

School roll projection methodology

Used with Pupil Census 2017



School roll projection methodology

1. Primary school rolls - Primary 1 intakes

- 1.1. The number of five year old children living in each non-denominational catchment area is provided by the NHS Fife Community Health Index (CHI). These children are allocated to a school for their Primary One (P1) stage based on the choices made by previous five year old children living in the same catchment area (i.e. the percentage of the children within a catchment area allocated to each local Primary School reflects the percentage choosing these schools in previous years).
- 1.2. Proposed housing sites are provided by Fife Council Planning Service. All effective sites in the Housing Land Audit are assumed to generate additional pupils at the rate of 35.4 primary pupils per 100 new houses (Fife-wide average). If 100% of the P1 pupils choose to attend their catchment school then it is assumed that 100% of the pupils from new housing will also choose to attend their catchment School. These additional pupils are distributed across all primary stages at the ratio of 20% to P1, 18% to P2, 16% to P3, 14% to P4, 12% to P5, 10% to P6 and 10% to P7 (based on a risk based assumption that new housing may be attractive to younger families; the risk being that younger families will produce pupils who spend longer at school).
- 1.3. Proposed houses will also increase the overall catchment population. The number of children generated from new houses is assumed to revert to a Fife-wide average over the longer term. This value is calculated using the National Records of Scotland (NRS) Fife-wide average household size (2.2 people) and NRS Fife-wide average birth rate (11.6 births per 1000 population). These are new children in the catchment area and so are added to the P1 intake values four years after new houses have been completed.
- 1.4. National Records of Scotland produce population projections per age group at Fife level every two years. The total number of P1 pupils across all schools is compared against NRS population projections for the number of 5 year old children. NRS and Pupil Census values have been very close in recent years so the rolls are increased or decreased as necessary to match to 100% of the NRS projections.

2. Primary school rolls - Primary 2 - Primary 7 pupils

- 2.1. The previous years pupil numbers are used as a starting point and all pupils are assumed to progress to the next primary stage. For example, if there were 25 pupils in P1 last year it is assumed all these 25 pupils will move to P2 this year.
- 2.2. Additional pupils expected from new housing are added at the appropriate ratio described in part 1 e.g. 18% to P2 etc.

2.3. The total number of P2-P7 pupils across all schools is compared against NRS population projections for the number of 6-11 year old children. NRS and Pupil Census values have been very close in recent years so the rolls are increased or decreased as necessary to match to 100% of the NRS projections.

3. Longer-term projections

3.1. School roll projections for years beyond 4 years (after which NHS Fife CHI values are not available) are estimated based on a 3 year moving average of the actual CHI values. This is necessary as actual birth data is not available after year 4). This is calculated using the previous 5 years values, excluding the highest and lowest individual year values and taking an average of the remaining 3 years.

4. Primary school roll projections - Total

4.1. The total P1-P7 projected roll at each school is the final output and replaces all previous projections. These projections are not the sole determinant of capacity and are provided to Education and Estates for a final view to be taken.

5. Secondary school rolls – Secondary 1 pupils

5.1. The previous years P7 pupils are allocated to a secondary school based on the choices made by previous P7 pupils attending the same primary school and living in the same catchment area (i.e. the percentage of the children within a catchment area allocated to each local Secondary School reflects the percentage choosing these schools in previous years).

5.2. Proposed housing sites are provided by Fife Council Planning Service. All effective sites in the Housing Land Audit are assumed to generate additional pupils at the rate of 20.7 secondary school age pupils per 100 new houses (Fife-wide average). These additional pupils are distributed equally across all secondary stages at the ratio of 25% to each of the S1, S2, S3 and S4 stages only.

5.3. The total number of S1 pupils across all schools is compared against NRS population projections for the number of 12 year old children. NRS and Pupil Census values have been close in recent years so the rolls are increased or decreased as necessary to match to 99% of the NRS projections. A 100% value is not used in order to account for a small overestimate normally present in NRS projections of this age group.

6. Secondary school rolls – Secondary 2-4 pupils

6.1. The previous years pupil numbers are used as a starting point and all pupils are assumed to progress to the next secondary stage. For example, if there were 150 pupils in S1 last year it is assumed all these 150 pupils will move to S2 this year. Additional pupils expected from new housing are added at the appropriate ratio described in 5.2, for example 25% to S2.

6.2. The total number of S2-S4 pupils across all schools is compared against NRS population projections for the number of 13-15 year old children. NRS and Pupil Census values have been close in recent years so the rolls are increased or decreased as necessary to match to 99% of the NRS projections.

7. Secondary school rolls – Secondary 5-6 pupils

7.1. S5 pupil numbers are based on a 3 year average of the number of S3 pupils from two years previously who have stayed on at school to S5 stage. No additional pupils from new housing are added to S5 pupil numbers.

7.2. S6 pupil numbers are based on a 3 year average of the number of S3 pupils from three years previously who have stayed on at school to S6 stage. No additional pupils from new housing is added to S6 pupil numbers.

8. Secondary school roll projections - Total

8.1. The total S1-S6 projected roll at each school is the final output which will be published on FifeDirect and replace all previous projections.

Contacts and further information

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Contact

We very much encourage you to contact us if you have genuine queries or need assistance. We are always happy to speak to you about your own research work and either provide guidance, mentoring or more formal support depending on what is required. The priority we can give this, may change depending on what else we have on, so contact us early if you can. Contact in the first instance should be via the Research Manager.

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Important notes on this report

This report is designed to provide background information to the Education Service.