

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

Position Statement Autumn 2017

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Torbay continues to experience growth in the primary sector, mainly in **Paignton**.

Since 2012 the Council has provided an **854 additional primary school places** to meet demand by expanding existing schools.

Previous expansions have allowed the Council to meet demand to date but for the long term the Council is looking for solutions that also provide a 5% to 10% surplus capacity to accommodate **parental preference, in-year admissions and future growth**.

Further expansions would be expensive and could have a detrimental impact on educational standards and attainment. The Council is therefore looking for alternative long term solutions to provide the required capacity in each area including supporting **free school** bids.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE DEMAND?

Birth rates remain high compared to previous years but numbers can fluctuate year on year and town to town which creates uncertainty for some schools.

BIRTH RATES	Torquay	Paignton	Brixham
2005/06	729	436	110
2006/07	789	461	147
2007/08	819	476	118
2008/09	771	481	172
2009/10	812	462	129
2010/11	840	499	157
2011/12	828	464	158
2012/13	808	491	151
2013/14	809	498	156
2014/15	801	460	136
2015/16	777	487	130

Housing developments in **Paignton** are being delivered quicker and in greater quantities. Current developments have a higher percentage of small starter homes which, with investment in new businesses and local amenities, is attracting younger families to the area. This is evident from the Council's assessment of recently completed housing developments and has led to an increase in the pupil yield per dwelling from 0.24 to 0.39. This higher figure reflects the national picture and has been included in the latest forecasts.

Future development sites in the west of **Paignton** have been ear-marked for early delivery as a departure to the Local Plan. Whilst these developments cannot be included in the Council's projections until planning has been submitted, they are considered to be areas of significant growth and will impact on the demand for school places.

Net in-migration is a significant factor for school place planning in Torbay and results from a larger number of children moving in to the area than moving out. This has become particularly noticeable since the completion of the South Devon Highway which has made Torbay a viable commuter region for large cities such as Exeter and Plymouth.

WHAT DO THE LATEST FORECASTS SHOW?

Pupil forecasts are published in the Summer Term and are calculated using school census data.

Primary numbers in **TORQUAY** have stabilised and overall there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for the next 5 years.

TORQUAY	<i>Reception forecasts</i>
2016-17 (actual)	773
2017-18	759
2018-19	760
2019-20	752
2020-21	757
2021-22	756

The current number of Reception places in **Torquay** is 790. Surplus capacity is approximately 4.5% across the town. However there are particular pressure points within Torquay with some schools full and oversubscribed year on year.

Primary numbers in **PAIGNTON** continue to rise and additional places are needed to meet demand.

PAIGNTON	<i>Reception forecasts</i>
2016-17 (actual)	482
2017-18	520
2018-19	527
2019-20	488
2020-21	511
2021-22	509

The current number of Reception places in **Paignton** is 507. There is no surplus capacity and the Council has had to negotiate a temporary increase at one school until a permanent solution can be implemented. Forecasts for Paignton do not include any adjustment for a number of large developments that are still in the pre-planning stage.

Primary numbers in **BRIXHAM** are stable and there is sufficient capacity to meet demand.

BRIXHAM	<i>Reception forecasts</i>
2016-17 (actual)	185
2017-18	170
2018-19	175
2019-20	153
2020-21	166
2021-22	165

The current number of Reception places in **Brixham** is 195. Surplus capacity is approximately 13% across the town.

IMPLICATIONS AND ACTIONS?

In the **short term** the Council has agreed a bulge year with one school in Paignton. To deliver a **long term** solution the Council has supported two applications for free schools in the Paignton area.

Both Torbay applications were approved in March 2017 as part of Wave 12 of the government's **Free School Programme** with the condition that the Council provides the site. Discussions are currently underway to identify and secure those sites.

Paignton CofE Primary School – DfE have approved an application from LAPSW for a one form of entry primary school with a nursery. The school is expected to open in 2019 and will help address the immediate need for additional capacity as indicated in the forecast table above.

Windmill Primary School – DfE have provisionally approved an application from COAST Academies for a two form of entry primary school with nursery. The approval is dependent on a number of large housing developments achieving planning approval. If planning is not forthcoming within an agreed timeframe then the approval will be withdrawn. The second free school for Paignton will only be needed if these large developments are delivered, without them demand can be met through delivery of the first free school alone.

NEXT STEPS?

Forecasts and implications will be reviewed at the following points:

- Autumn Term 2017 following actual admissions (including late) for September 2017
- Spring Term 2018 following school census
- As new planning applications for large housing developments are received and approved

Free School Programme Wave 13

- No guidance has yet been issued for Wave 13
- If Wave 13 proceeds with the same criteria as previous waves, Torbay Council will not support any further primary school applications unless they are linked to housing developments that have not already been identified as part of the successful applications for Wave 12.

AUTUMN 2017 UPDATE

The actual numbers admitted for Paignton Reception September 2017 are in line with latest forecasts. There has also been a significant rise in late applications which will impact all year groups.

FURTHER INFORMATION?

For further information on planning for primary school places please contact:

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