

## 1 Introduction

1.1 DfE Scorecards display a snapshot of the progress each local authority across England is making towards ensuring there are sufficient, good quality, school places.

1.2 There are five metrics:

- Pupil forecast accuracy
- Preference
- Quantity
- Quality
- Cost

## 2 Pupil forecast accuracy

2.1 The overall aim for forecasts is to be within 1% of the actual number on roll.

2.2 The one year ahead forecast compares actual numbers on roll in 2024/25 with forecasts of pupil numbers for 2024/25 made one year previously (in SCAP 2024).

2.3 The three year ahead forecast accuracy compares actual pupil numbers on roll with forecasts of pupil numbers for 2024/25 made three years previously (in SCAP 2022).

### Primary

- One year ahead: 1.0% (Above England average 0.8%)
- Three years ahead: -2.8% (Below England average 0.1%)\*

\*This under-forecast is due to the unexpected inward migration over the past three years.

### Secondary

- One year ahead: 1.5% (Above England average 1.1%)
- Three years ahead: 1.2% (Better than England average 1.7%)

## 3 Preference

3.1 The percentage of applicants who received an offer of one of their top three preferred schools.

### Primary

- September 2025 entry: 99.3% (Better than England average 98.3%)
- September 2024 entry: 99.0% (Better than England average 98.6%)

### Secondary

- September 2025 entry: 94.5% (Below England average 94.9%)

- September 2024 entry: 94.1% (Below than England average 94.6%)

## 4 Quantity

### Primary

- Change in primary pupil numbers 2009/10 to 2024/25: +24.2% (England: +13.3%)
- Current percentage of unfilled primary places 2023/24: 8.2% (England: +12.4%)
- Anticipated change in primary pupil numbers 2024/25 to 2026/27: +3.0% (England:-0.6%)

### Secondary

- Change in secondary pupil numbers 2009/10 to 2024/25: +17.0% (England: +12.0%)
- Current percentage of unfilled secondary places 2023/24: 13.4%\* (England: +11.2%)
- Anticipated change in secondary pupil numbers 2024/25 to 2025/26: +6.7% (England: +2.6%)

\* These are generally sixth-form places

## 5 Quality

5.1 The percentage of new places created in good and outstanding schools between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

### Primary

- New places created in good and outstanding primary schools in Medway: 100%
- New places created in good and outstanding primary schools in England: 95.6%

### Secondary

- New places created in good and outstanding secondary schools in Medway: 0 new places created
- New places created in good and outstanding secondary schools in England: 87%

## 6 Cost

6.1 The average cost of additional mainstream school places, based on local authority reported projects between 2015/16 and 2017/18.

6.2 There is no local authority level data available for this period through the scorecard, however where relevant the bracketed figure is Medway's most recent costs per place. The average costs for England and the South East are:

### Primary – cost per place

- New school
  - England - £24,416

- South East - £27,590
- Permanent Expansion
  - England - £20,450
  - South East - £23,108 (Medway £15,030 – two schools)
- Temporary expansion
  - England - £9,668
  - South East - £10,925

### **Secondary – cost per place**

- New school
  - England - £29,579
  - South East - £33,424
- Permanent Expansion
  - England - £28,127
  - South East - £31,783 (Medway £25,788 – two schools)
- Temporary expansion
  - England - £10,854
  - South East - £12,265

## **7 Further information**

- 7.1 The full scorecard is available online at <https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/la-school-places-scorecards>