
SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STATEMENT 2026

INTRODUCTION

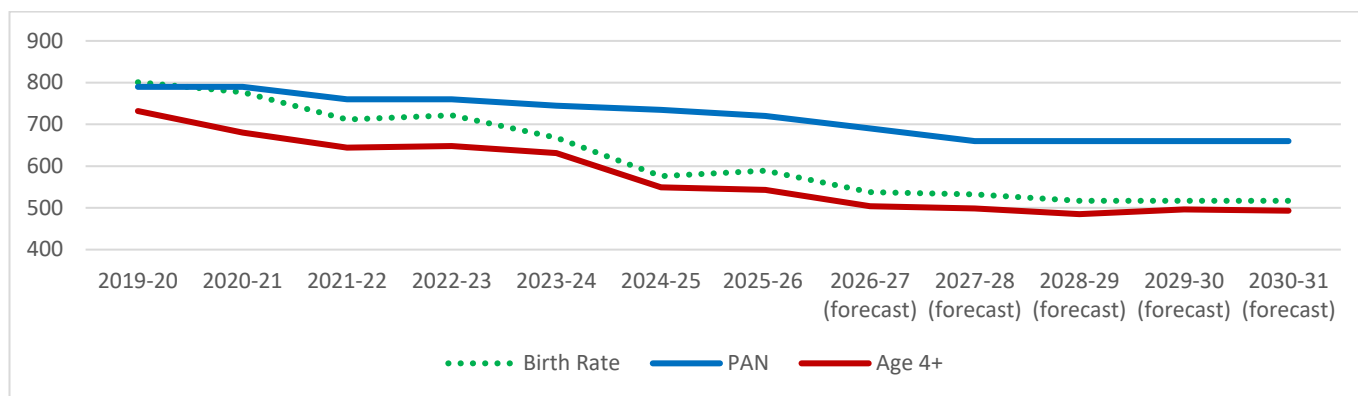
1. Torbay Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to ensure all children of school age can access education. Pupil projections provide an indicator for the expected school population over the coming 5 years enabling the LA to plan provision and ensure it has sufficient capacity to meet demand.
2. Our projections are estimates based on historical trends; the assumption is that patterns and trends affecting current pupil numbers will continue as they are. The projections are updated bi-annually to ensure they reflect the most up to date data and local intelligence.
3. Projections are provided for each of the LA's recognised planning areas, Torquay, Paignton, and Brixham. Due to the size of our planning areas, the proximity and number of schools within each and the impact of parental preference, the projections cannot reliably be broken down any further. The split of pupils between each of the schools within an area varies year on year depending on availability of places, popularity, and other variables, such as parents choosing a school influenced by their daily commute. Any assumptions the LA could make on historic admissions would be misleading and unreliable information to share with schools.
4. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the current and projected pupil numbers for each planning area across the primary and secondary sectors. Along with historic data as a reference.
5. It outlines the implications for school places and the LA's actions for managing future provision.
6. There are three key factors affecting Torbay's current projections;
 - persistent small 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,
 - and high levels of inward migration, at secondary level, to the selective schools.
7. As a result, the LA is forecasting high levels of surplus capacity (exceeding the 10% surplus it aims to keep for parental preference and in year admissions) in both sectors and across all three planning areas.
8. The LAs focus is on **managing the immediate impact on the primary sector** and looking long term at the **potential impact on the secondary sector**.
9. In addition, the LA is awaiting the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR); a decision is expected this summer. A reorganisation could trigger significant changes to the LA and have an impact on future place planning. How and when is unclear at this time, but the LA will maintain a watching brief and share information and any implications as they become available.

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

PRIMARY ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



The above graph charts the historic and projected primary intake against the PAN capacity, with the corresponding birth rate for that cohort group. From 2019 there has been a steady decline in the primary intake mirroring the drop in birth rates in the area. The birth rate now shows signs of stabilising at this lower level.

A new housing development of 550 homes proposed for the Edginswell area will generate some future pupil growth but not at a level to use all surplus capacity. The development is still in negotiations with no immediate start date.

Current projections show that by 2030 the level of surplus capacity could be 25%; **this equates to 5FE.**

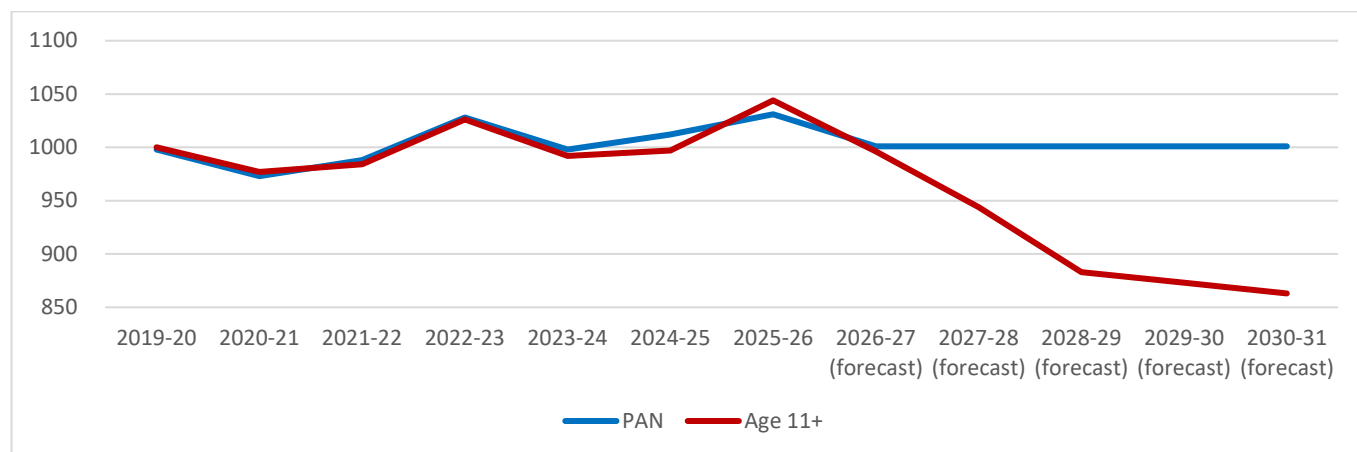
Academic Year	PAN	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
2025-26 (actual)	720	543	556	637	640	647	685	723	4431
2026-27 (forecast)	690	504	552	548	633	640	641	685	4203
2027-28 (forecast)	660	499	512	544	545	633	634	641	4008
2028-29 (forecast)	660	485	507	505	541	545	627	634	3844
2029-30 (forecast)	660	485	492	500	502	541	539	627	3686
2030-31 (forecast)	660	489	492	486	497	502	535	540	3541

It is not possible for the LA to project how the falling numbers will impact individual schools, however, **six** local schools (in bold below) have lowered their PANs to manage the impact of falling numbers.

The Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) expected for 2027 are:

Primary	PAN
All Saints Babbacombe Church of England Primary School	30
Barton Hill Academy	60
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	15
Sherwell Valley Primary School	90
Shiphay Learning Academy	30
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 ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



The above graph shows the historic and projected secondary intake against the available PAN capacity in the area. The LA currently faces the challenge of managing the demand from the last remaining large cohorts moving up alongside high levels of inward migration to the selective schools.

Secondary intake numbers peak in 2026 before dropping to more manageable levels as smaller cohorts move up. The table below provides the projected secondary numbers and shows that by 2030 the level of surplus capacity could reach 14%; **this equates to 4FE**; but this position could change quite rapidly.

Historically, the area experiences a high level of inward migration due to the selective schools, for example, in 2025 the Year 7 cohort 'grew' by 39%. There is, therefore, an expectation that despite cohort numbers falling, the selective school will continue to fill to capacity, and this will have a positive impact on future projections.

Academic Year	PAN	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL
2025-26 (actual)*	1031	1044	982	978	943	908	4855
2026-27 (forecast)	1001	996	1029	968	933	922	4848
2027-28 (forecast)	1001	944	981	1014	923	912	4774
2028-29 (forecast)	1001	883	930	967	967	903	4650
2029-30 (forecast)	1001	873	870	916	922	946	4527
2030-31 (forecast)	1001	863	860	857	874	902	4356

There are five secondary schools within this planning area and their expected PANs for 2027 are:

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	188

ACTIONS FOR THE TORQUAY PLANNING AREA

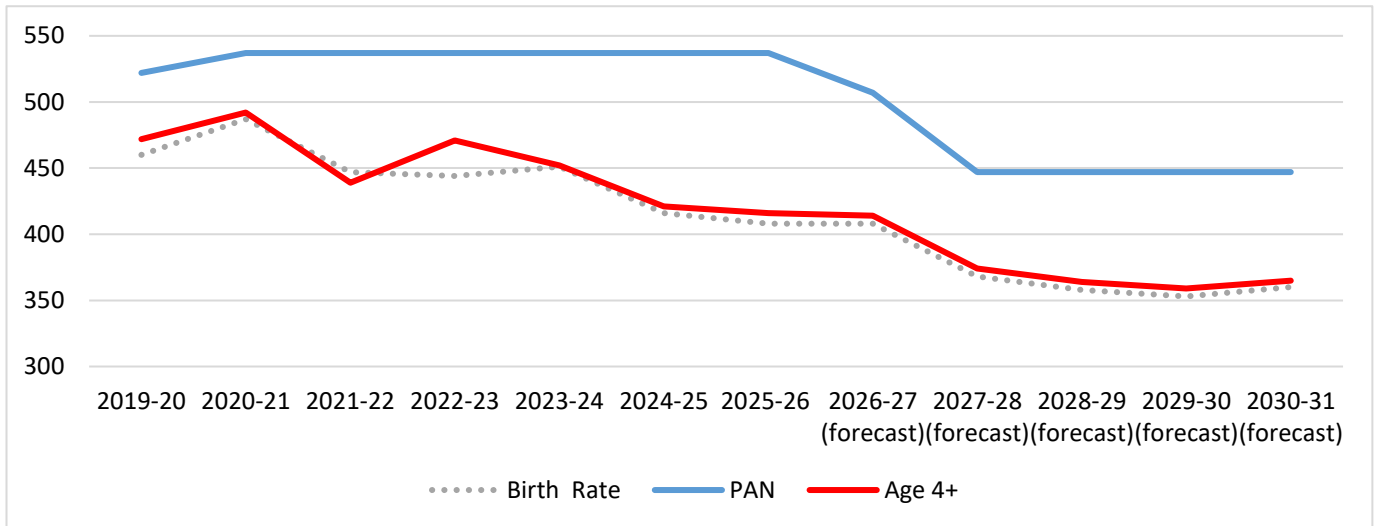
- To continue discussions with local **Primary** heads and Trusts about reducing PAN and utilising surplus accommodation for SEND, Family Best Start Hubs and Early Years provision – capital funding is available for these options from the DfE who recognise falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any primary accommodation; the LA removed all unfit accommodation during earlier 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.
- 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. Capacity for 2026 remains a challenge and there are pressure

points which the LA is closely monitoring; however, no additional capacity is proposed as numbers will drop from 2027.

- The LA will closely monitor transfer rates at Year 7 and the level of inward migration to see how this will mitigate against secondary falling rolls and update its projections as data becomes available.

PLANNING AREA: PAIGNTON

PRIMARY ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



The above graph charts the historic and projected primary intake against the PAN capacity, with the corresponding birth rate for that cohort group. The birth rate has remained below 370 per year for the last 3 years and now shows signs of stabilising at around 360 per year, which is 26% lower than the rate 10 years ago. The primary intake has dropped to mirror the birth rate.

Although Paignton continues to be an area of significant economic investment and large housing developments, the expected pupil growth from developments such as White Rock, Inglewood and Collaton has coincided with the drop in birth rate. Whilst some population growth has helped to mitigate some impact, the LA is currently projecting a surplus capacity of 16% by 2030; **this equates to 2 FE.**

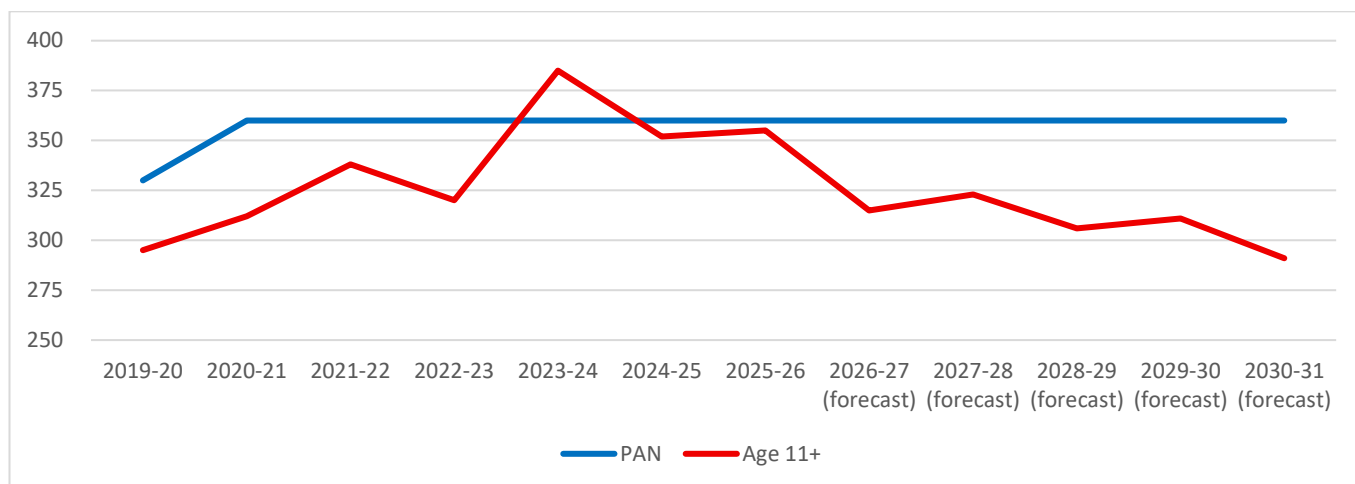
Academic Year	PAN	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
2025-26 (actual)	537	416	402	442	481	466	486	475	3168
2026-27 (forecast)	507	414	403	403	449	475	459	487	3090
2027-28 (forecast)	447	374	402	404	409	444	468	460	2961
2028-29 (forecast)	447	364	362	403	411	404	437	469	2850
2029-30 (forecast)	447	359	353	363	409	406	398	438	2726
2030-31 (forecast)	447	365	348	353	369	404	400	399	2638

Although it is not possible for the LA to project how the falling numbers will affect individual schools, **four** local schools (in bold below) have lowered their PANs to manage the impact of falling numbers.

The PANs expected for 2027 are:

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

SECONDARY ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



The above graph shows the historic and projected secondary intake against the available PAN capacity in the area.

Secondary numbers in the area have peaked and are projected to drop in line with what is happening in the primary sector as the smaller cohorts move up.

By 2030 the LA is forecasting 19% surplus capacity in the admitting year which equates to 2FE.

Academic Year	PAN	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL
2025-26 (actual)	360	355	328	336	264	286	1569
2026-27 (forecast)	360	315	334	308	291	263	1511
2027-28 (forecast)	360	323	296	314	267	289	1489
2028-29 (forecast)	360	306	304	279	271	265	1425
2029-30 (forecast)	360	311	287	286	241	270	1395
2030-31 (forecast)	360	291	293	270	247	240	1341

There is only the one secondary school in this area, and it will provide sufficient capacity for the current and projected numbers for the area.

The secondary PAN for 2027 is:

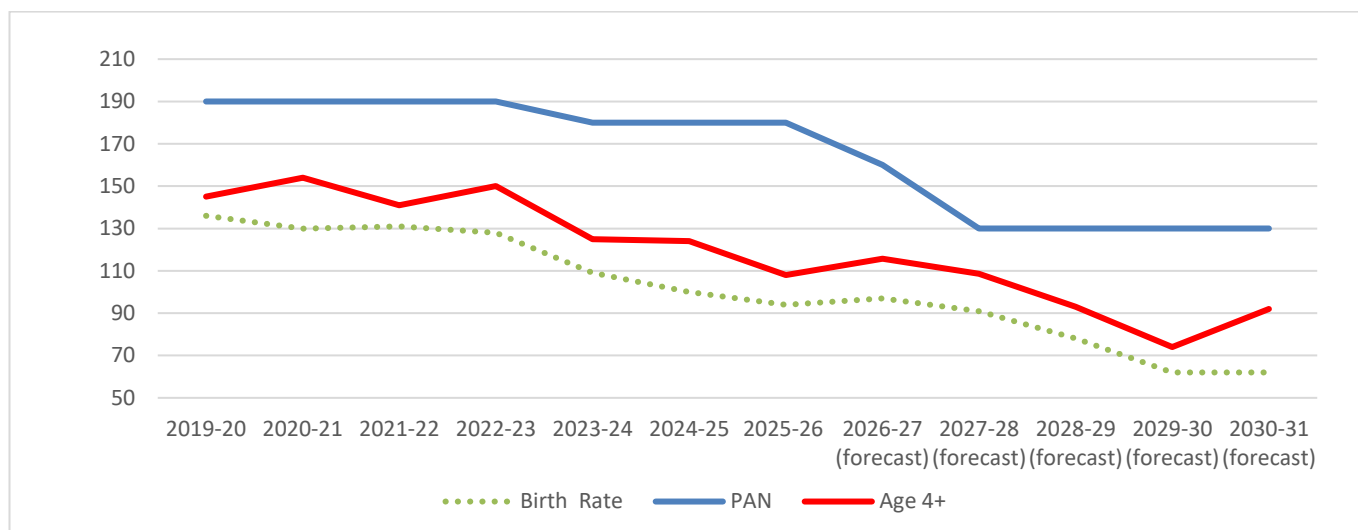
Secondary	PAN
Paignton Academy	360

ACTIONS FOR THE PAIGNTON PLANNING AREA

- To continue discussions with local **Primary** heads and Trusts about reducing their PAN and utilising surplus accommodation for SEND, Best Start Family Hubs and Early Years provision – capital funding is available for these options from the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; the LA removed all unfit accommodation during earlier periods of falling rolls (pre-2010).
- The LA will continue consulting closely with planners on the build out rate and local impact of above local developments. Any growth will use some surplus although the challenge is often the location of the available places.
- 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.
- The LA will be consulting with the local Academy Trust to manage the impact of falling rolls.

PLANNING AREA: BRIXHAM

PRIMARY ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



The above graph charts the historic and projected primary intake against the PAN capacity, with the corresponding birth rate for that cohort group. As it shows, there has been a steady decline in the primary intake since 2019, mirroring the drop in birth rates in the area.

With no current or proposed housing developments above historical levels, this position is unlikely to change soon.

Current projections show that by 2030 the level of surplus within the Reception PAN capacity will be 21%; **this equates to 1FE.**

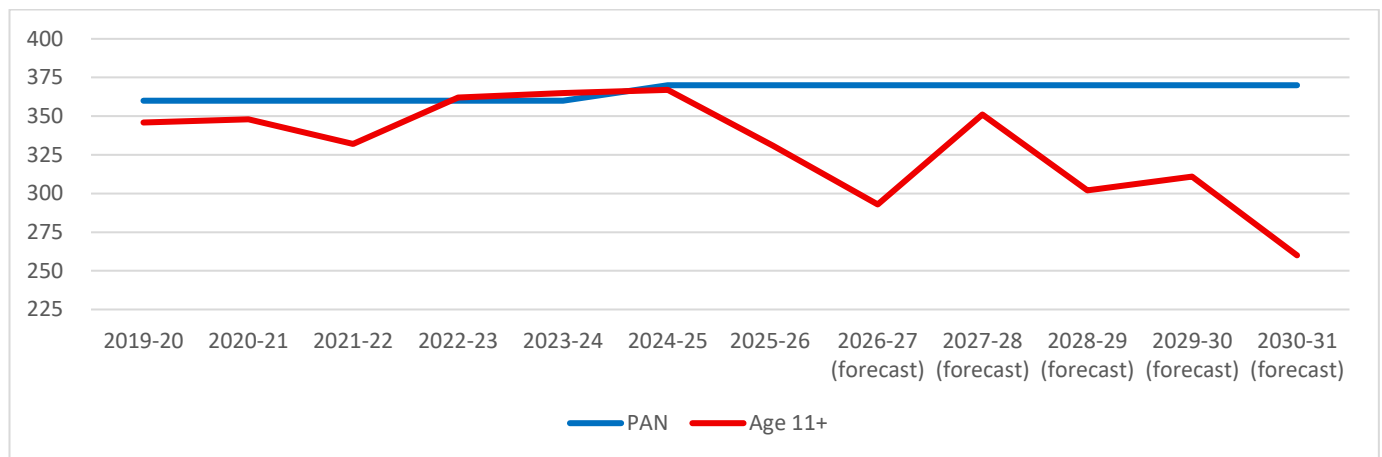
Academic Year	PAN	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
2025-26 (actual)	180	108	127	122	150	142	168	138	955
2026-27 (forecast)	160	116	109	126	125	146	145	165	932
2027-28 (forecast)	130	109	117	108	129	122	149	142	876
2028-29 (forecast)	130	93	110	115	110	126	124	147	825
2029-30 (forecast)	130	74	94	108	118	108	128	122	752
2030-31 (forecast)	130	92	75	93	111	116	110	126	723

Although it is not possible for the LA to project how the falling numbers will affect individual, **three** local schools (in bold below) have lowered their PANs to manage the impact of falling numbers.

The PANs expected for 2027 are:

Primary	PAN
Brixham Church of England Primary School	30
Eden Park Primary School	30
Furzeham Primary School	30
Galmpton Church of England Primary School	30
St Margaret Clitherow Primary School	10

SECONDARY ACTUAL & PROJECTED NUMBERS ON ROLL



From 2026, secondary numbers are expected to fall significantly as the smaller primary cohorts move up. This is illustrated in the graph above which shows both historic and projected intake numbers. Brixham has seen the most dramatic fall in birth rates with little or no growth from new housing in the area.

By 2030 the LA is forecasting a surplus of 30% which **equates to 3FE**; but this position could change quite rapidly.

Historically, the area experiences a high level of inward migration due to the selective school, for example, in 2025 the Year 7 cohort 'grew' by 99%. There is, therefore, an expectation that despite cohort numbers falling, the selective school will continue to fill to capacity, and this will have a positive impact on future projections.

Academic Year	PAN	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	TOTAL
2025-26 (<i>actual</i>)	370	331	365	360	317	300	1673
2026-27 (forecast)	370	293	327	362	320	306	1608
2027-28 (forecast)	370	351	289	324	322	310	1596
2028-29 (forecast)	370	302	346	287	288	311	1534
2029-30 (forecast)	370	311	298	344	255	279	1487
2030-31 (forecast)	370	260	307	296	306	247	1416

There are two secondary schools within this planning area and their expected PANs for 2027 are:

Secondary	PAN
Brixham College	210
Churston Ferrers Grammar School	160

ACTIONS FOR THE BRIXHAM PLANNING AREA

- To continue discussions with local **Primary** heads and Trusts regarding reducing their PAN utilising surplus accommodation for SEND, Best Start Family Hubs and Early Years provision – capital funding is available for these options from the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; the LA has removed all unfit accommodation during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010.
- 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.
- No further action is needed to meet demand in the area for secondary provision.
- Although current forecasts project a signification level of surplus in 2030, the LA will closely monitor transfer rates at Year 7 and the level of inward migration to see how this will mitigate against secondary falling rolls and update its projections as data becomes available.