

Waltham Forest Schools Conference 2022



Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2036



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Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2036



- Total number of primary and secondary pupils has risen from 33,000 in 2007 to almost 43,000 in 2021, an increase of approx. 30%
- According to most recent ONS population projections Waltham Forest is expected to rise by 4.3% over next 10 years
- Housing development across the borough is due to impact school place demand as residential areas are developed in former industrial sites located down the left side of the borough
- Linked strategies/reviews: 'WF Inclusion and Alternative Provision Strategy' and review of SEND place need in special schools and SRP units

Waltham Forest
Pupil Place Plan 2021-2036



September 2021



Waltham Forest

Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2036



- Local Authorities must:
 - ensure that there are sufficient school places for every school-aged child (5-16YOs) whose parents wish to take them up
 - ensure that there is enough capacity within the system to enable parental choice
 - Comply with parental preference
 - Ensure fair access to educational opportunity
- Both academies and free schools are independent of LA control and are responsible for setting their own admission number, with the agreement of the Regional Schools Commissioner
- Strong partnerships between the LA and all the borough's schools is crucial when planning for place sufficiency as, whilst the LA has a unique responsibility to ensure there are enough places available, the implementation of mainstream places is not fully under their control.

Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-2036



- When creating the Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2021-36, in addition to the duties to ensure sufficient school places, parental choice and fair access to educational opportunities, the following borough strategies were taken into account to ensure a holistic approach:
 - **Our 15 minute neighbourhood** – which looks to create safe, eco-friendly and long-term positive futures by creating neighbourhoods that can provide most services in a short walk / cycle ride from home
 - **Life Chances** – which sits within the Families at the Heart of Our Place strategy and aims to improve life chances of residents by tackling the factors that prevent someone from achieve their full potential
 - **Schools Financial Recovery Plan** – which outlines the LAs commitment to support approaches to financial stability in our schools which protect the delivery of quality education for all children and young people

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Scrutiny of the strategy

- Therefore annual scrutiny and challenge of the modelling and assumptions used to generate our forecasting is crucial alongside the review of planned actions to mitigate any arising risks. This comes from three key areas:
 - **School Organisation and Admissions Board (SOAB)** has local Headteacher representatives to provide challenge, advice and support to assumptions, plans and data
 - **School Capacity (SCAP) Return** is a statutory return LAs must make to the DfE on teaching space in mainstream schools and forecast roll numbers for the next 5-7 years, this enables any deficit in places that requires funding to be highlighted and drives our growth funding budgets
 - **Strategic Education Asset Management (SEAM) Board** consists of the Cllr Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People and senior Lead Council Officers and is responsible for ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duties to sufficient school and childcare places.

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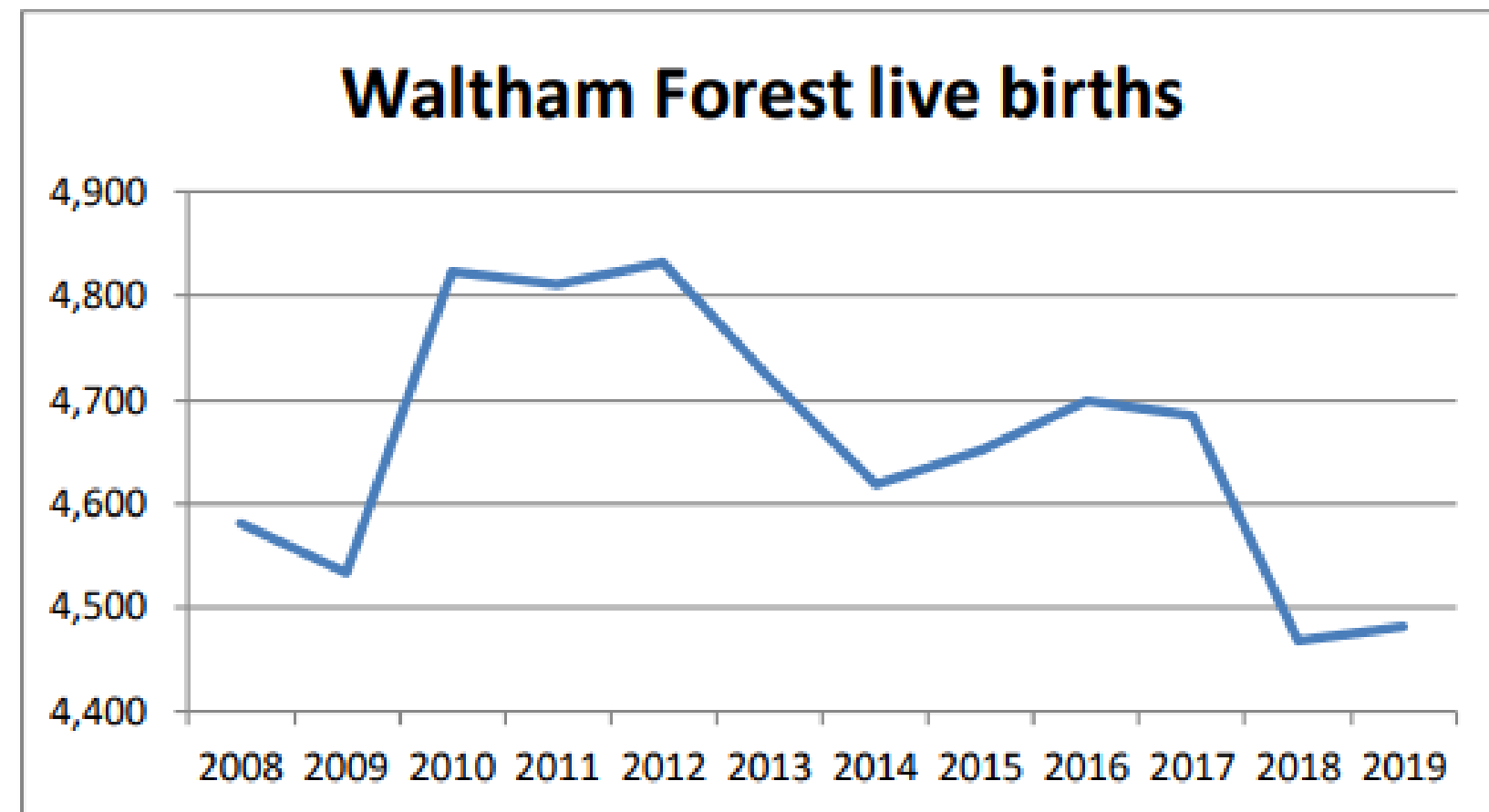


Forecasting places: Variables

- Forecasting of future pupil place need is not an exact science and requires regular analysis.
- There are many variables that impact on the number of school aged children living in an area at any time:

Fertility and birth rates

Peaked in 2012 with the decline impacting on primary school rolls for a number of years



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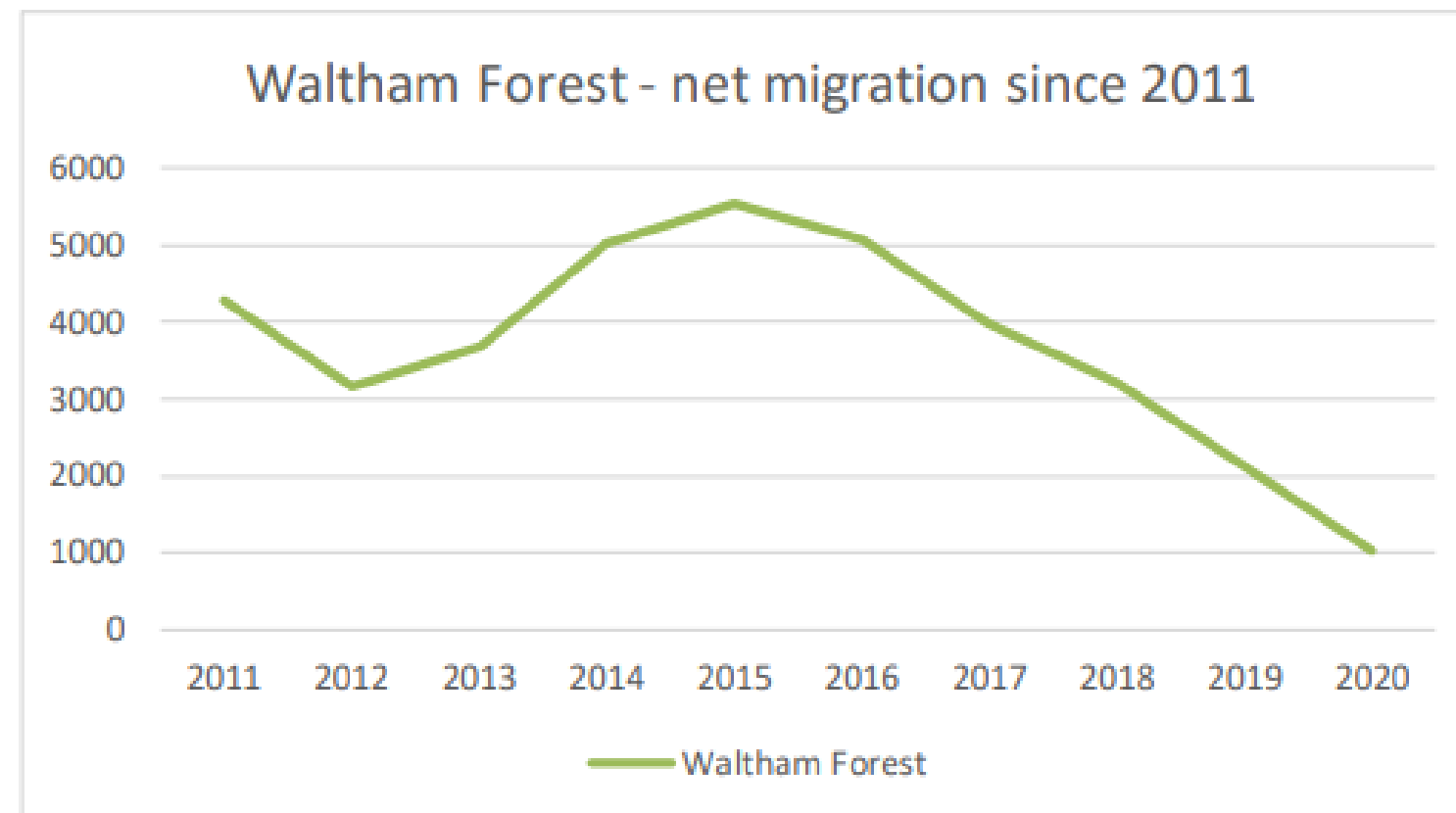
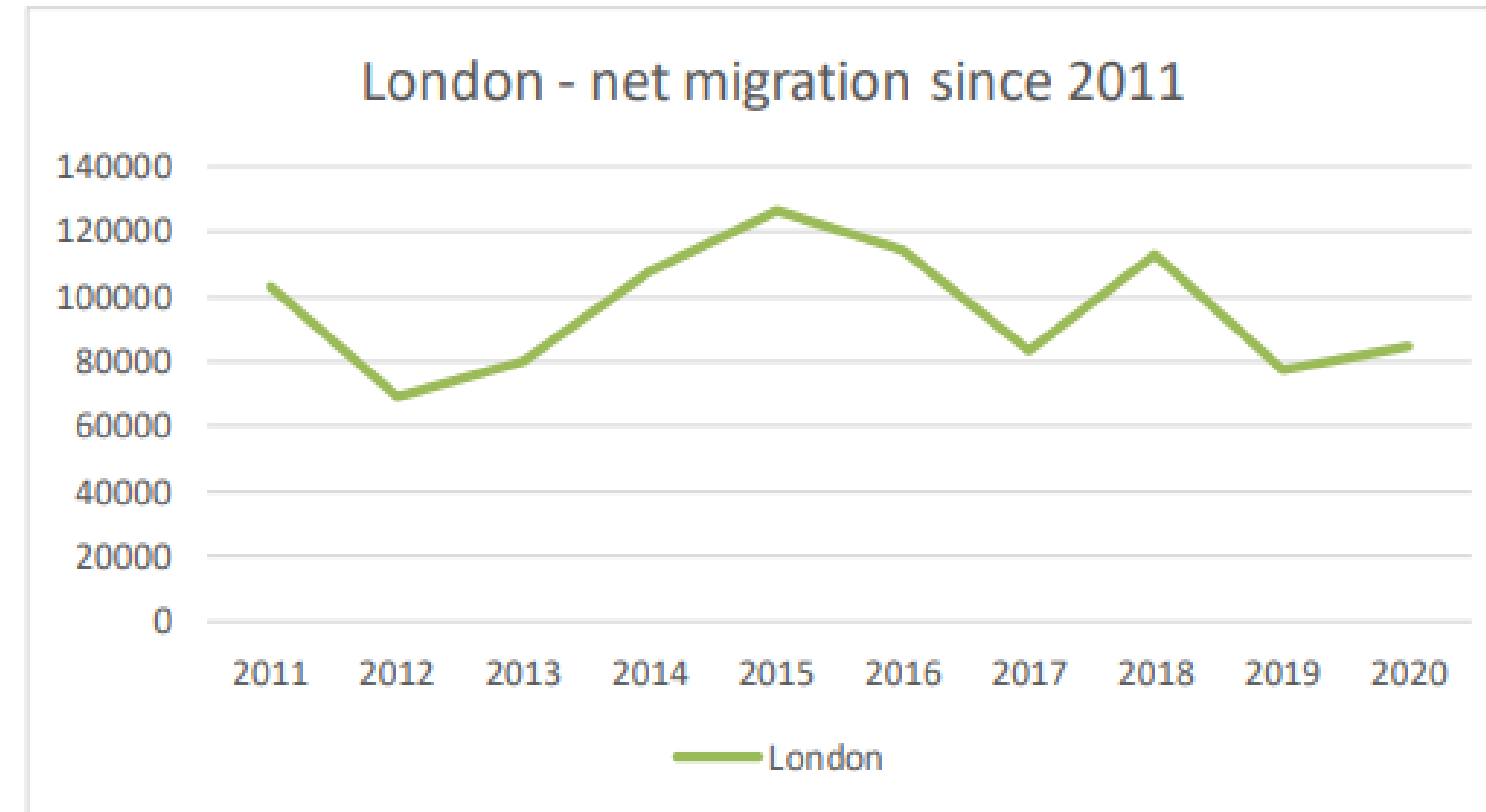


Forecasting places: Variables

Migration

Impacted by International, National and local factors migration is difficult to forecast.

Similarly to birth rates, some parts of Waltham Forest experienced significant impact of migration



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Forecasting places: Variables

Cross-border movement

The most up to date data released from the DfE for 2018 shows Waltham Forest is a net exporter of pupils by 0.3% (equally 66 pupils across all year groups) and has a minimal impact on our planning.

Housing Growth

Waltham Forest has a significant housing growth programme, with 30,000 additional homes planned by 2035. Close collaboration with the EBE Service and the borough Planning Team ensures that we have best estimates on the expected school place demands arising from these.

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Key

- Local Authorities must:
 - ensure that there are sufficient school places for every school-aged child (5-16YOs) whose parents wish to take them up
 - ensure that there is enough capacity within the system to enable parental choice
 - Comply with parental preference
- WF aims to keep vacant capacity across schools between 3-5%
- Proactive approach to individual school PAN – Schools needs to be ready to flex and retract as needed through the oncoming planning period

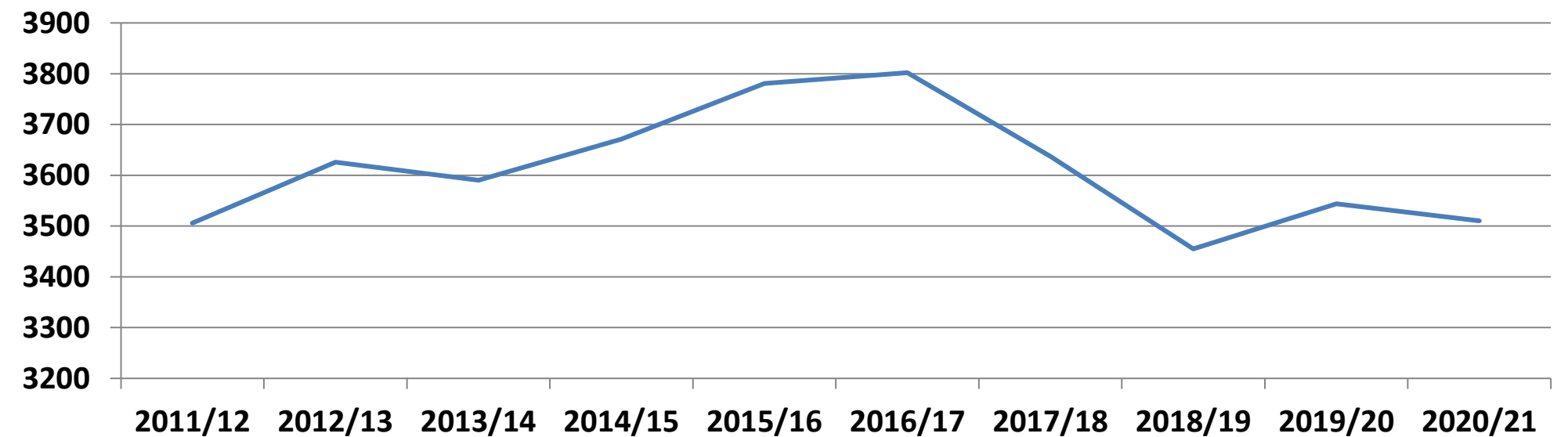
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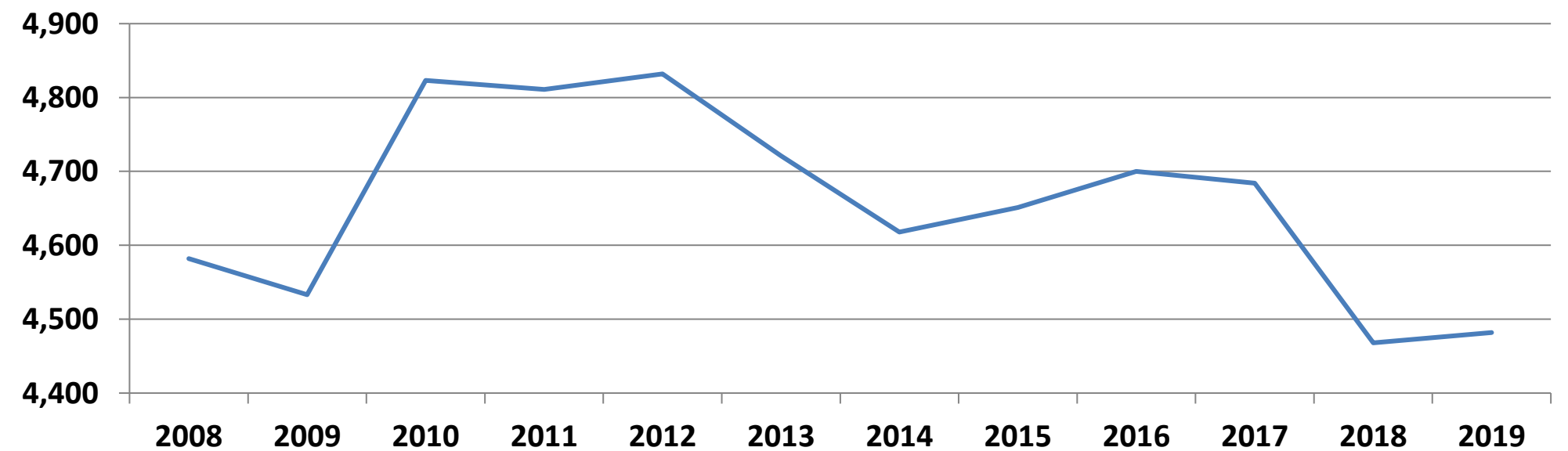
Primary places

- Reception places have increased by 36FE in the last 15 years, with a significant primary expansion programme completed to provide additional places
- Live births dropped significantly in 2013 resulting in lower demand by 2017
- In recent years number of schools have taken a permanent reception PAN reduction to reduce excess surplus
- Additionally caps have been applied to year groups where possible to help schools reduce teaching costs

Reception places used



Waltham Forest live births



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Primary places

- Currently there is a 6.1% surplus in reception
- By 2022/23 this will be reduced to 3.9% due to some schools reducing their PAN
- By 2025/26 some schools will need to start to increase their capacity as demand is due to increase again

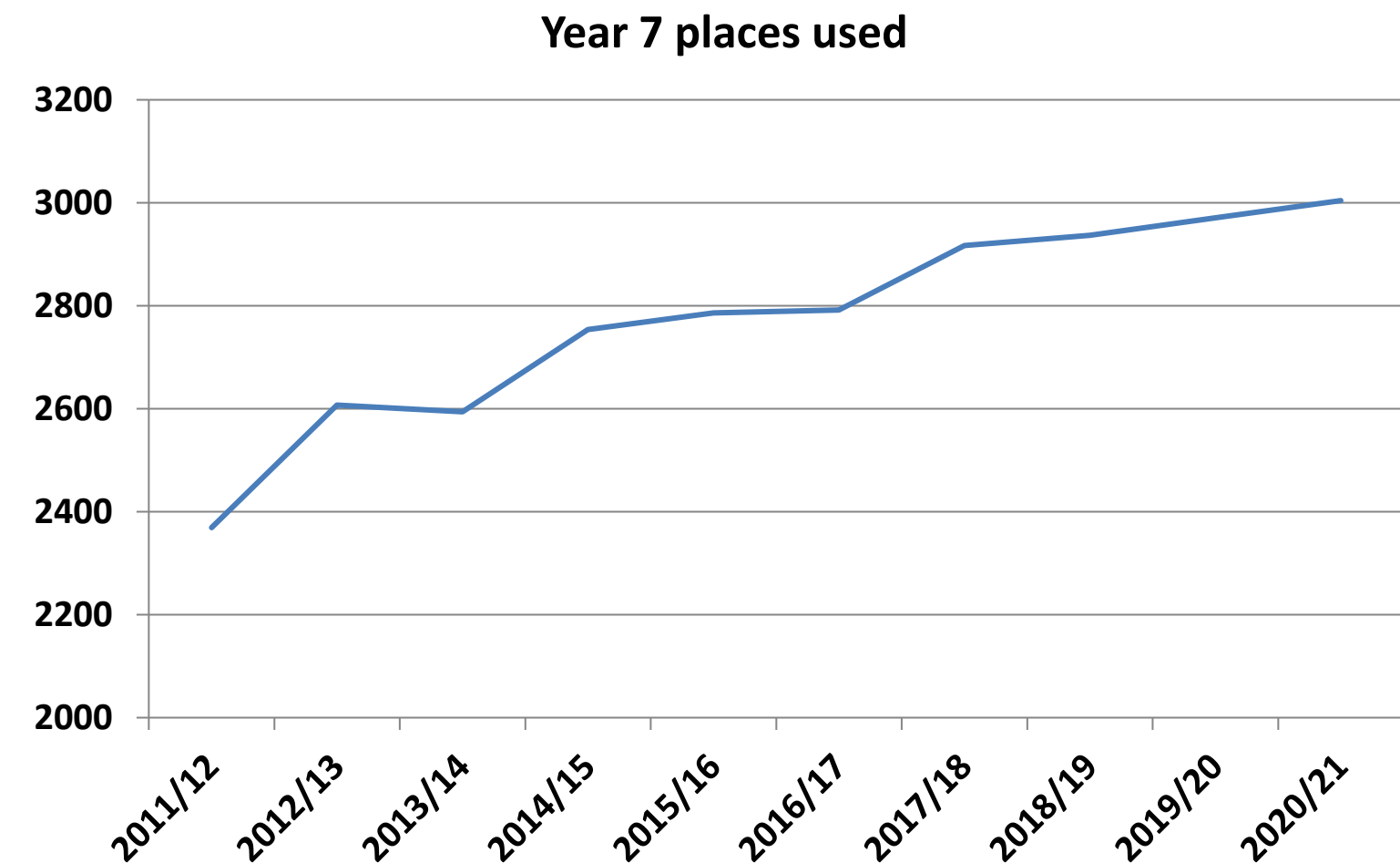
Primary	Reception capacity	Reception demand	Surplus # of places	Surplus %
2021-22	3840	3606	234	6.1%
2022-23	3780	3634	146	3.9%
2023-24	3780	3570	210	5.6%
2024-25	3780	3593	187	5.0%
2025-26	3780	3718	62	1.6%
2026-27	3780	3775	5	0.1%
2027-28	3780	3711	69	1.8%
2028-29	3780	3718	62	1.6%
2029-30	3780	3772	8	0.2%
2030-31	3780	3847	-67	-1.8%
2031-32	3780	3954	-174	-4.6%
2032-33	3780	3952	-172	-4.5%
2033-34	3780	3886	-106	-2.8%
2034-35	3780	3902	-122	-3.2%
2035-36	3780	3936	-156	-4.1%

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Secondary places

- Secondary school pupil numbers have been rising steadily since 2012 due to the increased numbers of primary pupils progressing through to the secondary phase
- In recent years four schools have been / are currently being expanded to ensure there are sufficient year 7 places



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Secondary places

- It has been forecasted that demand for Year 7 will begin to reduce in 2024/25 following on from the primary decrease in demand
- Where needed bulge classes will be used in areas of need should external variables such as inward migration / housing growth generate additional need

Secondary	Yr 7 capacity	Yr 7 demand	Surplus # places	% of surplus
2021-22	3178	2961	217	6.8%
2022-23	3133	3056	120	3.9%
2023-24	3133	3073	60	1.9%
2024-25	3133	3012	121	3.9%
2025-26	3133	2946	187	6.0%
2026-27	3133	3021	112	3.6%
2027-28	3133	3027	106	3.4%
2028-29	3133	3023	110	3.5%
2029-30	3133	2972	161	5.1%
2030-31	3133	2890	243	7.8%
2031-32	3133	2962	171	5.5%
2032-33	3133	3003	130	4.1%
2033-34	3133	3039	94	3.0%
2034-35	3133	3078	55	1.8%
2035-36	3133	3127	6	0.2%

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Managing surplus places

- Where it is identified there is an unnecessary surplus the Local Authority works with schools to help manage their PAN and year group intake
- Where this is not a full class drop schools are being supported through a School Improvement project for mixed year groups.
- Where a more regular drop in demand (for 30 places or more) is identified a school can officially reduce their PAN for Reception or Year 7 (or Year 3 if they are a junior school) via the admissions determined arrangement consultation. This is carried out each Autumn term (December/January) for the following academic year. This is a 6-week consultation as per the DfE admissions code requirements
- For year groups outside those governed by the PAN (i.e. those other than Reception and Year 7 or Year 3 for Junior schools), Governors can agree to apply a cap on the year group when an entire class is empty. For example, where a 3FE school has less than 60 pupils in a year group the Governing Body can agree to place a cap at 60 pupils, effectively enabling it to operate as a 2FE for that year group.
- To get in touch for a conversation please email:
- Rob White, Commissioning Manager for School Places Rob.White@walthamforest.gov.uk

Thanks for your attention.



There are many more sessions during the conference week.

Please visit [THE HUB](#) for the full conference agenda and to register.