

School Capacity Survey 2025

Forecast Methodology

North Tyneside Council – 392

Since local authorities use different methods to forecast pupil numbers and take different factors into account, regulations require local authorities to provide a statement to accompany the forecast pupil numbers explaining the method by which the forecast is made.

You can either provide this information to us in COLLECT or by email (to SCAP.PPP@education.gov.uk) using the template below.

MAINSTREAM FORECASTS

Data sources

Please confirm what data sources you have used in your forecasts.

Birth data, by academic year is used as a starting point for the projections.

The models is updated each year based on the January school census.

Pupil yield from housing developments where building has started.

Data Processing

Please describe how the raw data are processed to arrive at final figures. You may wish to mention how you arrive at pupil numbers for each Reception cohort, how you model pupil movement through the school system (e.g. retention rates at primary/secondary transfer), how you account for parental preference and the effect of any changes to school and planning area structures.

Using past trend (3 year), a proportion of the births in a particular academic year that are expected to go into reception is calculated.

Using the past 3-year (weighted) average these pupils are distributed amongst all schools. This is done similarly for other transfer years to middle, high and secondary schools.

January census for the preceding three years is used to calculate average transfer rates between each year group from Reception to post-16 - this reflects patterns of movement throughout a child's time at school.

Projections are weighted in favour of the most recent year - this allows for more recent changes in parental preference or PANs to have a greater weighting in the future forecasts.

In addition some schools have agreed to cap their in-take projections at the PAN and the additional pupils are distributed to other schools based on patterns in the past.

Migration and housing developments

How have you factored any migration assumptions and new housing developments into your forecasts? Please provide information on pupil yield (including specific figures if possible). Please confirm all housing developments included in your submitted forecasts are in the Five Year Housing Land Supply.

The impact of potential housing developments has been taken into consideration. This has been based on the number of houses planned to be built up to a maximum of 50-70 dwellings per developer per year. The impact of the housing yields will depend on the timeliness of constructions. All housing developments included are in the Five Year Housing Land Supply. These pupils are split between year groups and their impact on pupil numbers rolled forward to subsequent years.

Cross border movement

Please describe how you account for cross border movement between local authorities. Have you checked your assumptions with neighbouring local authorities?

Projections include net import/export of pupils from neighbouring authorities. The model is based on patterns of preference across the whole authority and not where the children are born. Our model accuracy is good and given the size of the local authority and the proximity of planning areas to each other there is much cross planning area movement.

Changes made

Please summarise any significant changes you have made to your forecasting model since last year, if relevant. You may wish to include information on why these changes have been made.

There have been no changes made.

Whilst our methodology has not been changed, given the proposed changes to schools and PAN's, as our model relies upon the previous three years trends, the forecast will be a bit unstable until patterns emerge. We do not believe that this will impact on the overall cohorts across all schools but may throw some anomalies out at some settings. In these instances, a manual adjustment would be necessary. We test our forecasting with the October census, ahead of the January modelling.

External forecasting expertise

Are any or all parts of your forecasts produced by an external organisation or company? Yes/No. If yes, please provide further information:

No- all forecasts are produced internally
Quality assurance What quality assurance checks have been carried out on your forecasts? This may include checks on input data, year on year comparisons, assessments of previous forecasting accuracy and so on.
<p>Previous checks have shown the model to have very high accuracy at a local authority level.</p> <p>This year the ONS tool has been used. This shows that for both primary and secondary schools the overall the local authority projections have 1% variability from the ONS model in each year group. We can account for some of the suggested over projection in the LA projections by the fact that we use a weighted average in our local projections and have included the impact of housing yield.</p> <p>In individual planning area comparisons the largest differences are seen in the NW and SW. At secondary level, the SW has the smallest number of pupils and so any difference from the ONS projections will have a bigger percentage impact.</p>
FORECAST DEMAND FOR SPECIALIST PROVISION
Data sources Please confirm what data sources you have used in your forecasts.
Number of EHCPs maintained by age and provision based on SEN2
Data Processing Please describe how the raw data are processed to arrive at final figures. Please include any assumptions made, including assumptions about future trends.
<p>We are part of the DfE Safety Valve programme and as such have used the projections carried out for this as a basis for these projections. Through the DfE safety valve interventions we have projected reductions in the total number of EHCPs and also the number in certain types of provision, whilst projecting an increase in other type of provision. This was done at an age band level and therefore our current model does not show a direct movement of pupils between year groups.</p> <p>Using the Safety Valve projections for the next 5 years a split of Independent and NMSS schools has been made so that the NMSS schools can be included in the Special Schools projections for the purposes of this return.</p> <p>Based on the current proportion in each year group the age bands have been split into year groups and the same proportions have been applied to all future years.</p>
Quality assurance

What quality assurance checks have been carried out on your forecasts?

Please include whether SCAP forecasts differ from any forecasts previously submitted to the Department, for example through the local authority's dedicated schools grant (DSG) management plan or a Safety Valve agreement.

Please also identify and summarise any data quality concerns.

Our forecasts have been based on the projections we have submitted as part of the DSG Safety Valve Agreement.

As discussed with the DfE, the Local Authority intends to remodel the DSG Management Plan in the Autumn term 2024/25 ahead of the 25/26 financial year.