

North Tyneside Council

Pupil Projection Methodology

1. Purpose

This methodology outlines how the Authority produces pupil projections to inform school place planning, capital investment, and strategic decision-making. The projections provide an evidence-based view of future demand for school places across all phases of education.

2. Overview

Pupil projections estimate the number of children expected to attend schools in future years. They are updated annually and take account of a range of demographic, housing, and educational factors. The methodology aims to ensure projections are robust, transparent, and consistent across the Authority.

The model uses historical patterns of parental preference to project numbers into the future:

- It does not cap numbers to published admission numbers
- It does not reflect system changes until those changes are present within the census data.
- It does not reflect where children are born, by either postcode, catchment or planning area.
- The model indicates how many pupils are likely to be in any National Curriculum Year, from which systemic changes to capacity might be determined.

3. Data Sources

Projections are based on a combination of historic and forecast data, including:

- Live birth data supplied by the Department of Education, GP Birth Registration
- Annual School census data

- School capacity data (Net Capacity Assessments) / Published Admission Numbers (PAN)

4. The Process

Step 1: Establish Base Data

- Using the previous three years school census data, record the number of pupils by year group, in Mainstream schools.
- The Census data is weighted with the most recent census information forming the predominant pattern of parental preferences
 - Year 1 – 0.4
 - Year 2 – 1
 - Year 3 – 1.4

Step 2: Birth to School Relationship

- Calculate the ratio between live births in the area and subsequent Reception intakes.
- Apply this ratio to the birth data to estimate Reception demand.

Step 3: Intake Distribution

- For Reception admissions: Calculate the weighted proportion of the respective years calculated birth rate each school receives,
- For Phase transfer between Year 4 and 5: Calculate the weighted proportion of pupils in attendance in mainstream Year 5, for each school with a y5 cohort
- For Phase transfer between Year 6 and 7: Calculate the weighted proportion of pupils in attendance in mainstream Year 7 for each school with a Y7 cohort

- For Phase transfer between Year 8 and 9: Calculate the weighted proportion of pupils in attendance in mainstream Year 9 for each school with a Y9 cohort

Step 4: Transfer rates.

- Determine the weighted movement between each National curriculum year group in each school, comparing the cohort size in the current to previous year, to determine the proportion of in year variations for each school and how pupil cohorts change during the academic life of a school.

Housing:

Pupil Yield from Housing is not applied within the formula.

- The impact from housing is not necessarily seen, local to the development site / catchment area / Planning area
- Information relating to the 'chain' of house movements is not readily available
- In the early stages of developments, movement of pupils already within the system is seen.
- The pupil projection modelling and in year transfer data allows for the identification of pupils into or around the borough.

Estimated Yield from Housing is considered at various points:

- Strategic Land planning – Local Plan, strategic planning for Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 purposes
- At Planning application stage
- As part of Annual School Capacity returns, using housing construction and forecast build data.

A formula is applied to applications, taking consideration of the size of development (number of properties), the type of development (2/3/4 bed etc), and the build rate (no of dwellings built per year).

- A local formula has been developed, reflecting the number of pupils expected to reside in the dwellings during and beyond completion of the development. This is summarised as:

- 3+ beds – 3.3 pupils / 100 houses for each mainstream year group (12)
 - <3 beds – 1.98 pupils / 100 houses for each mainstream year group (12).
 - The average of the above equates to 2.64 pupils per 100 houses / year group – 32 pupils over 12 year groups.
- The 32 pupils per 100 houses is then weighted 70% / 30% towards Primary aged pupils, reflecting movement of children at pre school age, and more sedentary movement of secondary aged pupils where distance to existing school from new home is possible.
- The calculated yield is then compared against the locality capacity (not necessarily confined to the catchment school) and an assessment given as to the capacity to contain the pupils derived from the development. This enables an assessment as to the requirement for additional capacity or improvements to existing facilities.
- Within the Local Plan – 1017 – 2032, it was noted that developers would be required to contribute towards the provision of additional capacity required because of new housing. Primary School contributions would be requested via Section 106 contributions, secondary via Community Infrastructure levy. However, in February 2025, Cabinet approved the transfer of Primary S106 calculation to within the Community Infrastructure Levy. This was to protect and safeguard future contributions, for two key reasons:
 - insufficient certainty regarding the location and timing of capacity needs for new primary school provision that would arise because of new development to efficiently secure the necessary funding via s106 planning obligations.
 - notable decline in birth rates nationally that have affected North Tyneside like all parts of England.