

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STATEMENT 2025

INTRODUCTION

1. Torbay Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to ensure all children of school age can access education. Pupil projections enable the LA to plan and ensure it has the capacity to meet demand. By providing an indicator for the expected school population over the coming 5 years, projections enable the LA to effectively plan provision to meet demand. Projections are estimates based on historical trends; the assumption is that patterns and trends affecting current pupil numbers in the area will continue as they are. The projections are updated bi-annually to ensure they reflect the most up to date data and local intelligence.
2. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the current and projected pupil numbers for Torbay across the primary and secondary sectors. It is broken down into three Planning Areas: Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, providing an overview of the current projections, implications for school places and the LA's actions for managing future provision.
3. There are four key observations affecting Torbay's current projections:
 - Persistent low number of births across all three planning areas; consistent with national trend,
 - The reduced impact of population growth with a slowdown in housing and movement into the area,
 - Local secondary transfer rates remain at an all-time high as more pupils remain in area, and the
 - High migration at secondary level into the bays three selective schools; last year this was a net gain of 1,172 pupils.
4. As a result, the current challenges facing the LA are **managing the surplus primary capacity** and meeting **the short-term capacity pressures within the secondary sector**.

For Further Information on School Place Planning please contact:

Clare Talbot	Head of Education (School Place Planning & Capital), Education Team, Torbay Council
	01803 208220 clare.talbot@torbay.gov.uk
Samantha Poston	Team Leader, Education Team, Torbay Council
	01803 208260 samantha.poston@torbay.gov.uk

PLANNING AREA: TORQUAY

ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL

		PRIMARY								SECONDARY					
		PAN	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	PAN	7	8	9	10	11
ACTUAL NOR	Sept 20	790	680	729	749	712	748	758	765	973	977	996	941	869	855
	Sept 21	760	644	690	719	739	710	753	757	988	984	958	987	893	860
	Sept 22	760	648	660	695	728	748	720	757	1028	1026	978	955	952	898
	Sept 23	745	631	655	657	690	729	750	729	998	992	1019	972	924	934
	Sept 24	735	549	643	643	652	695	725	753	1012	997	978	989	928	903
P R O J E C T I O N S	Sept 25	735	559	557	636	638	655	694	731	1003	1008	987	961	951	909
	Sept 26	735	510	567	551	631	641	654	700	973	979	998	969	923	931
	Sept 27	735	505	518	561	547	634	640	659	973	937	969	980	931	904
	Sept 28	735	567	512	512	557	549	633	645	973	883	927	951	942	912
	Sept 29	735	527	575	506	508	559	548	638	973	864	874	911	914	922
	Sept 30	735	533	535	569	503	511	558	553	973	854	855	858	875	895

(Shading indicates how a cohort moves through the educational system)

Proposed housing developments in Torquay with an anticipated pupil yield above historical level:

Edginswell	approx. 550 homes - mixture of starter and family homes; not yet started
------------	--

OVERVIEW

- Torquay has experienced the lowest drop in birth rates; only 532 births in 2022 compared to 770 in 2015.
- Current projections show there is sufficient capacity at primary level for the foreseeable future; however, increasing concern over the level of surplus which is expected to reach 28% by 2029.
- Three primary schools have taken proactive action and reduced their PAN; other schools are considering taking the same action to manage the impact of falling rolls.
- Potential growth expected from the Edginswell development but not at sufficient level to utilise all surplus.
- Ongoing pressure at secondary level as the LA manages large cohorts of pupils moving up alongside the high levels of inward migration to the selective schools; 2024 data shows that the Year 7 cohort increased by 37% through the intake of out of area pupils.
- Secondary intake numbers expected to peak in 2025 before dropping to more manageable levels from 2027 onwards.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010
- The LA will continue a dialogue with planners over the proposed Edginswell development to understand the size of the development and delivery dates to ensure sufficient capacity is maintained.
- In the secondary sector, an agreement has been reached with St Cuthbert Maybe School to take a bulge class of 30 for the September 2025 intake; this has been supported through LA capital investment to provide fit for purpose accommodation.
- Officers will continue to closely monitor applications for 2026 intake to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand.
- Latest position following Secondary Allocation Day in March is that all pupils that have applied, to date, have been offered a place for this September.

PLANNING AREA: PAIGNTON

ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL

		PRIMARY								SECONDARY					
		PAN	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	PAN	7	8	9	10	11
ACTUAL	Sept 20	507	492	475	517	512	507	503	475	360	312	289	293	239	267
	Sept 21	537	439	492	477	522	519	506	500	360	338	319	294	257	242
	Sept 22	537	471	449	489	485	536	521	511	360	320	325	322	237	258
	Sept 23	537	452	473	462	494	483	534	531	390	385	327	325	266	225
	Sept 24	537	421	445	478	474	490	473	534	360	352	365	314	289	266
P R O J E C T I O N S	Sept 25	537	411	419	454	487	471	484	478	360	378	347	358	269	282
	Sept 26	537	411	409	427	462	484	465	489	360	338	372	340	307	262
	Sept 27	537	371	409	417	435	459	478	470	360	346	333	365	291	299
	Sept 28	537	419	369	417	424	432	454	482	360	333	341	326	313	284
	Sept 29	537	400	417	376	424	422	427	458	360	342	328	334	280	305
	Sept 30	537	397	398	425	383	422	416	431	360	324	336	321	287	273

(Shading indicates how a cohort moves through the educational system)

Proposed housing developments with an anticipated pupil yield above historical level:

Inglewood	373 houses mixture of starter and family homes – currently being delivered
Collaton Area	Total of 539 houses; permission has been granted for 204 to date

OVERVIEW

- Although Paignton continues to be an area of significant economic investment and large housing developments; the latest projections indicate that there will be a surplus of primary places for the foreseeable future.
- Any expected pupil growth from the large local housing developments has been counteracted by the low birth rate in the area. Last year saw the lowest drop in the birth rate for this area at 10%.
- At secondary level, demand peaks in 2025 before dropping to more manageable levels.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010
- To continue liaising closely with planners on the build out rate and local impact of above local developments. These are expected to utilise some of the surplus although challenge is often the location of the available places.
- With only one secondary school in Paignton the options for increasing capacity are limited and as numbers are due to drop from 2026, the LA is seeking a short-term solution to meet the potential 2025 demand.
- Historically, there is cross border movement between Paignton and Brixham at secondary level; projected surplus in Brixham from 2026 onwards will be available as an alternative to those on the edges of the Paignton area.
- The LA will maintain a watching brief on local transfer rates and the movement of pupils between areas.
- Latest position following Secondary Allocation Day in March is that all pupils that have applied to date have been offered a place for this September.

PLANNING AREA: BRIXHAM

ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL

		PRIMARY								SECONDARY					
		PAN	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	PAN	7	8	9	10	11
ACTUAL	Sept 20	190	154	139	166	166	184	178	161	360	348	354	356	325	320
	Sept 21	190	141	153	139	165	163	187	177	360	332	349	352	348	317
	Sept 22	190	150	145	158	148	170	168	196	360	362	347	351	337	349
	Sept 23	180	125	152	140	160	144	168	163	360	365	362	344	320	334
	Sept 24	180	124	124	151	148	159	141	166	370	367	358	354	304	303
P R O J E C T I O N S	Sept 25	180	112	124	121	156	146	156	138	370	341	363	352	318	295
	Sept 26	180	116	112	122	126	154	143	153	370	284	338	358	316	308
	Sept 27	180	109	116	110	126	124	151	140	370	315	281	333	321	307
	Sept 28	180	112	109	114	114	124	122	148	370	288	312	277	299	311
	Sept 29	180	112	112	107	118	112	122	119	370	304	286	307	249	290
	Sept 30	180	111	112	110	110	116	110	119	370	245	302	281	276	241

(Shading indicates how a cohort moves through the educational system)

OVERVIEW

- Brixham continues to face falling primary cohorts in line with the fall in birth rates. With no current or proposed housing developments above historical levels, this position is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.
- Some schools have taken the proactive steps to temporarily reduce their planned admission number to better manage their roll and budgets.
- Place planning at secondary level continues to be challenging due to the high level of inward migration to the Grammar School; in 2024 the Year 7 cohort 'grew' by 125% due to inward migration.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010
- No further action is needed to meet demand in the area for secondary provision; it is expected that any surplus capacity will help to meet the demand from neighbouring Paignton.

Schools in each Planning Area with Planned Admission Number (PAN) for September 2025

TORQUAY

Primary	PAN
All Saints Babbacombe Church of England Primary School	30
Barton Hill Academy	90
Cockington Primary School	60
Ellacombe Academy	50
Homelands Primary School	30
Ilsham Church of England Primary School	25
Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Primary School	30
Priory Roman Catholic Primary School	30
Sherwell Valley Primary School	90
Shiphay Learning Academy	60
St Margaret's Academy	60
St Marychurch Church of England Primary School	30
Torre Church of England Primary School	45
Upton St James Church of England Primary School	15
Warberry Church of England Primary School	60
Watcombe Primary School	30
Secondary	PAN
St Cuthbert Mayne Joint Catholic & Church of England School	195
The Spires College	210
Torquay Academy	240
Torquay Boys' Grammar School	168
Torquay Girls' Grammar School	160

PAIGNTON

Primary	PAN
Collaton St Mary Church of England Primary School	30
Curledge Street Academy	60
Hayes School	57
Kings Ash Academy	60
Oldway Primary School	90
Preston Primary School	45
Roselands Primary School	45
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	30
St Michael's Academy	30
White Rock Primary School	90
Secondary	PAN
Paignton Academy	360

BRIXHAM

Primary	PAN
Brixham Church of England Primary School	30
Eden Park Primary School	60
Furzeham Primary School	30
Galmpton Church of England Primary School	30
St Margaret Clitherow Primary School	30
Secondary	PAN
Brixham College	210
Churston Ferrers Grammar School	160