

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	Rotherham Schools' Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Christopher Stones Principal Officer School Organisation
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Falling Rolls and New Housing Developments

## 1. Background

<b>1.1</b>	In England, the number of primary pupils increased in each academic year between 2009/10 and 2018/19, before beginning to decrease after 2018/19. The population attending primary schools peaked in 2019 and the figures have been gradually falling since then. This is primarily due to the number of births generally falling since 2012.																														
<b>1.2</b>	<p>Rotherham Births: -</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Birth Year</th> <th>16/17</th> <th>17/18</th> <th>18/19</th> <th>19/20</th> <th>20/21</th> <th>21/22</th> <th>22/23</th> <th>23/24</th> <th>24/25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Admission Year</th> <td>21/22</td> <td>22/23</td> <td>23/24</td> <td>24/25</td> <td>25/26</td> <td>26/27</td> <td>27/28</td> <td>28/29</td> <td>29/30</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Grand Total</th> <td>3039</td> <td>2994</td> <td>3000</td> <td>2719</td> <td>2796</td> <td>2898</td> <td>2794</td> <td>2765</td> <td>2864</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Birth Year	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Admission Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	Grand Total	3039	2994	3000	2719	2796	2898	2794	2765	2864
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<b>1.3</b>	The number of secondary pupils decreased in each academic year between 2009/10 and 2014/15, before beginning to increase after 2014/15. Since 2018, the population in secondary schools had been steadily increasing by around 2% a year until 2023 where it then slowed down to a 1.3% increase in 2024. The latest census shows a 0.1% decrease in 2025. Projections data indicate that the secondary school population is likely to have plateaued between 2024 and 2025, will remain at a similar level until 2026, and is then projected to start declining slowly.																														
<b>1.4</b>	Pupil forecasts should only include expected pupil yields from housing developments that have a high probability of being delivered within the period of the forecasts. In most cases such developments will have full planning permission.																														
<b>1.5</b>	New housing developments may generate additional pupil forecasts, but we need to be careful to avoid double-counting pupil yields which are already factored into our forecasts by default through cohort progression or migration. In addition, as part of our forecast, we should consider what proportion of the pupil yield may come from within the same planning area as the development. Housing developments can have a significant impact on the demand for places in individual planning areas, or across our entire local authority.																														

2. Key Issues	
2.1	In forecasting for housing developments, we would consider patterns of movement to these developments. We consider if new developments are likely to be populated by families moving in from outside our local authority. If so, it is important to ensure that we only count these pupils once and are not added both as part of our 'housing yield' calculation and as inward migrants, where these are counted separately.
2.2	If new developments are more likely to be populated by local families moving a short distance, we consider who will fill the houses they move out of. If there is a lot of local movement, consider that some of the pupils who move into the new developments might remain in their existing school places. This could mean the effect of the new development on school place need is spread over a wider area.
2.3	One thing to consider is the rate at which houses are built in the area. If this is fairly steady over time (i.e. housing stock increases by x% each year) then it is likely that the pupil yield will already be captured in a migration factor or cohort progression rate. It is only if the speed of house building changes (up or down) that we may need to adjust our forecasts to take account of this.
2.4	Where there is a demonstrable increase in the rate at which new housing is being delivered, we would determine an appropriate additional yield figure above that already included in the forecasting models.

### 3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	<p>RMBC Planning Department notify School Organisation with details of new developments including number of dwellings proposed. The DfE provide calculators via the Pupil Yield Data Dashboard for potential pupils generated and these are factored into future Projections: -</p> <p>Latest Pupil Yield split by School phase and School type for England.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Academic Year</th> <th>Local authority</th> <th>School type</th> <th>Early Years</th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> <th>Special Schools/AP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>England</td> <td>Mainstream</td> <td>0.0631</td> <td>0.2528</td> <td>0.1252</td> <td>z</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>England</td> <td>Special School</td> <td>z</td> <td>Z</td> <td>z</td> <td>0.0089</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This chart shows Pupil Yields for number of bedrooms set to all, housing type set to all and tenure set to all for properties completed up to 2021/22.</p>	Academic Year	Local authority	School type	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	Special Schools/AP	2021/22	England	Mainstream	0.0631	0.2528	0.1252	z	2021/22	England	Special School	z	Z	z	0.0089
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3.2	In some cases, the local school and planning area would be able to absorb the additional pupils generated. Where they cannot, a S106 Education request is made in order to generate funding to aid future pupil places. However, this funding does not always cover the costings involved in creating additional school places. Also, developers can use viability in order to negate Education and other stakeholder funding requests being ratified.																					
3.3	Annually, the LA complete the DfE's School Capacity Return (SCAP) which projects future pupil numbers, along with School Capacity data. This year's SCAP return will be completed in Summer 2026 and is used to inform sufficiency data for pupil places across the Borough. Where potential issues are projected, relevant schools are contacted regarding any proposed impact in the learning community. Highlights from SCAP 2025 are included at <b>Appendix 1</b> .																					

#### 4. Recommendations

4.1	That Schools Forum note the content of the briefing and consider any additional actions required.
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