

School Estate Consultation

Briefing Paper



Introduction

We know our Council's school estate (our school buildings and how we use them) will have to change over the coming years to respond to changes in our communities. Our Council continues to invest more per child in some of our schools compared to the national average. We know that our school rolls are falling across Dumfries and Galloway, many school buildings may no longer be able to provide for the full range of Experiences and Outcomes within Curriculum for Excellence, and we have many more classrooms than we need in many places.

Our ambition is to make the school estate across the authority more sustainable. We need to ensure our schools are the right size and fit for the communities they serve; that are energy efficient; offer equity in education; and are fit for 21st Century learners. An evaluation of the existing school estate, in combination with an extensive consultation with stakeholders, will help us to aspire to these goals and afford all pupils access to the opportunities that Curriculum for Excellence provides. This will help shape what the future school estate may look like and how we prioritise investment to deliver efficient and sustainable school buildings.

Consultation

In order to identify whether changing our strategy will have the desired impact, we will begin by seeking to create a consensus through consultation on the most important factors that need to be considered in delivering a fit for purpose school estate. As a key stakeholder in this consultation, your views and opinions are critically important to help identify and prioritise the fundamental principles for our schools. The feedback and data gathered will define the criteria for our school estate moving forward, to ensure best value and sustainable settings, resulting in an improved learning climate for all our children and young people. Education, in the modern world, looks very different now than it did over 100 years ago when some of our school buildings were first created, and we need to ensure our school estate reflects this, as well as being flexible enough to adapt for the future.

Background information about our current school estate is contained within this Briefing Paper. The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to provide key information to enable participants to share, comment and add their views in an informed way when providing feedback during the consultation process.

National Population Decline¹

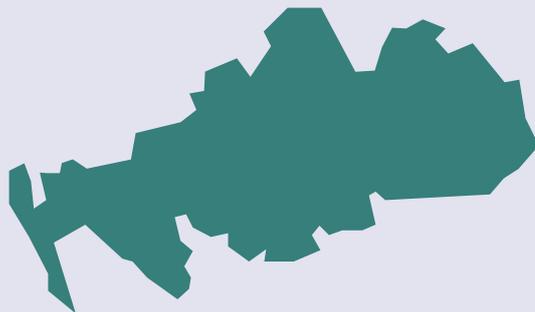
- The population of Scotland is projected to peak in 2028 at 5.48 million. It is then projected to fall by 1.8% to **5.39 million** by **2045**.
- Scotland is the only UK country where the population is projected to fall during the next 25 years.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to **grow by 29.7%** by mid-2045.
- The number of people aged 0-15 is projected to **fall by 22.1%** by mid-2045.



1. National Records Scotland.

Regional Population Decline²

- Dumfries and Galloway has the 5th largest projected **decrease** in population by council area at **-2.8%** by mid-2028.
- Dumfries and Galloway also has one of the largest **decreases** in the projected number of children aged 0 to 15 at **-14.2%** by 2028.



2. National Records Scotland.

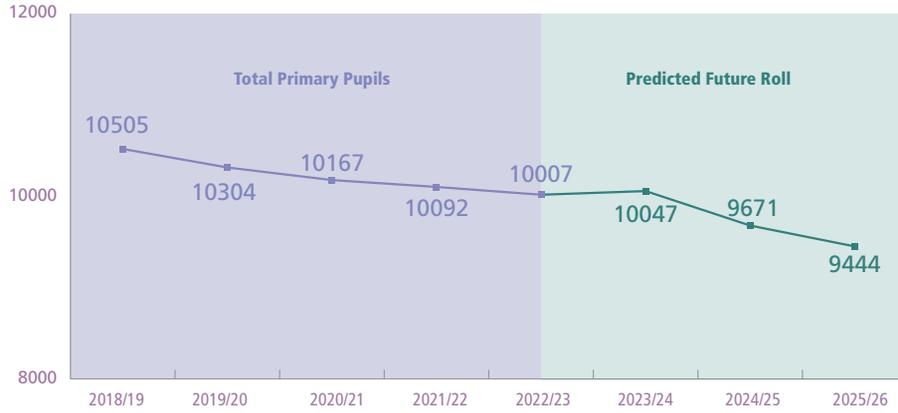
KEY FACTS



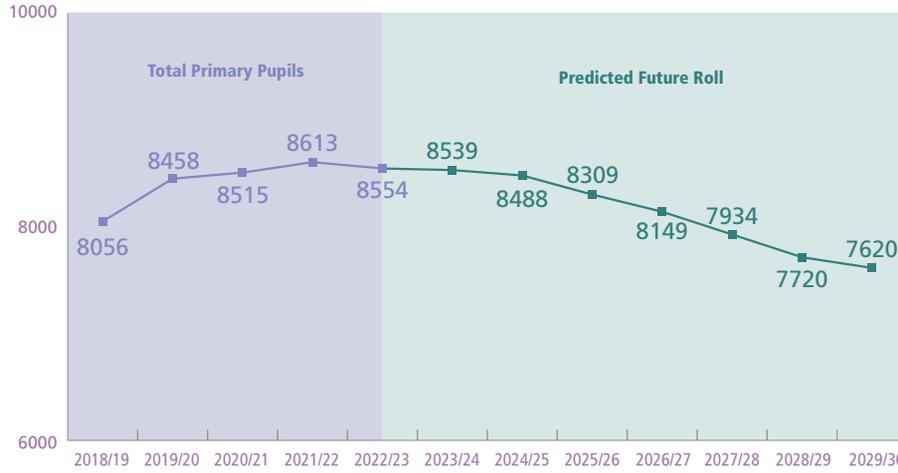
- **We** currently have **98 Primary Schools** and **16 Secondary Schools**.
- **62%** of our schools are classified as **Rural** or **Remote Rural**.
- **33%** of our school buildings are **used by their community**.
- **66%** of our Primary Schools have a shared Headteacher/in a partnership arrangement.
- **73%** of pupils **attend** their **catchment school**.

Current and Future Pupil Rolls Across Dumfries and Galloway

Primary Current and Future Pupil Numbers

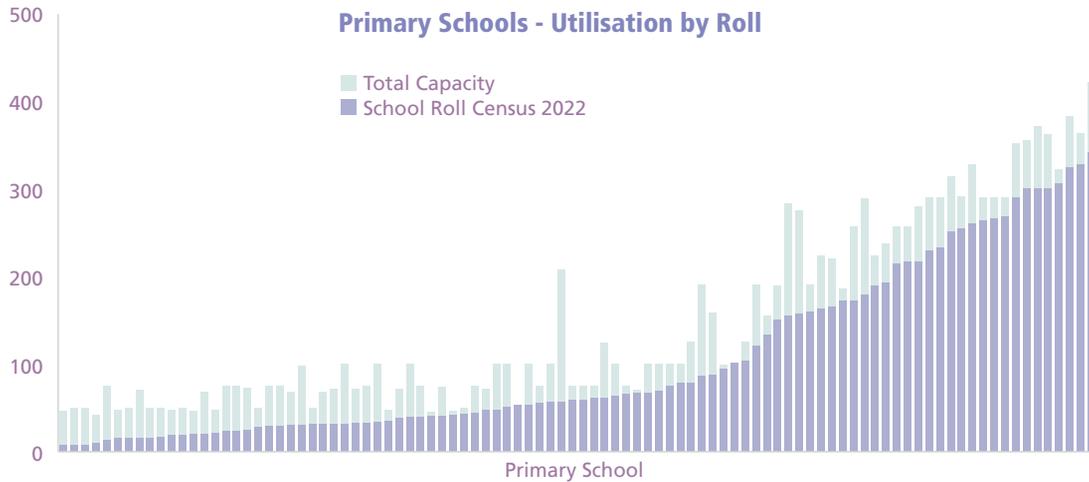


Secondary (S1-6) Current and Future Pupil Numbers

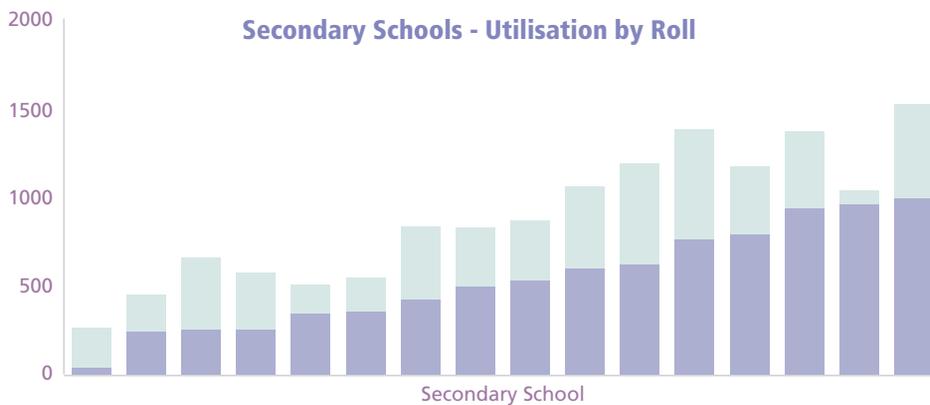


School Utilisation by Roll

Primary Schools - Utilisation by Roll



Secondary Schools - Utilisation by Roll





School Utilisation by Roll

	Lowest	Highest	Average
Primary	14%	106%	62%
Secondary	13%	93%	57%



School Spend Per Pupil in 2021-22 (not including PEF)

	Lowest	Highest	Average
Primary	£3169	£10789	£5322
Secondary	£4941	£20667	£7009



Energy Cost Per Pupil (2021/22)

	Lowest	Highest	Average
Primary	£58	£1,800	£334
Secondary	£125	£249	£195



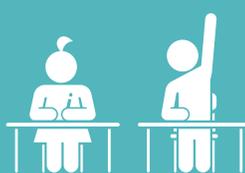
Condition Ratings for Schools

	A - Good	B - Satisfactory	C - Poor	D - Bad
Primary	13%	84%	2%	0%
Secondary	44%	44%	13%	0%



Suitability Ratings for Schools

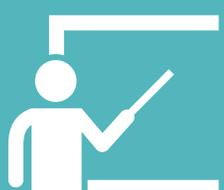
	A - Good	B - Satisfactory	C - Poor	D - Bad
Primary	58%	39%	2%	0%
Secondary	50%	25%	25%	0%



% of Primary Pupils in Composite Classes

(more than one year group taught together)

	Pupils in a single stream class	Pupils in a composite class
Number of Pupils	51.4%	48.6%



Teachers by Grade

	Head Teacher	Depute Head Teacher	Principal Teacher	Teacher
Primary	8%	5%	13%	74%
Secondary	2%	5%	21%	71%

Glossary of Terms

- Condition is concerned with the current state of the fabric of the school and with safety and security.
- Suitability is a measure of whether a school is fit for the purpose of delivering the education curriculum.
- Utilisation is the ratio of the maximum capacity of the school building(s) to the number of pupils on the school roll.