

Projected availability of and demand for secondary school places

Projection and forecasting methodology

Cardiff employs a robust projection methodology for planning school places which takes account of NHS GP registration data and school census data submitted by and verified by all Cardiff schools. As projections can only take account of historic and current information the Council also identifies trends within projections, and analyses school preference data and other contextual information to produce forecasts on a city wide basis and in each locality.

Data analysis allows projections to be prepared based on localised patterns at primary school catchment area level, by secondary school catchment and on a city-wide basis. Each of these provide differing contextual information to inform the forecasting on the number of places that may be needed to meet the requirements of each area and of Cardiff as a whole.

The geographical units that are most suitable to analyse the recent and future demand for primary school places in each area are primary school catchment areas. A wider range of geographical information including aggregated primary school catchment areas, secondary school catchment areas, city-wide information and outflow to other admissions authorities informs planning for meeting the demand for secondary school places.

School catchment areas in Cardiff are not coterminous with ward boundaries and often serve all or part of several ward areas.

Separate to forecasts for existing housing in Cardiff, projections are prepared for new housing planned on large scale housing developments, including the strategic greenfield and brownfield housing sites identified in the Local Development Plan. These projections take account of census and housing information in Cardiff and allow a calculation of average numbers of pupils in each type of property.

The Education Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted in 2017 sets out the following average yields in each type of property, taking account of the most recent census data.

Year group	Yields from Flats / Apartments					Yields from Houses / Bungalows				
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed
Nursery	0.0102	0.0390	0.0567	0.0470	0.0102	0.0210	0.0507	0.0579	0.0610	0.0555
Primary	0.0155	0.0749	0.1793	0.2329	0.0649	0.0501	0.1247	0.2290	0.2947	0.3059
Secondary	0.0058	0.0287	0.1125	0.1179	0.0373	0.0336	0.0604	0.1666	0.2553	0.2806
6th Form	0.0007	0.0079	0.0345	0.0280	0.0116	0.0092	0.0165	0.0513	0.0864	0.1049

Projection data based on average yields cannot, however, be used to accurately forecast the impact of new housing on the demand for places in each year group.

As a significant proportion of families moving to new housing developments are moving within their local area, the increase in the number of school places required locally and city-wide may be less than would be the case if families have moved into Cardiff. Families moving a short distance to a new development may not wish to transfer their child(ren) to a new school. Consequently, families moving into established housing may therefore have greater difficulty in accessing a local place in an established school.

The rate at which housing on planned new developments is built and occupied depends on a number of market-related factors.

Capacity of existing secondary schools

Table 2 sets out the number of places available in each secondary school in Cardiff in, and the most recent Number on roll data at PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) date in January 2018 for the entry year (Year 7).

Table 2: title						
School Name	Type of School	Age Range	Total Capacity (including sixth form)	Capacity - Years 7 -11	Published Admission Number (2018/19)	Number On Roll – Year 7 (January 2018)
Cantonian High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,046	905	181	139
Cardiff High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,635	1,200	240	240
Cardiff West Community High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,520	1,200	240	95
Cathays High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,072	825	165	139
Corpus Christi Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided - faith	11-16	1,061	930	186	225
Eastern High	Community - English-medium	11-16	1,200	1,200	240	188
Fitzalan High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,725	1,500	300	300
Llanishen High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,800	1,500	300	288
Mary Immaculate High School	Voluntary Aided - faith	11-16	795	795	159	167
Radyr Comprehensive School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,365	1,050	210	181
St Illtyd's Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided - faith	11-16	879	879	176	176
St Teilo's C.W High School	Voluntary Aided - faith	11-18	1,440	1,200	240	247
The Bishop Of Llandaff C.W High School	Voluntary Aided - faith	11-18	1,085	900	180	191
Whitchurch High School	Foundation – English-medium	11-18	2,400	1,950	390	406
Willows High School	Community - English-medium	11-18	1,121	1,121	224	138
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder	Community- Welsh-medium	11-18	1,114	900	180	136
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	Community- Welsh-medium	11-18	1,500	1,200	240	224
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	Community- Welsh-medium	11-18	1,140	900	180	190
English-medium community places/ pupils					2,100	1,708
Foundation places/ pupils					390	406
Faith School places/ pupils					941	1006
Welsh-medium community places/ pupils					600	550
Total places					4,031	

Recent city-wide take up of places in primary and secondary schools

Tables 3 and 4 (below/ overleaf) set out the most recent verified PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) data as supplied by primary schools in January 2017 and by secondary schools in January 2018. This confirm the number of pupils in each of the English-medium secondary school catchment areas who were enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based primary and secondary schools in Cardiff.

Table 3: Year 6 pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and Faith-based primary schools in each English-medium secondary school catchment area (data source: PLASC January 2017)				
Catchment area	English-medium Community school pupils	Welsh-medium Community school pupils	Faith-based school pupils	Total pupils
Cantonian High School	88 (51.5%)	39 (22.8%)	44 (25.7%)	171
Cardiff High School	263 (78.7%)	33 (9.9%)	38 (11.4%)	334
Cardiff West Community High School	288 (68.6%)	59 (14.0%)	73 (17.4%)	420
Cathays High School	89 (62.7%)	18 (12.7%)	35 (24.6%)	142
Eastern High	354 (65.1%)	61 (11.2%)	129 (23.7%)	544
Fitzalan High School	362 (58.9%)	122 (19.8%)	131 (21.3%)	615
Llanishen High School	411 (63.2%)	74 (11.4%)	165 (25.4%)	650
Radyr Comprehensive School	157 (77.0%)	43 (21.1%)	4 (2.0%)	204
Whitchurch High School	318 (75.9%)	83 (19.8%)	18 (4.3%)	419
Willows High School	166 (59.9%)	21 (7.6%)	90 (32.5%)	277
Total number of pupils	2496 (66.1%)	553 (14.6%)	727 (19.3%)	3776

Table 4: Year 6 pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and Faith-based secondary schools in each English-medium secondary school catchment area (data source: PLASC 2018)

Catchment area	English-medium Community and Foundation school pupils	Welsh-medium Community school pupils	Faith-based school pupils	Total pupils	Net increase/loss
Cantonian High School	78 (45.6%)	38 (22.2%)	55 (32.2%)	171	0
Cardiff High School	250 (77.2%)	31 (9.6%)	43 (13.3%)	324	-10
Cardiff West Community High School	201 (49.4%)	59 (14.5%)	147 (36.1%)	407	-13
Cathays High School	89 (67.4%)	17 (12.9%)	26 (19.7%)	132	-10
Eastern High	214 (39.3%)	61 (11.2%)	269 (49.4%)	544	0
Fitzalan High School	331 (61.0%)	120 (22.1%)	92 (16.9%)	543	-72
Llanishen High School	324 (52.0%)	72 (11.6%)	227 (36.4%)	623	-27
Radyr Comprehensive School	141 (70.9%)	43 (21.6%)	15 (7.5%)	199	-5
Whitchurch High School	310 (74.9%)	77 (18.6%)	27 (6.5%)	414	-5
Willows High School	158 (60.8%)	21 (8.1%)	81 (31.2%)	260	-17
Combined Published Admission Number	2,490	600	941	4,031	
Total Number or pupils	2096 (57.9%)	539 (14.9%)	982 (27.1%)	3617	
Surplus places	394	61	-41	414	
Difference: Year 6 / 7	-400	-14	+255	-159	

Comparing Table 3 and Table 4 it is evident in table that:

- The proportionate take up of English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based primary and secondary school places varies significantly across Cardiff
- There is a significant difference between the number of pupils enrolled in Year 6 in primary education, and the number of pupils enrolled in Year 7 the following year in some areas
- The proportionate (%) take up of English-medium community and faith-based primary and secondary school places varies significantly between Year 6 and Year 7 in some areas
- The proportionate (%) take up of Welsh-medium community primary and secondary school places varies little between Year 6 and Year 7
- Faith-based secondary schools, for which the Council is not the admissions authority, admitted 65 pupils in excess of their Published Admission Number in 2018

The parental preference for and take-up of places in each type of school is dependent on number of variables including, but not limited to, the number of places

available in each school type relative to the local population, the admission arrangements for that school, and parental perception.

Forecast city-wide demand for places – existing housing

Each of the faith-based and Foundation secondary schools has been fully-subscribed or over-subscribed at entry to Year 7 in recent years. The number of pupils promoting from primary education to secondary education has increased in this time and, based on the number of pupils within each primary school cohort, is projected to increase further in coming years.

As there are no proposals to increase the number of places available in faith-based secondary schools, the relative proportion of the population able to gain admission to faith-based schools will fall as the overall population increases. Consequently, the proportionate take-up of places in English-medium community and Foundation secondary schools would increase, in order to accommodate all pupils requiring a place.

The number of pupils resident in Cardiff taking up places in faith-based secondary schools in years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 totalled 965, 1009 and 982 respectively. In each of these years, the faith –based secondary schools were fully subscribed, and there was little fluctuation in the number of pupils allocated places in each area of Cardiff.

Taking into account the number of average number of places allocated at faith-based secondary schools in recent years, to pupils from each area of the city, it is reasonable to forecast the number of pupils who may gain admission from each area in future years. This, in turn, allows forecasting of the number of pupils who may require English-medium community places.

Table 5 – forecast take up of places at entry to Year 7 in faith-based secondary schools in each English-medium secondary school catchment area	
Catchment area	Approximate forecast take up of places at faith school places within area
Cantonian High School	54
Cardiff High School	32
Cardiff West Community High School	144
Cathays High School	31
Eastern High	271
Fitzalan High School	105
Llanishen High School	230
Radyr Comprehensive School	10
Whitchurch High School	25
Willows High School	83
Total projected demand	985

In some areas of Cardiff there is a significant difference between the number of pupils enrolled in Year 6 in primary education and the number of pupils enrolled in Year 7 the following year as some families opt for secondary schools outside of Cardiff, private education, or education at home. Parental preference data indicates that some of these pupils had stated a preference for Cardiff schools but having failed to gain admission to their preferred school opted for alternatives at a later date. It would therefore be reasonable to conclude that, to accommodate the latent demand for English-medium community school places, additional places would be required.

Although the highest oversubscription criteria for admissions to faith-based and foundation secondary schools are not geographical based, the number of pupils admitted from each area in recent years allows approximate forecasting of the number of pupils who may gain admission in future.

Table 6 therefore sets out the net number of places that may be required to meet the demand for English-medium community and foundation places in each secondary school catchment area of the city (existing housing only).

Table 6: Forecast demand for places at any English-medium community secondary school in each English-medium secondary school catchment area								
Catchment area	Forecasts based on PLASC data – pupils enrolled in primary education							Forecast – NHS data
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Cantonian High School	111-115	142-143	107-111	130-136	113-116	132-136	141-156	164-178
Cardiff High School	251-255	255-259	272-296	264-279	272-274	291-327	287-306	266-301
Cardiff West Community High School	212-225	249-282	279-294	235-241	301-311	252-289	217-239	194-211
Cathays High School	101-104	87-87	79-84	78-78	85-92	62-66	79-80	78-80
Eastern High	203-205	232-235	216-223	212-220	202-214	228-249	177-187	204-213
Fitzalan High School	314-318	360-364	367-368	337-346	360-369	346-356	286-295	342-353
Llanishen High School	344-351	367-376	367-375	339-350	355-382	343-375	296-323	312-337
Radyr Comprehensive School	139-146	149-168	180-189	175-220	162-196	160-184	168-194	156-192
Whitchurch High School	328-350	302-319	317-323	305-311	329-348	348-358	313-318	296-314
Willows High School	171-172	166-166	171-171	182-184	185-194	201-205	192-196	171-182
Total demand for English-medium Community/ Foundation places	2205-2212	2350-2358	2380-2409	2290-2334	2416-2443	2415-2494	2212-2241	2243-2301

Forecast demand for places – existing housing in the Cantonian High School catchment area

Tables 5 and 6 indicate that, in the Band B investment period, 165-210 English-medium secondary school places (community and faith-based) will be required to serve the existing Cantonian High School catchment area. Approximately 54 places would be taken up within faith-based schools by pupils resident in the area, and the remaining 111-156 pupils would take up places within English-medium community secondary schools.

This suggests that capacity of four to five forms of entry (120 - 150 places) would be required to meet the demand for places from within the existing catchment area of Cantonian High School in the Band B period.

Forecasts for demand for places from existing housing beyond the Band B period would be based solely on NHS data and would not take account of parental preferences for type of primary school. Whilst this makes forecasting beyond 2025 difficult, there is no evidence at this time of a significant change in the size of cohorts in the pre-school population to those recently enrolled in primary education.

Forecast demand for places – planned/ proposed housing including strategic LDP sites within/ in close proximity to the Cantonian High School catchment area

There are a number of planned residential developments within or in close proximity to the Cantonian High School catchment area, including those with outline or full planning permission which would significantly increase the pupil population :

- North West Cardiff (Plasdwr)
- North and South of Llantrisant Road
- South of Pentrebane Road
- Goitre Fach Farm, Llantrisant Road
- BBC, Llantrisant Road

Developer contributions have been secured via s106 agreement to accommodate the secondary school age pupil yield from much of this residential development.

Developer contributions, to provide additional secondary school places, were not due for the BBC Llantrisant Road development as there were sufficient surplus places projected at Cantonian High School to accommodate all pupils.

The yield of pupils from the proposed development at BBC Llantrisant Road (predominantly apartments) would increase the pupil population in the catchment area of Cantonian High School, taking up approximately 5 of the projected surplus places per year group.

The development North and South of Llantrisant Road (689 dwellings) overlaps the boundary between the catchment areas of Cantonian High School and Radyr Comprehensive School, but is in closer proximity to Radyr Comprehensive School.

The yield of pupils from this development would increase the pupil population in the catchment areas of Cantonian High School and Radyr Comprehensive School and take up approximately 19 projected surplus places between these schools.

Summary

In summary, the above information suggests that capacity of four to five forms of entry (120 - 150 places) would be broadly sufficient to meet the demand for places from within the existing catchment area of Cantonian High School in the Band B period.