

Appendix 4 – DfE Scorecards

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 2025/26 with forecasts of pupil numbers for 2025/26 made one year previously (in SCAP 2025).
- 2.3 The three year ahead forecast accuracy compares actual pupil numbers on roll with forecasts of pupil numbers for 2025/26 made three years previously (in SCAP 2023).

Primary

- One year ahead: 2.8%* (Above England average 1.4%)
- Three years ahead: 1.4% (Below England average 1.9%)

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

Secondary

- One year ahead: 1.3% (Matching England average 1.3%)
- Three years ahead: 2.5% (Better than England average 3.2%)

3 Preference

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

Primary

- September 2026 entry: 98.8% (Better than England average 98.4%)
- September 2025 entry: 99.3% (Better than England average 98.3%)
- September 2024 entry: 99.0% (Better than England average 98.6%)

Secondary

- September 2026 entry: 93.9% (Below England average 95.0%)
- 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 2025/26: +21.42% (England: +11.0%)
- Current percentage of unfilled primary places 2024/25: 8.8% (England: 13.8%)
- Anticipated change in primary pupil numbers 2025/26 to 2027/28: +4.0% (England: -0.8%)

Secondary

- Change in secondary pupil numbers 2009/10 to 2025/26: +17.6% (England: +11.5%)
- Current percentage of unfilled secondary places 2024/25: 14.0%* (England: +12.5%)
- Anticipated change in secondary pupil numbers 2025/26 to 2027/28: +5.7% (England: +2.1%)

* These are generally sixth-form places where students do not meet the criteria set out by the schools for a place.

5 Quality

5.1 The percentage of new places created between 2023/24 and 2024/25 in schools rated good and outstanding in the following categories.

Primary

- Quality of education: Medway 33.3%*, England: 90.6%
- Behaviour and attitudes: Medway 100%, England: 99%
- Personal development: Medway 100%, England: 98.3%
- Leadership and management: Medway 33.3%*, England: 94.6%

*90 out of 135 places were at one school, which received this rating after the places were provided.

Secondary

- Quality of education: Medway 100%, England: 87.9%
- Behaviour and attitudes: Medway 100%, England: 91%
- Personal development: Medway 100%, England: 94.1%
- Leadership and management: Medway 100%, England: 93.1%

6 Cost

- 6.1 The average cost of additional mainstream school places, based on local authority reported projects between 2015/16 and 2017/18, adjusted for inflation and regional variation
- 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 estimated costs per place.. The average costs for England and the South East (which includes Medway) are:

Primary – cost per place

- New school
 - England - £25,089
 - South East - £28,350 (Medway estimate £23,810)
- Permanent Expansion
 - England - £21,014
 - South East - £23,745
- Temporary expansion
 - England - £9,935
 - South East - £11,226

Secondary – cost per place

- New school
 - England - £30,394
 - South East - £34,345 (Medway estimate £39,130)
- Permanent Expansion
 - England - £28,902
 - South East - £32,659
- Temporary expansion
 - England - £11,153
 - South East - £12,603

7 Further information

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