

# **School Provision in Arun District: Update**

**Prepared by: West Sussex County Council**

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## Introduction

This document is an update to the WSCC document; "School Provision in Arun District (Feb 2017)".

## School Provision in Arun District

1. There are 36 primary schools in Arun district and six secondary schools, of which five have post 16 provision. The district is broken down into four planning areas, Angmering, Barnham/Westergate, Bognor/Felpham and Littlehampton (localities) and the schools are divided into these areas in line with their geographical location.
2. The County Council is the Local Education Authority (LEA) for West Sussex. The County Council also has a statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient and appropriate education provision across West Sussex. It discharges this duty in partnership with diocesan authorities and other education providers. Therefore, before a site is selected, there is a need for informal consultation (separate from the Local Plan process) with local stakeholders, including elected members and education providers on any site options. The views of local stakeholders will be taken into account before the County Council sets out its position on any options.

## Locations for primary schools

3. Forecasting pupil numbers is based on a number of factors, such as birth data, migration trends and on the anticipated future housing numbers. However, this is by no means an exact science and we are continually reviewing our methodology, as sources of alternative data become available.

## Primary School Provision

4. The proposed strategic housing allocations were used to determine the locations for primary schools.

Strategic Site Location	Proposed Primary School Requirement	Location	To Serve	Capacity
Greater Bognor Regis Urban Area				
SD1 Pagham South	Provision of land and contributions towards 1 FE Primary School expandable to 2FE to be delivered in conjunction with Pagham North.	On site SD1 or SD2	SD1 and SD2	400
SD2 Pagham North	Contributions towards 1 FE Primary School expandable to 2FE to be delivered in conjunction with Pagham South.	On site SD1 or SD2	SD1 and SD2	800
SD3 West of Berstead	Provision of 3FE primary to serve West of Bersted.	On site	West of Berstead	2,500
Greater Littlehampton Urban Area				
SD4 Littlehampton West Bank	Provision of a 1.5FE primary school expandable to 2FE to serve West Bank Littlehampton.	On site	LEGA	1,000
Inland Arun				
SD5	Provision of two 2FE primary	On site	BEW	2,300

Barnham/Westergate/Westergate	schools comprising of a 2FE school and a 1FE school expandable to 2FE to serve BEW.			
SD6 Fontwell	Contribution to a ½ form of entry (FE) expansion in the Westergate/Barnham locality, for primary education.	Off site	BEW	400
SD7 Yapton	Provision of 1FE primary school.	On site	Yapton	400
SD8 Ford	Provision of new 2FE primary school.	On site	Ford	1,500
SD9 Angmering North	1FE primary school expandable to 2FE to be delivered in conjunction with Angmering South and East.	Existing school	SD9 or SD11	800
SD 10 Climping	Contributions to expansion of the existing primary school - St Marys Climping	Existing school	Climping	300
SD11 Angmering South and East	1FE primary school expandable to 2FE to be delivered in conjunction with Angmering North	On Site SD11	SD11	250

## Secondary School Provision

- In the case of secondary schools, the County Council would normally wish to see schools operate at a minimum of six Forms of Entry (FE) or above<sup>1</sup>, although we recognise that 4FE and 5FE secondary schools are currently well established and operating in West Sussex. In planning terms, an FE is 30 pupils, therefore a 6FE 11-16 secondary school would have five year groups of 180 and a total of 900 pupils on roll.
- To ensure the site is capable of being expanded in the future to meet the needs arising from demographic change and/or future housing development, the County Council would wish to ensure that sufficient land is available for future expansion to 10FE.

## Site Size and Costs

- The Department of Education and Education Funding Agency have produced non-statutory area guidelines for mainstream school sites for all age ranges<sup>2</sup>. The County Council use this document as a guide to minimum site size requirements for new schools within the County.
- Based on the formulae in this document, the recommended minimum site size requirement for a new 10FE secondary school is 10.5 hectares. Education Advisors strongly recommend that secondary schools do not exceed 10FE so this is considered to be the largest desirable size for a secondary school although this is not a legal requirement.
- The guidance document acknowledges that the site size requirements should be used as a guideline and that there may be cases where the standards cannot be met; "in

<sup>1</sup> Planning School Places (WSCC, 2016)

<sup>2</sup> Refer to Area Guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103 (DfE, EFA, 2014)

line with policies which seek to increase choice and opportunity in state funded education, these guidelines will not necessarily have to be met in every case and should always be applied flexibly in light of the particular circumstances.”<sup>3</sup>

10. West Sussex County Council has identified the need, over the plan period, for a new 10FE Secondary School to mitigate the impact of the strategic development sites proposed. The estimated cost of this facility is between £42.1 and £47.7 million.
11. Justification for secondary school provision required (data used and assumptions made).
12. Forecasting pupil numbers is based on a number of factors, such as birth data, migration trends and on the anticipated future housing numbers. However, this is by no means an exact science and we are continually reviewing our methodology, as sources of alternative data become available.
13. In order to determine the need we have taken our current pupil projections, including any known committed housing developments across the Arun District. We then add on the proposed housing, based on Arun DC housing trajectory and build out rates, calculate the anticipated child product from these housing developments and added them to our projections.
14. When the projected pupil numbers exceeds the current school capacity (95%) this determines if/when it is anticipated a new school will be required. Currently our projections show that an increase in the secondary provision would require additional capacity to be provided in the academic year 2024/25. However if the housing from the Local Plan proceeds as per the housing trajectory provided by Arun District Council it is currently anticipated this requirement will be bought forward to 2020/21.

#### The identification of options

15. There are currently six secondary schools in the District that broadly serve the immediate area where they are located, (although it is recognised that pupils at secondary school age are prepared to travel a greater distance for education). The schools currently offer a cumulative total of 47 forms of entry. The proposed housing in the District will, by the end of the plan period, produce a further 14 forms of entry.

<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Capability to expand</b>
The Angmering School	8FE	9FE	Limited land availability for further expansion
Ormiston Six Villages Academy	5FE	5FE	Limited potential to expand due to site constraints
St Philip Howard Catholic High School	5FE (PAN 150)	5FE (PAN 180)	Only expected to expand to meet the needs of the faith community
The Regis School	10FE	10FE	Already at maximum desirable size
Felpham Community College	8FE	10FE	Limited land availability for further expansion
The Littlehampton Academy	11FE	11FE	Already exceeds the maximum desirable size

<sup>3</sup> Refer to page 3 of Area Guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103 (DfE, EFA, 2014)

16. The existing schools currently have capacity to cater for an additional 4FE arising from planned development based on the most recent pupil projections, however it should be noted that this is subject to change and the numbers are reviewed twice a year.
17. The County Council consider that schools should be provided close to where the need arises, as this will encourage sustainable travel behaviour. The largest development-related increase in the pupil population in Arun District is expected to arise in the Barnham/Westergate school planning area, as this includes the proposed strategic site allocations at BEW, Ford, Fontwell and Yapton. The existing schools in this area have limited capacity for expansion to meet this need because one is a faith school (so can only be expected to expand to cater for the faith community) and the other could not be expanded by 10FE (as this would far exceed the maximum desirable secondary school size). For this reason an area of search for a site for new secondary school has been proposed based on the Barnham/Westergate school planning area. The initial site assessment process has indicated that site options in the Ford area (outside of the proposed site allocation) should be considered and policies in the Arun Local Plan should facilitate a new secondary school in this area.

West Sussex County Council  
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