bromley residents who attend Bexley secondary schools predominantly attend selective schools. This could be due to one of the four selective schools in Bexley being in close proximity to the border with Bromley.

### Bexley Growth Strategy

The London Borough of Bexley has produced a Growth Strategy for the Borough which would involve a substantial increase in new development over 20 years.

As part of the planning for new development, land for new infrastructure that will be required, including schools, will need to be identified. This will help ensure that the demand for school places arising from the scale of such development is met.

Five key areas have been identified, where the majority of new development may take place:

- Belvedere
- Crayford
- Erith
- Slade Green
- Thamesmead

This potential future growth is linked with future improved accessibility and provision of major new transport infrastructure in the north of the borough, for example through a potential extension to Crossrail from Abbey Wood and new river crossings. The potential scale of the Growth Strategy will mean that existing schools will not have sufficient capacity to provide places for a potential increased number of additional school age residents. New primary and secondary schools may need to be provided in phases so that new places are provided in line with occupation of new dwellings.

## **Section 4; School Pupil Forecasting Methodology**

School place planning projections are provided so that the Local Authority can anticipate the demand for school places and plan accordingly. These projections are based on the GLA's population estimates for the borough, school roll data for the previous 4 years, information on existing school provision and patterns of in/out Borough migration of residents.

The Local Authority refines the projections by applying local knowledge, historic school admissions data and other intelligence, which the GLA is unable to apply to a London-wide statistical model.

In any areas where our pupil place planning identifies a temporary surplus of places, we work with individual schools to look at whether they would like to mothball any classes. For example, this was the case within the Thamesmead area for the 2020 Reception intake.

### **Net Migration**

Net migration is the resulting additional population resident in the borough when you compare the number of people who have come to live in the borough with the number who have left to live elsewhere.

Bexley is still receiving significant numbers of in-year applications from families moving into the Borough, both for mainstream and SEN places. As a result, primary school year group cohorts have grown and then stabilised, and this is reflected in forecast numbers for the coming years. It is very difficult to anticipate changes in the composition of communities in Bexley and how this will affect demand for places.

Bexley remains a high net importer primary & secondary school age children from other London Boroughs, particularly the Royal Borough of Greenwich & Bromley. This highlights the extent to which children approaching primary & secondary school age have been moving into Bexley which previously provided pressure and upward demand on the number of Reception places in the borough available. We have sufficient capacity to provide all of our residents with a school place, however with the future housing growth expected we cannot release the pressure on ensuring we have sufficient school places. This is something that is kept under constant review.

### **Quality of Provision**

The quality or perception of quality of provision on offer can impact on the number of pupils who apply to Bexley schools, particularly in terms of out borough pupils. As reputations rise or fall, existing admission patterns can quickly change. We have four Grammar Schools and three faith Schools, all of which can attract large numbers of out of borough pupils. The opening of new schools and provision of additional capacity in existing schools can also affect admission patterns and result in changing demand for places at some schools.

### **Academies/Free Schools**

Whilst the Local Authority retains the overall statutory responsibility for the supply of sufficient places, changes in legislation relating to school governance including the Academy and Free Schools programmes have created more variables in the system. Academies set their own admissions criteria, which they can alter to give priority to certain groups so long as they are compliant with the School Admissions Code. They also have the ability to increase their Published Admission Number without any requirement to consult with the community or the Local Authority.

Free Schools can have the effect of providing places in areas where there may or may not be a shortage of places. As schools that are established through an agreement with the Department for Education, the Local Authority has no control over Free Schools or Academies although the number of places provided are taken into account when planning for the availability of sufficient places. Additionally, we have worked closely with the DfE to secure Free School bids and also self-deliver projects where the need was required. We have previously secured two Free School bids, one being delivered in 2020 and one due for 2022. Protocols on data and information sharing are put in place to encourage non-LA schools to work with Bexley in order to make the planning of provision easier.

### **External Factors**

The economic climate may also have an impact upon the demand for school places. For example, during a recession the proportion of resident children seeking a state school place rather than attending an independent school may increase. Issues such as the state of the housing market, impact of welfare reform, cost of renting and many other factors will impact on the choices people make and the number of families living in Bexley and seeking school places.

### **Rising Demand**

The continuous demand for places has, in some areas, resulted in significant strain on the capacity in primary schools through in-year applications across age groups; please see below Table Figure A which demonstrates a snapshot of the high level of in-year applications we receive every month. Whilst data projects that the birth rate is steadily increasing and we plan 3-5 years in advance, continuous monitoring of in-year applications has become increasingly important since we first experienced this pressure in 2015. We have planned proposed developments to meet this demand which are detailed in this report.

See below Figure A which shows the current in-year application demand.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Primary In Year Applications</b>	<b>Secondary In Year Applications</b>
Aug-18	57	47
Sep-18	184	83
Oct-18	137	77
Nov-18	100	52
Dec-18	116	48
Jan-19	138	69
Feb-19	109	53
Mar-19	123	65
Apr-19	106	48
May-19	155	54
Jun-19	126	53
Jul-19	163	79
Aug-19	68	51
Sep-19	210	124
Oct-19	127	57
Nov-19	96	59
Dec-19	79	33
Jan-20	135	54
Feb-20	82	53
Mar-20	86	46
Apr-20	28	7
May-20	55	19
Jun-20	78	15
Jul-20	81	17
Aug-20	102	31
Sep-20	180	128
Oct-20	93	80
Nov-20	120	54
Dec-20	64	19
Jan-21	66	27
Feb-21	88	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>1,502</b>

As at March 2021 we have received 8,415 Primary and 3,864 Secondary in year applications since January 2015 with October 2018 being the highest record for that month in previous years. Whilst not all of these applications materialise into actual places this continual pressure means that Bexley has to plan not only for sufficient places on National Offer Day but for 5 years growth to ensure that there are sufficient places to deal with this 'in year' demand. Covid-19 has impacted on the number of in-year applications received due to lack of moving within borough & schools being closed.

## **Approaches to Forecasting – Methodology**

There are a number of approaches to forecasting future demand for school places. These can be based on live births, population estimates or more directly linked to trends of numbers of pupils at schools in the borough. Through the application of a range of methodologies, a range of population estimates can be produced on which a series of alternative scenarios can be forecast.

GLA trend-based projections are produced based on an assessment of future fertility, population growth and mortality. They assume that trends experienced in the previous few years will remain broadly the same. As a borough with limited new housing development in recent years but a rising population, trend-based forecasts are the most appropriate way for Bexley to assess future demand. Whilst future development data is not directly linked to such forecasts, such models implicitly assume that recent development trends will continue in the future.

The Bexley Growth Strategy is likely to greatly change the dynamics of School Place forecasting in the Borough. It will no longer be possible to forecast based on recent trends if development levels vastly exceed those seen in the last few years. The need for a new approach to the Commissioning of School Places in the Borough will be required.

Secondary pupil projections differ from those for primary schools in that they are not based on the proportion of young people in the population estimates who are expected to require a school place. Demand for secondary places is forecast by the transfer rate between Year 6 to Year 7 in previous years. This has the advantage of replicating the admission patterns in the Borough and ensures that sufficient places are provided given the complexities of secondary admissions and large distances many pupils travel both out of and into the Borough for their education.

Where caution must be exercised is where admission patterns change due to changes that have taken place such as the provision of new schools or additional capacity, changes in demand altering historic patterns and the reduction of out of Borough pupils obtaining places at Bexley secondary schools. For the September 2020 reception and year 7 intake 4.7% of primary and 19% of secondary offers went to out of Borough pupils. This has reduced since the last commissioning plan as in 2020 we saw a better performance from Bexley pupils in the selection test, which led to less allocations to out of Borough pupils. However, if this were to significantly reduce it would alleviate future pressure on places that might arise.

Bexley continually reviews the appropriateness of the type of population projections used to forecast future demand to ensure that they remain realistic. There are a variety of other models produced to forecast population growth and we will check actual evidence of demand against the range of estimates available to ensure that they are accurate and relevant.

## Section 5; Analysis: Primary and Secondary

In Bexley, pressure on primary places was first experienced in the north of the borough in 2009/10. Since then, the number of primary aged children has increased in all parts of the borough, and a comprehensive school expansion programme was put in place to meet demand. The table below shows all the primary schools that have been expanded from 2010 to 2020.

School	Expansion type	Academic year of first expansion	New places per year group	Total places created
Castilion Primary School	Permanent	2010/11	20	140
Jubilee Primary School	Permanent	2010/11	15	105
Business Academy Bexley	Permanent	2010/11	30	210
Lessness Heath Primary School	Permanent	2010/11	10	70
Haberdasher Aske's Crayford Academy (split site with Slade Green below.)	New School	2011/12	90	630
Crook Log Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	15	105
Foster's Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	15	105
Northumberland Heath Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	30	210
Peareswood Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	30	210
Willow Bank Primary School	New School	2011/12	60	420
Christ Church Erith CE Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	50	315
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	15	105
Royal Park Primary School	Permanent	2011/12	30	210
Barrington Primary School	Bulge class	2012/13	30	30
Gravel Hill Primary School	Permanent	2012/13	30	210
Old Bexley CE Primary School	Permanent	2012/13	30	210
Northwood Primary School	Bulge classes	2013/14	30	60
Hope Community School	New School	2013/14	30	210
St Pauls (Slade Green) Primary School	Permanent	2014/15	N/A	210
Haberdashers' Aske's Primary Academy	Permanent	2014/15	N/A	60
Danson Primary School	Permanent	2016/17	30	210
Uplands Primary School	Bulge	2016/17	30	30
Uplands Primary School	Bulge	2017/18	30	30
Bursted Wood School	Permanent	2018/19	30	210
Parkway Primary School	Permanent	2018/19	30	210**
Mayplace Primary School	Permanent (Reception)	2018/19	30	30*

Mayplace Primary School	Permanent (all – through)	2019/20	30	180
Birkbeck Primary School	Permanent	2020/21	30	210
<b>All schools</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>4935</b>

First phase of Mayplace was completed in 2018-19 with permanent expansion completed for 2019-2020

\*\* Places have been built but will be filled from September 2022 due to being in line with the latest Peabody Housing Zone figures which state that the largest number of new homes will be delivered then.

### **Impact on Primary Provision**

Previously, the London Borough of Bexley has had huge demand to deliver sufficient school places, we are now pleased to confirm that we have sufficient school places for the next 2-3 years and will monitor this moving forward. Our main pressure remains with SEN places, however more details of this are within the SEN commissioning plan.

Since 2015 Bexley has received over 7804 primary in year applications which is nearly 32% of our entire primary school places. This level of demand is unpredictable, hard to plan for and results in Bexley needing to ensure that there is sufficient in year growth built into any primary school place planning. Whilst applications for the September 2020 reception intake were slightly higher on the same stage in 2019, Bexley is also mindful of the continuous in year application pressures which it has faced over the last 5 years, and the difficulty encountered in attempting to create in year bulge classes. Between April and March 2021, we have received a further 955 in-year applications for reception places. Our previous projections coupled with the in-year demand required 4/5 additional reception classes up to 2022; this does not include Bexley's growth agenda. Due to the delay in housing delivery we currently have sufficient capacity within our schools to meet the need. This includes the proposed new Limewood Free School being built as part of the Erith Quarry development which will provide up to 90 new reception places (60 of those within this period). However, without this development these school places are not required in this area and the 60 places would not be necessary. Additionally, the recent delivery of Birkbeck Primary School expansion which was available from September 2020.

### **Recently completed projects that were to meet the demand**

SEN projects can be found in the SEN Commissioning Plan -

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-place-planning/commissioning-plans>.

1FE permanent expansion at Burstled Wood Primary School (Planning Area 3 – Bexleyheath) completed in September 2018

The permanent expansion of Mayplace Primary School (Planning Area 3 – Bexleyheath) with Reception being complete in September 2018 and the main building being complete in September 2019.

The permanent expansion of Birkbeck Primary School (Planning Area 5 – Sidcup) which was delivered ready for September 2020.



The permanent expansion of Parkway Primary School by 1FE (Planning Area 1 – Thamesmead & Belvedere), in order to meet the proposed growth arising from the Thamesmead Housing Zone, to be opened in September 2022.  
 Up to a 3FE new Free School as part of the Erith Quarry Development (Limewood) to be opened from 2022 (Planning Area 2 – Erith & Crayford)

**Proposed future expansion**

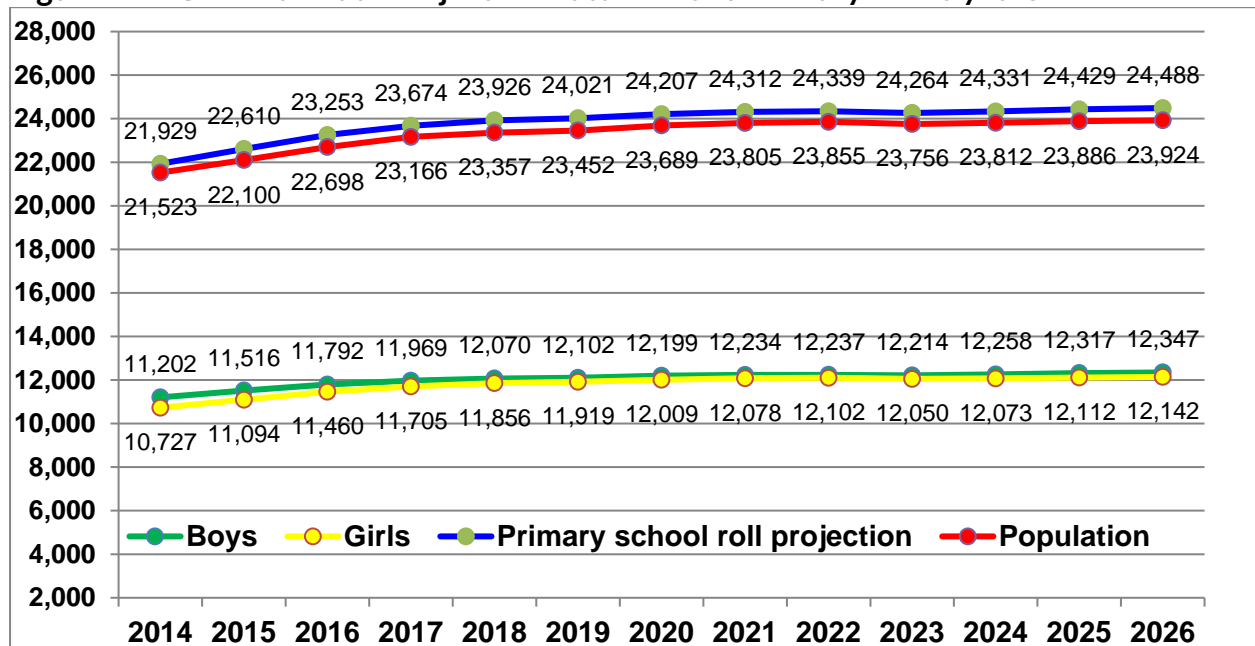
It is anticipated that the following projects will be delivered during 2020-2023:

New Limewood Primary Free School  
 Cornerstone Free School  
 We already have plans & feasibilities in place to expand three primary schools in three different planning areas if demand dictated it. Because of the uncertainty, we would look to implement bulge classes rather than full expansions.

**Figure 12 – GLA Alternate projection aged pupils 4 – 10**

Figure 12 below shows actual and forecast primary pupil numbers, compared with the primary age resident population, which have risen and then stabilised, before any account of the growth strategy is taken. More recent published forecast data is not currently being used due to ongoing issues with new Office for National Statistics methodology which adversely affects the GLA forecasts.

**Figure 12 – GLA Alternate Projection Autumn 2015 Primary 4 – 10 years**

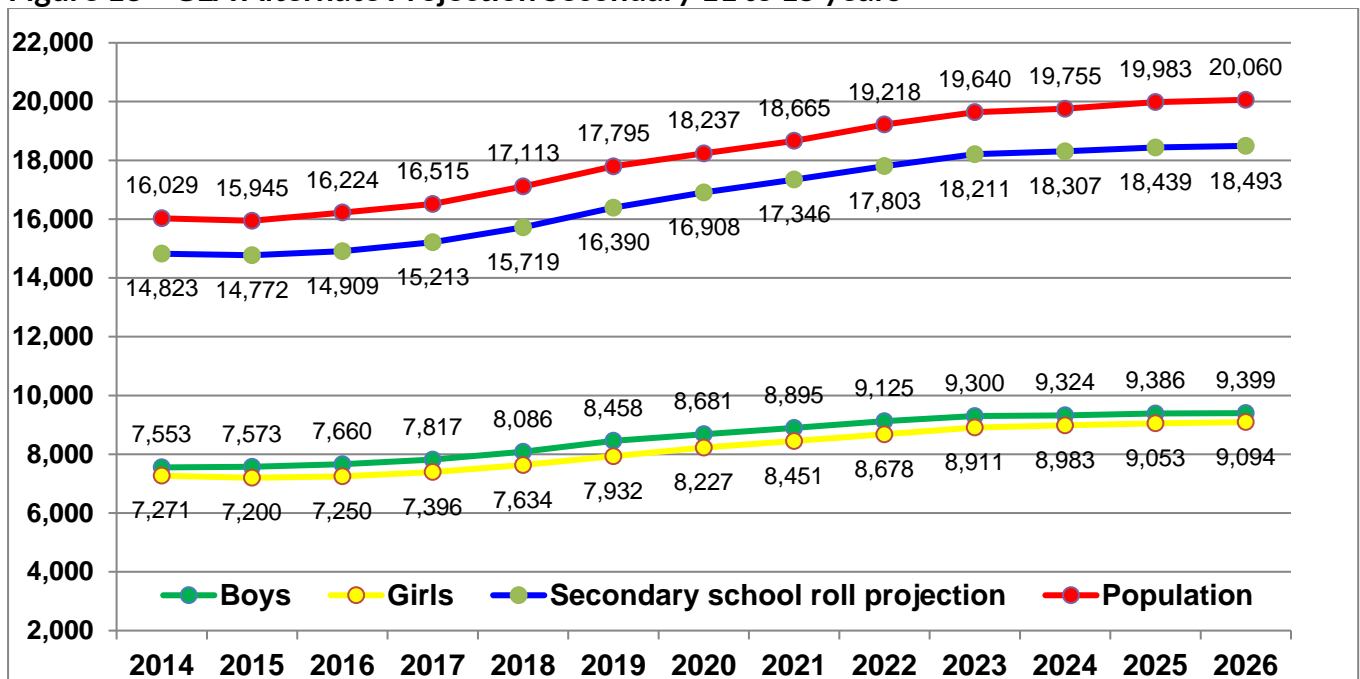


## Capacity

The table below illustrates the anticipated increase in demand for reception school places and the number of additional classrooms required. In the -2017-19 Commissioning Plan, we increased raw GLA projections by 2.1% and allowed for a minimum of an additional 2.5% capacity at Reception stage to allow for in year applications between Reception and Year 6. Future growth in the number of primary school places required is instead largely expected to be driven by the Growth Strategy and new residents who will require new school places over and above these forecasts which meet the needs of the forecast existing population and increases based on current trends.

This gives more flexibility to prioritise capital expenditure and to provide additional places where and when they are needed, on a short-term basis via bulge classes if no long term demand is projected at that time. There are 3,430 primary places already available with further places currently under construction. These figures will need to be kept under review as and when large development comes on stream. For example, the former Civic Office site which will deliver 500 new homes and the proposed Erith Quarry which will deliver 630 new homes although places required from this development are already planned for through the new Limewood Free School. Figure 13 shows actual and forecast secondary pupil numbers, compared with the secondary age resident population. These also continue to rise to the end of the decade.

**Figure 13 – GLA Alternate Projection Secondary 11 to 15 years**



## Secondary Provision

From September 2020, there were 3646 Year 7 places which is 186 more places from 2018 with 2989 home LA applications, 190 down on last year. Of the 3646 places 496 remained vacant on national offer day. There are currently over 17,000 secondary school places in Bexley in Years 7 to 11 based on the previous and current PAN, any

spare places are needed for in year growth for applicants moving into the borough. However, a continuous risk is that schools with large numbers of unfilled Year 7 places may adjust their staffing budgets accordingly and cap the intake, leading to a shortage of places in the year group by Years 8 and 9.

Bexley's secondary provision is currently sufficient to deal with demand and growth levels as we are not experiencing the same demand levels as many other London local authorities. We previously reported that the GLA forecasts, together with the primary school growth which began in 2012 suggested that Bexley would need to start increasing its secondary capacity from 2018/19. We managed this by working with our Secondary Schools and identified a number of schools to increase their PAN for the past 2 years and until 2021-2022. Two of our Selective Grammar Schools have permanently increased their PAN and two more are in the process of doing so, therefore we have been able to meet this need. New schools and new communities in neighbouring boroughs also influence the level and speed of demand for secondary places in Bexley.

Existing schools that have previously reduced their admission numbers and retained the building capacity to expand again in the future will have to increase their year 7 intake when it is required. That said, new schools and new communities in neighbouring boroughs could influence the level and speed of demand for secondary places in Bexley. An additional challenge is schools consulting to reduce their admissions criteria including our four grammar schools becoming super selective which will restrict secondary places & potential solutions will need to be looked into.

Whilst we expect that initially this growth will result in out of borough children being displaced as places are allocated on home to school distance, which should benefit Bexley-resident children, equally the reverse could happen within neighbouring boroughs.

Because the position around secondary school places is dependent on a number of factors the position will be reviewed annually.

### **Principles and challenges**

It is important to recognise that we cannot achieve our ambitions without working in partnership with schools. The increasingly complex environment in which decisions about school sizes and locations are now taken means that the local authority has to commission school places and work closely with all education providers, to secure the best for Bexley's children and young people.

Primary provision is divided into 5 areas for planning purposes. The planning areas are the same as the community clusters of schools. The majority of children attend schools in the planning area where they live (See Section 4)

Secondary schools are not divided into planning areas because of the small numbers of schools and the relatively short travelling distances within the borough.

### **School places strategy for 2021-2023**

The GLA continue to forecast lower figures in terms of future pupil numbers than we are currently experiencing so we need to overlay this with a factor that creates a trajectory based on our frontline experience. Given a significant number of applications are a consequence of migration; we need to take a view on whether the current pace will continue and be part of an upward trend we will need to accommodate. However, the birth rate in Bexley has now stabilised with a marginal rise but not as significant as previous years. A further challenge is that many new residents live in the Private Rented Sector. This is an unregulated tenure, unless the dwelling is formally designated as a House in Multiple Occupation, so can accommodate larger groups than the dwelling size would historically suggest. Our strategy therefore will remain cautious only looking at any permanent bulge classes or expansions in line with the delivery of large scale housing growth.

## Primary school places by planning area

### Planning area 1: Thamesmead and Belvedere

Current on roll = R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Cluster/school	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total	Max cap
Bedonwell Infant	119	114	118	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	351	360
Bedonwell Junior	n/a	n/a	n/a	116	120	117	115	468	480
Belvedere Infant	90	73	85	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	248	270
Belvedere Junior Pioneer Academy	n/a	n/a	n/a	90	83	83	85	341	360
Castilion Primary	60	56	58	57	60	55	58	404	420
Harris Garrard Academy	34	39	39	58	79	74	73	396	630
Jubilee Primary	19	27	46	42	37	49	45	265	420
Lessness Heath Primary	89	88	72	89	87	90	88	603	630
Northwood Primary	22	27	28	30	30	27	29	193	240
*Parkway Primary	28	36	33	35	36	32	31	231	420
St Augustine of Canterbury CE VA Primary	29	29	30	29	28	28	29	202	210
St John Fisher Catholic Primary	30	28	30	30	29	31	30	208	210
Willow Bank Primary	50	51	48	58	53	51	55	366	420
<b>Total cluster</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>4276</b>	<b>5070</b>

Note for the 'Planning area 1: Thamesmead and Belvedere' table: Additional places built but not yet in use is 794.

(January 2020 school census. \* is where the school has been expanded but the numbers are working through the school so showing spare places)

\*Parkway primary school is currently not open at full capacity due to the delay in delivery of the Thamesmead Housing Zone. Therefore, it would not be financially viable to make the places available without the expected pupil growth arising from the additional housing numbers.

These figures are taken from the annual census which is a snap shot of children in schools taken in January 2020. This data does not include in year applications received since this date and which average 102 per month across the borough based on the Oct 19 – Oct 20 data. This has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19. There is also spare capacity built in to accommodate numbers coming through due to previous school expansion.

### **Current Position:**

There are 13 infant, junior and primary schools in Thamesmead and Belvedere with 5,070 available places in all year groups and 570 Reception places currently taken up as at September 2020, this is not taking into account the in-year applications we receive each month. Additional capacity of 794 places is ready for use when needed for larger year groups still moving up through the school. The reason for this large increase of places is that the Harris Garrard Academy has not increased their numbers since they were reduced 2 years ago. There have also been 210 extra places provided at Parkway Primary School which are not yet available due to the delay in Housing in that area.

Thamesmead was the first area of the borough to be affected by rising birth rates and increased migration. The number of Reception places was increased by 65 in 2010/11 at Jubilee and Castilion Primary Schools (both were expanded permanently in 2011/12) and the Business Academy Bexley, and by a further 70 in 2011/12 by the opening of Willow Bank Primary School, a new Academy on the site of a closed school and a small expansion at Lessness Heath Primary School. Northwood Primary School opened a Year 1 bulge class in October 2013 because of the shortage of places in that year group. An additional classroom has been provided at the school, for use with another bulge class when required.

There is cross borough demand for places in North Thamesmead, where Castilion and Jubilee Primary Schools are close to the border with the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Bexley children are not always able to secure places at these schools.

There are sufficient Reception places in 2020/21, and we will see a drop in the spare places due to the Thamesmead Housing Zone and the building of new houses, Parkway should meet this initial demand. An expansion of another school in this area may be required once the Housing Zone provides more houses and Parkway cannot meet the need that comes of this, this would be funded externally by Peabody.

## Planning area 2: Erith and Crayford

Current on roll = R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Cluster/school	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL	Max Cap
Barnehurst Infant	60	59	59	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	178	180
Barnehurst Junior	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	60	60	60	240	240
Belmont Academy	60	60	60	60	59	56	58	413	420
Christ Church Erith of E VA Primary	89	88	81	84	88	61	60	551	630
Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Temple Grove	30	31	30	28	30	30	30	209	210
Haberdashers' Aske's Slade Green Temple Grove	34	35	53	53	57	55	24	311	420
Normandy Primary	79	73	64	90	87	78	90	561	630
Northumberland Heath Primary	73	73	86	87	91	89	88	587	630
Peareswood Primary	58	47	57	55	52	54	57	380	420
St Fidelis Catholic Primary	60	61	60	61	62	63	62	429	420
St Joseph's Catholic Primary	30	30	30	28	30	32	29	209	210
St Paulinus CE Primary	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210	210
St Paul's (Slade Green) Primary	42	41	61	53	53	46	56	352	420
<b>Total cluster</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>4630</b>	<b>5040</b>

**Note for the 'Planning area 2: Erith and Crayford table:** Additional places built but not yet in use is 410.

(January 2020 school census. \* is where the school has been expanded but the numbers are working through the school so showing spare places)

These figures are taken from the annual census which is a snap shot of children in schools taken in January 2020. This data does not include in year applications received since this date and which average 102 per month across the borough based on the Oct 19- Oct 20 data. This has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19 There is also spare capacity built in to accommodate numbers coming through due to previous school expansion.

**Current Position:**

There are 13 infant, junior and primary schools in Erith and Crayford with 5040 places in all year groups and 645 Reception places currently taken up as at September 2020, this does not include in year applications we receive. Additional capacity is being used as the larger year groups move up through the school, at Christ Church CE Primary School, Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy & the split site at Slade Green, Northumberland Heath Primary School, Peareswood Primary School and Slade Green Primary School. All these schools have been expanded or enlarged since 2012 because of the increase number of children in the area and in preparation for new housing development & to allow spare capacity for future pupils.

Crayford is a particularly difficult area, as there are only three small, very popular primary schools, and a number of new homes have been built or are due to be built in the coming years. It is on the border of Kent, and a number of our residents, unable to secure a place at one of our local schools have traditionally applied for places within Kent primary schools or are offered schools in Bexleyheath, Slade Green and Erith. The expansion of Mayplace Primary School, all be it, this comes within the Bexleyheath Planning Area but also contribute to places in Crayford.

There are currently no new Reception places required and we are meeting the needs of pupils in this planning area. We will see less places available once new housing developments come into place within Crayford & Bexleyheath that will put pressure on existing school.

### Planning area 3: Bexleyheath

Current on roll = R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Cluster/school	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total	Max cap
Brampton Primary	49	45	45	58	58	58	55	368	420
#Bursted Wood Primary	90	89	90	89	90	58	61	567	630
Gravel Hill Primary	55	45	58	59	60	61	60	398	420
Hurst Primary	90	89	86	89	89	90	89	622	630
#*Mayplace Primary	88	86	59	59	60	60	58	470	630
Old Bexley CE Primary	94	101	118	120	120	118	89	760	840
Pelham Primary	51	54	55	60	57	57	60	394	420
St Thomas More Catholic Primary	60	60	59	60	60	60	60	419	420
Upland Primary	60	60	90	60	60	88	61	479	480
Upton Primary	60	60	60	61	63	65	63	432	420
<b>Total cluster</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>4909</b>	<b>5310</b>

**Note for the ‘Planning area 3: Bexleyheath’ table:** Additional places built but not yet in use is 401.

\*Mayplace Primary School officially opened in September 2019 and therefore the additional capacity will not yet be utilised but is available for the school year on year. These figures are taken from the annual census which is a snap shot of children in schools taken in January 2020. This data does not include in year applications received since this date and which average 102 per month across the borough based on the Oct 19- Oct 20 data. This has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19. There is also spare capacity built in to accommodate numbers coming through due to previous school expansion.

#### Current Position:

There are 10 primary schools in the planning area with 5,310 places in all year groups and 697 Reception places in September 2020. Additional capacity of 401 places have already been provided and are being used as the larger year groups move up through the school. This increase in places is mainly due to Mayplace Primary School permanent expansion was completed in September 2019 so an additional 210 places has been provided with full capacity being reached by 2025/26. is currently undergoing a permanent expansion but opened a new Reception class for pupils from September 2018 and has now increased its PAN from 60 to 90. Gravel Hill and Old Bexley CE Primary Schools were both permanently expanded as part of the Primary School Expansion programme in 2012-2014. Burstled Wood permanently expanded creating an additional 210 places, places will be taken up once children move up the school with it being full capacity by 2022.



The biggest development in Bexleyheath on the former Civic Offices Site is to provide 600 new homes & will put pressure on our existing schools in Bexleyheath & also to Crayford. 15 new Reception places were provided from September 2011 at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. Gravel Hill and Old Bexley CE Primary Schools increased their intakes by 30 children each in 2012, and both schools have now been expanded permanently. Gravel Hill Primary School opened an additional Year 3 class in September 2014 to meet local demand for in year places. Upland Primary school opened 2 bulge classes to provide places in Year 2 and Reception during 2017. We are confident that we have taken sufficient action to complete the expansions necessary from this new housing demand.

### Planning area 4: Welling

Current on roll = R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Cluster/school	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total	Max cap
Barrington Primary	27	31	30	32	34	31	30	215	240
Bishop Ridley CE VA Primary	56	60	50	59	64	64	60	413	420
Crook Log Primary	54	59	60	57	59	58	58	405	420
#Danson Primary	88	90	90	89	90	89	90	626	630
East Wickham Primary	72	90	75	82	89	90	86	584	630
Eastcote Primary	30	30	30	29	32	32	31	214	210
Foster's Primary	60	60	60	60	60	59	60	419	420
Hillsgrove Primary	46	37	48	60	59	59	59	368	420
Hook Lane Primary	60	58	60	60	61	61	60	420	420
St Michael's East Wickham CE VA Primary	16	29	25	26	29	28	26	179	210
St Stephen's Catholic Primary	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	420	420
<b>Total cluster</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>4263</b>	<b>4440</b>

**Note for the 'Planning area 4: Welling table:** Additional places built but not yet in use is 177.

These figures are taken from the annual census which is a snap shot of children in schools taken in January 2020. This data does not include in year applications received since this date and which average 102 per month across the borough based on the Oct 19- Oct 20 data. This has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19. There is also spare capacity built in to accommodate numbers coming through due to previous school expansion.

**Current Position:**

There are 11 primary schools in the Welling planning area with 4,440 places in all year groups and 569 Reception places currently taken up in September 2020. Additional capacity of 177 places is ready for use when needed for larger year groups.

The one-off bulge class of 30 places which opened at Barrington Primary School in September 2012 will not be required once the final group of pupils transition into secondary school in 2019 but the overall capacity remains the same.

Danson Primary School has been permanently expanded since September 2016 and being filled up year on year.

The projected number of Reception places required is relatively stable compared to other parts of the borough, however this planning area will be monitored, and any new housing developments be taken into consideration.

## Planning area 5: Sidcup

Current on roll = R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Cluster/school	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total	Max Cap
#Birkbeck Primary	88	60	58	61	59	60	59	445	630
Burnt Oak Junior	n/a	n/a	n/a	61	61	62	62	246	248
Chatsworth Infant	60	60	60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	180	180
Days Lane Primary	89	89	90	89	90	90	89	626	630
Dulverton Primary	61	60	60	60	60	60	59	420	420
Holy Trinity Lamorbey CE Primary	51	42	44	56	58	57	49	357	420
Hope Community School	23	29	21	23	19	26	25	166	210
Longlands Primary	45	46	40	46	40	46	37	300	315
Orchard Primary	27	31	28	29	27	26	28	196	210
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary	57	56	42	59	60	60	60	394	420
Royal Park Primary	59	42	60	58	57	56	27	359	420
Sherwood Park Primary	30	55	38	59	58	59	52	351	420
St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary	27	25	28	32	30	31	24	197	210
<b>Total cluster</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>4237</b>	<b>4733</b>

**Note for the 'Planning area 5: Sidcup' table:** Additional places built but not yet in use is 496.

(January 2020 school census. # is where the school has been expanded but the numbers are working through the school so showing spare places).

These figures are taken from the annual census which is a snap shot of children in schools taken in January 2020. This data does not include in year applications received since this date and which average 102 per month across the borough based on the Oct 19- Oct 20 data. This has dropped due to the impact of Covid-19. There is also spare capacity built in to accommodate numbers coming through due to previous school expansion.

### Current Position:

There are 13 infant, junior and primary schools in the planning area with 4,733 places in all year groups and 617 Reception places taken up in September 2020. Additional capacity of 496 have already been provided and are being used as the larger year groups move up through the school, at Royal Park Primary School and Hope Community School. This rise in places provided is due to the expansion of Birkbeck Primary School that came into fruition in September 2020 and will fill up year on year.

The Sidcup planning area covers a large part of the south of the borough from Blackfen and New Eltham to the west and Foots Cray and North Cray to the east. Demand for places has been higher in the east and centre of the planning area than in the west. A primary free school, Hope Community School, with 30 places in each year group opened in Foots Cray in September 2013. Expansions of schools in neighbouring planning areas, namely Old Bexley CE Primary School in 2012 and Danson Primary School in 2013, previously has relieved pressure on schools in Sidcup.

We are aware of multiple small developments currently underway in this planning area as well as 3 potential large developments that are expected to be delivered in the coming years. We plan for 3-5 years ahead which may result, temporarily, in the oversupplying places but will be available once these developments come into play along with our Growth Strategy. Therefore, part of the expansion of Birkbeck Primary School was required to ensure we are prepared for the planned growth in this planning area.

## **Secondary school places**

There are 16 secondary schools in Bexley with 3475 year 7 places and over 17,000 places in Years 7 to 11 in September 2020. All are Academies and make their own decisions on the provision of places and admissions.

The secondary schools are generally popular and successful. Bexley is a net importer of secondary-aged children from neighbouring boroughs, particularly into the four grammar schools. There is however evidence that out borough parents are starting to find attractive local school options, and the demand from out borough children may decrease in future.

Ongoing discussions with the Royal Borough of Greenwich have identified that they have an in-balance of secondary male school places resulting in planning approval being secured for a 1000 capacity all boys Harris School in Avery Hill Park. It is too early to speculate as to whether this will have a negative or positive impact on our school places but we will monitor this. Ongoing discussions with the Royal borough of Greenwich have they revealed

## **Section 6; Analysis: Early Years Education, Planning and Provision**

### **Duty of Local Authorities**

Local Authorities act as strategic leaders in facilitating the childcare market, focusing particularly on ensuring that sufficient, sustainable and flexible early education and childcare is available and is responsive to parents' needs.

Section 7 of the Childcare Act 2006 and part 4:87 of the Children and Families Act 2014, places a duty on English Local Authorities to secure free early years provision. Regulations made under these Acts set out the type and amount of free provision and the age of children to benefit. This guidance refers to 'early year's provision' as 'early education' or the 'free entitlement to early education' -

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/childcare.html>

The traditional deliver model was Nurseries attached to Schools offering parents and carers the opportunity for children to do half a day Nursery education prior to them starting school. However, in the changing world, where there are more one parent families and/or families where one or both parents need to work all day, more and more families are leaning towards the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector which offers more flexible model of part day, all-day, part-week nursery support. Additionally, there is no automatic right of admission from a Nursery to the school it is attached to.

Whilst Schools are aware of the benefit of having children attend their nurseries prior to them attending full time education, unfortunately due to the current economic educational climate a number of schools are starting to question the financial viability of operating this traditional approach. This has resulted in Schools looking at a number of alternative models including:

- Offering opening hours outside of normal school days
- Offering parents a full day nursery (30 hours extended Early Years Education Funding)
- Offering a part-week approach
- Early Years Education Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds

Since January 2015 Participation Funding has been allocated to Bexley and is based on actual take up of places. Funding does not go to the Local Authority (LA) where the child lives, but to the LA where the setting they are attending is, so there is no need for cross border arrangements. The Department for Education will only fund children attending Bexley settings who meet the national eligibility criteria for the Funded Entitlements.

Parents/ carers self-refer for childcare places to school nurseries, private, voluntary, statutory and independent childcare providers. This can only be provided by Ofsted registered Early Years settings and by Ofsted registered maintained and independent schools, all of whom deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

### **Funded entitlement for 2 year olds (Play2Learn):**

- This entitles eligible some two year olds to access funded early education. Eligibility under economic grounds is dependent on benefits and income. In addition, those who receive DLA or are Children Looked After are also able to apply for and access funded childcare places.
- This is part of the Government's Fairness Premium to drive up social mobility and improve life chances. The primary focus is on disadvantaged children who are currently less likely to access the benefits of early education, and this programme will support children to be ready for school.
- Local Authorities have had a statutory duty to provide free early education to disadvantaged two year olds since September 2013, when an extension to the existing entitlement for three and four year olds was introduced. Eligible families are entitled to up to 570 hours (the equivalent of 15 hours per week over 38 weeks) of funded early education for their two-year-olds.
- Initially the offer was for approximately 20,000 nationally. This was significantly increased and there was a further expansion to around 260,000 places from 2014 onwards. The expansion of the eligibility was phased, so that 20% of two-year-olds were eligible for the entitlement from 2013, and 40% from September 2014.
- Provision of a 2 Year Offer (Play2Learn) automatically links the family's details with Bexley Children and Family Centres database. Providers use an online portal to complete a termly census to LB Bexley schools finance team, which enables us to monitor funding and take up.
- The current level of take up in Bexley is compromised due to COVID. However, the average take up is between 65% and 70% of eligible children. There is currently a promotion and publicity campaign to increase this figure and the Early Years Team have been working closely with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) as part of their Together for Twos programme nationally. This campaign includes working in partnership with the Children and Family Centres and Bexley 0-19 Team to reach the most vulnerable families.

### **Funded Universal Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds:**

- All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to the Early Years Education Entitlement which provides up to 570 hours (the equivalent of 15 hours a week over 38 weeks) a year and is available to help parents provide early years education for their child.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP):**

- Settings can receive an additional amount for each eligible child accessing the free entitlement with them. The aim of the Early Years Pupil Premium is to close the gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers by providing funding to early years providers to help them raise the quality of their provision. It complements the Government-funded early education entitlement by providing nurseries, schools, and other providers with up to an additional up to £300 a year for each eligible child.
- The eligible groups for the EYPP will be children from low income families (defined as meeting the criteria for free school meals); children that have been looked after by the local authority for at least one day; have been adopted from care; have left care through special guardianship; and children subject to a child arrangement order setting out with whom the child is to live (formerly known as residence orders).

### **Disability Access Funding:**

- In April 2017, the government introduced a Disability Access Fund which provides £615 per year for each child accessing their 3 and 4 year old funding who receives DLA.
- 30 hours extended entitlement, funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds (Extended from 15 hours for working parents).

From September 2017, eligible working parents have been able to access up to a further 570 of free childcare per year (across one or more settings). This can be accessed over 38 weeks (term time only) or “stretched” across the year.

The entitlement is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them, where they wish, to return to work or to work additional hours.

To meet the principle of designing a system that is simple for working parents, the eligibility and application for 30 hours free childcare aligns with that for Tax-Free Childcare. Application is through an online portal managed by HMRC.

Where a four-year-old is attending a school reception class, they will not be able access either the 15 hours universal entitlement, or the entitlement to 30 hours free childcare in addition.

### **The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA):**

- This is done annually and provides an overview of provision of early years and childcare places available across Bexley. There are an estimated 6,550 children aged 3 and 4 years who are eligible to take up the Early Years Funding, approximately 1,810 of whom will be eligible for the extended 30 hours. In addition, there are approximately 830 children aged 2 years old eligible for the Play 2 Learn funding.



Before COVID, it was estimated that approximately 4700 places were taken up. Bexley has been able to meet its statutory requirements over the past years with the spaces available as not all parents want to place their children in a childcare provision at a young age. This data also comes with a provision that the number of 3 and 4 year olds estimated to be living in the area would include all 3 and 4 year olds, but not all of those children are eligible to receive the early education entitlement at any one time:

- Children who have just had their 3rd birthday are not eligible until the beginning of the term after their birthday;
- Children who are 4 but will have their 5th birthday during this academic year have left their nursery setting and started school.

Therefore, a percentage would show a lower proportion of children receiving the early education entitlement than is the case, particularly in the autumn term when a larger number of 4 year olds are at school.

The table below sets out the number of children in Bexley aged 0-4 years old by year group.

#### **Number of Bexley Children Aged 0-5**

<b>Year Cohort</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
0	3,133
1	3,119
2	3,189
3	3,210
4	3,338
5	3,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,174</b>

**Data source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 18 November 2019]**

Provision made in the private and voluntary sector and in nursery classes in independent and maintained schools is as follows:

Nurseries and Pre-schools for children aged 0 to 4 - There are 42 providers offering full day care (i.e. provision which is open for children aged 0 to 4 for more than 4 hours per day) and 52 providers offering sessional care, with a total of approximately 4,920 places.

Childminders - There are 374 Ofsted registered Childminders, with a total of approximately 1,980 places. Of these 212 registered Childminders judged "Good" or "Outstanding" by Ofsted have formally committed to offer the early education entitlement funded places.

The total number of early years places from childcare on non-domestic premises and childminders combined is approximately 6900.

In addition, there are 38 school nurseries offering 1593 places.

**(Data Extracted from Ofsted Dataset March 2020.)**

**Note:** It should be noted that a parent may only require part-time childcare and therefore 'a place' may be occupied by more than one child.

It is also important to note that places are not uniformly available to children of all ages.

**Additional places to facilitate the 30-hour offer:**

Since September 2017 when the 30 hours funded childcare programme was launched, we have had an increase in providers in Bexley. All of the private Day Nurseries and a large proportion of the Pre-schools are offering the extended hours as are a significant number of childminders. This has meant that the number of places in general has increased which in turn has allowed for the extra funded hours. We have not had any reports of parents not being able to access the full 30 hours. However, in some cases they may not have got their first choice of provider but were able to split their hours with their first choice provider and another (e.g. a nursery and a childminder). Please note that this is less likely during COVID.

Bexley providers have been keen to engage with the 30 hours and currently 90 of our 94 childcare settings are offering the extended hours in their settings as well as 13 schools and 122 childminders. We know that several providers are working in partnership to offer a 30 hour package that meets the needs of their parents.

We are working closely with schools to help them to deliver the 30 hours in a more flexible way and in partnership with PVI providers to meet the needs of working families.

## **Section 7; Analysis: Post-16 Education in Bexley**

### **National context**

The education and training landscape continues to face reform and faces increasing financial challenges to deliver more for less. There is increasing requirement to engage with businesses to deliver outcomes for careers guidance and industry placements as part of learning. At the same time the learning offer has been streamlined, with the intention to deliver quality of learning over quantity of choice. This means that providers, particularly in the apprenticeship space, risk facing an 'adapt or die' position and that, at least in the short-term, the range of learning for young people will be reduced, particularly at lower levels. Some of the key reforms to have taken place include:

The introduction of T-Levels from September 2020, with first delivery by a Bexley provider due to commence in September 2022.

Completion of the first stage of the Government's review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England (excluding T Levels, A Levels and GCSEs), which has resulted in a range of under-utilised courses being removed from delivery.

Cessation of apprenticeship frameworks from August 2020 with all apprenticeship starts from this date being on the newer apprenticeship standards, resulting in a reduction of apprenticeship training particularly at intermediate level (level 2).

The reform of Functional Skills qualifications in English and maths from September 2019.

The introduction of Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework and the reintroduction of the separate grading of sixth form provision.

Changes to Ofsted and DfE accountability frameworks, with a focus on progress/attainment 8 and destination measures.

The requirement to ensure good quality, impartial and independent Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) with school and college careers programmes forming part of Ofsted inspections.

### **Statutory duties upon Local Authorities**

Against this backdrop local authorities continue to retain responsibility for a number of statutory duties around ensuring an education and training offer that meets the needs of all resident learners:

Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people aged 16-19 and for those up to age 25 with a learning difficulty assessment (LDA) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in their area<sup>2</sup>. To fulfil this, local authorities

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<sup>2</sup> Section 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Skills and Children and Learning Act 2009)

need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.

Make available to all young people aged 13-19 and those up to age 25 with an LDA or EHC plan, support that will encourage, enable and assist them to participate in education and training<sup>3</sup>.

Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16- and 17-year olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training<sup>4</sup>. A key element of this is identifying the young people in their area who are covered by the duty to participate and encouraging them to find a suitable education or training place.

Local authorities must make arrangements - i.e. maintain a tracking system – to identify 16- and 17-year olds who are not participating in education or training. Putting in place robust arrangements to identify young people who are not engaged in education or training or who have left provision enables local authorities to offer support as soon as possible.

## **Statutory duties upon School, Colleges and other Providers**

In addition, education and training providers also have statutory responsibilities around ensuring full participation and the delivery of CEIAG to support transition and progression:

Participation:

Section 11 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 places a duty on community, foundation or voluntary schools, community or foundation special schools, pupil referral units, schools and colleges in the further education sector to exercise their functions, where possible, so as to promote good attendance to enable young people to meet their duty to participate.

Section 13 places a duty on all educational institutions (maintained schools, academies, colleges, and education training providers) to tell their local authority when a young person is no longer participating. This duty is applicable if a young person leaves an education or training programme before completion (i.e. 'drop-out') and enables local authorities to take swift action to encourage the young person to re-engage.

Following the publication of the Government's careers strategy in 2017, the statutory document on careers guidance was updated<sup>5</sup> with all schools required to:

Ensure that pupils are provided with independent careers guidance from year 8 to year 13 (legal duty came into force in September 2012)

Ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in year 8 to year 13 for the purpose of informing them about approved

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<sup>3</sup> Section 68 Education and Skills Act 2008

<sup>4</sup> Section 10 ESA 2008

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-provision-for-young-people-in-schools>

technical education qualifications or apprenticeships (legal duty came into force on 2 January 2018).

Publish a policy statement setting out their arrangements for provider access and ensure that it is followed (legal duty came into force on 2 January 2018).

Publish details of their careers programme for young people and their parents (legal duty came into force on 1 September 2018). And should:

- Begin using the Gatsby benchmarks to improve careers provision, and meet them by the end of 2020 (from January 2018).
- Begin to offer every young person seven encounters with employers – at least one each year from year 7 to year 13 – and meet this in full by the end of 2020, with some encounters taking place with STEM employers (from January 2018).
- Appoint a named person the role of Careers Leader to lead their careers programme (from September 2018).

## **Post-16 Provision**

There is a mixed economy of providers operating within Bexley post-16, including:

- 13 School Sixth Forms (excluding special schools)
- A Sixth Form College campus in Sidcup
- An FE College in Erith

Three Independent Training Providers operating in the area.

The Learning & Enterprise College Bexley (the borough's adult education provision) also offers provision to 16 to 19-year olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The majority of the post-16 offer is at Level 3 (A level and equivalent) and provides academic pathways to further study. In comparison the offer at Level 2 and below and in the Technical / Vocational pathways (at all levels, especially Level 3 and above) is more limited. Figures for the 2018/19 academic year show that 31.7% of Bexley's pupils did not achieve a standard pass in the English and maths GCSEs. When raising this to a strong pass the percentage who did not achieve increases to 50.7%.

This combination may explain why many Bexley residents travel outside of the borough for post-16 learning and Bexley's strong participation rates for its Year 12 and Year 13 cohorts suggests that access to learning opportunities is not a challenge for most. In terms of social mobility, however, it could suggest that residents who need more support to progress are unable to access that support and the opportunities it could lead to 'on their doorstep'.

The Council continues to provide an offer to learners with high and complex needs through its Local Colleges First offer, in partnership with LSEC and the Learning & Enterprise College Bexley.

There is also post-16 provision available for young people with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability at Woodside School, more information on SEN provision can be found in our SEN commissioning plan. In addition, the borough continues to be home to two renowned performing arts institutions, Rose Bruford and Bird College.

## Demographics

Population projections from the Greater London Authority suggest that the 16-19 cohort in Bexley will increase by 14.2% between 2020 and 2029, with the most significant year-on-year numerical changes occurring between 2023 and 2027.

The following 6 years to 2035 show little variance in the projected cohort numbers, but after then the cohort is projected to steadily grow year-on-year and, in 2050, be 18.5% higher than the 2020 baseline.

These latest GLA projections vary significantly from those in the last version of the Commissioning and SEN Commissioning Plan for Education, with each year cohort being circa 500 fewer than previous projections.

In the short-term, the projections suggest that local providers will need to increase their capacity to meet the demand through to 2027. Any actions to increase capacity in the short-term will then provide them with the capacity needed for at least the following 10 years.

Age in	16	17	18	19	Total 16 to 19	Numerical variance	% change	% variance from 2020
2020	2,730	2,845	2,725	2,225	10,526	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	2,758	2,761	2,748	2,196	10,463	-62	-0.6%	-0.6%
2022	2,793	2,793	2,678	2,214	10,478	15	0.1%	-0.5%
2023	2,941	2,833	2,711	2,178	10,662	184	1.8%	1.3%
2024	3,226	2,978	2,754	2,204	11,162	500	4.7%	6.0%
2025	3,062	3,254	2,892	2,246	11,455	292	2.6%	8.8%
2026	3,152	3,095	3,148	2,351	11,747	292	2.5%	11.6%
2027	3,265	3,185	3,000	2,543	11,993	247	2.1%	13.9%
2028	3,183	3,296	3,086	2,434	11,998	5	0.0%	14.0%
2029	3,113	3,216	3,190	2,501	12,020	22	0.2%	14.2%
2030	3,125	3,147	3,117	2,581	11,969	-51	-0.4%	13.7%
2031	3,177	3,159	3,050	2,529	11,915	-55	-0.5%	13.2%
2032	3,156	3,210	3,061	2,473	11,900	-15	-0.1%	13.1%
2033	3,135	3,188	3,109	2,483	11,915	15	0.1%	13.2%
2034	3,162	3,167	3,089	2,518	11,936	21	0.2%	13.4%
2035	3,184	3,192	3,068	2,505	11,949	13	0.1%	13.5%
2036	3,210	3,215	3,090	2,484	11,999	50	0.4%	14.0%
2037	3,207	3,241	3,113	2,499	12,059	60	0.5%	14.6%

2038	3,200	3,238	3,137	2,519	12,093	34	0.3%	14.9%
2039	3,199	3,230	3,134	2,538	12,100	7	0.1%	15.0%
2040	3,205	3,229	3,127	2,535	12,095	-5	0.0%	14.9%
2041	3,211	3,235	3,125	2,529	12,100	5	0.0%	15.0%
2042	3,216	3,241	3,132	2,528	12,117	17	0.1%	15.1%
2043	3,222	3,247	3,137	2,533	12,139	22	0.2%	15.3%
2044	3,229	3,253	3,143	2,537	12,162	23	0.2%	15.5%
2045	3,239	3,260	3,149	2,542	12,189	27	0.2%	15.8%
2046	3,252	3,270	3,155	2,547	12,223	35	0.3%	16.1%
2047	3,268	3,283	3,165	2,552	12,268	44	0.4%	16.5%
2048	3,287	3,299	3,178	2,560	12,324	56	0.5%	17.1%
2049	3,310	3,318	3,193	2,570	12,392	68	0.6%	17.7%
2050	3,336	3,341	3,212	2,583	12,472	80	0.6%	18.5%

**Source: GLA Short-term Population Trend (2018-based)**

#### **Funding of education and training for post-16 learners:**

Funding for education and training provision for 16-19-year olds and those aged 19-25 with a learning difficulty assessment or Education Health and Care plan in their area is provided to schools, colleges and training providers by DfE.

#### **Funded learner places:**

The following table indicates the number of places for 16-19-year olds funded in the 2019 to 2020 academic year to providers based in the London Borough of Bexley.

The funding allocations are based on the occupancy in the previous academic year, under the DfE's funding system known as 'lagged funding'.

In previous years, the DfE has stated the number of high needs students for the Local Authority block funding for high needs element 2 (maintained special schools). From 2019/20, maintained special schools need to agree place funding directly with their home local authority and so numbers are no longer provided by the DfE. The change also results in the high needs students figure for academy special schools now being recorded outside of the local authority block funding for high needs element 2.

As funding is allocated to support learners, it may be taken-up by those who do not reside in Bexley. However, this should be considered in the context of Bexley being a net exporter of learners for post-16 study.

Institution Name	Category	Total Students	High Needs Students (included in Total Students)
Beths Grammar School	Academy	539	1
Bexley Grammar School	Academy	395	1
Bexley London Borough Council	Local Authority	166	0
Bexley Youth Training Group	Independent Learning Provider	188	0
Bexleyheath Academy	Academy	212	0
Blackfen School for Girls	Academy	334	0
Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School	Academy	430	0
Cleeve Park School	Academy	141	4
Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy	Academy	128	0
Harris Academy Falconwood	Academy	235	0
Harris Garrard Academy	Academy	33	0
King Henry School	Academy	233	0
The Reynolds Group Ltd	Independent Learning Provider	130	0
Townley Grammar School	Academy	495	0
Trinity Church of England School, Belvedere	Academy	166	4
Welling School	Academy	125	0
Woodside School	Academy Special	15	15

**Source: Gov.UK 16 to 19 Allocation Data: 2019 to 2020 Academic Year**

There are two additional post-16 providers with campus locations in Bexley: Christ the King St Mary's and London South East Colleges. Funded learner places are allocated to an institution and not individual campus locations. Bexley would receive a share of the following allocated student and high needs student numbers, but not the whole amount.



Institution Name	Category	Total Students	High Needs Students (included in Total Students)
Christ The King Sixth Form College	Sixth Form College	2,368	35
London South East Colleges	General FE and Tertiary	3,827	253

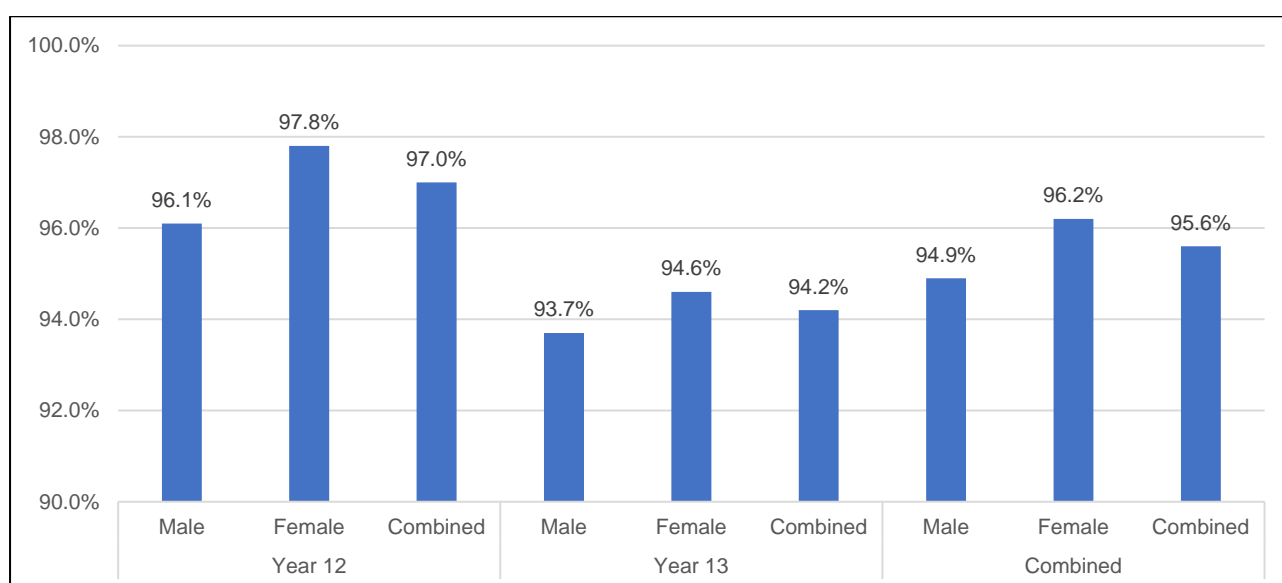
Source: Gov.UK 16 to 19 Allocation Data: 2019 to 2020 Academic Year

## Participation rates

At the end of August 2020, the participation rate of Bexley residents in year 12 (aged 16/17) was 97.0%, with participation rates higher for females than males (at 97.8% and 96.1% respectively).

The participation rate for year 13 (aged 17/18) was 94.2%, a difference of 2.8 percentage points compared to year group below. Again, participation rates are higher for females than males (at 94.6% and 93.7% respectively), but the gap in participation is narrower by 0.8 percentage points.

The combined participation rate of 95.6% is 0.7 percentage points higher than at August 2017 and consistent with previous years. This combined rate is higher than both the London and England averages at 94.5% and 87.5% respectively.



Source: 15billion EBP Local Authority Monthly MI Report, August 2020

## Destinations:

School sixth forms continue to attract the highest number of Bexley pupils for post-16 study, with 57% of the 2016/17 year 11 cohort progressing to a school sixth form in the 2017/18 academic year (note the data is time lagged to allow for sustained destination data to be shown).

### 2017/18 Key Stage 4 Destinations for the 2016/17 Cohort:

Any sustained education or employment	Any sustained education destination	Further education college or another FE provider	School sixth form - state funded	Sixth form college
95%	87%	23%	57%	6%
Other education destinations	Sustained apprenticeships	Sustained employment destination	Destination not sustained	Activity not captured in the data
1%	4%	3%	4%	1%

Source: DfE Key Stage 4 Destination Measures

### Analysis of Year 12 study

Data from 15billion EBP shows that 98.0% of the 3,215 year 11 students from the 2018/19 academic year met the duty to participate.

2,987 (92.9%) progressed to full-time education in year 12, 0.7% to full-time training and 4.4% to other learning. These percentages remain consistent with the previous year and in-line with the destination measures data.

Full Time Education	Number	% 2018/19 year
School Sixth Form	2,041	64%
Further Education College	800	24.90%
Sixth Form College	143	4.40%
Higher Education	0	0%
Other post-16 education	3	0.10%
Custodial Institution	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>92.90%</b>

Full-time training	Number	% 2018/19 year
EFA work-based training	7	0.20%
Other training	0	0%
Traineeship	17	0.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.70%</b>

Other	Number	% 2018/19 year
Apprenticeships	128	4%
Employment with training	12	0.40%
Working towards	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>4.40%</b>

Grand total of data from the 'Full Time Education', 'Full-time training' and 'Other' tables above:

Type	Number	% 2018/19
Full Time Education, Full-time training and Other	3151	98%

**Source: 15billion EBP Local Authority Activity Survey Analysis Report 2019**

Annual data from 2015 to 2018 suggested a decreasing proportion of year 11 students progressing to the school sixth form linked to their secondary school. This fell from 44.8% in 2015 to 37.6% in 2018. The latest data for 2019 suggests this has turned a corner, rising to 41.7%.

Although too early to suggest this will be ongoing, the increase in young people with special educational needs, and anxieties related to the coronavirus pandemic, may result in more students seeking to remain in a known 'safe space' than move to another provider for post-16 study.

Destination Type	2018 - Number	2018 - percent (%)	2019 - Number	2019 - percent (%)
School Sixth Form - Same School	1,091	37.60%	1,245	41.70%
School Sixth Form - other school	925	31.90%	796	26.60%

**Source: 15billion EBP Local Authority Activity Survey Analysis Report 2019**

Percentages are of all year 11 students who progressed to full-time education in the following academic year.

The Activity Survey report also shows most year 11 students progress to level 3 learning in year 12, with 60.0% progressing to A or AS or A2 level and 16.3% to NVQ level 3 or equivalent.

The combined figure of 73.6% is below the combined figure for 2018, but above that for 2017. Over the three-year period, an average of 1,787 year 11 students progressed to A or AS or A2 level, and an average of 491 to NVQ level 3 or equivalent.

The number of year 11 students undertaking year 12 study at NVQ level 2 or equivalent (excluding GCSEs, which are recorded separately) has remained relatively steady over the last two years after seeing a significant fall between 2017 and 2018.

Of note is the number of year 11 students progressing to "Other courses" in year 12. This number is growing year-on-year and has done so by 72.9% since 2017. While this cohort is meeting the duty to participate, as they are in full-time education, it is impossible to cross-analyse the data to suggest what type of learning is generating this growth.

Qualification Type	2018 - Number	2018 - percent (%)	2019 - Number	2019 - percent (%)
GCE A or AS or A2 level	1,877	64.70%	1,792	60.00%
NVQ level 3 or equivalent	452	15.60%	487	16.30%
NVQ level 2 or equivalent	249	8.60%	267	8.90%
NVQ level 1 or equivalent	138	4.80%	217	7.30%
Other courses	162	5.60%	204	6.80%
GCSE Course(s)	25	0.90%	17	0.60%
Higher education qualification	0	0.00%	3	0.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>100.20%</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Source: 15billion EBP Local Authority Activity Survey Analysis Report 2019, note: percentage is of those in full-time education**

As most year 11 students progress to A or AS or A2 level qualifications, it is not surprising that most students in year 12 full-time education are studying specific academic courses.

There has, however, been notable growth in the number studying specific vocational qualifications. In 2017, this figure was 52. In 2018, the figure was 33. In 2019, the figure has jumped to 286. This may, in part, be down to an improvement of data capture with the number of “Unknown” courses by 103 over the three-year period.

Outside of the ‘specific’ courses, a strong number of young people progress into construction, building services and crafts study; positive as the construction sector is one of Bexley’s largest areas by employee count and this study will deliver the skills needed to deliver Bexley’s growth ambitions. Likewise, business management provides leadership and communication skills often sought by employers.

There are areas of potential under-utilisation when considering Bexley’s labour market needs. The number of year 12 students in social care and counselling has fallen by a third compared to 2017. Motor vehicles and maintenance has seen a slight increase since 2017, but number remain below the level of need resulting from the transport industry, predominantly in the north of the borough. The numbers studying engineering and manufacturing technologies has fallen by 46% compared to 2017, despite major employers like Ocado coming into the borough with advanced and increasingly automated distribution centres. And while business management attracted the fourth highest number of students from all course options, the numbers studying have fallen by almost 40% compared to 2017.

For areas such as motor vehicles and maintenance and engineering and manufacturing technologies, the costs of space and associated equipment may make these courses financially unviable to providers, particularly with the student numbers. For areas such as social care and counselling, the well-publicised lack of financial link between work and reward (particularly in care roles) is likely dissuading young people from considering this as a viable career pathway. Conversely accounting and finance, the sector that typically achieves the highest earnings for younger people, has seen the number of year 12 students more than double since 2017. While Bexley does not have

a strong finance sector in terms of employee count, the ever-improving accessibility of central London and Canary Wharf may be encouraging more young people to this study.

<b>Course studied</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent %</b>
Specific academic courses	1,797	60.2%
Specific vocational courses	286	9.6%
Construction, building services and crafts	135	4.5%
Business management	93	3.1%
Arts, fine arts, crafts and design	72	2.4%
Sport, leisure and recreation	69	2.3%
Hairdressing and beauty therapy	57	1.9%
Media, publishing and communication	48	1.6%
Social care and counselling	46	1.5%
Dramatic / performing arts	35	1.2%
Early years and play work	34	1.1%
Motor vehicle and transportation	30	1.0%
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	29	1.0%
Law and legal services	27	0.9%
Life skills / support learning	25	0.8%
Public services	24	0.8%
Travel and tourism	23	0.8%
Developing IT systems / ICT for users	22	0.7%
Hospitality and catering	21	0.7%
Animal care and veterinary services and equine	19	0.6%
Accounting and finance	19	0.6%
Dance and music	17	0.6%
IT, ICT and electronic services	16	0.5%
Unknown	10	0.3%
Not recorded	5	0.2%
Administration and customer service	5	0.2%
Literacy and numeracy	4	0.1%
Fashion	3	0.1%
Science	3	0.1%
Technical and professional	3	0.1%

Mathematics	2	0.1%
Health, medicine and dentistry	2	0.1%
Other courses	6	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>n/a</b>

**Source: 15billion EBP Local Authority Activity Survey Analysis Report 2019, note: percentage is of those in full-time education**

#### **Travel to learn patterns:**

When considering travel to learn patterns of those in Years 12 and 13, Bexley remains a net exporter of learners post-16.

Data from the London CCIS travel to study report for the 2018/19 cohort shows a combined cohort of 5,400 Bexley residents in education. Of this figure, 3,020 both live and study in the borough and the remaining 2,380 travel out of the borough for learning. By comparison, 1,875 learners travel into Bexley from other areas for post-16 study.

Of the Bexley residents who travel out of the borough to learn, the majority travel to Kent (1,162), Greenwich (538) and Bromley (385). Of the learners who travel into Bexley for their learning, the highest numbers come from Greenwich (1,205), Lewisham (353) and Bromley (289).

<b>Area of study</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% in education</b>
Bexley	3,020	55.9%
Bromley	385	7.1%
Greenwich	538	10.0%
Kent	1,162	21.5%
Other	295	5.5%
<b>Total in education</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>n/a</b>

**Source: 15billion EBP.**

## Section 8; Housing Completions, expected child yields and impact on demand for school places

This section sets out the housing development currently expected in Bexley over the next 3 years and the estimated numbers of additional children that will require school places as a consequence.

### 2017/18

In 2017/18, 304 gross new homes were provided in Bexley:

2017/2018 - Tenure and Size	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 & more Bedroom	Total
Market	109	108	42	45	304
Affordable – intermediate/ shared ownership	0	0	0	0	0
Affordable – rented	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>304</b>

### 2018/19

In 2018/19, 825 gross new homes were provided in Bexley:

2018/2019 - Tenure and Size	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 and more Bedroom	Total
Market	252	201	72	10	535
Affordable – intermediate/ shared ownership	9	80	19	0	108
Affordable – rented	36	97	47	2	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>825</b>

### 2019-2022

In the period 2019 to 2022, 2,430 gross new homes are anticipated to be provided in Bexley:

2019-2022 - Tenure and Size	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 and more Bedroom	Total
Market	510	743	289	81	1,623
Affordable – intermediate/ shared ownership	99	175	37	4	315
Affordable – rented	162	193	105	32	492
<b>Total</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2,430</b>

Bexley's housing requirement within the current London Plan (2016) has been set at 446 units per year and includes both conventional and non-conventional housing (non-self-contained accommodation and vacant properties returning to use) and a small sites 'windfall' allowance of 109 units per year.

On 9 December 2019, following on from the examination in public of his draft new London Plan, the Mayor submitted to the Secretary of State his 'Intend to Publish' version of the London Plan<sup>3</sup> (the 'new Plan'). If the new Plan is published in its final form as proposed in this version, then the housing requirement for Bexley will be 685 units per year.

The Council considers that it is on course to exceed its London Plan target over the next five years (Apr 2020 – Mar 2025), with 3,990 net units anticipated via specific sites, and compared with a London Plan target of 3,425 units from conventional housing supply. This conclusion is based on consideration of sites identified within the GLA's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2017, as updated, and sites that have planning permission or are under construction. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to identify an additional 5-20% buffer above their housing requirements: Bexley meets this requirement. (LBB Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment, April 2020).

Key areas where development is underway include:

**Erith:** The first 154 homes have been occupied on the first phases of the residential development on Erith Quarry. The original outline consent was for a development of up to 600 homes and an additional planning application to provide up to 249 additional homes with 35% affordable housing has now been submitted. Construction on the new primary school on the site is underway. Orbit are nearing completion of their former office site in West Street to provide 42 new affordable homes. Orbit are also developing a former garage site in Hurstwood Avenue to provide 8 homes for London Affordable Rent by September 2021.

**Thamesmead:** Peabody have planning consent to provide over 1,600 homes in South Thamesmead. Work is on-going on the first phase which will provide over 500 homes, a new library, retail units, opportunities for local enterprises, a new lakeside square and space for outdoor activities. Peabody have a 10-year programme to comprehensively redevelop the area for the benefit of the wider community.

**Slade Green:** Work is underway on the former Linpac site, Richmer Road to provide 336 homes with the first phase nearing completion. Orbit are regenerating the former Arthur Street estate to provide a mixed tenure scheme of over 320 homes by April 2023. The site previously had 263 homes so this will be an additional 57 homes.

**Bexleyheath:** The first homes in the development on the former Civic Offices site in the Broadway have been occupied. The scheme which will provide over 500 homes including 117 affordable homes which will complete in phases from 2020 – 2023. Hexagon Housing Association are nearing completion of 16 homes for London Affordable Rent in Watling Street.



**Crayford:** L&Q are developing a scheme in Maiden Lane which will provide 35 affordable homes when it is completed in early 2022.

**Belvedere** Moat Housing are developing a site in Nuxley Road which will provide 26 homes for London Affordable Rent in September 2021 .

**Sidcup** BexleyCo are developing a scheme of 58 homes at Old Farm Park of which 21 will be affordable housing owned by Moat and will be completed by July 2021. Work is underway on the former Oceanic House site, Sidcup Hill to provide 42 homes of which 5 will be for shared ownership.

### **Child Yields and School Places**

Bexley’s Planning Obligations Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (2008) uses methodology developed by the GLA to calculate child yield from new housing developments as follows:

<b>Children per household</b>	<b>1 Bedroom</b>	<b>2 Bedroom</b>	<b>3 Bedroom</b>	<b>4 and more Bedroom</b>
Owner-occupied, intermediate or shared ownership	0.04	0.1	0.38	0.64
Social rented	0.04	0.59	0.99	1.69

**Source: Table C2, LBB Planning Obligations Guidance SPD, from GLA Data Management and Analysis Group, Briefing 2005/25**

Using this methodology, the developments summarised above would produce total expected child yields and demand for additional education places as below. However, we realise that current trends are for more children to reside in smaller houses so we use additional information when assessing future demand.

**Table note:**

- AEP = Additional education places

<b>Period (Year)</b>	<b>Expected Child Yield</b>	<b>AEP primary</b>	<b>AEP secondary</b>	<b>AEP post-16</b>
2017/18	60	30	11	5
2018/19	188	94	33	15
2019/22	573	286	102	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>66</b>

<b>Period (Year)</b>	<b>Expected Child Yield</b>	<b>AEP primary</b>	<b>AEP secondary</b>	<b>AEP post-16</b>
Average annual	164	82	29	13

The housing completion figures for 2019/20 onwards – and expected child yields and demand for additional education places derived from them – are projections based on the best information currently available.

Our previous expansion programme has provided the additional places required & identified in the table above, any places that cannot be met by previous expansions will be created when required.

## Section 9; Capital Funding

The Council has received its Basic Need allocation and due to our mainstream expansions coming to a close for now, we have not been allocated funding for 2021-2022. With Free schools and Academisation most of the capital funding is going direct, this puts pressure on Bexley to ensure sufficient school places are provided. Bexley has previously committed to borrowing to fund expansion programmes outside of any Central Government funding. All of our existing expansion projects have been fully funded. If a requirement for a mainstream expansion occurs over the next 3 years, options will need to be explored further. However, it is anticipated via our forecasts that this will not be the case, but this will continue to be monitored with our colleagues in the data performance team.

Similar to previous years for new pupil places required because of housing development it is necessary to look to developer contribution monies. We have used developer contribution funding in Thamesmead for the Parkway Primary School expansion and still have the potential for another school to be expanded should it be required once the houses start to come in. It is currently anticipated that these will start to come into practice in 2022/23, there will be a likely spike in school places which we have already built and are ready for use. Developer contribution funding has been secured through the negotiation of S106 agreements. Whilst S106 remains for meeting specific requirements of individual developments, the arrangement is to be supplemented by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a local tariff on all developments to provide new service capacity to support development. We have received CIL contributions in the past however it did not cover costs in full.

Bexley are looking at future and alternative funding opportunities building on the work that has already been done to secure and fund the new 3 FE primary school on the Erith Quarry site and the £8m secured as part of the Thamesmead Housing Zone.

Future funding models could include working with Free Schools and Academies to secure joint or full funding to meet the cost of expansion such as the recently delivered SEN Free School at Cleeve Park with a contribution from Bexley as well as funding from the Govt. Similarly, works will also be taking place in Belvedere for another SEN free school which was externally funded – more information on this is available within our SEN Commissioning plan.

Bexley will continue to pursue appropriate bidding opportunities for government grant where necessary.

Existing Premises and Sites: Where possible utilising or re-purposing existing space has been investigated and has provided some cost-effective extra places. In drawing up options and proposals around reshaping provision and/or providing additional places feasibility studies are commissioned to consider the condition and suitability of existing premises, the ability to expand or alter the premises, the works required and the associated costs, the size and topography of the site and road access to the site including road safety. Any expansion will be future proofed to ensure that any work is sustainable and fit for purpose over a reasonable period of time.

**Value for Money:**

Any decision to build new school provision will be based on the long-term sustainability of school rolls. Modular buildings and modern methods of construction will be used to meet short term pressures on school places and to ensure complete value for money. Full consideration will be given to which route provides the best value for money which can be achieved within the timeframe available. This will include relocating any existing modular buildings once they become available and identifying schools where expansion can be achieved through refurbishing and utilising existing areas within the school.

The planning window for additional primary places is short and can often be affected by external factors. This will frequently mean that schools suitable for expansion will need a temporary solution followed by a permanent expansion once statutory consultation has been completed. However, recently we have experienced a stability with our school places and with our mainstream expansions currently complete, this is something we will monitor moving forwards.



Image of Mayplace Reception Expansion

## Section 10; Schools Status and Land Ownership at time of publication

The ownership of school land and buildings within the borough is complex and is determined by the category of each school. It has also undergone a rapid change in recent years. Whilst the public's perception may be that all school land and buildings are owned by the Local Authority, the reality is that ownership is not with one single body and has resulted from numerous legislative changes over many years. Bexley schools fall into the following categories:

- Community Schools
- Voluntary Controlled Schools
- Voluntary Aided Schools
- Academies
- PFI Schools
- Free Schools

### Community Schools

The freehold of community school land and buildings is owned by the local authority. There are 8 community primary schools and 1 community special school.

**Schools are primary schools for children aged 5-11 unless indicated otherwise**

- Birkbeck Primary School
- Crook Log Primary School
- Danson Primary School
- Dulverton Primary School
- Longlands Primary School
- Orchard Primary School
- Parkway Primary School
- Upton Primary School

### Marlborough Special Secondary School

School	Admission number	School	Admission number
Birkbeck	90	Orchard	30
Crook Log	59	Parkway	30
Danson	90	Upton	60
Dulverton	60	Marlborough Special Secondary *	85 (total)
Longlands	45	n/a	n/a

## Voluntary Controlled Schools

The borough has one voluntary controlled school, Foster's Primary School where the freehold of the buildings and land upon which the buildings stand is owned by the school's charitable foundation. The freehold of the playing fields is owned by the borough and Bexley also has a lease of the on-site former caretaker's house.

Bexley owns the freehold of the Old Bexley CE Primary School land and buildings which was previously a Voluntary Controlled School with a long lease of the whole site granted to the charitable trust for the school. The school has now transferred to academy status but their interest in the land has remained unchanged.

## Voluntary Aided Schools

For this type of school, the freehold of the playing fields is owned by the borough and the freehold of the buildings and surrounding hard landscaping is owned by the school. St Catherine's and St Columba's secondary schools were voluntary aided school prior to their transfer to academy status however both schools owned the freehold for all of the land and buildings on their respective sites. Eight primary schools remain voluntary-aided, as below. Christ Church Erith CE Primary School and St Augustine's CE Primary School, Holy Trinity, St Michael's and St Paulinus were voluntary aided schools but have become academies. On transfer to academy status a lease for the school playing field was granted to the respective academy trust for each of these schools.

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### VA Schools

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Bishop Ridley CE Primary School

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Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

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St Fidelis Catholic Primary School

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St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School

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St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

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St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

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### Academies

All of the secondary schools (apart from Marlborough Special School) in the borough and the majority of primary schools have become Academies. The land ownership is determined by their status prior to transfer. Where a school was previously a community school, a lease of the land and buildings has been granted for a term of 125 years in accordance with the Academies Act 2010. Where a school was previously a foundation school, the freehold of the land and buildings will have transferred. King Henry School, Beths Grammar School, Hurstmere School, Bexley Grammar School and Barnehurst Infants and Junior Schools are examples of this.

Bexleyheath Academy and Welling School were substantially rebuilt and became operational under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract in 2005/6. In both cases, they were foundation schools prior to academy transfer and therefore the freehold of

the land and buildings has transferred subject to the PFI contract (effectively a fully serviced mortgage), which remains with the borough until it completes in 2030.

There are a number of Academy trusts and federations which operate secondary and primary schools in Bexley and other areas:

- **Academies Enterprise Trust**
  - Bexleyheath Academy
  
- **Amadeus**
  - Castilion Primary
  - Hillsgrove Primary
  - Holy Trinity Lamorbey
  - Old Bexley C of E Primary School and St Paulinus C.E. Primary School
  
- **Haberdashers' Aske's Federation**
  - Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy has an all-through primary and secondary campus in Crayford and a primary campus in Slade Green (the former Slade Green Junior School)
  
- **Harris Federation**
  - Harris Academy Falconwood
  - Harris Garrard Academy
  
- **IGNIS**
  - Barrington Primary and Bedonwell Infants and Junior Schools
  
- **Kemnal Academy Trust (TKAT)**
  - Cleeve Park School
  - Cleeve Meadow School
  - East Wickham Primary Academy (formerly East Wickham Infant and Junior Schools)
  - Royal Park Primary School
  - Shenstone Special School
  - Welling School
  
- **Leigh Academies Trust**
  - Eastcote Primary Academy
  
- **London South East Academy Trust**
  - Aspire Academy Bexley Primary
  - Belmont Primary School
  - Endeavour Academy Bexley
  - Horizons Academy Bexley
  - Woodside Academy
  
- **Maritime Trust**
- **Hook Lane Primary School**

- **Odyssey Trust for Education**
  - King Henry School
  - Townley Grammar School
- **Reach 2 Academy Trust**
  - Brampton Primary School
- **Southwark Diocese**
  - St Michaels Catholic School
- **The Pelham Academy Trust**
  - Pelham Primary School and Normandy Primary School
- **The Penhill Umbrella Trust**
  - Hurstmere School
  - Blackfen School
  - Sherwood Park Primary School
  - Bexley Grammar
  - Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar
- **The Pioneer Academy Trust**
  - Belvedere Infants School
  - Belvedere Junior School
  - Burnt Oak Primary
  - Chatsworth Primary
- **The Primary First Trust**
  - Barnehurst Infant School
  - Barnehurst Junior School
  - Mayplace Primary School
  - Lessness Heath Primary School
- **Trinitas Multi-Academy Trust**
  - Christ Church Erith CE Primary School
  - St Augustine's CE Primary School
  - Trinity School
  - Northwood Primary School
  - St Pauls (Slade Green) Primary
  - Jubilee Primary School
- **Unity Academy Trust**
  - Upland Primary School
  - Gravel Hill Primary School



- **Woodland Academy Trust**
  - Northumberland Heath Primary School
  - Peareswood Primary School
  - Willow Bank Primary School
  
- **Single Academy Trusts**
  - Beths Grammar School
  - Burstled Wood Primary School
  - Days Lane Primary School
  - St Catherine's Catholic School
  - St Columba's Catholic Boys School
  - Hurst Primary School

There is one Free School within the borough which is the Hope Community School located in Sidcup.

# Section 11; Appendices

## Appendix A - Housing trajectory for Net Additional dwellings

Table 12.1: Housing trajectory (number of net dwellings)

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	
	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Rep	Cur	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
H2(a) performance																								
H2(b) performance	426	542	807	109	816	277	566	161																
H2(c) projections:																								
(i) managed supply								249	615	615	920	920	920	797	797	797	797	797	786	786	786	786	786	
(ii) hectares							8.782	4.289	7.056	7.056	9.155	9.155	9.155											
(iii) target	335	446	446	446	446	446	446	466	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	685	
NPPF uplift in supply									34	34	34	34	34											
H2(d) projections	426	542	807	109	816	277	566	410	581	581	886	886	886	797	797	797	797	797	786	786	786	786	786	

Figure 12.1: Housing Trajectory (net)

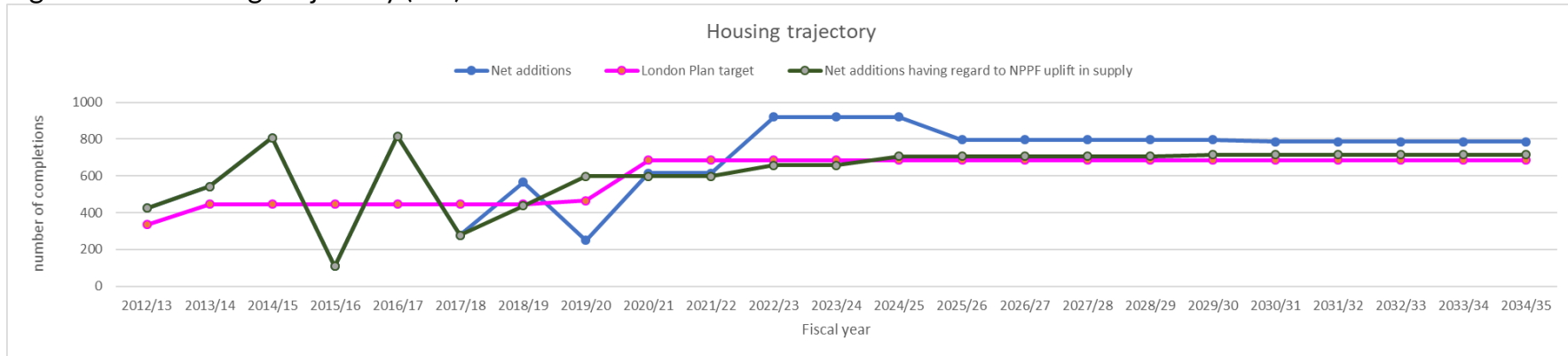


Figure 12.2 Cumulative housing completions (net) and targets

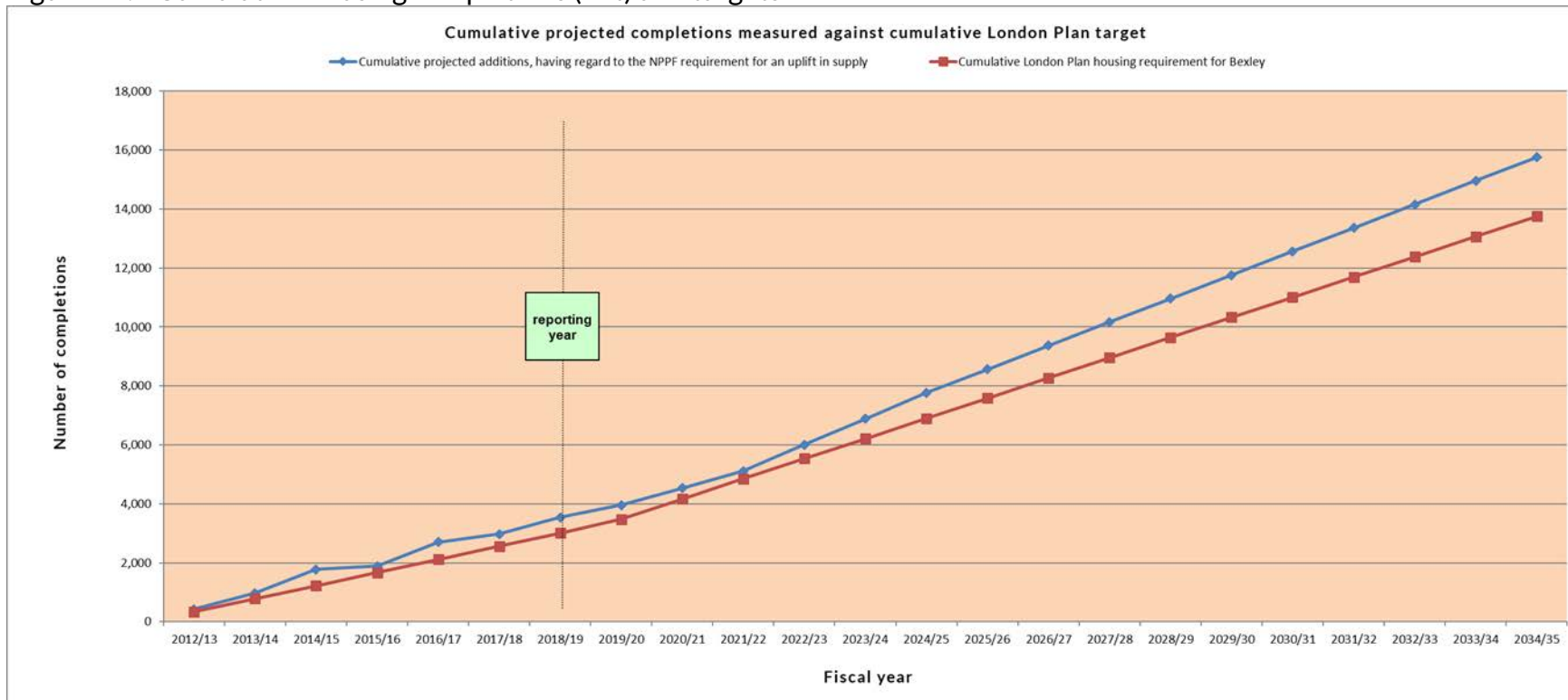


Figure 12.1 illustrates the housing trajectory by combining the results and projections set out in table 12.1 (H2(a), H2(b), H2(c)(i) and (iii), and H2(d)).

The pink line shows Bexley’s London Plan annual housing delivery target identified in the London Plan. Looking forward the Intend to Publish version of the London Plan (December 2019) set a 10 year housing target for Bexley of 6,850 new homes.

The blue line shows the actual net additional homes delivered during the 2018/2019 reporting year (H2(a)) and the projected housing supply for future years. The projected net additions deduct the NPPF 5% uplift in supply over the housing delivery target from the managed supply (H2(c)(iv)).

The green line shows the actual and projected net additions (H2(d)), having regard to actual and projected performance against the annual London Plan housing delivery target.

The table and figures show Bexley to be on target overall in delivering housing. In addition, the uplift in managed supply ensures that the borough is also on track in the longer term to meet or exceed its London Plan ten year housing delivery target. Figure 12.2 sets out how cumulative existing and proposed completions compare with cumulative targets for completions. Figures 12.1 and 12.2 and Table 12.1 demonstrate that housing provision in Bexley has been – and is projected to continue to be – in line with housing requirements set in The London Plan and adopted by the Bexley Core Strategy.



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