

PUPIL PLACE PLAN 2025/2026 to 2029/2030



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Introduction

The Education Act 1996 (Section 14) places a duty on Local Authorities to ensure that there are sufficient schools places in their area to provide primary and secondary education.

Sefton Council is committed to delivering sufficient school places across each of the planning areas.

The data in this booklet is based on data from the 2023/2024 academic year including the School Census January 2024 and May 2024 and the birth data for 2022/2023 academic year from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The pupil projections are the figures supplied to the Department for Education as part of the School Capacity Survey 2024 (SCAP24).

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Sefton Demographics

In Sefton, the population size had increased by 2.0%, from around 273,800 in 2011 to 279,300 in 2021. This was lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%).

[Sefton population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

In Census 2021, those aged 0 to 4 made up 5% (13,500) of Sefton's population, the level of 0 to 4 year-olds saw a reduction of 8% from Census 2011. This fall may impact the number of future early years and primary school places required.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/8068/census-overview-new.pdf>

Birth data received from the Office for National Statistics for 2022/23 shows that there were 172 fewer births in Sefton compared with the previous year. (Figures illustrated on page 10)



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Map of Sefton



Map showing the different areas of Sefton



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Structure and Characteristics of School Provision

Within Sefton there are 74 primary schools including 1 maintained infant school and 1 academy infant school, plus 1 maintained junior school and 1 academy junior school. Of the remaining primary schools: 19 are maintained, 25 are voluntary aided, 5 are voluntary controlled and 21 are academies. There are currently 18 (11 to 16 and 11 to 18) secondary schools; 3 maintained and 15 academies. 2 of these academies are based in the north of the borough (Southport) and are single sex (1 boys' school and 1 girls' school). We have 4 maintained special schools and 1 special school academy. There are 3 maintained nursery schools in Sefton. 50 primary and infant schools have nursery classes.

Table 1: School Provision in Sefton

	Maintained	Voluntary Aided	Voluntary Controlled	Academy	Trust Foundation	Total
Nursery	3					3
Primary	21	25	5	23		74
Secondary		3		15		18
Special	4			1	1	5

The denominational sector is very strong in Sefton, particularly in the primary phase where community schools form 46% of the total, 32% of the schools are Catholic and 22% are Church of England. Twenty-two (30%) of the primary schools are now academies; one of these is Catholic and three of these are Church of England (these are included in the denomination percentages above). In the secondary phase, five of the eighteen (28%) high schools are Catholic schools and only one high school (6%) which is now an academy has Church of England status.

There are 9 secondary schools with sixth forms (there were 10 but one has recently ceased in the Crosby planning area).

South Sefton Campus, which is part of Hugh Baird College, provides post-16 education for pupils in the Bootle and Litherland areas. The former 6th form college merged with Hugh Baird FE College on 1st December 2017. The remaining 11-18 schools are in the central area of the borough apart from one in Southport. In Southport, the majority of sixth formers attend King George V sixth-form college which merged with Southport College on 1st December 2018 whilst provision is made for Catholic students at Christ the King High School.

There is 1 pupil referral unit for primary age pupils and 1 secondary alternative provision academy which caters for permanently excluded pupils. This provision converted to academy on 1st December 2024.

Pre-school provision is provided through a combination of maintained nursery schools, nursery units in primary schools, private nursery provision and a variety of playgroups across the borough.

The following schools have converted to academy status in recent months:

School	Conversion date	Academy Trust
The Grange	1 st August 2024	Lydiate Learning Trust
Ainsdale St Johns	1 st September 2024	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust
Forefield Infants	1 st September 2024	Mersey View Academy Trust
Forefield Juniors	1 st September 2024	Mersey View Academy Trust
Waterloo Primary	1 st September 2024	Mersey View Academy Trust
Valewood	1 st September 2024	Mersey View Academy Trust
Rowan Park	1 st September 2024	Mersey View Academy Trust
Lander Road – now Kings Lander Primary Academy	1 st September 2024	Great Schools Trust
Our Lady of Lourdes	1 st September 2024	Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust
Our Lady of Walsingham	1 st September 2024	Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust
St Edmunds' and St Thomas'	1 st September 2024	Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust
St Mary's Catholic Primary	1 st September 2024	Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust
Thomas Gray	1 st October 2024	Northern Schools Trust
IMPACT – now Waterside Academy	1 st December 2024	Peoples Learning Trust
Linaker	1 st December 2024	Endeavor Trust
Trinity St Peter's	1 st February 2025	All Saints Multi Academy Trust

TRENDS IN PUPIL NUMBERS

Each year Sefton Local Authority produces five-year forecasts for primary schools and seven-year forecasts for secondary schools based on information from a variety of sources. The figures for primary pupil numbers are for January whilst those for secondary are for September when numbers are at their highest.

Methodology Used for Forecasting Pupil Numbers

Each year, following the completion of the January School Census return which provides details of pupil numbers, projections of primary and secondary pupil numbers for the following years are updated.

The projections are based upon:

- the number of births in Sefton in the relevant year
- pupil numbers based upon School Census in October and January
- anticipated pupil yield from housing development data
- trends in the pattern of admissions

Primary Pupil Numbers

Forecasts of primary pupil numbers are based upon actual and estimated birth data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Each year, the LEA receives details of the actual births, and all projections are updated accordingly. This however does not allow pupil numbers to be estimated for the whole of the planning period. Forecasts for these later years are based upon birth estimates and trends for each area.

The birth projections provided by ONS are updated every couple of years. The most recent projections available are the 2018 based figures. The most recent figures for actual births are for 2022/23 which are significantly lower than the ONS projections. The complexity of the relationship is shown by the figures in Table 2:

Table 2: Actual and Projected Births in Sefton

Year	Actual Births (calendar year)	ONS 1996 Based Projections	ONS 2004 Based Projections	ONS 2010 Based Projections	ONS 2012 Based Projections	ONS 2014 Based Projections	ONS 2016 Based Projections	ONS 2018 Based Projections
2009	2,848	2,600	2,600	*	*	*	*	*
2010	2,862	2,600	2,600	*	*	*	*	*
2011	2,802	2,600	2,600	2,900	*	*	*	*
2012	2,795	2,600	2,700	2,900	*	*	*	*
2013	2,844	2,600	2,700	3,000	2,800	*	*	*
2014	2,778	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	*	*
2015	2,777	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	*	*
2016	2,805	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	*	*
2017	2,727	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,700	*
2018	2,569	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,800	*
2019	2,591	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,800	2,594
2020	2,405	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,800	2,600
2021	2,525	2,500	2,700	3,000	2,800	3,000	2,800	2,596
2022			2,700	2,900	2,700	3,000	2,700	2,578
2023			2,700	2,900	2,700	3,000	2,700	2,569
2024			2,700	2,900	2,700	3,000	2,700	2,564
2025			2,600	2,800	2,700	3,000	2,700	2,558
2026			2,600	2,800	2,700	3,000	2,700	2,553
2027			2,600	2,700	2,600	3,000	2,700	2,544
2028			2,600	2,700	2,600	3,000	2,700	2,536

Year	Actual Births (calendar year)	ONS 1996 Based Projections	ONS 2004 Based Projections	ONS 2010 Based Projections	ONS 2012 Based Projections	ONS 2014 Based Projections	ONS 2016 Based Projections	ONS 2018 Based Projections
2029			2,500	2,700	2,600	3,000	2,600	2,531
2030				2,700	2,600	3,000	2,600	2,530
2031				2,700	2,600	3,000	2,600	2,531
2032				2,600	2,600	3,000	2,600	2,536
2033				2,600	2,500	3,000	2,600	2,546
2034				2,600	2,500	3,000	2,600	2,560
2035				2,700	2,500	3,000	2,600	2,578
2036					2,500	3,000	2,600	2,599
2037					2,600	3,000	2,600	2,625
2038						3,000	2,600	2,653
2039						3,000	2,700	2,682
2040							2,700	2,708
2041							2,700	2,731
2042								2,751

Birth data is adjusted to relate to school years i.e., September to the following August, rather than calendar years and these figures are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Actual Births in Sefton

Birth Year	School Admission Year	Total Number of Births	Status of Births Data
2003/2004	2008/2009	2,742	Actual
2004/2005	2009/2010	2,656	Actual
2005/2006	2010/2011	2,649	Actual
2006/2007	2011/2012	2,734	Actual
2007/2008	2012/2013	2,737	Actual
2008/2009	2013/2014	2,783	Actual
2009/2010	2014/2015	2,855	Actual
2010/2011	2015/2016	2,833	Actual
2011/2012	2016/2017	2,799	Actual
2012/2013	2017/2018	2,820	Actual
2013/2014	2018/2019	2,811	Actual
2014/2015	2019/2020	2,755	Actual
2015/2016	2020/2021	2,803	Actual
2016/2017	2021/2022	2,732	Actual
2017/2018	2022/2023	2,625	Actual
2018/2019	2023/2024	2,632	Actual
2019/2020	2024/2025	2,447	Actual
2020/2021	2025/2026	2,458	Actual
2021/2022	2026/2027	2,517	Actual
2022/2023	2027/2028	2,345	Actual

Source: ONS

There has been a 6.84% decrease in births (172 children) overall across Sefton between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, with the largest reduction occurring in Crosby (11.41% decrease), followed by Bootle (9.85% decrease), Formby (8.39% decrease), Litherland (6.82% decrease) and Southport (5.28% decrease). Births in Maghull have risen slightly (2.41% increase).

Table 4: Area Births as a Percentage of Sefton Births in 2022/2023

Area	% of Sefton Births
Bootle	25%
Litherland	10.5%
Crosby	16%
Formby	6%
Maghull & Aintree	14.2%
Southport	28.3%
SEFTON	100.00%

Overall reception pupil numbers are then determined by establishing the relationship between the number of pupils who entered reception classes in the last three years and the number of births in the appropriate preceding years and then applying the three-year average to the births data. For Sefton, this results in a slight reduction overall in the number of pupils for whom primary school places must be provided.

Table 5 shows the relationship between Births in 2019/20 and intake into Reception classes 2024/25. This illustrates that it is not evenly distributed across the different areas of the Borough.

Table 5: Relationship between Births and Intake into Reception Classes, 2024/25 academic year

Area	Reception Year Intake as % of Births in Appropriate Preceding Year
Bootle	20.02%
Litherland	9.93%
Crosby	19.41%
Formby	10.22%
Maghull & Aintree	19.08%
Southport	31.06%
SEFTON	109.72%

A few of the planning areas have seen a high reception year intake number as a percentage of births in the appropriate preceding year. This can partly be attributed to the shape of the Borough of Sefton and the extent to which many Sefton schools are located close to centres of population in neighbouring Local Authorities; Knowsley, Liverpool and West Lancashire. This has resulted in a situation whereby extra-district pupils are able to gain admission to Sefton schools on distance criteria. This is illustrated in Table 5a below.

Table 5a: Cross Border movement of primary pupils

Academic Year	Number of primary pupils residing in other local authorities attending schools in Sefton	%	Number of primary pupils residing in Sefton and attending schools in other local authorities	%
2016/17	1,144	5.5	600	3.0
2017/18	1,186	5.7	630	3.1
2018/19	1,185	5.6	719	3.5
2019/20	1,132	5.5	744	3.6
2020/21	1,100	5.2	779	3.8
2021/22	1,080	5.1	816	3.9
2022/23	1,075	5.1	830	4.0
2023/24	1,064	5.1	929	4.5

Source: [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic year 2023/24 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

In addition, there is a marked south-north population movement within Sefton and the movement of families impacts upon the demand for school places in both the origin and destination areas. In the southern part of the borough pupil turnover levels are very high. In the majority of primary schools, there are approximately the same number of pupils who entered as reception pupils who are still on roll in Year 6. There are a small number of primary schools who have 30-50% more pupils in year 6 than entered as reception pupils.

Applications from non-EU countries remain high. Southport & Bootle are probably the areas which families move into the most. This could be attributed to the employment opportunities.

The projected total number of primary pupils is calculated for each year by applying cohort survival ratios to the numbers in the existing primary year groups which are moved forward and incorporating the projected number of reception pupils to be admitted in that year.

Secondary Pupil Numbers

Forecasts of secondary pupil numbers are calculated in a comparable way to primary pupil numbers but are based upon the Year 6 cohort and the relationship between this and the intake into secondary schools.

At Authority level, the number of pupils admitted to Year 7 classes in secondary schools in September each year is slightly higher than the Year 6 cohort that left the primary sector at the end of the preceding term. However, at area level the pattern is one of contrasts, with some areas gaining large numbers of pupils whilst others lose significant numbers. Details for the cohort that transferred to the secondary phase in September 2024 are provided in Table 6.

Cross border movement of secondary pupils is illustrated in Table 5b below:

Table 5b: Cross border movement of secondary pupils

Academic Year	Number of secondary pupils residing in other local authorities attending schools in Sefton	%	Number of secondary pupils residing in Sefton and attending schools in other local authorities	%
2016/17	1,637	11.5	542	4.1
2017/18	1,574	11.1	635	4.8
2018/19	1,599	11.3	663	5.0
2019/20	1,604	11.9	720	5.4
2020/21	1,659	11.4	722	5.3
2021/22	1,712	11.5	709	5.1
2022/23	1,810	11.8	684	4.8
2023/24	1,837	11.8	689	4.4

(The figures above do not include 6th forms)

Source: [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic year 2023/24 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Table 6: Changes in Pupil Numbers at Transition from Primary to Secondary Schools in 2024

Area	Year 7 Pupil Numbers (September 2024) as a % of Year 6 Pupil Numbers (January 2024)
Bootle	80.44%
Litherland	52.96%
Crosby	131.57%
Formby	118.22%
Maghull & Aintree	135.76%
Southport	95.79%
SEFTON	103.59%

The projected total number of secondary pupils is calculated for each secondary year group by applying cohort progression ratios to the existing secondary year groups. Three years of cohort progression ratios are found, and a weighted average is taken. To calculate, for example, the Year 8 forecast for 2025/26, the weighted average is then multiplied by the number of pupils in year 7 for 2024/25.

Pupil yield from housing developments with planning permission in Sefton's 5-year housing land supply has been included in the projections. It is difficult to predict when new housing will become available. Sefton's Planning Department have obtained information about proposed phasing from housing developers, but this can change from year to year. There are several developments included in Sefton's Local Plan which do not fall into the 5-year housing land supply and do not have planning permission, so they have not been included in the current projections as directed by the Department for Education. We will continue to monitor the progress on these sites.

Primary Pupil Numbers and Projections

Table 7: Primary Pupil Numbers in Sefton from 2015/2016 to 2029/2030

Academic Year	Total Number of Primary Pupils (January)
2015/2016	20,331
2016/2017	20,620
2017/2018	20,858
2018/2019	20,901
2019/2020	20,921
2020/2021	20,859
2021/2022	21,206
2022/2023	20,817
2023/2024	20,757
2024/2025	20,447 is the figure as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 data)
2025/2026*	20,015
2026/2027*	19,892
2027/2028*	19,662
2028/2029*	19,483
2029/2030*	19,443

* Projected

Table 8: Reception Pupil Numbers in Sefton from 2015/2016 to 2029/2030

Academic Year	Total Number of Reception Pupils (January)
2015/2016	3,067
2016/2017	2,974
2017/2018	2,976
2018/2019	2,993
2019/2020	2,874
2020/2021	2,927
2021/2022	2,903
2022/2023	2,775
2023/2024	2,867
2024/2025	2,685 is the figure as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 census data)
2025/2026*	2,671
2026/2027*	2,744
2027/2028*	2,710
2028/2029*	2,716
2029/2030*	2,720

* Projected

Secondary Pupil Numbers and Projections

Table 9: Secondary Pupil Numbers in Sefton from 2017/2018 to 2031/2032

Year (January)	Total Number of Secondary Pupils (including sixth form)
2017	16,642
2018	16,022
2019	15,938
2020	15,986
2021	16,231
2022	16,906
2023	17,008
2024	17,454
2025	17,942 as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 census data)
2026*	17,448
2027*	17,400
2028*	17,381
2029*	17,290
2030*	17,125
2031*	16,879
2032*	16,616

* Projected

Table 10: Secondary Pupil Numbers in Sefton from 2017/2018 to 2031/2032

Year (January)	Total Number of Secondary Pupils (Year 7 to Year 11)
2017	14,295
2018	14,148
2019	14,213
2020	14,326
2021	14,631
2022	14,955
2023	15,590
2024	15,543
2025	15,556 as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 census data)
2026*	15,868
2027*	15,830
2028*	15,812
2029*	15,729
2030*	15,564
2031*	15,318
2032*	15,079

*Projected

Table 11: Year 7 Pupil Numbers in Sefton 2015/2016 to 2031/2032

Year (January)	Total Number of Year 7 Pupils
2015	2,936
2016	2,900
2017	2,824
2018	2,897
2019	2,940
2020	3,016
2021	3,053
2022	3,157
2023	3,200
2024	3,201
2025	3,148 as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 census data)
2026*	3,229
2027*	3,109
2028*	3,184
2029*	3,131
2030*	2,992
2031*	2,982
2032*	2,868

* Projected

Table 12: Sixth Form Pupil Numbers in Sefton 2017/2018 to 2031/2032

Year (January)	Total Number of Sixth Form Pupils
2017	2,347
2018	1,874
2019	1,725
2020	1,660
2021	1,615
2022	1,570
2023	1,418
2024	1,408
2025	1,376 as at October 2024 (awaiting Jan 2025 census data)
2026*	1,580
2027*	1,570
2028*	1,569
2029*	1,561
2030*	1,561
2031*	1,561
2032*	1,537

* Projected

SEFTON'S PLANNING AREAS

Sefton's planning areas are based on geographical and ward boundaries. Some of the planning areas were re-organised in 2017 following the closure of St Ambrose Barlow Catholic High school in August 2016. Two secondary schools in Bootle had already closed (Bootle High and St George of England High) leaving only three schools. St Wilfrid's High had closed in the Litherland secondary planning area leaving one school which was Litherland High. Because of the secondary school closures some of the feeder primary schools have been moved to other secondary schools, therefore the Bootle and Litherland secondary planning areas have been amalgamated into one area to align them with Sefton's admission areas. To correspond with this the three former Bootle and Litherland primary planning areas (Bootle North, Bootle South and Litherland) have been amalgamated to form the "Bootle & Litherland primary planning area". There are now ten planning areas: five for primary and five for secondary as agreed with the Department for Education for the SCAP 2017 return.

Table 13: Sefton's Primary Planning Areas

Primary Planning Area	Schools
Bootle & Litherland	Bedford Community Primary (Academy) Linacre Community Primary Netherton Moss Community Primary Springwell Park Community Primary The Grange Community Primary (Academy) Thomas Gray Community Primary (Academy) Christ Church CE Primary St Oswald's CE Primary All Saints Catholic Primary Holy Spirit Catholic Primary (Academy) Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary (Academy) St Benedict's Catholic Primary St Monica's Catholic Primary St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary Hatton Hill Community Primary King's Lander Primary (Academy) Litherland Moss Primary (Academy) St Philip's CE Primary English Martyr's Catholic Primary Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
Crosby	Forefield Infant and Nursery School Forefield Junior School Great Crosby Catholic Primary Rimrose Hope CE Primary St Edmund's and St Thomas'

	<p>St John's CE Primary St Luke's Halsall CE Primary St Mary's Catholic Primary St Nicholas' CE Primary St William of York Catholic Primary Ursuline Catholic Primary Valewood Primary Waterloo Primary</p>
Primary Planning Area	Schools
Formby	<p>Freshfield Community Primary Redgate Community Primary Woodlands Community Primary St Luke's CE Primary Trinity St Peter's CE Primary (Academy) Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary St Jerome's Catholic Primary</p>
Maghull & Aintree	<p>Aintree Davenhill Community Primary Green Park Community Primary Hudson Community Primary Lydiate Community Primary Melling Community Primary Northway Community Primary Summerhill Community Primary St Andrew's CE Primary (Academy) St Thomas' CE Primary (Academy) Holy Rosary Catholic Primary St George's Catholic Primary St Gregory's Catholic Primary St John Bosco Catholic Primary</p>
Southport	<p>Birkdale Community Primary Churchtown Community Primary (Academy) Farnborough Road Community Infants Farnborough Road Community Juniors Kew Woods Community Primary (Academy) Kings Meadow Community Primary Larkfield Community Primary Linaker Community Primary (Academy) Marshside Community Primary Norwood Community Primary Shoreside Primary (Academy) Ainsdale St John's CE Primary Bishop David Sheppard CE Primary Holy Trinity CE Primary (Academy) St John's CE Primary St Philip's CE Primary</p>

	Holy Family Catholic Primary Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary (Academy) St Patrick's Catholic Primary
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Table 14: Sefton's Secondary Planning Areas

Secondary Planning Area	Schools
Crosby	Chesterfield High (Academy) St Michael's CE High (Academy) Holy Family Catholic High Sacred Heart Catholic (Academy)
Formby	Formby High (Academy) Range High (Academy)
Maghull & Aintree	Deyes High (Academy) Maghull High (Academy) Maricourt Catholic High
Southport	Birkdale High (Boys Academy) Greenbank High (Girls Academy) Meols Cop High (Academy) Stanley High (Academy) Christ the King Catholic High

Planning areas are shown on the map at Annex 1.

Pupil Projections by Planning Area

The following pupil projections were submitted to the Department for Education (DFE) as part of the School Capacity (SCAP) 2024 return.

The Total Planned Admission Number (PAN) is calculated using the planned admission number for each year group in each school. This may vary from year group to year group depending on changes made in previous years. It may not always match the capacity figure for the area (based on teaching accommodation for LA maintained schools and the funding agreement for academies) as schools can choose to set a different PAN or there may be a gradual change in the PAN working through the year groups. Future changes to PANs (Published Admission Number) are included where these are known in advance and have been approved.

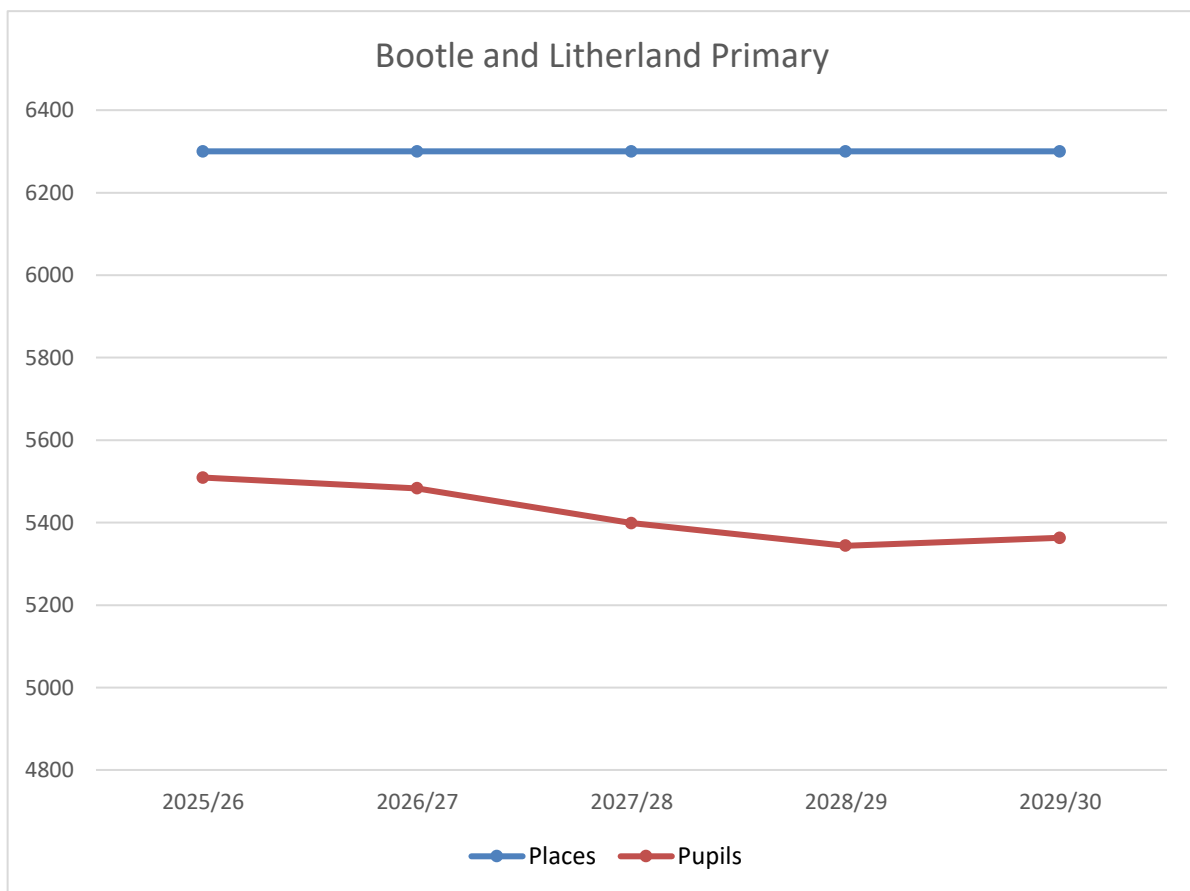
Some of the secondary academy schools in Sefton have started to cap or reduce their intake numbers in Year 8 to 11 as they are unable to admit further pupils after the entry year due to their internal school organisational arrangements. This makes planning future places difficult as the situation may change on a yearly basis. Sixth Form numbers are not included in the secondary figures as there are no planned admission numbers for Years 12 and 13.

The graphs compare the total number of pupils with the total number of places but do not show where there may be a need for additional places or too many places in a particular year group.

Table 15: Bootle & Litherland Primary

Current total capacity for Reception to Y6 is 6392

Year	Total PAN	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2025/2026	6300	739	744	820	748	816	846	796	5509
2026/2027	6300	761	755	746	817	745	818	841	5483
2027/2028	6300	750	777	757	743	813	746	813	5399
2028/2029	6300	752	764	779	754	740	814	741	5344
2029/2030	6300	753	767	766	776	751	741	809	5363



Births in Bootle had increased since 2020/21, before which they had reduced in 2019/20 by 117. Birth data from 2022/23 however shows that births had reduced by 54 since the previous year.

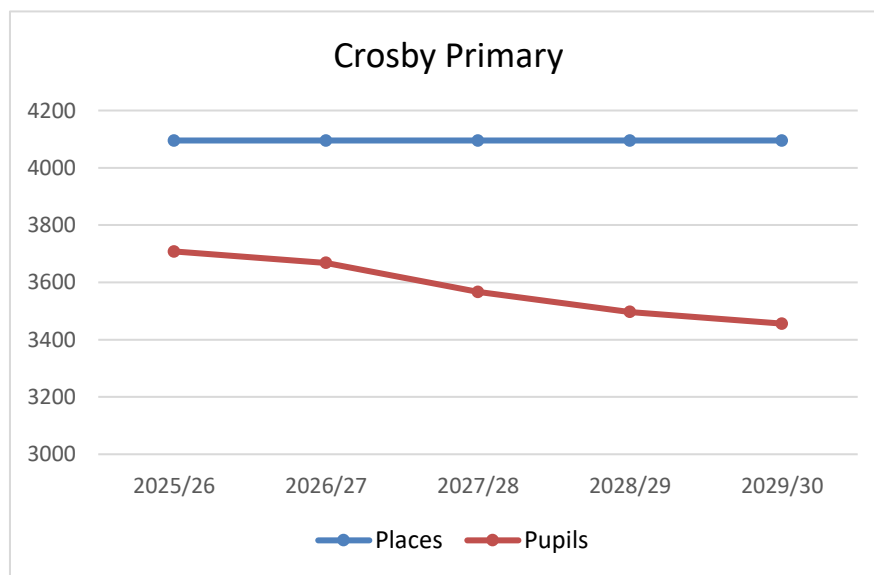
Births in Litherland reduced by 17% between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 but then increased by 4.5% between 2020/21 and 2021/22. Following this, births in Litherland then dropped again by 18 between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Intake into Reception in the Bootle and Litherland areas had dropped in October 2024, due to lower birth rate, however numbers on roll in year groups 1, 4 and 6 had increased since the previous year. Reception numbers in the planning area look to set to increase over the next couple of years before dropping slightly.

Table 16: Crosby Primary

Current total capacity for Reception to Y6 is 4081

Year	Total PAN	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2025/2026	4095	487	478	526	527	561	587	542	3708
2026/2027	4095	497	491	471	524	532	560	593	3668
2027/2028	4095	489	500	484	469	529	531	565	3567
2028/2029	4095	492	493	493	482	473	528	536	3497
2029/2030	4095	492	496	486	491	486	472	533	3456



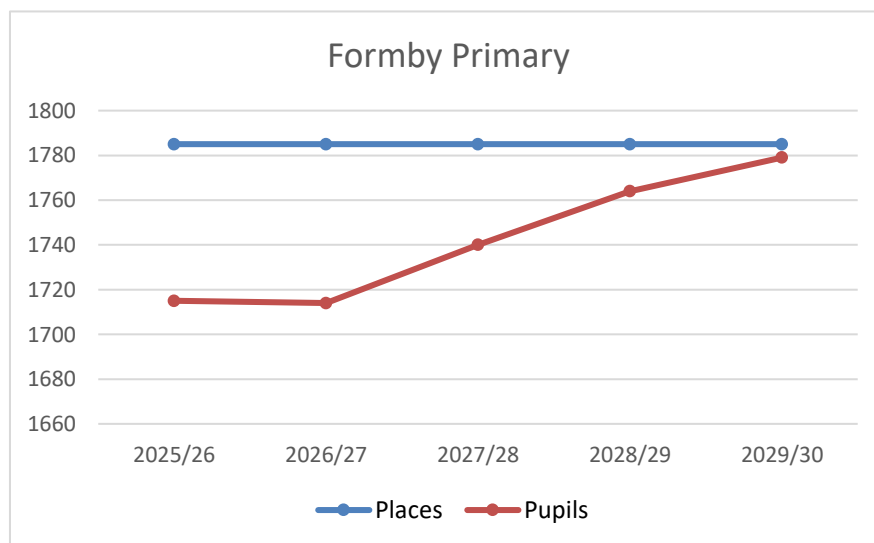
Births in the area reduced in 2019/2020 but then increased by 12% in 2020/2021. Births remained stable in 2021/22 but then dropped again by 48 in 2022/23.

Intake into Reception had dropped in October 2024 compared with the previous year. Pupil projections indicate that Reception numbers will increase over the next couple of years before dropping slightly. We will continue to monitor new housing developments within the Thornton area.

Table 17: Formby Primary

Current total capacity for Reception to Y6 is 1784

Year	Total PAN	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2025/2026	1785	237	249	246	238	232	239	274	1715
2026/2027	1785	245	236	254	251	242	240	246	1714
2027/2028	1785	243	245	240	259	255	251	247	1740
2028/2029	1785	243	242	249	245	263	264	258	1764
2029/2030	1785	244	242	246	254	249	272	272	1779



Births in this area reduced in 2019/20 and then again in 2020/21, however they increased in 2021/22 by 13.5% before reducing again in 2022/23 by 13 births.

Intake into Reception had increased only marginally in October 2024 compared with the previous year. Pupil projections look to reduce for the next academic year but then increase slightly the following year. It can take 2-3 years to see the full impact of a new housing estate on the demand for places at primary level.

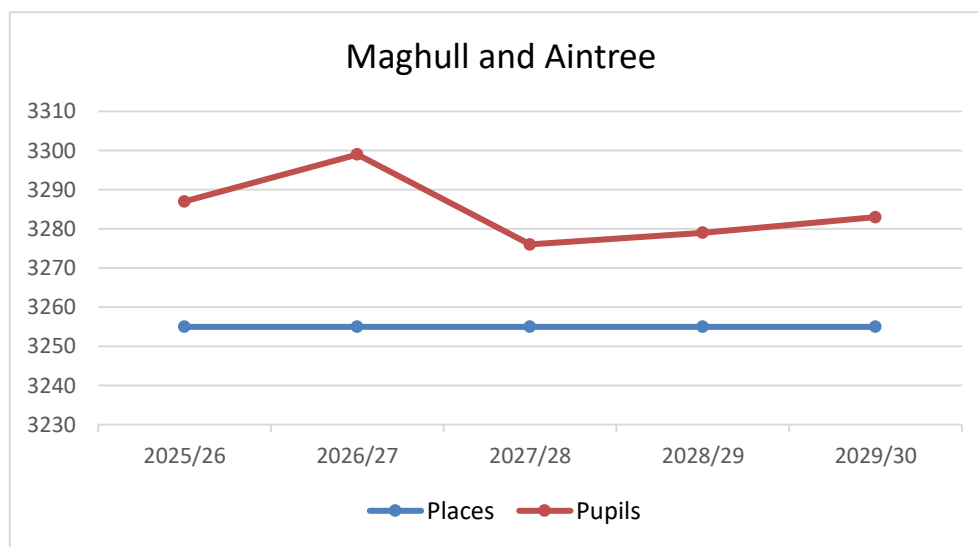
In Formby, there tends to be a shortage of places specifically in KS2 and 3 rather than overall as pupils tend to move into the area later.

Table 18: Maghull & Aintree Primary

Current total capacity for Reception to Y6 is 3680

Year	Total PAN	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2025/2026	3255	457	472	477	471	468	489	453	3287
2026/2027	3255*	471	458	474	482	468	463	483	3299
2027/2028	3255*	466	472	460	479	479	463	457	3276
2028/2029	3255*	466	467	474	465	476	474	457	3279
2029/2030	3255*	467	467	469	479	462	471	468	3283

*additional places expected be available for these academic years once school expansion is complete



Birth rates in the Maghull and Aintree planning area have remained stable. It is the only planning area in Sefton which saw an increase (of 8 births) in 2022/23, compared with the previous year.

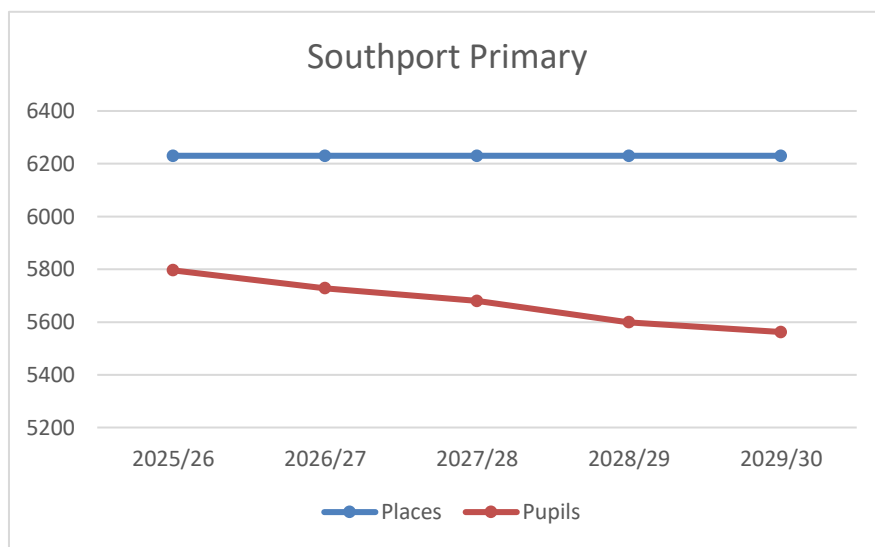
Intake to Reception had dropped only marginally in October 2024 compared with the previous year. Pupil projections look to reduce for the next academic year but then increase slightly the following year.

Due to one of the schools expanding to accommodate children from the new housing developments in the area, and one of the other schools being part of the Schools Rebuild Programme, we should see school places in the area start to increase from September 2027 (if not before), depending on when building works are completed.

Table 19: Southport Primary

Current total capacity for Reception to Y6 is 6789

Year	Total PAN	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2025/2026	6230	751	771	814	832	884	853	891	5796
2026/2027	6230	770	764	784	820	843	884	863	5728
2027/2028	6230	762	783	777	789	831	843	895	5680
2028/2029	6230	763	774	796	782	800	831	853	5599
2029/2030	6230	764	776	787	801	793	800	841	5562



Birth rates for this area have seen a reduction since 2009/10.

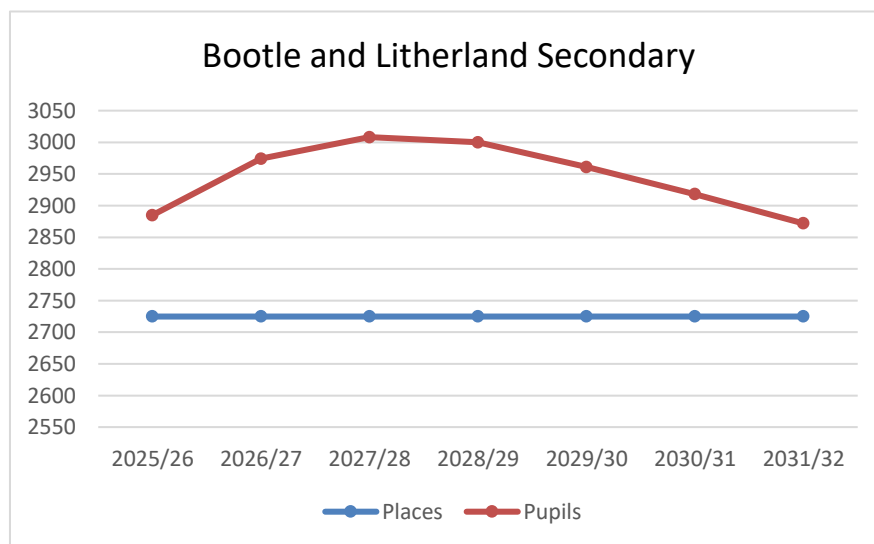
Intakes into Reception have fallen since 2015. Pupil projections look to reduce for the next academic year but then increase slightly the following year.

We will continue to monitor housing developments within the Southport planning area – which are close to the West Lancashire border.

Table 20: Bootle & Litherland Secondary

Current total capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 3244

Year	Total PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2025/2026	2725	592	601	604	572	516	2885
2026/2027	2725	574	602	608	604	586	2974
2027/2028	2725	588	584	609	609	618	3008
2028/2029	2725	578	598	591	610	623	3000
2029/2030	2725	552	588	605	592	624	2961
2030/2031	2725	550	561	595	606	606	2918
2031/2032	2725	529	559	568	596	620	2872



Pupil projections indicate that numbers may fluctuate slightly over the next 3 years but then look to reduce from 2028/2029.

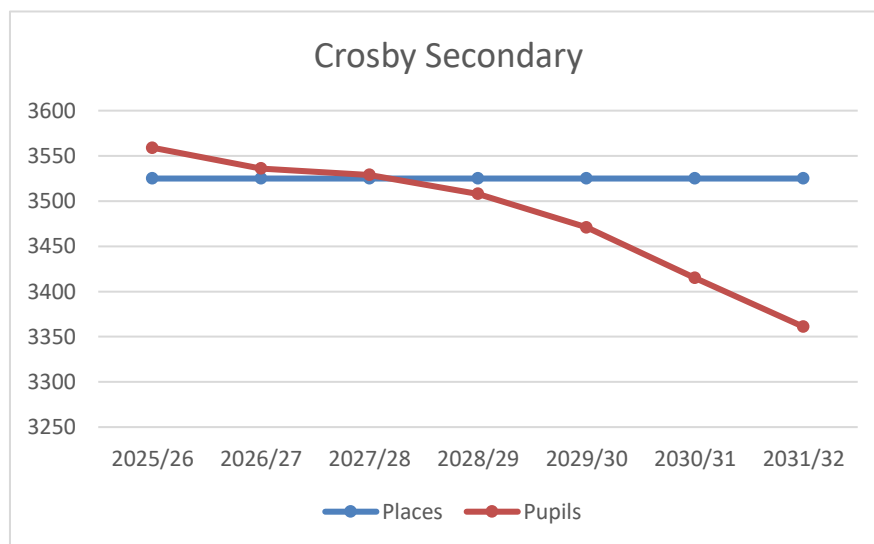
The current total capacity based on teaching accommodation and academy funding agreements is 3,244, however this is not reflected in the total places (PAN).

We are currently addressing the shortage of places for Sefton secondary pupils within this planning area.

Table 21: Crosby Secondary

Current total capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 3939

Year	Total PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2025/2026	3525	742	714	716	699	688	3559
2026/2027	3525	714	732	700	701	689	3536
2027/2028	3525	731	704	718	685	691	3529
2028/2029	3525	719	721	690	703	675	3508
2029/2030	3525	687	709	707	675	693	3471
2030/2031	3525	685	678	695	692	665	3415
2031/2032	3525	658	676	665	680	682	3361



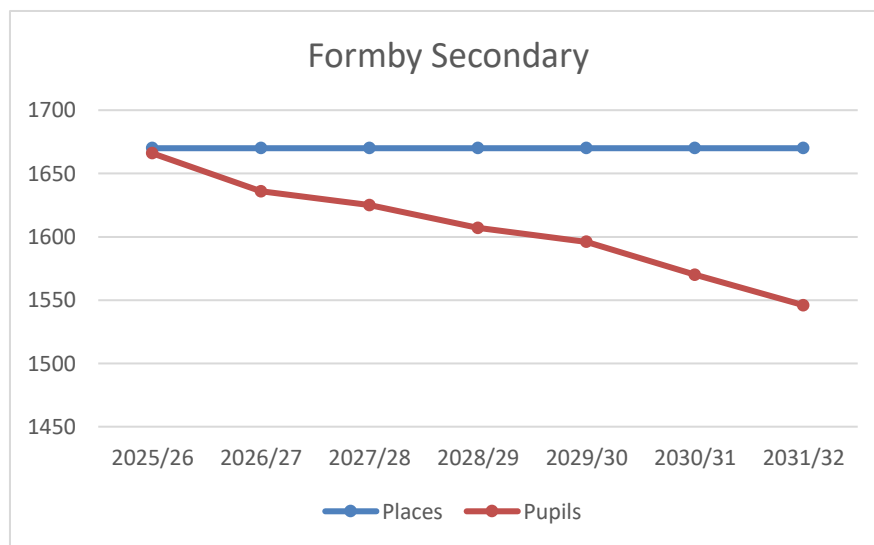
Pupil projections indicate that year 7 numbers may fluctuate slightly over the next 3 years but then look to reduce from 2028/2029. Total numbers overall for year 7-11 look to reduce.

Housing developments within the Thornton area will be kept under review.

Table 22: Formby Secondary

Current total capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 1784

Year	Total PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2025/2026	1670	324	317	339	338	348	1666
2026/2027	1670	311	331	318	340	336	1636
2027/2028	1670	318	318	332	319	338	1625
2028/2029	1670	313	325	319	333	317	1607
2029/2030	1670	299	320	326	320	331	1596
2030/2031	1670	298	306	321	327	318	1570
2031/2032	1670	287	305	307	322	325	1546



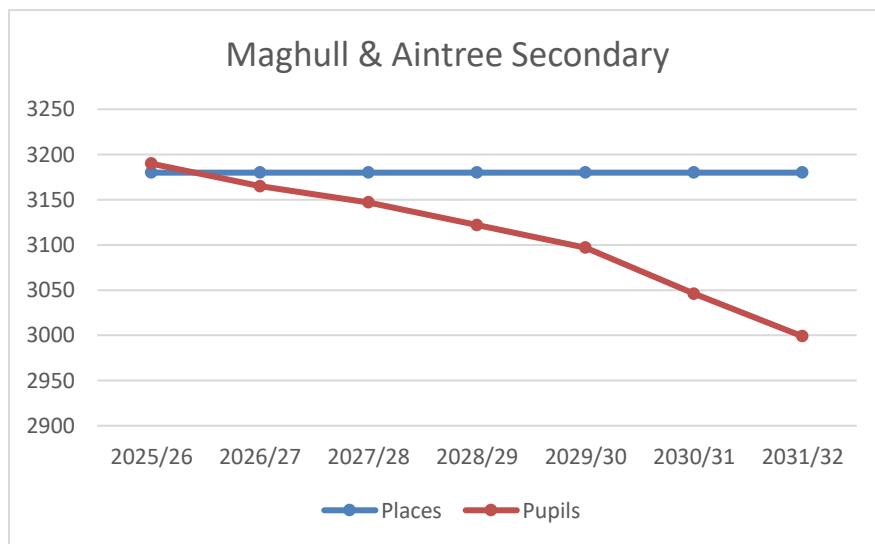
Pupil projections indicate that year 7 numbers may fluctuate slightly over the next 3 years but then look to reduce from 2028/2029. Total numbers overall for year 7-11 look to reduce.

There are still housing developments taking place within the Formby area but we do not anticipate a high pupil yield from this.

Table 23: Maghull & Aintree Secondary

Current total capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 3180

Year	Total PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2025/2026	3180	656	626	642	643	623	3190
2026/2027	3180	629	650	613	640	633	3165
2027/2028	3180	644	624	637	612	630	3147
2028/2029	3180	634	639	611	636	602	3122
2029/2030	3180	606	629	626	610	626	3097
2030/2031	3180	604	601	616	625	600	3046
2031/2032	3180	581	599	589	615	615	2999



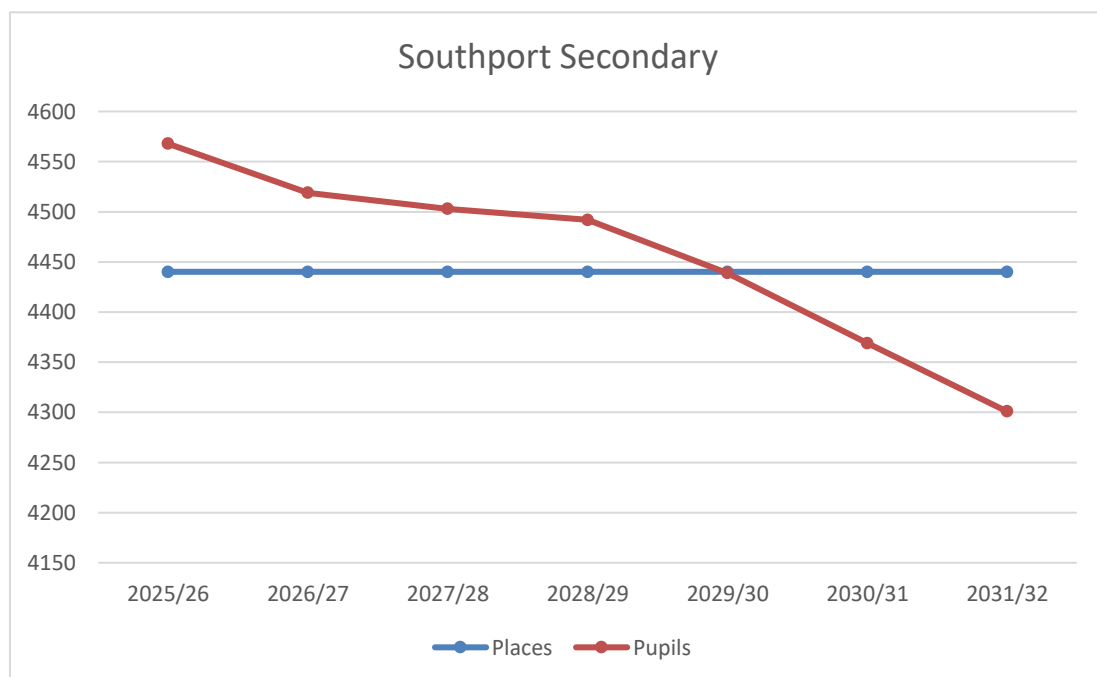
Pupil projections indicate that year 7 numbers may fluctuate slightly over the next 3 years but then look to reduce from 2028/2029. Total numbers overall for year 7-11 look to reduce.

The current total capacity based on teaching accommodation and academy funding agreements for Y7 to Y11 is 3180. Overall pupils projections (year 7-11) fall below the overall PAN.

Table 24: Southport Secondary

Current total capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 4610

Year	Total PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2025/2026	4440	915	908	902	917	926	4568
2026/2027	4440	881	922	905	896	915	4519
2027/2028	4440	903	888	919	899	894	4503
2028/2029	4440	887	910	885	913	897	4492
2029/2030	4440	848	894	907	879	911	4439
2030/2031	4440	845	855	891	901	877	4369
2031/2032	4440	813	852	852	885	899	4301



Pupil projections indicate that year 7 numbers may fluctuate slightly over the next 3 years but then look to reduce from 2028/2029. Total numbers overall for year 7-11 look to reduce.

Over the next few years, projections indicate that our overall year 7-11 numbers will be above the overall PAN, however the current total net capacity for Y7 to Y11 is 4610.

We will continue to work with School Heads and Academy Trusts to address any shortage of places within the area.

EMPTY PLACES and SURPLUS PLACES

Explanatory Note

The following tables provide details of the numbers of empty places and surplus places by school and area. Surplus Places are taken from the DFE School Capacity Survey (SCAP) formerly known as the Surplus Places Return. This return uses May pupil numbers from the School Census return.

In the primary sector, the number of places is determined by multiplying each school's published admission number (PAN) by the number of year groups in the school. Where the number has changed in a particular year the original admission number still applies to the existing year groups until they have worked their way out of the school. The new number applies to all new pupils admitted after that date.

In the secondary sector, the number of places is also determined from the published admission number (PAN). The DFE has advised that where the PAN has been capped or the school has admitted over their PAN in a particular year group, we should continue to use the PAN.

The Net Capacity is a measure of the number of places available at maintained schools based upon the teaching accommodation. For academies, the capacity is based on the figure shown in their funding agreement. The number of empty places is the difference between the number of pupils on roll and the number of school places. This can also give an indication of potential overcrowding.

The measurement of surplus places is based upon the Net Capacity which is determined by the sizes of individual teaching areas. If a school's Net Capacity exceeds the number of pupils on roll, the numerical difference is the number of surplus places. The same is true for an academy but the capacity is based on their funding agreement. No adjustment is made to figures to take account of those schools where the number of pupils on roll exceeds the Net Capacity or funding agreement. **For individual sectors and areas, therefore, the number of surplus places is not the actual difference between the number of pupils on roll and Net Capacity.**

Informal capping arrangements can support schools by limiting their intake in a particular year group where demand is below PAN. However, implementing informal caps is not a long-term sustainable solution nor does it allow for good school place planning.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS: EMPTY PLACES and SURPLUS PLACES

School	NOR (number on roll) as of May 2024	No of Places 2023/24	Empty Places	Empty Places	Capacity -net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
			No.	%			
Bootle Primary							
Bedford	403	420	17	4.05	420	17	4.05
Linacre	130	210	80	38.10	210	80	38.10
Netherton Moss	200	210	10	4.77	315	115	63.49
Springwell Park	403	420	17	0.05	420	17	0.05
The Grange	265	210	-55	-20.76	210	-55	-20.76
Thomas Gray	225	210	-15	-6.67	210	-15	-6.67
Christ Church CE	392	420	28	6.67	388	-4	-0.02
St Oswald's CE	202	210	8	3.81	210	8	3.81
All Saints Catholic	350	420	70	16.67	420	70	16.67
Holy Spirit Catholic	161	210	49	23.34	210	49	23.34
Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic	169	210	41	19.53	210	41	19.53
St Benedict's Catholic	211	210	-1	-0.47	297	86	28.96
St Monica's Catholic	419	420	1	0.24	420	1	0.24
St Robert Bellarmine Catholic	208	210	2	0.95	210	2	0.95
Academy	1223	1260	37	2.94	1260	37	2.94
Community	733	840	107	12.74	945	212	22.73
CE Controlled	392	420	28	6.67	388	-4	-1.03
CE Aided	202	210	8	3.81	210	8	3.81
Catholic Aided	1188	1260	72	5.71	1347	159	11.80
Total	3738	3990	252	6.32	4150	412	9.93

Litherland Primary							
Hatton Hill	316	420	104	24.76	420	104	24.76
Kings Lander Primary Academy	208	210	2	0.95	210	2	0.95
Litherland Moss	193	210	17	8.10	210	17	8.10
St Philip's CE	205	210	5	2.38	210	5	2.38
English Martyr's Catholic	420	420	0	0	420	0	0
Our Lady Queen of Peace	145	210	65	30.95	168	23	13.69
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic	192	210	18	8.57	184	-8	-4.17
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary	401	420	19	4.52	420	19	4.52

School	NOR (number on roll) as of May 2024	No. of Places 2023/24	Empty Places (No.)	Empty Places (%)	Capacity -net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Academy	401	420	19	4.52	420	19	4.52
Community	316	420	104	24.76	420	104	24.76
CE Controlled	205	210	5	2.38	210	5	2.38
Catholic Aided	1158	1260	102	8.10	1192	34	2.85
Total	2080	2310	230	9.96	2242	162	7.23

Crosby Primary							
Forefield Junior	359	360	1	0.28	360	1	0.28
Forefield Infant	268	270	2	0.74	267	-1	-0.37
Valewood	212	210	-2	-0.94	210	-2	-0.94
Waterloo	393	420	27	6.43	420	27	6.43
St John's CE	193	210	17	8.10	199	7	3.02
St Luke's CE Halsall	207	210	3	1.43	210	3	1.43
St Nicholas CE	211	210	-1	-0.47	210	-1	-0.47
Rimrose Hope CE	297	315	18	5.71	315	18	5.71
Great Crosby Catholic	742	840	98	11.67	840	98	11.67
St Edmund's & St Thomas's Catholic	285	315	30	9.52	315	30	9.52
St Mary's Catholic	97	105	8	7.62	105	8	7.62
St William of York Catholic	203	210	7	3.33	210	7	3.33
Ursuline Catholic	417	420	3	0.71	420	3	0.71
Academy	1614	1680	66	3.93	1677	63	3.76
CE Controlled	297	315	18	5.71	315	18	5.71
CE Aided	611	630	19	3.02	619	8	1.29
Catholic Aided	1362	1470	108	7.35	1470	108	7.35
Total	3884	4095	211	5.16%	4081	197	4.83

Formby Primary							
Freshfield	235	210	-25	-10.64	210	-25	-10.64
Redgate	238	210	-28	-11.76	210	-28	-11.97
Woodlands	312	315	3	0.95	315	3	0.95
St Luke's CE	367	420	53	12.62	419	52	12.41
Trinity St Peter's CE	213	210	-3	-1.41	210	-3	-1.41
Our Lady of Compassion Catholic	213	210	-3	-1.41	210	-3	-1.41
St Jerome's Catholic	201	210	9	4.29	210	9	4.29
Community	785	735	-50	-6.37	735	-50	-6.37
CE Controlled	367	420	53	-12.62	419	52	-12.41
CE Aided	213	210	-3	-1.41	210	-3	-1.41

School	NOR (number on roll) as of May 2024	No of Places 2023/24	Empty Places (No.)	Empty Places (%)	Capacity -net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Catholic Aided	414	420	6	1.43	420	6	1.43
Total	1779	1785	6	0.34	1784	5	0.28

Maghull Primary							
Aintree Davenhill	415	420	5	1.19	420	5	1.19
Green Park	208	210	2	0.95	208	0	0
Hudson	250	210	-40	-16.00	210	-40	-16.00
Lydiate	219	210	-9	-4.11	432	213	49.31
Melling	212	210	-2	-0.94	210	-2	-0.94
Northway	315	315	0	0	315	0	0
Summerhill	209	210	1	0.48	210	1	0.48
St Andrew's CE	207	210	3	1.43	420	213	50.71
St Thomas's CE	207	210	3	1.43	210	3	1.43
Holy Rosary Catholic	423	420	-3	-0.71	415	-8	-1.89
St George's Catholic	203	210	7	3.23	210	7	3.23
St Gregory's Catholic	210	210	0	0	210	0	0
St John Bosco Catholic	209	210	1	0.48	210	1	0.48
Academy	414	420	6	1.43	630	216	34.29
Community	1828	1785	-43	-2.35	2005	177	8.83
Catholic Aided	1045	1050	5	0.48	1045	0	0
Total	3287	3255	-32	-0.93	3680	393	10.68

Southport Primary							
Birkdale	414	420	6	1.43	394	-20	-4.83
Churchtown	635	840	205	24.40	840	205	24.40
Farnborough Road Junior	470	480	10	2.08	480	10	2.08
Farnborough Road Infant	338	360	22	6.11	396	58	14.65
Kew Woods	415	420	5	1.19	420	5	1.19
Kings Meadow	178	210	32	15.24	205	27	13.17
Larkfield	278	315	37	11.75	315	37	11.75
Linaker	394	525	131	24.95	525	131	24.95
Marshside	191	210	19	9.05	210	19	9.05
Norwood	628	630	2	0.32	628	0	0
Shoreside	172	210	38	18.10	210	38	18.10
Ainsdale St John'sCE	205	210	5	2.38	210	5	2.38
Bishop David Sheppard CE	158	210	52	24.76	210	52	24.76
Holy Trinity CE	208	210	2	0.95	210	2	0.95
St John's CE	174	210	36	17.14	198	24	12.12
St Philip's CE	206	210	4	1.90	210	4	1.90

School	NOR (number on roll) as of May 2024	No of Places 2023/24	Empty Places (No.)	Empty Places (%)	Capacity -net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Holy Family Catholic	208	210	2	1.95	210	2	1.95
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic	428	420	-8	-1.87	540	112	20.74
St Patrick's Catholic	343	350	7	2.00	378	35	9.26
Academy	2457	2835	378	13.34	2955	498	16.85
Community	2497	2625	128	4.88	2628	131	4.99
CE Controlled	174	210	36	17.14	198	24	12.12
CE Aided	364	420	56	13.33	420	56	13.33
Catholic Aided	551	560	9	1.61	588	37	6.29
Total	6043	6650	607	9.13	6789	746	10.99

Sefton Primary							
Academy	6109	6615	506	7.65	6942	833	12
Community	6159	6405	246	3.84	6733	574	8.53
CE Controlled	1435	1575	140	8.89	1530	95	6.21
CE Aided	1390	1470	80	5.44	1459	69	4.73
Catholic Aided	5718	6020	302	5.02	6062	349	5.67
Total	20811	22085	1274	5.77	22726	1920	8.43

For individual sectors and areas, the number of surplus places is not the actual difference between the number of pupils on roll and Net Capacity as no adjustment is made to figures to take account of those schools where the number of pupils on roll exceeds the Net Capacity.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS: EMPTY PLACES & SURPLUS PLACES

School	Total NOR as at May 2024	NOR Years 7 to 11	No of places Years 7 to 11 2023/24	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (No.)	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (%)	Capacity - net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Bootle & Litherland								
Hillside High	702	702	725	23	3.17	970	268	27.63
King's Leadership Hawthorne's Free School	641	641	655	14	2.14	725	84	11.59
Salesian Academy of St John Bosco	514	514	600	86	14.33	809	295	36.47
Litherland High	727	727	720	-7	-0.01	720	-7	-0.01

School	Total NOR as at May 2024	NOR Years 7 to 11	No of places Years 7 to 11 2023/24	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (No.)	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (%)	Capacity - net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Academy	2584	2584	2700	116	4.30	3244	660	20.35
Total	2584	2584	2700	116	4.30	3244	660	20.35
Crosby								
Chesterfield High	1521	1393	1317	-76	-5.46	1457	-64	-4.21
St Michael's CE High	673	611	750	139	18.53	864	191	22.11
Holy Family Catholic High	1008	830	792	-38	-4.58	1008	0	0
Sacred Heart Catholic College	802	723	1080	357	33.06	1354	552	40.77
Formby								
Academy	2996	2727	3147	420	13.35	3675	679	18.48
Catholic Aided	1008	830	792	-38	-4.58	1008	0	0
Total	4004	3557	3939	382	9.70	4683	679	14.5
Formby								
Formby High	1096	885	870	-15	-1.69	1088	-8	-0.73
Range High	1076	884	864	-20	-2.26	1229	153	12.45
Maghull								
Academy	2172	1769	1734	-35	-1.98	2317	145	6.26
Total	2172	1769	1734	-35	-1.98	2317	145	6.26
Maghull								
Deyes High	1348	1152	1200	48	4.00	1500	152	10.13
Maghull High	1089	1003	930	-73	-7.28	1349	260	19.27
Maricourt High	1163	1033	1050	17	1.62	1528	365	23.89
Southport								
Academy	2437	2155	2130	-25	-1.16	2849	412	14.46
Catholic Aided	1163	1033	1050	17	1.62	1528	365	23.89
Total	3600	3188	3180	-8	0.02	4377	777	17.75
Southport								
Birkdale High	928	928	910	-18	-1.94	960	32	3.33
Greenbank High	1050	1050	1030	-20	-1.90	1030	-20	-1.90
Meols Cop High	900	900	900	0	0	900	0	0
Stanley High	838	838	850	12	1.41	750	-88	-10.50
Christ the King High	825	713	920	207	22.5	1223	398	32.54
Academy	3716	3716	3690	-26	-0.70	3640	-76	-2.05
Catholic Aided	825	713	920	207	22.5	1223	398	32.54
Total	4541	4429	4610	181	3.93	4863	322	6.62

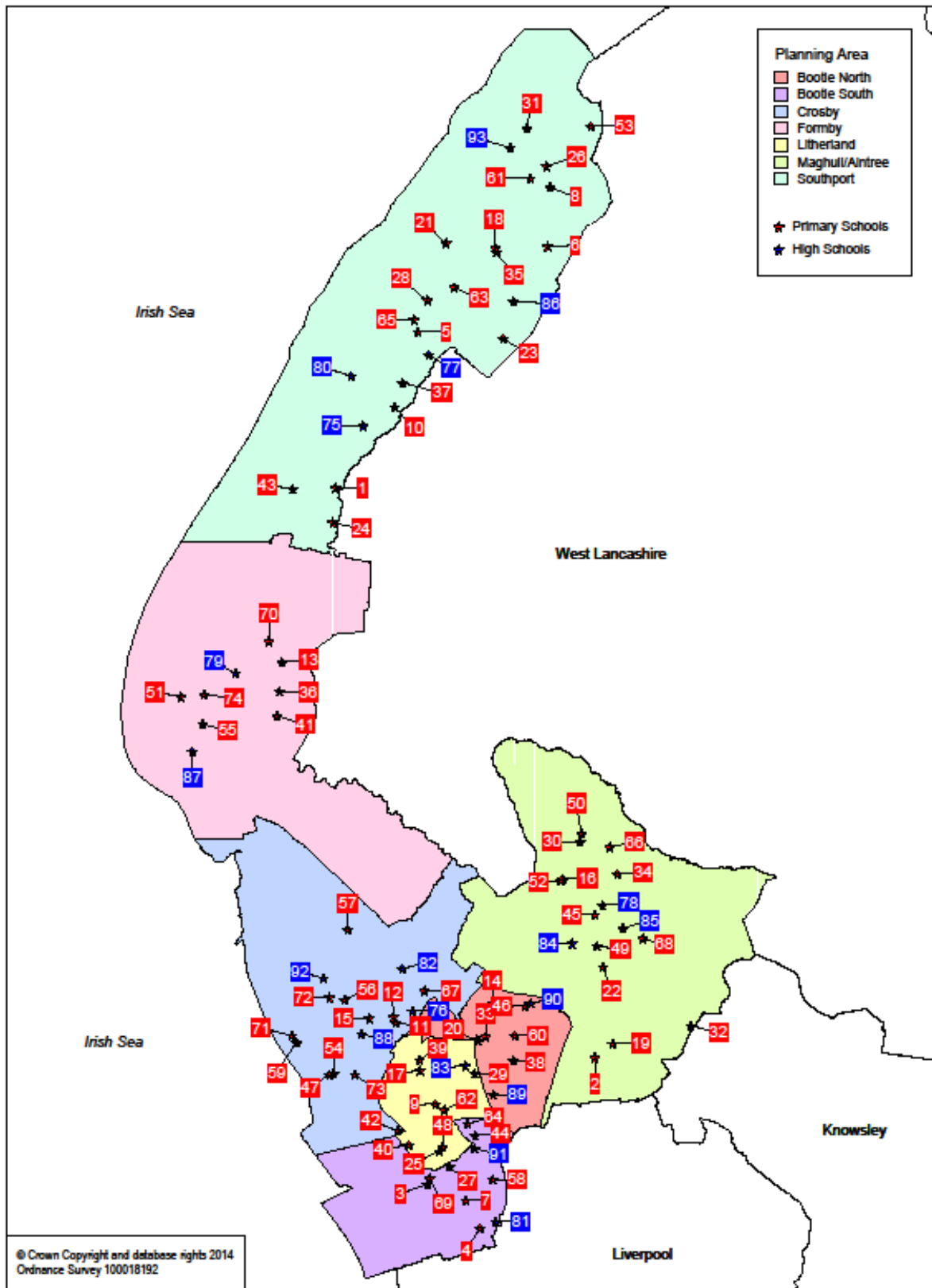
School	Total NOR as at May 2024	NOR Years 7 to 11	No of places Years 7 to 11 2023/24	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (No.)	Empty places Years 7 to 11 (%)	Capacity - net capacity/ funding agreement	Surplus Capacity as at May 2024	%
Sefton								
Academy	13905	12951	13401	450	3.36	15725	1820	11.57
Catholic Aided	2996	2576	2762	186	6.73	3759	763	20.30
Total	16901	15527	16163	636	3.93	19484	2583	13.26

* For individual sectors and areas, the number of surplus places is not the actual difference between the number of pupils on roll and Net Capacity as no adjustment is made to figures to take account of those schools where the number of pupils on roll exceeds the Net Capacity.



ANNEX 1: MAP OF SEFTON'S PLANNING AREAS

Map of Sefton's Planning Areas



Ref No	School
1	Ainsdale St John's CE Primary
2	Aintree Davenhill Primary
3	All Saints Catholic Primary
4	Bedford Primary
5	Birkdale Primary
6	Bishop David Sheppard CE Primary
7	Christ Church CE Primary
8	Churchtown Primary
9	English Martyrs Catholic Primary
10	Farnborough Road Infant and Junior
11	Forefield Infant
12	Forefield Junior
13	Freshfield Primary
14	The Grange Primary
15	Great Crosby Catholic Primary
16	Green Park Primary
17	Hatton Hill Primary
18	Holy Family Catholic Primary
19	Holy Rosary Catholic Primary
20	Holy Spirit Catholic Primary
21	Holy Trinity CE Primary
22	Hudson Primary
23	Kew Woods Primary
24	Kings Meadow Primary
25	Lander Road Primary
26	Larkfield Primary
27	Linacre Primary
28	Linaker Primary
29	Litherland Moss Primary
30	Lydiate Primary
31	Marshside Primary
32	Melling Primary
33	Netherton Moss Primary
34	Northway Primary
35	Norwood Primary
36	Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary
37	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary
38	Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary
39	Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary
40	Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary
41	Redgate Primary
42	Rimrose Hope CE Primary
43	Shoreside Primary
44	Springwell Park Primary
45	St Andrew's CE Primary
46	St Benedict's Catholic Primary

47	St Edmund's and St Thomas Catholic Primary
48	St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
49	St George's Catholic Primary
50	St Gregory's Catholic Primary
51	St Jerome's Catholic Primary
52	St John Bosco Catholic Primary
53	St John's CE Primary, Crossens
54	St John's CE Primary, Waterloo
55	St Luke's CE Primary
56	St Luke's Halsall CE Primary
57	St Mary's Catholic Primary
58	St Monica's Catholic Primary
59	St Nicholas CE Primary
60	St Oswald's CE Primary
61	St Patrick's Catholic Primary
62	St Philip's CE Primary, Litherland
63	St Philip's CE Primary, Southport
64	St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Primary
65	St Teresa's Catholic Infant (no longer open)
66	St Thomas CE Primary
67	St William of York Catholic Primary
68	Summerhill Primary
69	Thomas Gray Primary
70	Trinity St Peter's CE Primary
71	Ursuline Catholic Primary
72	Valewood Primary
73	Waterloo Primary
74	Woodlands Primary
75	Birkdale High
76	Chesterfield High
77	Christ the King Catholic High
78	Deyes High
79	Formby High
80	Greenbank High
81	Hillside High
82	Holy Family Catholic High
83	Litherland High
84	Maghull High
85	Maricourt Catholic High
86	Meols Cop High
87	Range High
88	Sacred Heart Catholic College
89	Savio Salesian College
90	St Ambrose Barlow Catholic High (no longer open)
91	King's Leadership Academy Hawthorne's Free School
92	St Michael's CE High
93	Stanley High

ANNEX 2: NURSERY PLACES IN SEFTON SCHOOLS

Nursery Class or School	Number of Places FTE (Full Time Equivalent)
Bootle & Litherland	
All Saint's Class	30
Christ Church Class	46
Holy Spirit Class	30
Linacre Class	30
Netherton Moss Class	40
Our Lady of Walsingham Class	30
Springwell Park Class	26
St Benedict's Class	30
St Monica's Class	30
St Oswald's CE Class	30
St Robert Bellarmine Class	30
The Grange Class	30
Thomas Gray Class	54
Cambridge School	60
Greenacre School	61
Total	557

Litherland	
English Martyrs Class	30
Hatton Hill Class	30
Lander Road Class	46
Litherland Moss Class	30
Our Lady Queen of Peace Class	30
Our Lady Star of the Sea Class	15
St Elizabeth's Class	38
Total	219

Crosby	
Forefield Infant class	39
Great Crosby Class	30
St Luke's Halsall Class	30
St Edmund's & St Thomas'	26
St William of York Class	38
Rimrose Hope Class	30
Waterloo Primary Nursery	31
Total	224

Nursery Class or School	Number of Places FTE (Full-time equivalent)
Formby	
Freshfield Class	45
Redgate class	30
Woodlands Class	26
Our Lady of Compassion Class	30
Trinity St Peter's Class	26
Total	157

Maghull	
Aintree Davenhill Class	30
Green Park Class	30
Hudson Class	46
Lydiate Class	26
Northway Class	30
Holy Rosary Class	26
St George's Class	30
St Gregory's Class	15
Total	233

Southport	
Birkdale Class	30
Bishop David Sheppard Class	72
Churchtown Class	36
Farnborough Road Class	84
Kew Woods Class	30
Kings Meadow Class	30
Linaker Class	30
Our Lady of Lourdes Class	30
Shoreside	24
Crossens School	53
Total	449

Sefton SEND Provision Placement Planning

What are the special educational needs of the Education Act 1996?

A child is considered as having special educational needs if he/she has a learning difficulty which requires special educational provision (that is provision more than the average child) to be made for him/her. a) the learning difficulty must be significantly greater than the majority of others of the same age.

Overview:

Our strategic vision for Sefton is to support children and young people by having timely access to local provision that can meet their needs, supporting them to reach their potential whilst remaining within their local communities.

To achieve this, children and young people should live and be educated within their local community wherever possible and have access to local services with systems that are needs led, building on early identification and early intervention.

Whilst most pupils with SEND will have their needs met within mainstream settings, there are a growing number of pupils who require more support. As of September 2024, 3656 children and young people have EHCP's.

The following table demonstrates the different types of education available within Sefton:

Type of Education	Definition
Mainstream	Additional support can be provided within mainstream classes depending on the pupil's individual needs.
Resource Provision	Majority of the pupils time is within mainstream classes with access to specialist facilities around school.
SEN Unit	Majority of the pupils time is within a separate classroom. Pupils will have access to a higher level of specialist support.
Special School	Usually caters for a specific type of SEN and includes higher staffing ratios and small class sizes.

Data suggests a critical shift in the educational landscape of Sefton, with mainstream schools increasingly taking on the responsibility of supporting pupils with significant needs through EHCPs. These trends highlight the need for continued investment in resources, training and infrastructure to support the growing number of pupils with additional needs, ensuring that they receive the appropriate support to thrive in their educational journeys.

The table below demonstrates the total SEND provision (admissions number) available within Sefton for the 2025/26 academic year:

School	Type of Provision	Type of School	Special Need	Specialist Places 2025/26
*Rowan Park	Special	All-through (Rec to Yr14)	Severe Learning Difficulties and/or complex health needs	305

School	Type of Provision	Type of School	Special Need	Specialist Places 2025/26
Merefield	Special	All-through (Rec to Yr14)	Severe Learning Difficulties and/or complex health needs	102
Presfield High	Special	Secondary	Autism	123
Crosby High	Special	Secondary	Moderate Learning Difficulties	164
**Newfield	Special	KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)	125
Meols Cop High School	Resource Provision	Secondary	Autism	10
			Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)	12
St Michael's Church of England High School	Resource Provision	Secondary	Autism	10
			Cognition and Learning (C&L)	15
Formby High School	SEN Unit	Secondary	Cognition and Learning	40
Holy Family Catholic High School	SEN Unit	Secondary	Cognition and Learning	32
Our Lady of Lourdes	SEN Unit	Primary	Autism	24
Freshfield Primary	SEN Unit	Primary	Autism	28
Redgate Primary (The Pines)	SEN Unit	Primary	Complex Learning Difficulties	42
Hudson Primary	SEN Unit	Primary	Autism	36
The Grange Primary	SEN Units	Primary	Autism	30
			SEMH	8
			Speech, Language and Communication Needs	24
Thomas Gray	SEN Unit	Primary	Social Communication	42

School	Type of Provision	Type of School	Special Need	Specialist Places 2025/26
Waterloo Primary	SEN Unit	Primary	Autism Cognition and Learning	38 8
~Bishop David Shepperd Primary	SEN Unit	Primary	Social Communication	16
Kings Meadow Primary	Resource Provision	Primary	Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)	10
Marshside Primary	SEN Unit	Primary	Social Communication	24
Greenacre	Resource Provision	Nursery		12 (Part-time)
Cambridge	Resource Provision	Nursery		6 (Part-time)
Our Lady of Lourdes	SEN unit & Resource Provision	Nursery		4 (Part-time)
			Total	1290

*Rowan Park includes Rowan Tree (Early Years campus) and Rowan High (Secondary and Post 16 Autism campus).

**Newfield includes both Thornton and Birkdale campuses.

~Bishop David Shepperd. Phase 1 building work now complete, Phase 2 building work due to be complete in time for September 2025.

Demand for specialist provision

Whilst there are 1290 specialist places already within our special schools, SEN Units and Resource Provisions across early years, primary, secondary and post 16, demand for specialist provision within Sefton is growing. This includes increased demand for funding to support children in mainstream education to requests for special school places.

Recent data has shown a spike in Sefton for requirements for support with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in both primary and secondary phase. See table below which shows SEN Number and rate per 1,000 population (0-25) by Sefton Ward and Primary SEN Need/Category (as at October 2024):

Sefton Ward	Value	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Moderate Learning Difficulty	Soc, Em and Ment Health	Speech, Lang or Comm Diff	Spl Learning Diff (Dyslexia)
Ainsdale	Count	105	29	75	52	52
	Rate per 1,000	33.2	9.2	23.7	16.5	16.5

Sefton Ward	Value	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Moderate Learning Difficulty	Soc, Em and Ment Health	Speech, Lang or Comm Diff	Spl Learning Diff (Dyslexia)
Birkdale	Count	86	36	87	67	46
	Rate per 1,000	24.6	10.3	24.9	19.2	13.2
Blundellsands	Count	54	11	47	33	43
	Rate per 1,000	19.7	4.0	17.2	12.1	15.7
Cambridge	Count	48	17	40	36	31
	Rate per 1,000	22.0	7.8	18.3	16.5	14.2
Church	Count	74	39	74	48	51
	Rate per 1,000	24.1	12.7	24.1	15.6	16.6
Derby	Count	104	51	129	135	44
	Rate per 1,000	25.0	12.3	31.0	32.5	10.6
Duke's	Count	34	32	52	52	26
	Rate per 1,000	12.3	11.6	18.8	18.8	9.4
Ford	Count	128	73	113	103	73
	Rate per 1,000	34.0	19.4	30.0	27.3	19.4
Harington	Count	49	15	62	39	33
	Rate per 1,000	18.1	5.6	22.9	14.4	12.2
Kew	Count	123	28	122	102	59
	Rate per 1,000	28.4	6.5	28.2	23.6	13.6
Linacre	Count	129	98	171	186	76
	Rate per 1,000	29.0	22.1	38.5	41.9	17.1
Litherland	Count	113	32	82	85	54
	Rate per 1,000	29.2	8.3	21.2	22.0	14.0
Manor	Count	74	29	88	79	64
	Rate per 1,000	23.9	9.4	28.4	25.5	20.7
Meols	Count	74	22	55	50	51
	Rate per 1,000	25.9	7.7	19.2	17.5	17.8
Molyneux	Count	79	39	51	47	64
	Rate per 1,000	23.4	11.6	15.1	13.9	19.0

Sefton Ward	Value	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Moderate Learning Difficulty	Soc, Em and Ment Health	Speech, Lang or Comm Diff	Spl Learning Diff (Dyslexia)
Netherton and Orrell	Count	119	50	85	140	62
	Rate per 1,000	29.5	12.4	21.1	34.7	15.4
Norwood	Count	131	37	97	96	68
	Rate per 1,000	28.9	8.2	21.4	21.2	15.0
Park	Count	41	28	38	22	39
	Rate per 1,000	14.9	10.2	13.8	8.0	14.2
Ravenmeols	Count	96	33	94	65	63
	Rate per 1,000	31.3	10.8	30.7	21.2	20.6
St Oswald	Count	116	91	99	141	58
	Rate per 1,000	35.6	28.0	30.4	43.3	17.8
Sudell	Count	59	41	42	40	49
	Rate per 1,000	17.4	12.1	12.4	11.8	14.5
Victoria	Count	65	30	41	47	49
	Rate per 1,000	18.3	8.4	11.5	13.2	13.8

The ward of Linacre has 4,442 (0-25), of these 171 with SEMH / with a rate per 1,000 of 38.5 students. SEMH is more prevalent in the South.

The ward of Norwood has 4,535 (0-25), of these 131 with ASD / with a rate per 1,000 of 29 students. The ward of St Oswald has 3,252 (0-25), of these 116 with ASD / with a rate per 1,000 of 35.6 students. ASD is more prevalent in South with higher pockets in the North example the ward of Norwood.

The number of available places forecasted over the next 3 academic years without any expansion of current provision is predicted below. This data is based on the number of pupils who are due to age out of these settings:

School	Projected places 2026-27 to be available*	Projected places 2027-28 to be available*	Projected places 2028-29 to be available*
Rowan Park	22	20	27
Merefield	5	3	13
Presfield High	16	16	17
Crosby High	34	34	33
Newfield	9	16	25
Meols Cop High School	1 – ASD 1 - SpLD	1 – ASD 0 - SpLD	1 – ASD 5 - SpLD

School	Projected places 2026-27 to be available*	Projected places 2027-28 to be available*	Projected places 2028-29 to be available*
St Michael's Church of English High School	3- ASD 3 – C&L	1 – ASD 2 – C&L	1 – ASD 3 - SpLD
Formby High School	8	8	8
Holy Family Catholic High School	6	6	8
Our Lady of Lourdes	5	4	2
Freshfield Primary	10	2	3
Redgate Primary (The Pines)	4	9	4
Hudson Primary	3	5	6
The Grange Primary	4 - ASD 4 – SEMH 5 - SLCN	7 - ASD 1 – SEMH 4 - SLCN	1 – ASD 0 – SEMH 3 - SLCN
Thomas Gray	2	2	5
Waterloo Primary	7 - ASD 2 – C&L	4 - ASD 1 – C&L	7 – ASD 0 – C&L
Bishop David Shepperd Primary	2	1	2
Kings Meadow Primary	1	2	1
**Marshside Primary	4	4	2

*The above number of places available can be affected by mid-year change of placements resulting in lower numbers being available.

**Marshside Primary is based on current provision for Reception and KS1.

Early Years:

The Early Years Team have seen an increase year on year with the number of children which they are supporting as demonstrated in the table below:

Year/ Date	Number of children known to the EY SEND Team
July 2024	1002 (as of October 2024, this figure was 752 as the remaining 250 had moved on to primary phase)
July 2023	783
July 2022	631
July 2021	569

Information gathered from the Early Years team would indicate that a minimum of 38 SEN Unit places will be needed for children who are already placed within nursery places for the 2025-26 academic year. Feedback from the Early Years Team who undertake direct work with children and families together with information from the Early Notification pathway which was re-launched in July 2023, this number is likely to be much higher and data would estimate 55 places needed within special schools and 62 places within SEN Units / Resource Provisions for Reception 2025/2026.

The above information aligns with the increase in EHCP requests; as of September 2024, there are 135 children with EHCP's within the Reception year group and 16 children who were due to start Reception, however parents have made the decision to delay their entry to September 2025.

In terms of SEND need for the resource places, these would not be put in a category as often the Early Years team are assessing their need. Most of the children do not have an EHCP and primary area of need is not always easily identifiable for this phase. Places are within the mainstream classrooms and all needs can be supported within these places. A lot of work is being done on [Ready to Learn](#) and will include looking at behaviour regulation etc at early stages to try to keep young children in mainstream where possible.

There are currently no additional places required in the Early Years phase.

Year 6 Transition Cohort:

Currently there are 236 pupils with EHCP's within the yr 6 cohort, an increase of 27 pupils since last year. This is the highest number of Year 6's ever recorded. There are currently an additional 10 children currently under assessment. However, it should be noted that further requests for assessments for pupils in year 6 are expected to be received in line with recent trends and patterns which Sefton has seen over past few years. There are pieces of work and observation studies which will be conducted earlier with schools in relation to year 5 pupils.

Demand for specialist places is also being driven up by parental preferences where the LA is under a duty to name to parental preference. Merefield School alone saw 133 placement consultations being sent to them by the SEN Team between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024, with 81 of these requests being parental preference. Merefield School only had 4 places available for 2024/25 academic year. This picture is replicated across all special schools. The result of this has been an increase in the number of tribunals being lodged which is demonstrated in the table below:

	Jan 22 – Dec 22	Jan 23 – Dec 23	Jan 24 - Sept 24
Number of Tribunals lodged	21	32	47

As of September 2024, there were 23 live cases awaiting Final Orders/Final Hearing included within the 47 cases above.

The average cost of a Tribunal is estimated to be:

2022	2023	2024
£7,880	£9,650	£8,040

If tribunal cases continue to rise or remain at the above levels, legal costs are likely to increase in line with this demand as currently only 1 solicitor is resourced and outsourcing to Legal Services may need to be considered. Most cases are brought to tribunal due to disagreement around placement named in Section I of the EHCP.

32 cases from the 47 above brought between January 2024 and September 2024 involved Section I – Placement details.

As of September 2024, current EHCP pupils due to transition in 2025/26 by need:

Category of Need	Starting Reception in Sept 25	Starting Secondary in Sept 25
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	1	76
Hearing Impairment		2
Moderate Learning Disability		23
Multi-Sensory Impairment		0
Other difficulty		1
Physical Disability	1	7
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty		2
Social Emotional, and Mental Health		42
Speech Language and Communication Needs	19*	24
Severe Learning Difficulties		12
Specific Learning Difficulty		10
Visual Impairment		3
Total number of pupils with EHCP	21**	203

*A proportion of these pupils will be accepted onto the Autism referral pathway and may be awaiting a diagnosis.

**This number is expected to raise in line with previous trends and is likely to be around 155 by August 2026.

To meet this increase demand for specialist SEN places, Sefton like other Local Authorities has increased reliance on commissioning independent special schools. This does not just place further pressure on High Needs Funding including transport costs but also increases the risks should these schools serve notice on placements leaving pupils without education. To mitigate these risks, Sefton needs to expand the places available within our special schools within the next 2 years.

Data shows that approximately 50 places have been agreed out of borough where the Casework Officer has indicated they could have been placed in a maintained specialist setting, had there been a place available.

However, to air on the side of caution we must take into consideration, if the independent setting was the parental preference and LA did have an in-borough specialist place available the parent might take the decision to tribunal, for which there is a cost implication with tribunal and LA can be directed to name those schools anyway.

Expected Demand Reception to year 11

Having looked at data trends over the past 2 years, we were able to establish the percentage increase/decrease by primary need (see below). If we apply the overall percentage increase (all NCY 0-11) of 22.3%, this estimates that we would require a further 125 specialist places (split 68 primary phase and 57 secondary phase), as well as an additional 55 specialist placements for any pupils who are still waiting

to be placed – see last 2 rows in table below. (Of these 55 still to be placed, we would expect at least half of these to have a primary need of SEMH). Overall, this would total 180 additional specialist places we expect to need for September 2025 academic year, split as follows by need:

All EHCPs Placed in any school/setting NCY Reception to Y12	Actual Numbers			Number Increases			Percentage Increases			Average % Increase	Predicted Numbers		New EHC plans		Jan-26 number multiplied by 22.3%
	Jan-23	Jan-24	Nov-24	Jan24 v Jan23	Nov24 v Jan24	Nov24 v Jan23	Jan24 v Jan23	Nov24 v Jan24	Nov24 v Jan23		Jan24 v Jan25	Jan25 v Jan26	Jan-25	Jan-26	
Primary NCY 0-6	729	988	1222	259	234	493	35.5%	23.7%	40.3%	29.6%	1281	1584	293	303	68
Secondary NCY 7-11	958	1083	1301	125	218	343	13.0%	20.1%	26.4%	16.6%	1263	1517	180	254	57
All NCY 0-11	1687	2071	2523	384	452	836	22.8%	21.8%	33.1%	22.3%	2533	3085	462	553	125
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	674	764	881	90	117	207	13.4%	15.3%	10.2%	14.3%	866	1007	102	141	30
Speech, Lang or CommDiff	254	389	571	135	182	317	53.1%	46.8%	23.6%	50.0%	596	856	207	261	57
Soc, Em and Ment Health	304	417	524	113	107	220	37.2%	25.7%	21.6%	31.4%	572	689	155	117	26
Moderate Learning Difficulty	185	205	230	20	25	45	10.8%	12.2%	8.7%	11.5%	227	256	22	29	7
Spl Learning Diff(Dyslexia)	48	63	82	15	19	34	31.3%	30.2%	18.3%	30.7%	83	107	20	24	5
Severe Learning Difficulty	92	87	80	-5	-7	-12	-5.4%	-8.0%	-6.3%	-6.7%	82	75	-5	-8	-2
Physical Disability	63	71	76	8	5	13	12.7%	7.0%	10.5%	9.9%	80	84	9	3	1
Profound & Multiple Learn Diff	21	21	19	0	-2	-2	0.0%	-9.5%	0.0%	-4.8%	21	18	0	-3	-1
Other Difficulty/Disability	16	18	18	2	0	2	12.5%	0.0%	11.1%	6.3%	20	19	2	-1	0
Vision Impairment	11	15	15	4	0	4	36.4%	0.0%	26.7%	18.2%	20	18	5	-3	-1
Hearing Impairment	13	11	12	-2	1	-1	-15.4%	9.1%	-16.7%	-3.1%	9	12	-2	2	1
Multi-Sensory Impairment	5	9	12	4	3	7	80.0%	33.3%	33.3%	56.7%	16	19	7	3	1
Does Not Apply	1	1	3	0	2	2	0.0%	200.0%	0.0%	100.0%	1	6	0	5	1
Still waiting to be placed (resource)															22
Consultations waiting to be placed															33
Total															180

If we also look at current numbers on roll for Jigsaw (our primary phase Pupil Referral Unit), we have 13 pupils on roll, all of whom have a primary need of SEMH. Some of these pupils will progress to being assessed for an EHCP and will require specialist provision in the secondary phase of their education.

Creating additional special school places also includes looking at pupils currently placed within our primary SEN units / Resource Provision bases who will likely require a specialist place when they enter secondary phase. One of the reasons for this is that we do not have enough SEN Units in the secondary phase.

September 2025 projections:

There are currently 34 pupils in Year 6 within the SEN Units across Sefton schools. The majority of these pupils will more than likely require a special school place as they enter secondary school.

Need	Number of pupils	Most likely progression school
Social Communication	26	Rowan High Presfield Rowan Park Merefield Crosby High
Cognition and Learning	3	Crosby High
SEMH	2	Newfield
Speech, Language and Communication needs	3	Rowan Park Merefield

September 2026 projections

There are currently 46 pupils in Year 5, within the SEN Units / Resource Provisions across Sefton Schools. These pupils will more than likely require special school at the primary to secondary transfer stage.

Need	Number of pupils	Most likely progression school
Social Communication	31	Rowan High Presfield Rowan Park Merefield
Cognition and Learning	6	Crosby High
SEMH	4	Newfield
Speech, Language and Communication needs	5	Rowan Park Merefield

Post 16

There is a need to review NEET data together with the provision. We will also be looking at what these young people are being coded as in terms of their SEN category/need.

Birth and population data:

Recent data from ONS re births in Sefton 2022/23 indicate that overall, for that (academic) year, there were 172 fewer births in Sefton compared with the previous year. However, we must take into account migration and the fact that we do still receive school applications from non-EU applicants who move into the borough. Southport & Bootle appear to be the main areas which these families move into.

Population data currently in Sefton for 0–25-year-olds is highest in the following wards:

Derby, Kew, Litherland, Norwood and St Oswalds, and so we would expect higher number of EHCPs in these areas.

Independent and Out of Borough schools:

In the Autumn term 2024, Sefton had 3,656 children and young people with EHCP's. There were 286 independent day school placements at an average cost of £48,179, covering ages from NCY -1 (EYFS) to Post 19-24 Year Olds. Additionally, 5 residential placements at an average cost of £81,157, for young people from NCY 5 (KS2) to NCY 11 (KS4).

NOTE: The information above does not include those children who move into Sefton during the academic year.

Utilising Spare Capacity for SEND

Spare classrooms that are unlikely to be required in the longer-term can be used for alternative use: primary and secondary special satellite provision. The use of spare capacity in the mainstream school estates for additional SEND places is currently being explored. This would deliver value for money by repurposing current buildings to meet identified areas of demand. This could also include consideration of relocating schools to new sites if this offered the potential for expansion to meet increasing demand.



EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY

The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on the Local Authority to secure sufficient childcare places (so far as is reasonably practical) to enable parents to take up or remain in work, or to undertake education and training leading to work, and to play a strategic role in facilitating the childcare market.

Childcare is defined under Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006, as any form of care for a child. This includes education and any other supervised activity for a young child, apart from a school during school hours for a registered pupil who is not a young child.

Section 19 states that the definition of a young child is “from birth to immediately before 1st September following the date the child is five”. Childcare does not include care provided by a parent or step-parent of the child (or a person with parental responsibility), a foster carer or a relative of the child.

By analysing the supply of childcare available, and comparing it with information about demand from parents, potential gaps in childcare provision can be identified. This is the first step towards developing a strategy for securing sufficient childcare places through working with local providers and tailoring services to the particular needs of children and families.

The past year has seen the roll-out of capital funding for extended Early Years entitlements and also Wrap Around offer to working parents. This places a further duty on the Local Authority to secure places for children from 9 months old from September 2024.

The Early years entitlements are:

- the 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old (new entitlement from 1 September 2024)
- the 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children (new entitlement from 1 April 2024)
- the 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- the universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- the additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

The entitlement hours are up to 15 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks of the year (equivalent to a maximum of 570 hours a year), or, for 3 and 4-year-olds, up to 30 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children of working parents (equivalent to a maximum 1,140 hours a year). From September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above will be able to access 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year) from the term following their child turning 9 months to when they start school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2024-to-2025/early-years-entitlements-local-authority-funding-operational-guide-2024-to-2025>

The aims of the capital funding are:

- To support the development of high-quality new childcare places for Early Years children eligible for the new entitlements. The government timescales for this are as follows.
- 15 hours 2-year-olds (April 2024)
- 15 hours 9 months+ (September 2024)
- 30 hours 9 months + (September 2025)
- To target areas where there is insufficient provision.
- To remodel existing provision to ensure that it is inclusive and suitable for children with a range of needs.



Findings from our latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicate that across Sefton as a whole, there are vacant childcare places available, however they may not always be at the setting parents or carers would prefer as some settings have no places available. Availability of places does vary across wards (detailed later in the report). Vacancies for children aged 0-2 are limited.

Known Early Years vacancies across individual wards per age group (as at April 2024):

Table 3a-Known vacancies based in Childminder provision in Sefton age group and Ward. Source Childminder Survey 2024

Ward	Weekly Vancancies available												
	Term time only						All year (48 - 52 weeks)						
	up to 1	1 y	2 y	3 & 4 y	5-8 y	over 8 y	up to 1	1 y	2 y	3 & 4 y	5-8 y	over 8 y	
Ainsdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birkdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	15	15	15	0	0	0
Blundellsands	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	0	0	0	0
Duke's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	7	7	2	2	2
Harington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	5	4	4
Kew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Linacre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Litherland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	8	8	8
Meols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Molyneux	0	0	0	0	8	8	3	3	3	1	12	12	12
Netherton and Orrell	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	0
Norwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	5	12	24	24
Ravenmeols	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	21	21	22	9	0	0
St Oswald	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Sudell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	13	5	0	0

Table 3b Known vacancies based in Maintained or School Nursery Provision in Sefton age group and Ward. Source Sufficiency Survey, Maintained Settings 2024

Ward	Weekly Vancancies available			
	Term Time Only		All year (48 - 52 weeks)	
	2 y	3 & 4 y	2 y	3 & 4 y
Ainsdale	4	35	0	0
Birkdale	0	32	0	0
Blundellsands	0	25	0	0
Church	45	71	0	240
Derby	111	93	0	0
Duke's	0	0	0	0
Ford	0	133	0	0
Harington	0	8	0	0
Kew	0	42	0	0
Linacre	15	165	0	0
Litherland	2	156	0	0
Manor	0	33	0	0
Meols	0	58	0	0
Molyneux	0	0	0	0
Netherton and Orrell	0	135	0	0
Norwood	0	0	0	0
Park	0	36	0	0
Ravenmeols	4.5	71	0	0
St Oswald	0	136	0	0
Sudell	0	29	0	0
Victoria	0	7	0	0

Table: 3c Known vacancies based in Private, Voluntary Independent provision in Sefton age group

and Ward

Source Private Voluntary and Independent Setting Survey 2024

Ward	Weekly Vancancies available							
	Term time only				All year (48 - 52 weeks)			
	up to 1	1 y	2 y	3 & 4 y	up to 1	1 y	2 y	3 & 4 y
Ainsdale	0	0	0	0	18	18	11	43
Birkdale	0	0	13	1	8	16	19	22
Blundellsands	0	0	30.5	49.5	35	48	25	68
Cambridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church	0	0	0	0	49	37	162	243
Derby	0	0	0	0	25	32	52	112
Duke's	0	0	4	0	111.5	93	206	157
Ford	0	0	44	45	68	56	46	60
Harington	0	0	0	13	43	25	22	93
Kew	0	0	0	0	6	11	14	27
Linacre	0	0	0	0	7	4	17	51
Litherland	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	0
Manor	0	0	28	114	0	0	0	0
Meols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Molyneux	0	0	0	0	5	1	5	2
Netherton and Orrell	0	0	14	19	4	8	17	88
Norwood	0	0	0	0	37	22	55	76
Park	0	0	0	0	12	16	21	79
Ravenmeols	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
St Oswald	0	0	0	0	26	26	176	120
Sudell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Victoria	0	0	0	0	19	11	44	62

In relation to the tables above, it is worth bearing in mind the following points:

- The data provided was correct to the best of our knowledge by April 2024
- Total number of weekly full-time places available, a place may sometimes be shared by more than one child.
- For private, voluntary, and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.
- Vacancy rates are a snapshot and often change. In some cases, providers may have a place that is only available for a particular age group or for a particular part time arrangement. In general vacancy rates are higher in the autumn when children move into school.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/bshjj55d/sufficiency-report-23-24-final.pdf>

Wrap Around Childcare

As part of the Expansion of Childcare the Department for Education have launched an agenda to ensure that wrap around childcare is available for every school aged child (aged 5-11) that needs it.

“The government’s ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation. To support this ambition, the government announced that it will provide up to £289 million of start-up funding, over two academic years to support local authorities and providers in England to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day, which parents of primary school-aged children will be able to pay to access. This programme will only focus on primary school-aged children from reception to year 6, Monday to Friday during term time.

Our expectation is that all wraparound provision is 8am-6pm, enabling parents to work a full day with travel



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time, unless data shows that local demand is for different hours, for example reflecting local labour market patterns.”

National Wrap Around Childcare handbook, guide for Local Authorities:

February 2024, Department for Education, Giving Children the Best Start in Life

Wrap Around Childcare in Sefton:

There are different models of delivery in Sefton providing Wrap Around Childcare. In some cases, this is delivered in house and managed by a school. Some schools work with a Private, Voluntary and Independent provider to deliver this, and some schools are catered for by local PVI providers based in community sites or childminders.

There is a great demand for wraparound care, particularly for after-school childcare.

Demand for Childcare

Sefton Demographics:

Sefton has a unique socio-economic geography. In its entirety it is in the most deprived fifth of English Local Authorities, with 27 of the 189 Sefton Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) being in the top 5% nationally (17 of these being in South Sefton). Yet other parts of the Borough, particularly in the middle and North, are some of the least deprived areas, with seven LSOAs (six of which are in North Sefton) were in the least deprived 5% of areas nationally.

This means that different Sefton Wards are likely to have different childcare needs which will impact on supply and demand. For example, some wards will have a higher demand for 2-year funded places than others. For this reason, the sufficiency data we have collected has been split into wards.

Results from the Sefton Childcare and Early Years Survey for Parents and Carers 2023 indicates that 24.38% of respondents had seen an increase of working hours. This suggests that the demand for childcare has grown slightly in the last year. This is likely to increase with the expansion of the childcare funding.

This survey also found that demands for childcare for Early Years children was relatively consistent throughout the week with slightly less demand on Fridays and a slight increase on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Internal and DfE data suggests that the roll out of 30 hours September 2025 will have the biggest impact on sufficiency, therefore we will prioritise provision that creates or expands places for under 2's.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment takes into account the challenges that have been reported by the sector and the risks to the roll-out of new Early Years funded Entitlements and the DfE ambition around the expansion of availability of Wrap Around Childcare. This includes financial sustainability and recruitment and retention.

Over the free entitlement allowance, costs for childcare will vary as providers use different models of delivery offering flexibility of service which is variable across the sector. There may also be variations on price based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours or reductions for family groups.

There are no sufficiency issues related to quality of childcare provision.

Data from the Office for National Statistics shows that birth rates have been falling. In 2022/2023, there



were 172 fewer births across Sefton that in the previous year. Children born in this period will have turned/be turning 2 this year. Estimates imply that the Early Years (0-4 years) population is reducing in Sefton, with an overall reduction of 7% from 2013 to 2022, possibly due to reductions in birth rates.

It can be difficult to gauge which nurseries/childcare providers parents will choose, as it is not always a nursery/provider in the ward in which they live. They may choose a nursery/childcare which is closer to where they work or closer to where a relative lives who may be collecting the child from their childcare.

As part of the Sefton Childcare and Early Years Survey for Parents and Carers 2023, parents and carers were asked how they choose their childcare. There was a strong preference to choose childcare providers that have been recommended by others or by internet search.

Sefton Mover's Survey Results First Edition September 2022 identified: The Sefton Local Plan identified a need for over 11,500 new homes to 2030. Many of these were planned on large housing allocations. The Local Plan was adopted in April 2017 and many of these housing allocations have been built or are under construction. The newly built houses are now providing homes for families in Sefton. In response to the 'mover's survey' 111 of the 194 respondents (57%) said that they moved into their new home from within Sefton, whilst 83 (43%) moved from outside the borough. The number of households that had someone having to switch a place of education was very small for all type of establishments, just 4% of those who completed the survey had changed nursery. This may suggest that those moving house tend to within their own locality rather than increasing the population in the local area. It may also reflect that the majority of those moving to new homes in Sefton are of an age that do not have young children in the household.

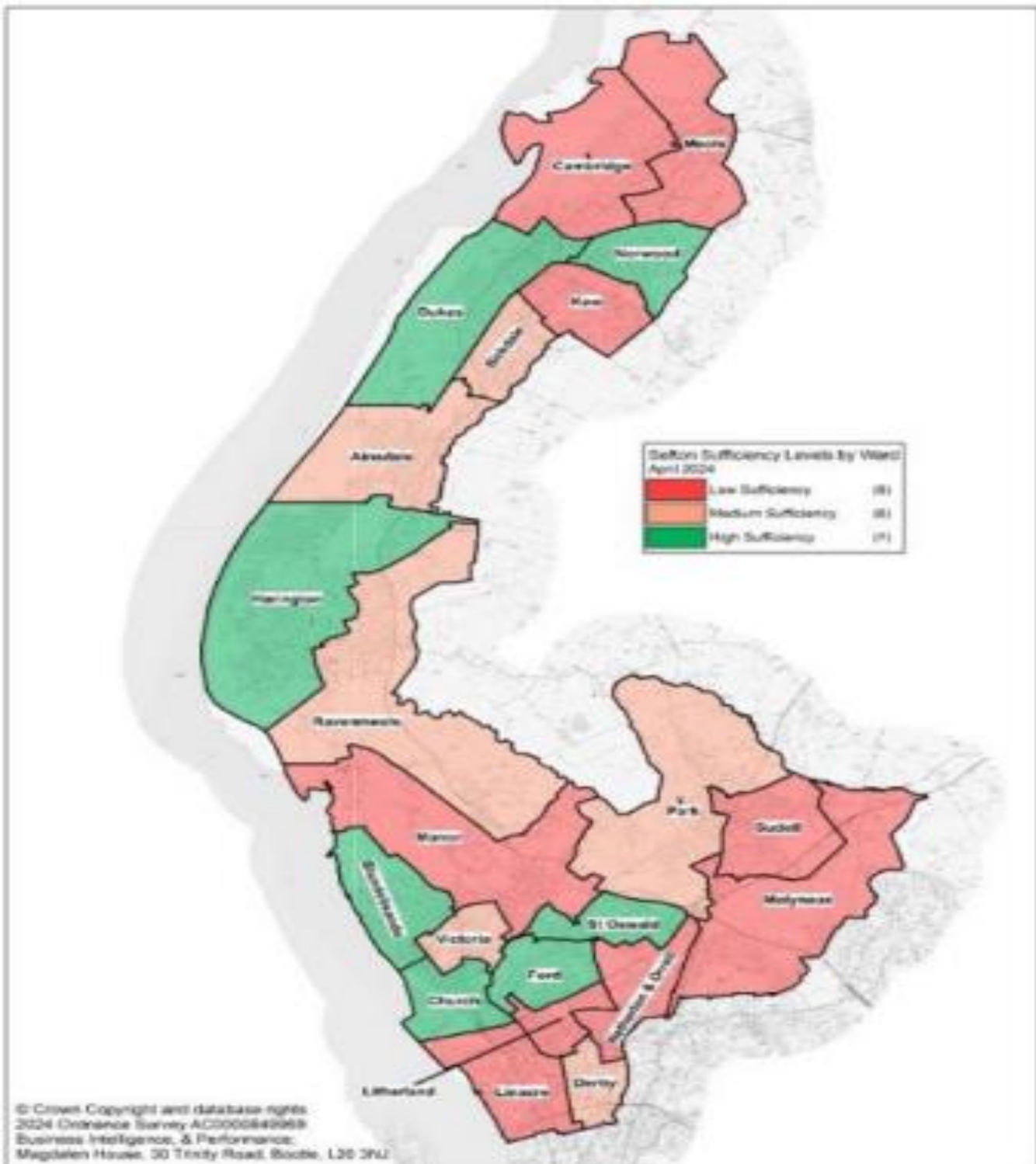
Early Years SEND

Maintained Early Years settings, as well as childminders, have seen an increase in demand for children who have additional needs. Sefton Borough Council is committed to ensuring that disabled children and those with special educational needs have access to a wide range of high-quality childcare.

Identified Gaps

There are limited choices available for atypical hours of childcare (outside 8am to 6pm on weekdays and weekends). The Early Years funding team provide a broker service to provide support to parents who might encounter difficulty in finding a suitable place.

In general, there are sufficient places for 3- and 4-year-olds across Sefton. In terms of risk to sufficiency to roll out the new funded entitlements, the map below demonstrates areas across the borough that have low (red), medium (amber) and high sufficiency (green) in relation to places for children 2 years and younger:



<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/bshij55d/sufficiency-report-23-24-final.pdf>

There are a small number of provisions who cannot meet demand for wrap around childcare. These settings will be supported as part of the childcare expansion for Wrap Around Childcare.

Sefton Council is continuing to work very closely with Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers to meet the targeted demand associated with the free entitlements for Two-, Three- and Four-Year olds, via applications received for Early Years capital funding as well as School-Based nursery applications.



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