



Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision

Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 Primary, Special and Post Primary Schools (including Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools)

1 September 2022 – 31 August 2024

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Section 1 Introduction

In taking forward Area Planning activity for the next five years, 2022-27, the Education Authority, working in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and collaborating with the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and Transferor Representatives' Council, published the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision (the Plans) in June 2022. Both Plans set out the strategic direction on how the future educational needs of children and young people will be addressed through area solutions, consistent with relevant policies and Ministerial Priorities. The Plans' 'Plan on a Page' provide an overview with four Key Themes bringing together the aim, vision, mission and objectives of Area Planning with the Key Themes actions and measurements providing direction for Area Planning activity over the next five years, 2022-27.

While the Plans provide the strategic direction for the next five years, Operational Plan 1 will outline the Area Planning activity to be taken forward in the first two years, 2022-24. It was agreed by all Area Planning partners that there should be a single Operational Plan to cover both Strategies. This is to ensure that special educational needs provision is clearly recognised as an integral part of the education system and that all schools have a responsibility for this area. Special educational needs work streams are colour coded within each Local Government District for clarity. Operational Plan 1 should be read in conjunction with the Plans.

Section 2 Overview

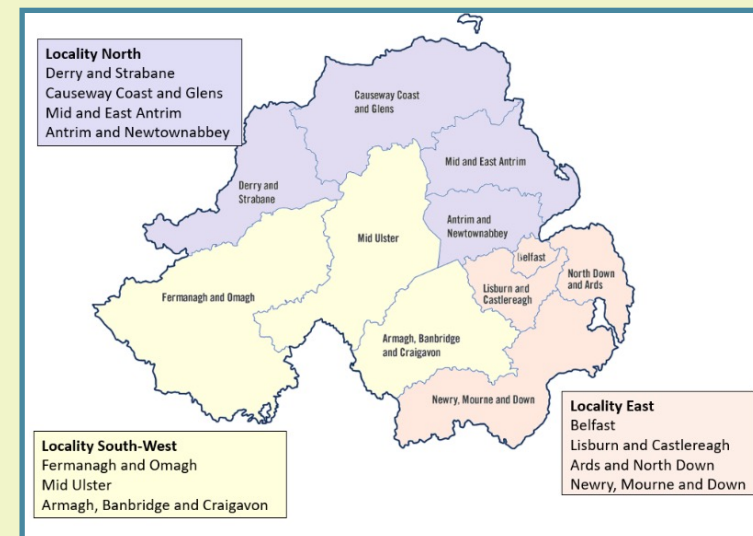
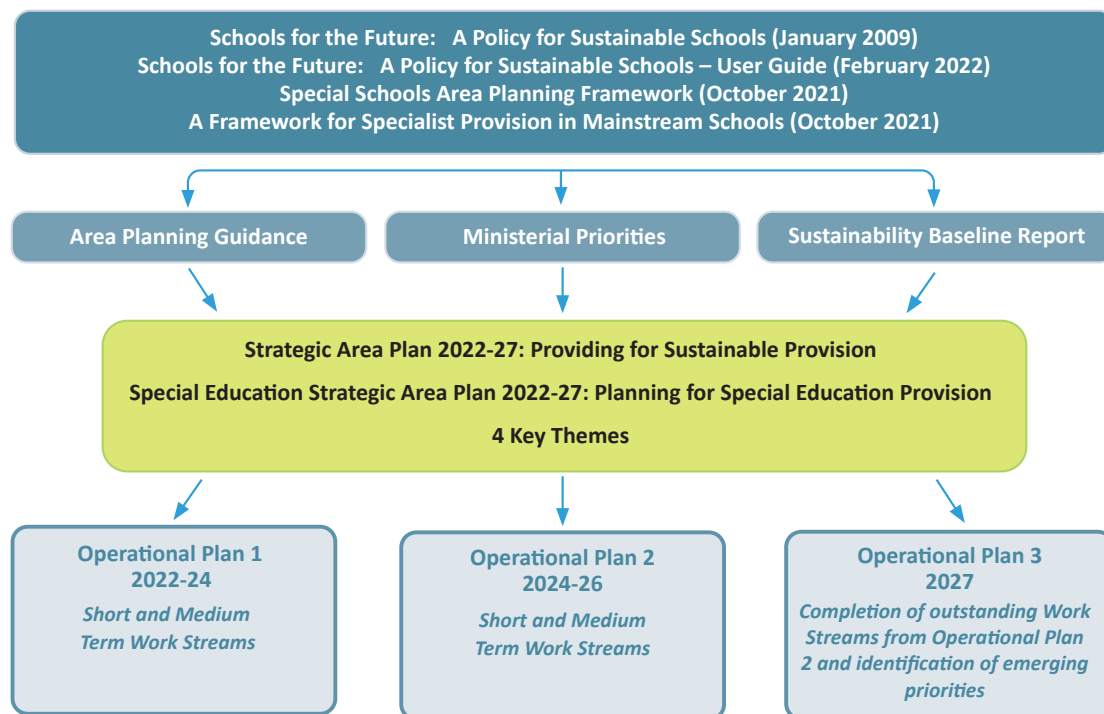
To achieve the vision of the Plans, Operational Plans will translate the vision into the practical workings of Area Planning and enact changes to the current school provision.

2.1 Operational Plans

The Operational Plans will focus and deliver on the:

- Ministerial Priorities including opportunities for innovative and creative working
- Sustainable Schools Policy
- Special Schools Area Planning Framework
- A Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools
- Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Providing for Sustainable Provision
- Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Providing for Special Education Provision.

The diagram below provides an overview of the policies and guidance and their interconnections



The Operational Plans are developed by the Area Planning Local Groups, representative of statutory planning authorities, sectoral support bodies and stakeholders, including representatives from Further Education.

The Operational Plans detail the activity to be taken forward in relation to developing area solutions and specific actions relating to individual schools/areas and how actions relate to the Ministerial Priorities, statutory duty and/or the Plans' Key Themes.

Each Area Planning Local Group considers the strategic issues for their respective areas, across three localities: East, North and South West, taking cognisance of the Plans' Vision, Aim and Key Themes. Following analysis and discussion, the Operational Plans are agreed by each Area Planning Local Group.

The monitoring of the Operational Plans is the responsibility of the Area Planning Working Group which is representative of statutory planning authorities and sectoral support bodies.

2.2 Work Streams: Short Term and Medium Term

Operational Plan 1 spans a two year period, 2022-24, to enable work streams to be progressed in the timeframe.

- **Short term** work streams will be undertaken and completed within the life span of an Operational Plan and will mainly involve an individual or small number of schools.
- **Medium term** work streams are exploratory in nature and may require collaborative and innovative work to provide sustainable education provision for a geographical/school cluster area. Medium term work streams may require a longer timeframe and therefore may span a number of Operational Plans.

The Operational Plans are arranged by Local Government District and by primary, special and post primary (pre-school provision is included where it has a significant change to a primary school).

The specific issues within a Local Government District are identified with work streams to address its particular circumstances and surrounding districts, and while boundaries exist for Local Government Districts, pupils transcend these boundaries.

Work streams, short and medium term, identified within the operational plans will be taken forward through discussion, engagement and consultation with schools, educational partners and stakeholders.

However, in an evolving education environment, circumstances may arise which will necessitate the Education Authority and/or education partners having to progress actions/proposals in advance of publication of the Operational Plans. Such an instance/s would be exceptional and would require discussion at Area Planning Local Group and Working Group.

In March 2022 the Northern Ireland Assembly approved the Integrated Education Bill which gained Royal Assent in April 2022. The Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 comes into effect on 26 October 2022. The Act adds to the duty to

encourage and facilitate by placing a statutory duty on the Department of Education and Education Authority to support Integrated Education and places other statutory requirements in relation to Integrated Education. While Operational Plan 1 was developed in advance of this, Area Planning Local Groups will ensure that any additional work streams arising from the impact of the Act will be duly considered.

Where rationalisation/change to status (amalgamation, discontinuance, transformation) has been identified as the outcome for the work stream, a Development Proposal is required. However, some collaborative solutions will not require the outcome for the work stream to progress to a Development Proposal. In some cases, no change may be considered an appropriate outcome due to specific circumstances.

All Development Proposals are taken forward in accordance with relevant legislation and are subject to a consultation process.

Where an option has been identified which does not require a Development Proposal, the managing authority/trustees/board of governors will communicate the outcome to governors, staff and parents.

Following approval of the Special Education Frameworks, it is anticipated that proposals to establish, close or change specialist provision in mainstream schools will be taken forward through the Annual Plan of Arrangements.

Opening and closing special schools will continue, at present, to require the publication of a Development Proposal, however, it is anticipated that other changes to special schools needed to respond flexibly to local changes in demand will be taken forward through the Annual Plan of Arrangements in accordance with SEND Act (2016).

In achieving the visions of the Plans, managing authorities and sectoral support bodies cannot do this in isolation. There is a responsibility on each school community, governors, principals, staff and parents/pupils and key stakeholders to influence and engage in the Area Planning process.

While the Operational Plan identifies work streams, it will not determine outcomes. The outcome of any work stream is only achieved through engagement and consultation with the school communities.

2.3 Operational Plan 1: 2022-24

Operational Plan 1 identifies Area Planning actions to be undertaken in primary, special and post primary schools from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2024 and is the result of collaboration and sharing across all educational sectors. It was developed by the Area Planning Local Groups, representative of statutory planning authorities, sectoral support bodies and stakeholders, including representation from the Further Education sector on behalf of the Department for the Economy. Each Area Planning Local Group considered the strategic issues in its area taking cognisance of the key strategic themes and priorities, which incorporated the Minister of Education's Priorities and Area Planning objectives. From this analysis and discussion, short and medium term work streams from the various managing authorities were identified. Members of each of the planning authorities and the bodies representative of each of the sectors have discussed and developed this Operational Plan collaboratively and with due regard to the Minister's Priorities, notwithstanding their specific interests in addressing the needs of the sectors which individually they represent. While there is full support for the structure and focus

of the Operational Plan from all concerned, it is recognised that each organisation may have views on specific work streams. Where work streams lead to published proposals and evidence based cases for change, the Development Proposal process allows for these views to be submitted to the Department of Education and included within the overall assessment of evidence for such proposals.

Annual Action Plan 2019-22

The Annual Action Plan 2019-22 identified workstreams to be undertaken within 'Providing Pathways'. A number of these workstreams have been carried forward to Operational Plan 1. These have been identified within Operational Plan 1.

The outworking of the Annual Action Plans since 2017 to 2022 have resulted in area planning solutions being implemented in the Local Government Districts. Whilst further solutions may be required for these areas in the medium and long term, the outworking of recent solutions will require time to embed in their communities before further activity is planned.

The focus for Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 is for:

- primary and post primary schools to provide a network of viable and sustainable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place at the right time with a focus on raising standards over the two years, 2022-24, Operational Plan 1 will specifically address Ministerial Priorities in respect to sustainability, particularly within primary schools;
- post-16 provision to provide access to a full range of courses; and
- special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools to address capacity to seek to ensure all pupils have access to a placement at their nearest suitable school.

Section 3 Post-16 Provision

One of the overarching Ministerial Priorities to be taken forward in Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 is:

Sixth forms with fewer than 100 pupils that cannot offer a full range of courses.

Of the 192 post primary schools, 32 do not have post-16 provision. Of the 160 post primary schools with post-16 provision, 37 fall below the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold number of 100 pupils

In 2021, 32 schools did not meet the Entitlement Framework at post-16. However, for many of these schools, the offer falls just short of the full range of courses and within these schools the principal and management team are working with the Education Authority's School Development Service to ensure access to a full range of courses. The current statistics, as published in the Annual Area Profiles, show that there is no direct correlation between the number of pupils in post-16 and meeting the requirements of the Entitlement Framework*.

The issues around post-16 provision are complex and require an approach which will cut across a wide range of organisations and teams within organisations. Therefore, the following actions will be taken forward within Operational Plan 1:

Action 1 - The Education Authority will work with the Department of Education, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, sectoral support bodies and Regional Colleges/Department for the Economy to establish an approach to post-16 provision which can build on the levels of collaboration currently achieved through the network of Area Learning Communities**. The aim of this work will be to secure and extend access to a range of courses which will offer meaningful pathways for every young person across Northern Ireland. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Education's 14-19 team.

Action 2 - The Education Authority's Locality School Improvement Teams will continue to work collaboratively with schools to ensure that all pupils have access to a full range of courses.

Action 3 - The Education Authority will research the Entitlement Framework 'offer' in Sixth Forms versus actual 'delivery' of courses.

Action 4 - The Education Authority will undertake a comparative analysis of the cost of small Sixth Forms. This analysis will be completed, with recommendations, by the end of the 2022/23 academic year to allow for preparation of Operational Plan 2.

*The Entitlement Framework

The Entitlement Framework (EF) is the post-14 curriculum which puts the needs of pupils first. It aims to provide access for pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum to enable them to reach their full potential no matter which school they attend or where they live.

It will guarantee that all pupils have access to a minimum number of courses at Key Stage 4 and post-16, of which at least one third must be general and one third applied.

The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (Articles 18-22) gives Statutory effect to the EF and requires schools to offer access to at least the specified number of courses at KS4 and post-16; of which at least one third must be general and one third applied. In order to meet the statutory requirements, from September 2017 the EF requires all post-primary schools to provide pupils with access to a minimum of 21 courses at both phases.

**Area Learning Communities

Every post-primary school in Northern Ireland is a member of an Area Learning Community (ALC). ALCs provide a mechanism within which schools come together to plan the curriculum they offer on an area basis.

Schools work together in collaboration with other schools, further education colleges and other training providers to deliver access to the Entitlement Framework, thus enabling them to offer a broad and balanced, economically-relevant curriculum to meet the needs and aspirations of all pupils.

Section 4 Area Planning Research Activity 2022-24

The Area Planning teams in the managing authorities and sectoral support bodies will continue to carry forward exploratory and research activity already ongoing as well as developing research streams over the period of Operational Plan 1. This will build on the opportunities and meet the challenges of Area Planning as outlined in the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision. This work is essential to bringing forward innovative and creative sectoral and cross sectoral sustainable provision.

4.1 Research Activity

Research activity currently ongoing is focussing on:

- Shared options with particular emphasis on federations
- The role of Area Planning in raising educational outcomes in post primary controlled schools
- Support for two or three teacher primary schools following area planning activity
- The Impact of Area Planning – Settling into a New School
- Retrospective Overview - CCMS Area Planning Activity.

It is planned over the timespan of Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 to explore:

- Community engagement – with a particular focus on the needs of rural communities
- Pupil consultation
- Area Planning and Capital Investment – the need for greater alignment between the capital programme and the outworks of Area Planning and Development Proposal process to ensure that Area Planning informs strategic infrastructure planning and investment
- Temporary Variations - Area Planning Local Groups considered the current pressure at transfer between Year 7 and Year 8 which is likely to last to the end of this decade. However, all partners agreed that the Development Proposal process was not the right process to deliver the short to medium term changes required. All education partners are committed to working with the Department of Education to explore a more agile method of ensuring there are enough places of the right type at the right time to meet need.

Section 5 Northern Ireland – Overview Demographic Trends

Section 5 provides a summary of the statistical overview of the total number of schools, type of schools and pupil numbers. Section 5 breaks down this information further by Local Government District (LGD).

5.1 Special Schools

There are 40 special schools in Northern Ireland currently providing educational provision for 6,653 pupils. All pupils attending a special school have a statement of special educational needs (SEN). The number of SEN pupils requiring a place in a special school has seen a significant increase over the past five years. The special schools, working with the Education Authority, have been responsive to this need. Operational Plan 1 will address this need through the provision of additional places in areas of particularly high demand. This increase in demand has also been experienced in the need for specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Graph A shows the current increase in demand and projected increases for special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools. Table A provides an overview of the specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Graph A - Special Schools - Historical, Current and Projected Enrolments

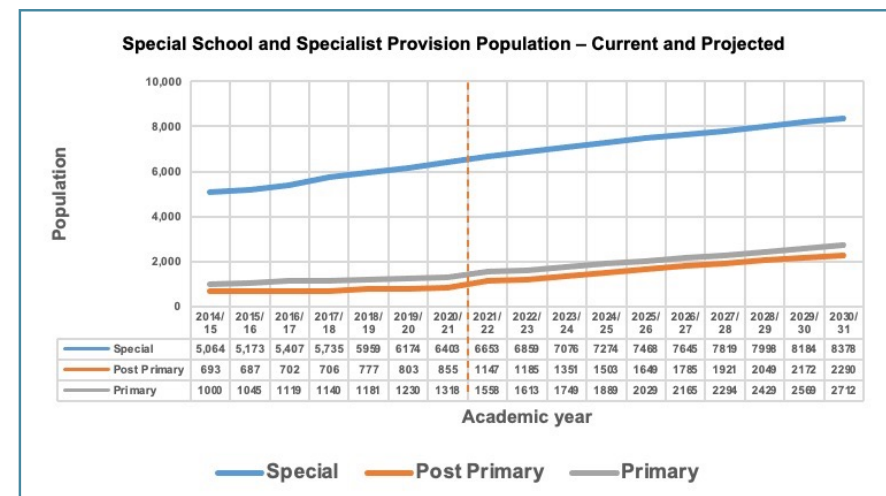


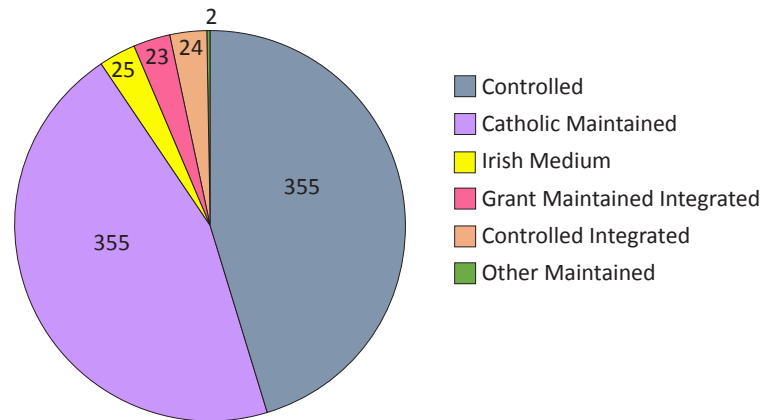
Table A - Number and Type of Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools

Type of Specialist Provision	Number of Primary Specialist Provision Classes provided within 89 Primary Schools	Number of Post Primary Specialist Provision Classes provided within 45 Post-Primary Schools
Learning	104	68
Social Communication	62	52
Speech and Language	29	0
Hearing	2	1
Physical	1	1
Social, behavioural, emotional and well-being	0	4
Total	198	126

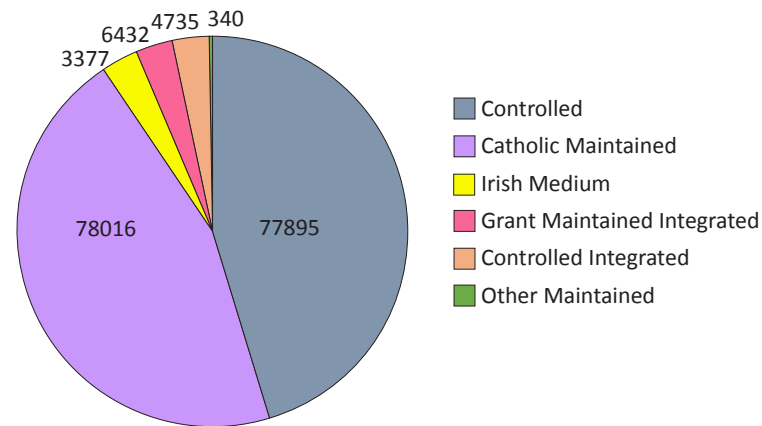
5.2 Primary Schools

There are 784 primary schools in Northern Ireland currently providing educational provision for 170,795 pupils. Current primary provision and projected numbers show a decline in pupil numbers. While there is an overall decline in projected demographics, in some areas there are too many places and in some there are not enough places. Operational Plan 1 will seek to ensure places are provided, where required. The charts below provide a breakdown, based on the 2021/22 Department of Education census data, by sector, by year group and population statistics.

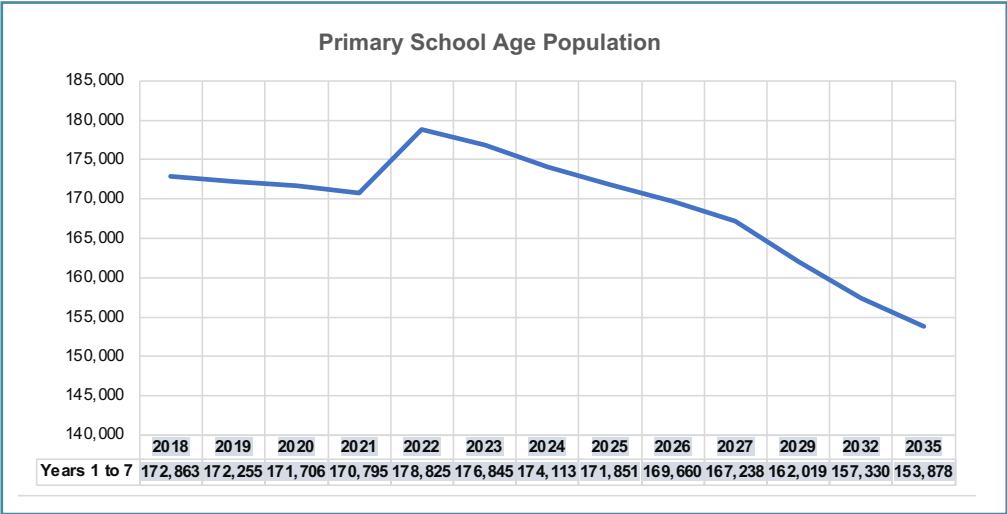
Primary Schools by Sector: 2021/22



Primary School Pupils by Sector: 2021/22



Graph B - Primary Schools - Historical, Current and Projected Enrolments



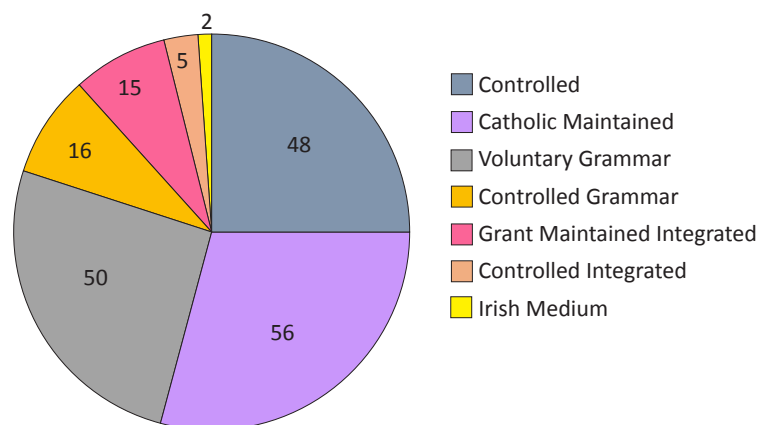
Total Number of Pupils by Year Groups	
Year 1	23,443
Year 2	24,270
Year 3	24,105
Year 4	24,086
Year 5	24,526
Year 6	25,208
Year 7	25,157

Available Places (not adjusted for supernumerary pupils) 31,214			
Sustainable Schools Policy Minimum Threshold	Below the Minimum Threshold	Above the Minimum Threshold	Total
Rural (105 pupils)	185	250	435
Urban (140 pupils)	35	314	349
Totals	220	564	784

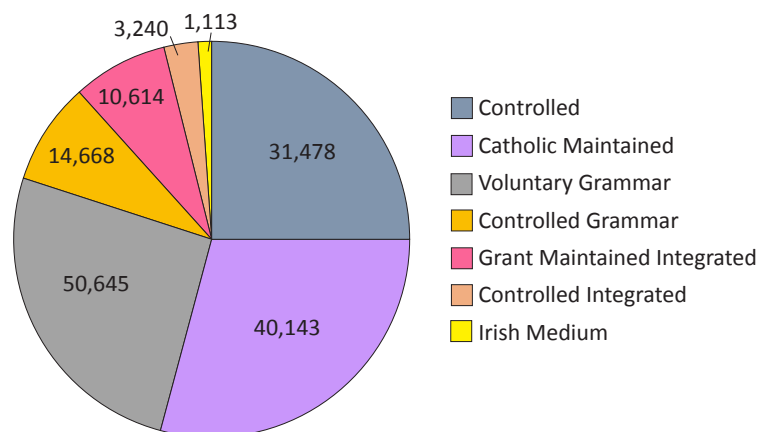
5.3 Post Primary Schools

There are 192 post primary schools in Northern Ireland currently providing for 151,901 pupils. While currently there is a small increase in post primary pupil numbers, the downturn in primary pupil numbers will impact post primary numbers over the coming years. For post primary provision, in some areas there are too many places and in some there are not enough places. Operational Plan 1 will seek to ensure places are provided, where required. The charts below provide a breakdown, based on the 2021/22 DE census data, by sector, by year group and population statistics.

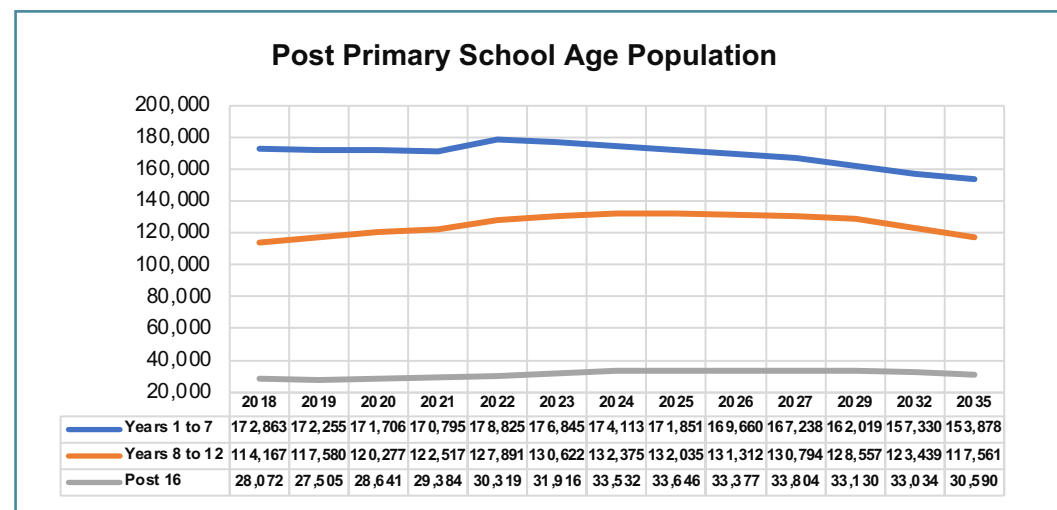
Post Primary Schools by Sector: 2021/22



Post Primary School Pupils by Sector: 2021/22



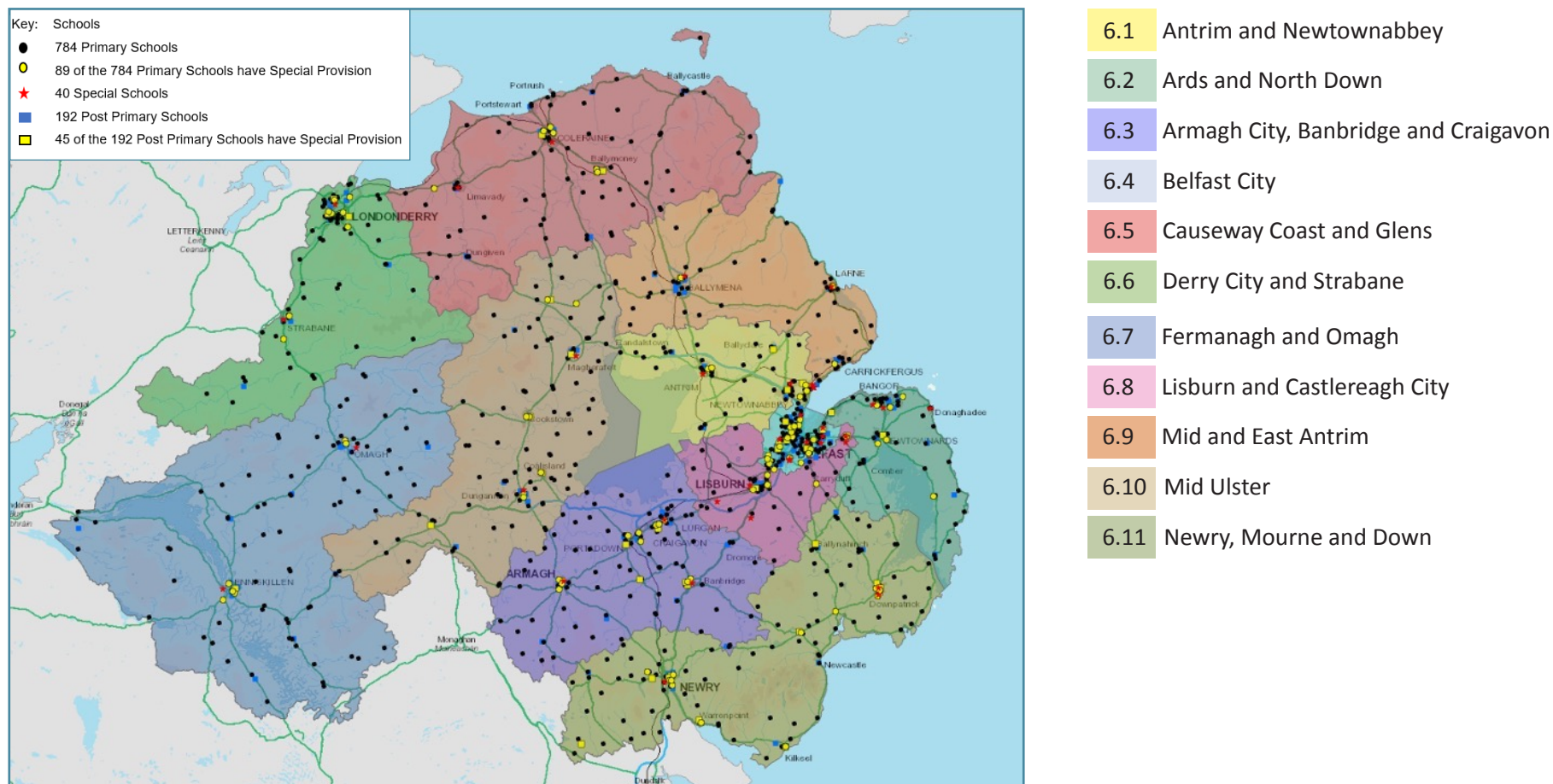
Graph C - Post Primary Schools - Historical, Current and Projected Enrolments



Total Number of Pupils by Year Groups		Sustainable Schools Policy Minimum Threshold	Below the Minimum Threshold	Above the Minimum Threshold	No Post-16	Total
Year 8	24,974	Rural Years 8-12 (500 pupils)	18	19		37
Year 9	25,159					
Year 10	25,281	Urban Years 8-12 (500 pupils)	32	123		155
Year 11	24,090					
Year 12	23,013	Totals	50	142		192
Year 13	15,390	Rural Post-16 (100 pupils)	9	15	13	
Year 14	13,994	Urban Post-16 (100 pupils)	28	108	19	

Section 6 Local Government District – Data and Proposed Work Streams

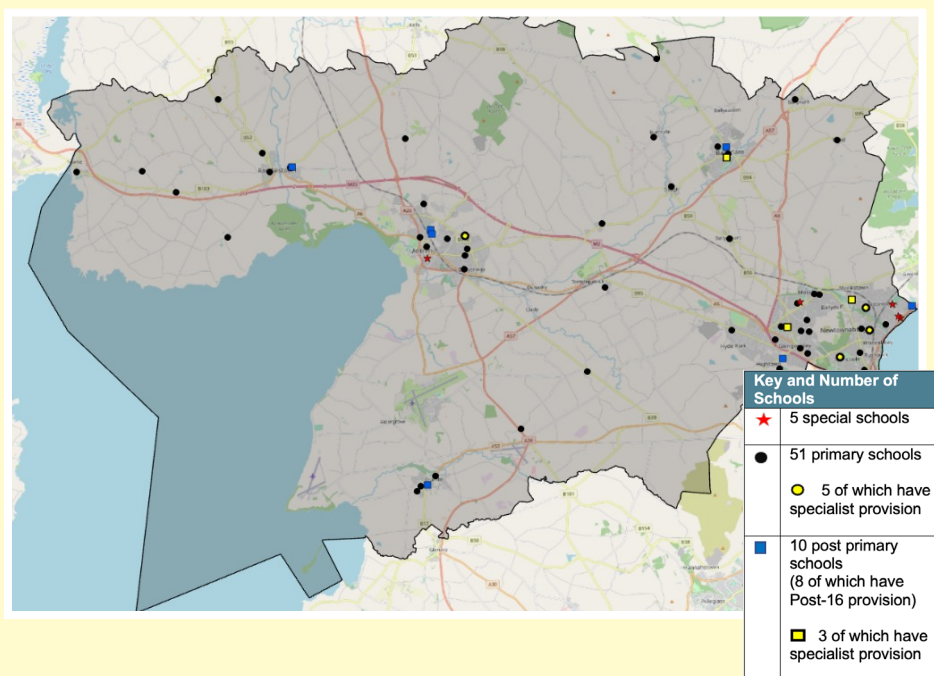
Operational Plan 1 reflects the actions now to be taken forward for the period September 2022 to August 2024.



6.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area

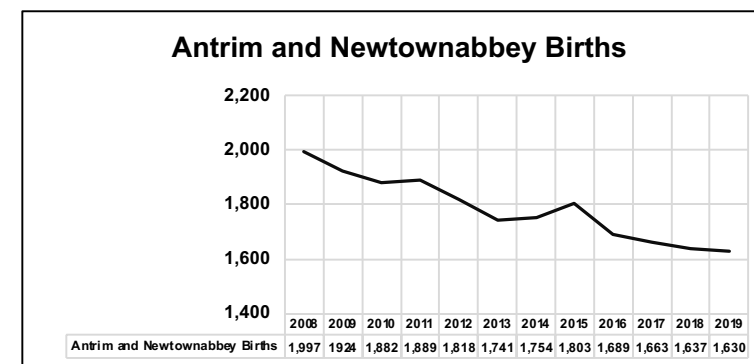
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council covers an area of 728 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in two main urban areas, Antrim and Newtownabbey and the towns of Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown. Within the LGD, there are 40 wards, 3 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: O'Neil, Rathcoole and Steeple. Map 1 shows the primary schools in the urban and rural areas, with the main concentration of schools located in/around the urban areas particularly the special and post primary schools.

Map 1: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area

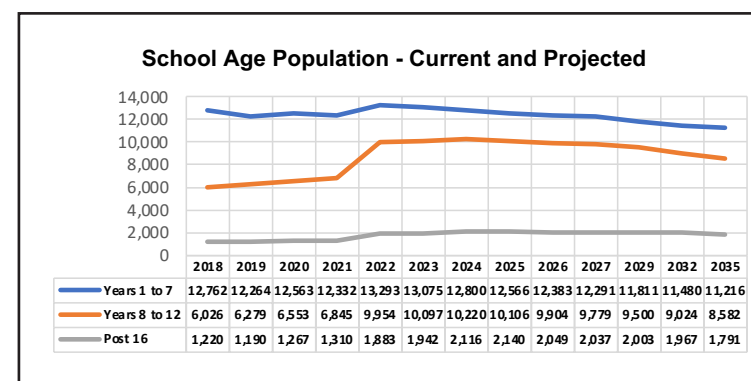


Graph 1 below shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 1 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,997 to 1,630 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 2.

Graph 1 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 2 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



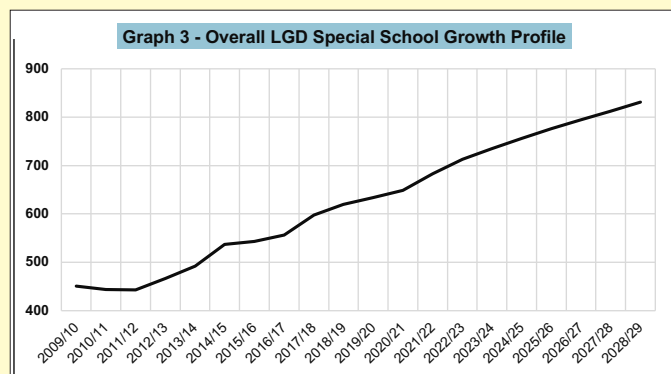
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.1.1 Special Schools

Table 1 shows that over the past number of years, three schools, Hill Croft School, Jordanstown School and Riverside School have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 3 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 1 - Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Hill Croft School	3-19	SLD	92	95	112	122	146	146	157	181	197	208	210	233
Jordanstown School	4-19	H&VI	45	47	51	63	67	74	78	79	79	76	76	84
Riverside School	3-19	SLD	50	46	48	49	58	60	58	69	75	92	99	107
Rosstulla School	4-17	MLD	172	167	170	172	174	167	167	172	167	167	173	171
Thornfield House School	4-16	S&L	85	88	86	86	92	96	96	97	102	91	91	88
Total			444	443	467	492	537	543	556	598	620	634	649	683



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the fall in births within the council area, as shown in Graph 3, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 1 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people in the area.

6.1.2 Primary Schools

Table 2 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available places for Year 1 and the total available places across the area. Table 3 and Graph 4 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

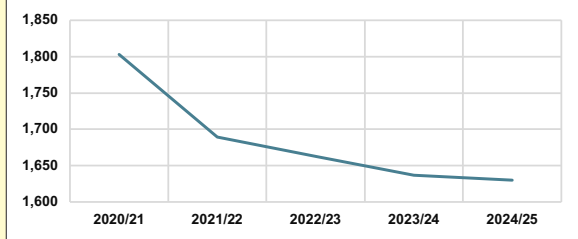
Table 2 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Available Places	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	11	4	7	1	101	1	4,521	3,424	644	428	216	1,097
Controlled	32	13	19	8	273	3	9,300	7,435	1,317	970	347	1,865
Controlled Integrated	5	1	4	1	63	1	1,363	1,030	189	149	40	333
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	0	5	0	191	162	29	31	9	29
Irish Medium	2	2	0	1	7	0	310	281	46	39	0	29
Total	51	20	31	11	449	5	15,685	12,332	2,225	1,617	608	3,353

Table 3 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Antrim and Newtownabbey Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,803	2020/21
2016	1,689	2021/22
2017	1,663	2022/23
2018	1,637	2023/24
2019	1,630	2024/25

Graph 4 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 2 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors, with the exception of Irish Medium. The provision of Irish Medium education in the area is addressed in the work streams below.
- Table 3 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,684 births per annum. At present there are 2,225 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 51 primary providers, 11 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 11 schools have been reviewed and, where area planning activity has been identified, this is reflected in the workstreams below.
- Included within the primary population of 12,332 pupils are 449 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 35 pupils are being met in one of the five schools with specialist provision with the needs of 414 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All current primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.1.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 4 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available places for Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 5 and Graph 5 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 4 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	2	2	0	1	0	114	0	1,210	1,126	215	194	21	84
Controlled	3	3	0	1	2	344	3	3,030	2,778	530	545	0	252
Controlled Grammar	2	2	0	0	0	25	0	1,950	2,096	322	335	0	0
Controlled Integrated	2	2	0	1	0	82	0	1,265	1,206	225	226	0	59
Voluntary Grammar	1	1	0	0	0	16	0	930	949	136	145	0	0
Total	10	10	0	2	2	426	3	8,385	8,155	1,428	1,445	21	395

Table 5 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Antrim and Newtownabbey Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,882	2022/23
2011	1,889	2023/24
2012	1,818	2024/25
2013	1,741	2025/26
2014	1,754	2026/27
2015	1,803	2028/29
2016	1,689	2029/30
2017	1,663	2030/31
2018	1,637	2031/32
2019	1,630	2032/33

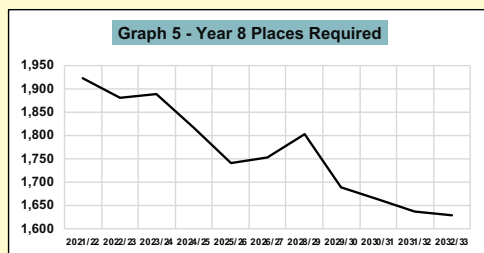


Table 6 - Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	622	200	5	-422
2020	602	172	1	-430
2019	666	168	2	-496
2018	614	172	4	-438
2017	560	166	0	-394

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 6 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,428 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,445 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate a need for places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 2 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 2 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 8,155 pupils are 426 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 57 pupils are being met in one of the three schools with specialist provision with the needs of 369 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All three of the post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, which identify area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.1.4 Short Term Work Streams

Duneane PS 166 Church Road Toomebridge Antrim BT41 3RD	Background / Engagement	
	Duneane PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 16 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
Glengormley/ Mallusk Area Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review controlled integrated primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, oversubscription, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of integrated primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Maine Integrated PS 93 Portglenone Road Randalstown Antrim BT41 3EH	Background / Engagement	
	Maine Integrated PS is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 29 and approved enrolment number of 160. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 162 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Straidhavern PS 3 Straidhavern Road Crumlin BT29 4SN	Background / Engagement	
	Straidhavern PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 38 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
Antrim/Ballyclare/ Newtownabbey Area Establish Specialist Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the Antrim/Ballyclare area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Antrim and Newtownabbey areas; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ballyclare area. The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

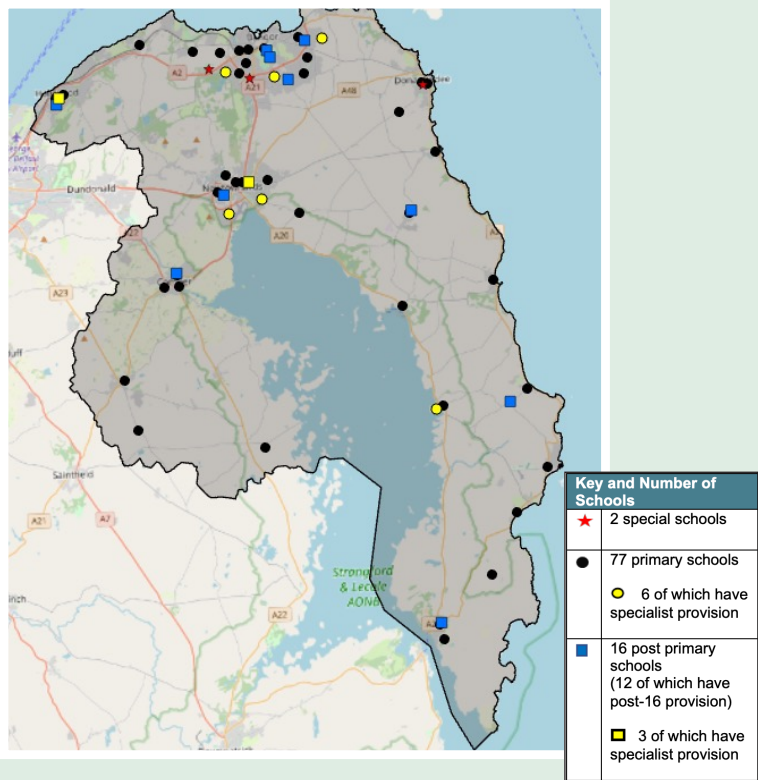
6.1.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Naíscóil Dún Saíli/ Gaelscoil Aontroma Dunsilly Antrim	Background / Engagement	
	Establish a new Irish Medium Primary School to meet the needs of the area. The management committee working with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is currently taking expressions of interest for the school years beginning in September 2022 and September 2023.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Antrim/Crumlin Area Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review controlled/controlled integrated post primary school provision in the area to address sustainability and oversubscription. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of controlled/controlled integrated post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.2 Ards and North Down Borough Council Area

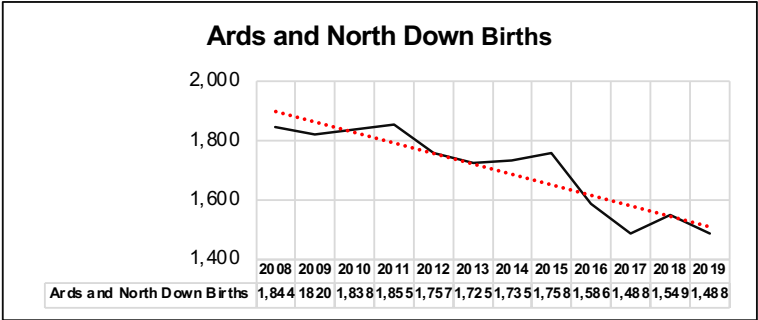
Ards and North Down Borough Council covers an area of 591 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in two main urban areas, Bangor and Newtownards and the towns of Comber, Donaghadee and Holywood. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 3 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Conway Square, Kilcooley and West Winds. Map 2 shows primary schools in the urban and rural areas, with the main concentration of schools located in/around the urban areas particularly the special and post primary schools.

Map 2: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Ards and North Down Borough Council Area

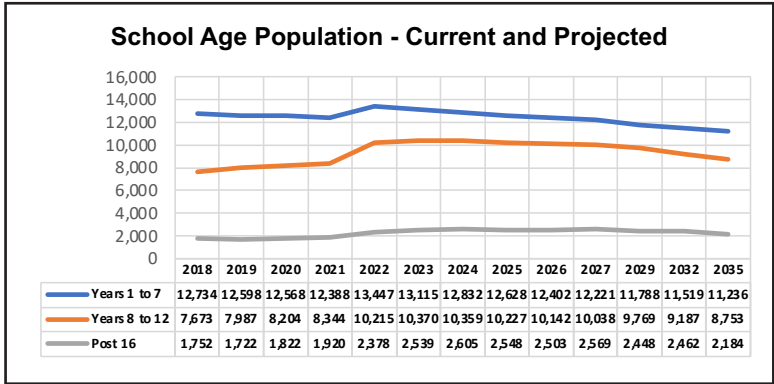


Graph 6 below shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 6 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,844 to 1,488 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 7.

Graph 6 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 7 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



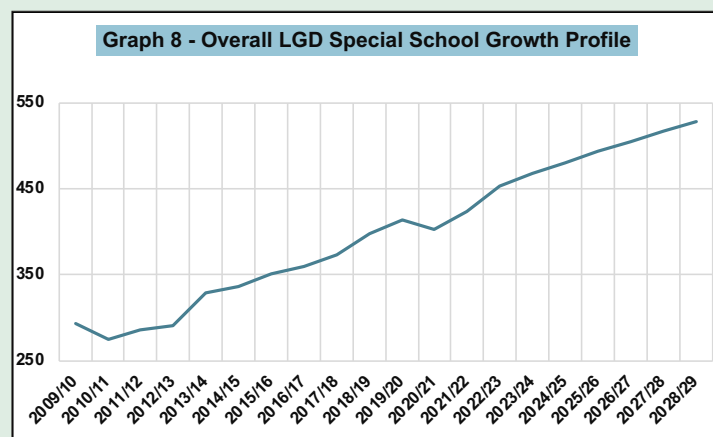
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.2.1 Special Schools

Table 7 shows that over the past number of years, two schools, Clifton School and Killard House School have experienced increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 8 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 7 – Special Schools’ Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Clifton School	3-19	SLD	118	127	129	144	146	154	157	158	166	174	176	197
Killard House School	4-16	MLD	151	153	156	179	183	191	200	213	225	232	219	223
Lakewood School	11-16	SBEW	6	6	6	6	7	6	2	2	6	7	8	4
Total			275	286	291	329	336	351	359	373	397	413	403	424



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 6, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 7 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.2.2 Primary Schools

Table 8 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available places for Year 1 and the total available places across the area. Table 9 and Graph 9 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers experience a decline.

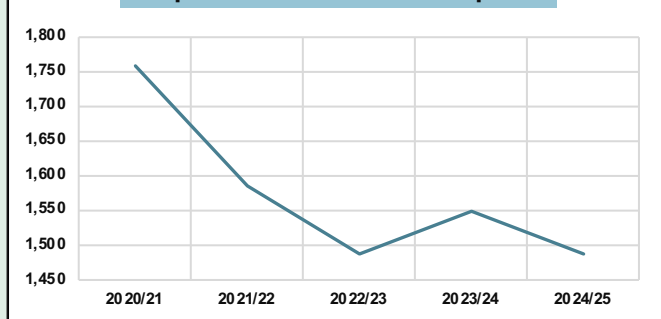
Table 8 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	9	3	6	2	90	1	2,036	1,664	285	211	81	372
Controlled	31	11	20	4	428	5	10,603	9,626	1,517	1,254	274	977
Controlled Integrated	5	3	2	2	49	0	1,197	1,098	171	147	28	99
Total	45	17	28	8	567	6	13,836	12,388	1,973	1,612	361	1,448

Table 9 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Ards and North Down Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,758	2020/21
2016	1,586	2021/22
2017	1,488	2022/23
2018	1,549	2023/24
2019	1,488	2024/25

Graph 9 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 8 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 9 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,574 births per annum. At present there are 1,973 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 45 primary schools, 8 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 8 schools have been reviewed and where area planning activity has been identified this is reflected in the work streams below.
- Included within the primary population of 12,332 pupils are 567 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 95 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 472 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Four of the 6 primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.2.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 10 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available school places across the area. Table 11 and Graph 10 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 10 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	2	1	1	1	0	71	0	1,260	958	234	177	57	302
Controlled	4	3	1	2	1	201	1	3,020	3,269	578	571	7	0
Controlled Grammar	2	2	0	0	0	28	0	2,550	2,512	367	382	0	38
Controlled Integrated	1	1	0	0	1	109	1	600	706	100	118	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	0	0	54	0	760	836	130	138	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	2	2	0	0	0	35	0	1,940	1,983	285	310	0	0
Total	12	9	3	3	2	498	2	10,130	10,264	1,694	1,696	64	340

Table 11 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Ards and North Down Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,838	2022/23
2011	1,855	2023/24
2012	1,757	2024/25
2013	1,725	2025/26
2014	1,735	2026/27
2015	1,758	2028/29
2016	1,586	2029/30
2017	1,488	2030/31
2018	1,549	2031/32
2019	1,488	2032/33

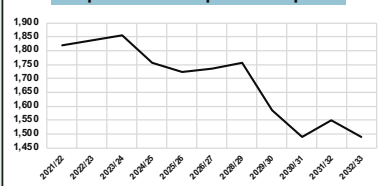
Table 12 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	272	140	3	-129
2020	328	155	1	-172
2019	304	138	1	-165
2018	329	145	4	-180
2017	252	143	0	-104

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 12 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 10 - Year 8 places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,694 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,696 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate a need for places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 3 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 2 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 10,026 pupils are 498 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 63 pupils are being met in one of the 2 schools with special provision attached with the needs of 435 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Both post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. There is a need for pathway of provision between post primary and primary schools within some areas in the LGD.

Ards and North Down Borough Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the projected demographic trends, previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded) and the peninsular area has poor physical connectivity which impacts movement of pupils to the schools in the northern part of the LGD. The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, which identify area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.2.4 Short Term Work Streams

Kircubbin Controlled Integrated PS 22 Cooks Brae Kircubbin Newtownards BT22 2QR	Background / Engagement	
	Kircubbin Controlled Integrated PS is experiencing increases in pupil numbers. The school currently has an approved admission number of 23 and approved enrolment number of 161. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 201 pupils. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Lakewood School 96 Newtownards Road Bangor BT19 1GZ	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review provision at Lakewood School. The Education Authority working with the Departments of Justice and Health is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors to ensure the specific needs of pupils will be met.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person.	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

North Down and Newtownards Areas Establish Specialist Provision	Background / Engagement	
	<p>The Education Authority is proposing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the North Down and Newtownards area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies. - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in both primary and post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Bangor area. - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Holywood area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ards area. <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A specialist provision placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>

6.2.5 Medium Term Work Streams

No medium term work streams are identified for primary or post primary provision in the LGD. Area planning activity is currently in progress or has been undertaken in the area and, since the implementation of the Sustainable Schools Policy, six primary schools' approved enrolments have been modified to reflect 7, 14 or 21 classbase models and two primary school discontinuances have been completed.

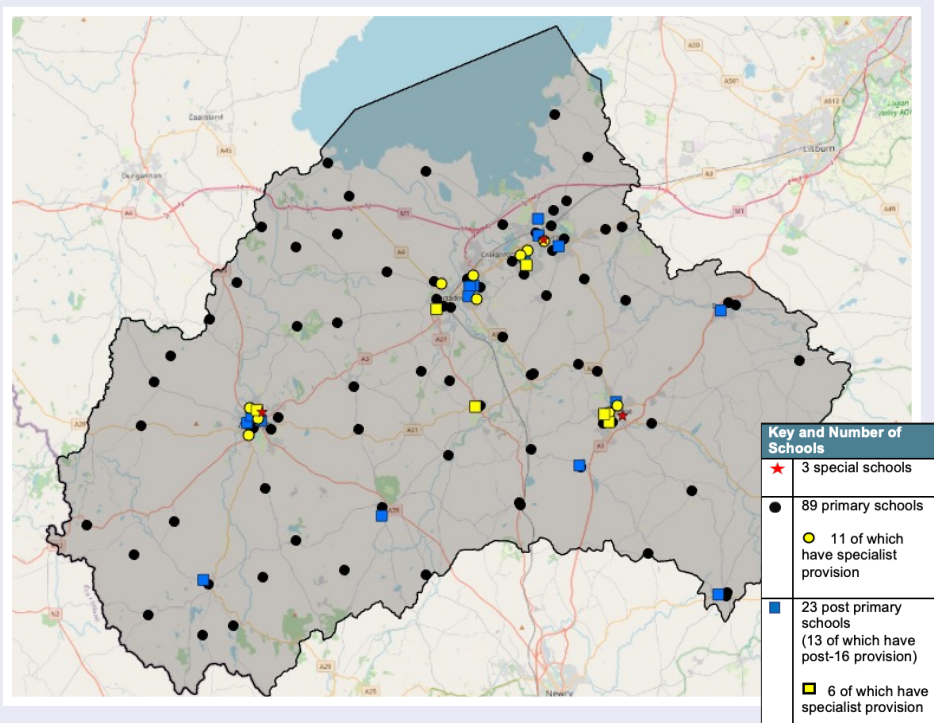
For post primary provision, a number of Development Proposals for the area have been approved or are awaiting a Ministerial decision which will impact area planning activity for post primary schools. Therefore, it is not proposed to undertake any further Development Proposal activity at present. The Area Planning Locality Group, East will continue to monitor primary and post primary provision within the area.

Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.3 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area

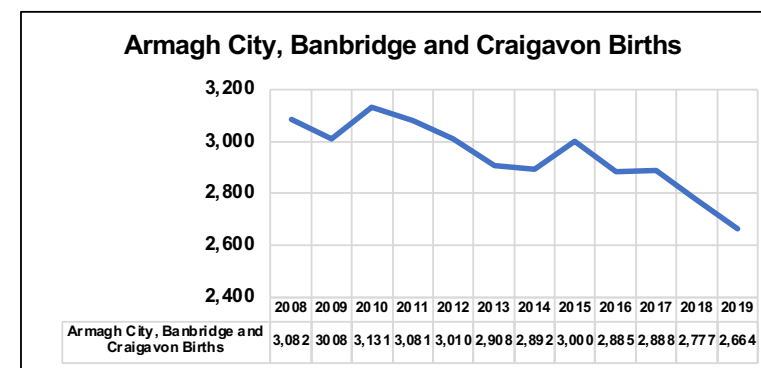
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council covers an area of 1,458 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in a number of urban areas – Armagh City, Banbridge, Craigavon Urban area, Dromore, Keady, Markethill and Tandragee. Within the LGD there are 41 wards, 8 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Ballybay, Brownlow, Cathedral, Corcrair, Keady, Mourneview, Parklake and Shankill. Map 3 shows primary schools both within the urban and rural areas, with the main concentration of schools located in/around the urban areas particularly special and post primary schools.

Map 3: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area

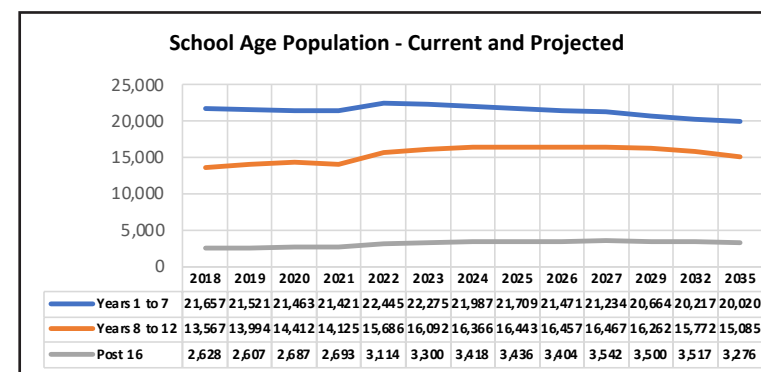


Graph 11 shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 11 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 3,082 to 2,664 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 12.

Graph 11 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 12 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



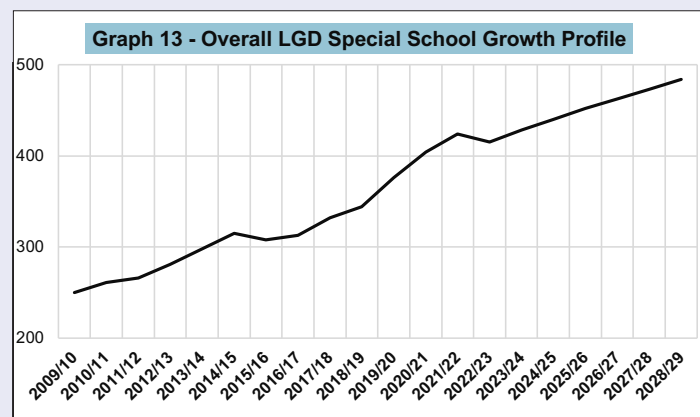
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.3.1 Special Schools

Table 13 shows that over the past number of years, all three schools below have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 13 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 13 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Ceara School	3-19	SLD	102	102	113	122	132	130	137	150	157	172	173	178
Donard School	3-19	SLD	60	66	68	76	85	85	97	102	106	112	124	119
Lisanally School	3-19	SLD	99	98	100	100	98	93	79	80	81	92	107	127
Total			261	266	281	298	315	308	313	332	344	376	404	424



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 11, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 13 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.3.2 Primary Schools

Table 14 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available places for Year 1 and the total available places across the area. Table 15 and Graph 14 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

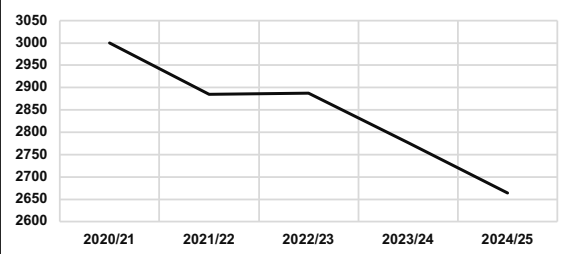
Table 14 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	38	25	13	7	304	4	9,458	8,637	1,346	1,174	172	821
Controlled	46	30	16	8	450	6	12,533	11,341	1,783	1,538	245	1,192
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	0	3	0	39	1	1,106	1,103	158	166	0	3
Other Maintained	2	0	2	1	8	1	371	340	64	49	15	31
Total	89	55	34	16	801	11	23,468	21,421	3,351	2,927	432	2,047

Table 15 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Births	Year 1 Start
2015	3,000	2020/21
2016	2,885	2021/22
2017	2,888	2022/23
2018	2,777	2023/24
2019	2,664	2024/25

Graph 14 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 14 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors, with the exception of Grant Maintained Integrated.
- Table 17 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,842 births per annum. At present there are 3,351 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 89 primary providers 16 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 16 schools have been reviewed and where area planning activity has been identified this is reflected in the work streams below.
- Included within the primary population of 21,421 pupils are 801 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 222 pupils are being met in one of the 11 schools with special classes attached with the needs of 579 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All current primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.3.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 16 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 17 and Graph 15 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 16 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	5	4	1	1	1	273	2	4,307	4,440	750	784	0	0
Controlled	10	7	3	3	2	398	4	6,005	5,879	1,360	1,274	86	234
Controlled Grammar	3	3	0	2	0	29	0	2,540	2,649	184	201	0	0
Controlled Integrated	1	1	0	1	0	49	0	450	418	90	71	19	32
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	0	0	38	0	610	641	100	111	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	3	3	0	0	0	102	0	3,540	3,432	560	519	41	108
Total	23	18	5	7	3	889	6	17,452	17,459	3,044	2,960	146	374

Table 17 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Births	Year 8 Start
2010	3,131	2022/23
2011	3,081	2023/24
2012	3,010	2024/25
2013	2,908	2025/26
2014	2,892	2026/27
2015	3,000	2028/29
2016	2,885	2029/30
2017	2,888	2030/31
2018	2,777	2031/32
2019	2,664	2032/33

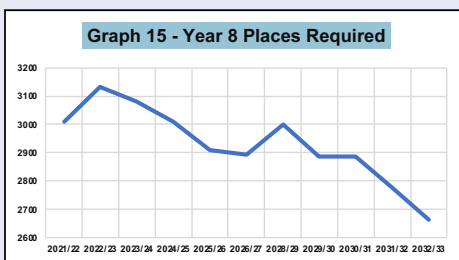


Table 18 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	278	223	27	-28
2020	291	192	2	-97
2019	245	190	3	-52
2018	270	215	10	-45
2017	232	208	6	-18

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 18 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Overview Comments

- At present there are 3,044 Year 8 places available across the council area with 2,960 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate a need for places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 7 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 3 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- 7 schools in the Craigavon area operate within the Dickson Plan: 4 junior high schools, 1 senior high school and 2 grammar schools.
- Included within the post primary population of 17,459 pupils are 889 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 238 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with special provision attached with the needs of 651 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All 6 of the post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded) and the growing demand for Irish Medium education within the area. The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.3.4 Short Term Work Streams

Bridge Integrated PS 70 Ballygown Road Banbridge BT32 3EL (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	Bridge Integrated PS is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 58 and approved enrolment number of 406. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 418 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Lurgan Model PS 71 Brownlow Terrace Lurgan BT67 9AT	Background / Engagement	
	Lurgan Model PS is proposing to transform to controlled integrated status.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty - Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Our Lady's & St Mochua's PS 91 Derrynoose Road Derrynoose Co Armagh BT60 3EZ	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at Our Lady's & St Mochua's PS. The school currently has an approved admission number of 25 and approved enrolment number of 174. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 163 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways

St Francis of Assisi PS Madden Row Keady BT60 3RW	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is proposing the establishment of an Irish Medium unit at St Francis of Assisi PS. The school currently has an approved admission number of 40 and approved enrolment number of 281. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 189 pupils.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
The Drelincourt School 23a Ballinahone Avenue Armagh BT60 1EE	Background / Engagement	
	The Drelincourt School is a Foundation/Key Stage 1 school and is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 6 pupils. The Church of Ireland Board of Education is currently and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
Markethill High School 61 Mowhan Road Armagh BT60 1RQ	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is exploring the need for an increase in the approved admission and enrolment numbers. The Education Authority is currently and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
The Royal School Armagh College Hill Armagh BT61 9DH	Background / Engagement	
	The Royal School Armagh is proposing to increase post-16 provision within the voluntary grammar school to ensure capacity of access for the transfer of controlled non-selective pupils transferring after Key Stage 4 to post-16 provision. The Governing Bodies Association and the Education Authority, working the Southern Regional College, are and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors of controlled/voluntary post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Post-16 provision	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Craigavon Urban Area	Background / Engagement	
Establish Specialist Provision	<p>The Education Authority is proposing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the Lurgan area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Lurgan area; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Portadown area. <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A specialist provision placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>
Banbridge Area	Background / Engagement	
Key Stage Pathways	<p>The Education Authority is proposing to provide Key Stage pathways from primary to post primary for specialist provision (Social Communication), in the Banbridge area.</p> <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A specialist provision placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>

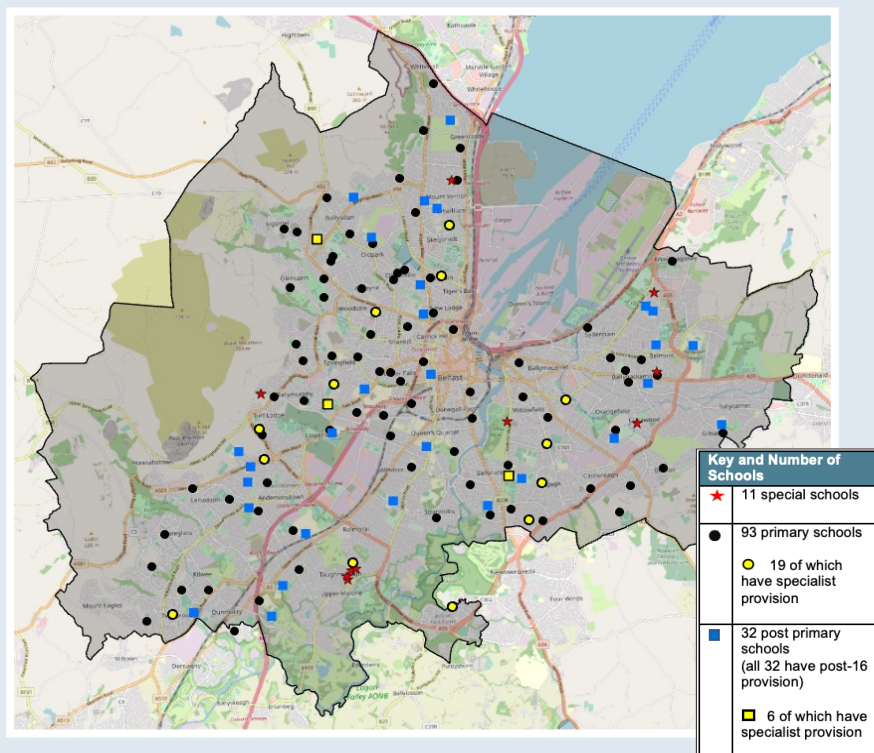
6.3.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Portadown Area Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and Transferor Representatives' Council are proposing to review controlled and integrated primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, oversubscription, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Education Authority, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and the Church of Ireland Board of Education are and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of controlled, Church of Ireland maintained and integrated primary schools in the area	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups Statutory Duty – Integrated Education Innovative and Creative	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Foley PS 60 Ballymacnab Road Tassagh Armagh BT60 2QS St Michael's PS (Clady) 62 Cladymore Road Mowhan Armagh BT60 2EP St Mary's PS 123 Granemore Road Tassagh Armagh BT60 2 NJ	Background / Engagement	
	Review controlled and maintained primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, oversubscription, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Education Authority and Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of controlled and maintained primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups Cross sectoral collaborative working	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.4 Belfast City Council Area

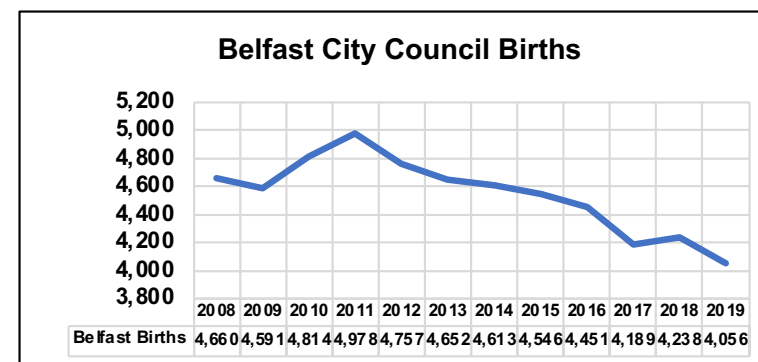
Belfast City Council covers approximately 120 square kilometres with the population residing in the core urban area of Belfast City along with smaller settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview. Within the LGD there are 60 wards, 24 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Water Works, Ardoyne, Woodvale, New Lodge, Falls, Shankill, Ballymurphy, Duncairn, Poleglass, Clonard, Ballymacarrett, Turf Lodge, Blackstaff, Beechmount, Twinbrook, Beersbridge, Forth River, Legoniel, Woodstock, Shaw's Road, Cliftonville, Collin Glen, Stewartstown and Central. Map 4 shows that all special, primary and post primary schools are in the urban city area.

Map 4: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Belfast City Council Area

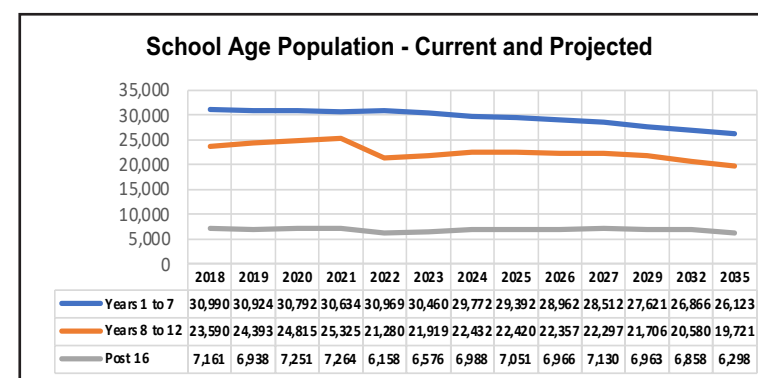


Graph 16 below shows the declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 16 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 4,660 to 4,056 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 17.

Graph 16 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 17 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Belfast City Council area
(source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



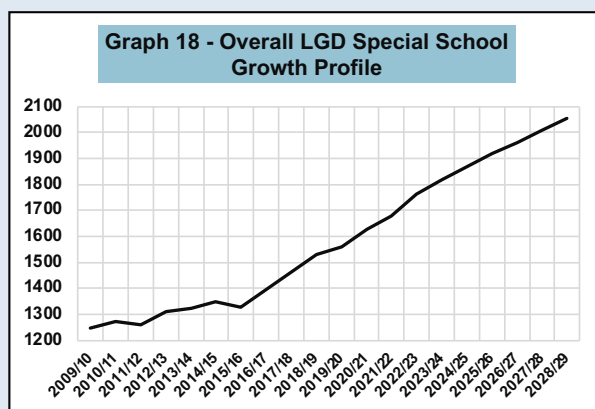
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.4.1 Special Schools

Table 19 shows that almost all schools, over the past number of years, have experienced increases in enrolment numbers and Cedar Lodge School, Harberton School and St Gerard's School and Support Services have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 18 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 19 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Belfast Hospital School	4-18	Medical	No pupils are registered at this school, rather provision is a managed Education Authority service.											
Cedar Lodge School	4-16	P&MD	177	166	173	193	212	207	222	241	254	249	247	229
Clarawood School	8-11	SBEW	16	12	17	19	20	13	26	29	26	29	24	29
Fleming Fulton School	3-19	P&MD	141	124	128	127	118	115	114	106	116	127	141	136
Glenveagh School	8-19	SLD	190	193	190	189	188	195	198	196	187	184	183	181
Greenwood House Assessment Centre	3-6	MLD/Speech & Language Assessment	51	57	54	52	58	56	70	71	66	72	67	64
Harberton School	3-11	MLD/Literacy and Behaviour Support	199	200	201	206	208	209	245	268	295	299	299	312
Mitchell House School	3-19	PD	86	84	90	83	80	81	83	76	76	84	95	101
Oakwood School and Assessment Centre	3-8	SLD	104	107	107	107	108	109	109	110	116	116	112	111
Park Education Resource Centre	11-19	MLD/Literacy Support	140	126	126	126	123	118	98	97	113	118	125	161
St Gerard's School and Support Services	3-19	MLD/Literacy Support	167	193	226	223	234	225	232	267	282	282	333	352
Total			1,271	1,262	1,312	1,325	1,349	1,328	1,397	1,461	1,531	1,560	1,626	1,676



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 18, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- The projected enrolment for special school places for September 2022 currently exceeds the initial projected growth in the area. This will be accounted for in future planning.
- To meet current increasing capacity in the Belfast City Council area, places have been provided through the establishment of a Harberton North Campus in Fortwilliam. This will be expanded further to meet short and medium term needs.
- A proposal for a new school(s) is currently being progressed with consultation with stakeholders to begin in Autumn 2022.
- While Table 19 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.4.2 Primary Schools

Table 20 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available places for Year 1 and total available places across the area. Table 21 and Graph 19 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 20 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	36	0	36	2	639	8	17,666	15,041	2,504	2,015	489	2,625
Controlled	42	0	42	2	616	9	14,389	12,099	2,299	1,663	636	2,290
Controlled Integrated	3	0	2	0	44	1	1,036	1,003	148	145	3	33
Controlled Irish Medium	1	0	1	1	1	0	87	78	20	7	13	9
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	1	2	0	46	0	1,015	1,023	145	149	0	0
Irish Medium	8	0	8	2	65	1	1,555	1,390	234	226	8	165
Total	93	1	92	7	1,411	19	35,748	30,634	5,350	4,205	1,145	5,122

Table 21 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Belfast Births	Year 1 Start
2015	4,546	2020/21
2016	4,451	2021/22
2017	4,189	2022/23
2018	4,238	2023/24
2019	4,056	2024/25

Graph 19 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 20 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors, with the exception of Irish Medium and Integrated. The recently approved resetting of the approved enrolments and admissions for a number of schools will reduce the level of available places – these changes take effect from September 2022 and are not captured in the Operational Plan. The provision of Irish Medium and Integrated education in the area is addressed through the work streams below and previous transformations of schools to integrated status.
- Table 21 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 4,296 births per annum. At present there are 5,350 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 93 primary providers 7 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 7 schools have been reviewed with no action planned during 2022-24.
- Included within the primary population of 30,634 pupils are 1,411 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 268 pupils are being met in one of the 19 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 1,026 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. 16 of the 19 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.4.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 22 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 23 and Graph 20 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers experience a decline.

Table 22 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	8	8	0	0	2	599	4	7,995	7,747	1,295	1,247	48	248
Controlled	4	4	0	0	0	285	1	3,510	3,818	653	654	0	0
Controlled Grammar	3	3	0	0	0	70	0	2,555	2,588	385	400	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	2	0	0	1	136	0	1,810	1,771	290	299	0	39
Irish Medium	1	1	0	0	0	57	1	800	841	150	161	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	14	14	0	0	0	421	0	15,106	15,824	2,216	2,404	0	0
Total	32	32	0	0	3	1,568	6	31,776	32,589	4,989	5,165	48	287

Table 23 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Belfast Births	Year 8 Start
2010	4,814	2022/23
2011	4,978	2023/24
2012	4,757	2024/25
2013	4,652	2025/26
2014	4,613	2026/27
2015	4,546	2028/29
2016	4,451	2029/30
2017	4,189	2030/31
2018	4,238	2031/32
2019	4,056	2032/33

Table 24 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	597	1,219	26	648
2020	505	1,209	16	720
2019	525	1,221	21	717
2018	534	1,144	19	629
2017	513	1,050	16	553

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 24 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 20 - Year 8 Places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 4,989 Year 8 places available across the council area with 5,165 places filled in 2021/22. Area Planning activity will increase the approved admissions number by an additional 147 places for September 2022. The additional places plus the provision of Temporary Variations will meet the needs up to 2024 at which time the Year 8 numbers show a downturn. Provision within the Integrated sector will be addressed in the work streams below with Irish Medium sector provision will be continually monitored.
- 3 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 32,589 pupils are 1,568 with a statement of SEN – the needs of 110 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 1,458 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All 6 of the post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Belfast City Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an urban area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.4.4 Short Term Work Streams

Cliftonville Controlled Integrated PS 93 Cliftonville Road Belfast BT14 6JQ	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing the establishment of a part time nursery unit at Cliftonville Controlled Integrated Primary School. The school currently has an approved admission number of 58 and approved enrolment number of 350. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 386 pupils. The school currently has a full time single nursery unit.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Scoil na Fuisgeoige 40 Gardenmore Road Belfast BT17 0DF	Background / Engagement	
	Scoil na Fuisgeoige is experiencing increases in pupil numbers. The school currently has an approved admission number of 26 and approved enrolment number of 182. At September 2021 the school had an enrolment of 157 pupils. The Board of Governors working with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is engaging on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Belfast Establish Specialist Provision	Background / Engagement	
	<p>The Education Authority is proposing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in North, East, South and West Belfast where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication and Learning) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the South Belfast area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the East Belfast area; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the North, South and East Belfast areas. <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A specialist provision placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>
Belfast City Establish Special School(s)	Background / Engagement	
	<p>The Education Authority is proposing the establishment of a new special school provision to meet the needs of children and young people with a Statement of Special Education Need within the Belfast area.</p> <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors, staff, parents and stakeholders of all special schools in the area to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A special school placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate)</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>
Belfast Hospital School RBHSC Falls Road Belfast BT12 6BE	Background / Engagement	
	<p>The Education Authority is proposing to review provision at the Belfast Hospital School. The Education Authority working with the Department of Health is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors to ensure the specific needs of pupils will be met.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	<p>A special school placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person. 	<p>Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways</p> <p>Maximise resources and sustainability</p> <p>Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p>

6.4.5 Medium Term Work Streams

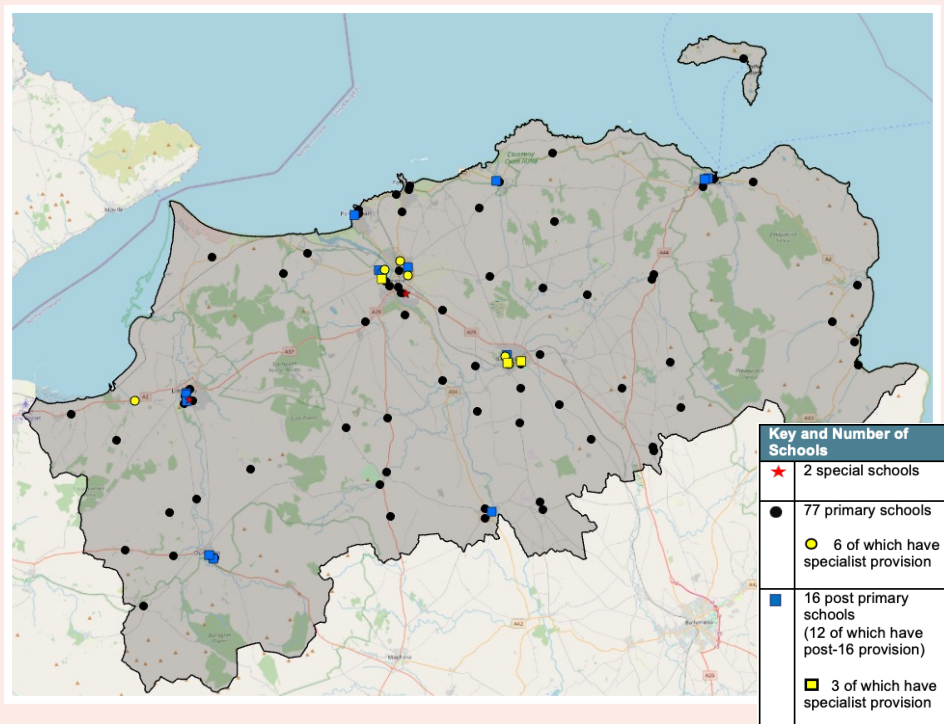
East Belfast, South East Belfast and Castlereagh - Integrated Education Primary Provision (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	Establish a new Integrated primary school to meet the needs of pupils in the East Belfast, South East Belfast and Castlereagh area. The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education is working with the Integrated Education Fund to bring forward further integrated provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Greater Shankill Area Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is exploring innovative and collaborative working with schools in the area. The Education Authority, is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of the controlled primary schools in the area to explore a Pilot of innovative and collaborative working.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Innovative, creative and shared solutions for sustainable provision	Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability
Holy Cross Boys' PS Brookfield Street Belfast BT14 7EX Holy Cross Girls' PS Ardoyne Road Belfast BT14 7HZ Mercy PS 612 Crumlin Road Belfast BT14 7GL	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is proposing to review maintained primary school provision in the area to consolidate provision to provide where possible, 7, 14, 21 classroom school(s). The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors on primary school provision in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Innovative, creative and shared solutions for sustainable provision	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Naíscoil na Seolta, Belfast Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	Establish a new Irish Medium Integrated primary school to meet the needs of pupils in the East Belfast area. The management committee working with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education is working with the Naiscoil to expand provision from nursery to primary.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
West Belfast Area Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta are and will continue to work together to explore collaborative solutions for the promotion of Irish Medium education within the primary sector in West Belfast.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Innovative, creative and shared solutions for sustainable provision	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Belfast Area - Irish Medium Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is proposing to establish a new Irish Medium post primary school to meet the needs of pupils in Belfast and surrounding area. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working with Coláiste Feirste and the local community in North Belfast to bring forward Irish Medium post primary provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.5 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area

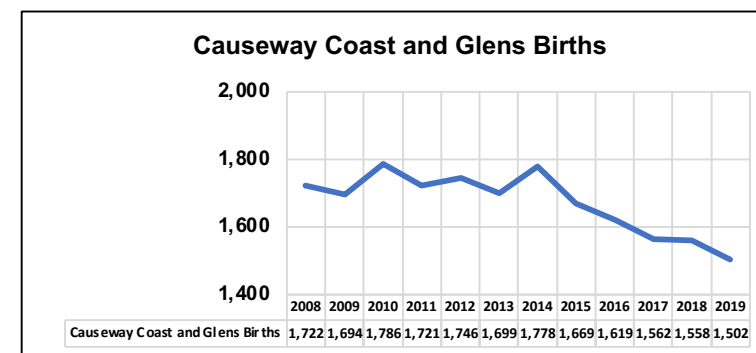
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council covers an area of 1,980 square kilometres with the population residing in the main towns of Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady alongside a number of smaller towns and villages. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 8 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Coolestown, Quarry, Mountsandel, Giant's Causeway, Ballymoney East, Kinbane, Dungiven and Portrush and Dunluce. Map 5 shows primary schools both within the urban and rural areas, with the main concentration of schools located in/ around the urban areas particularly special and post primary schools.

Map 5: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area

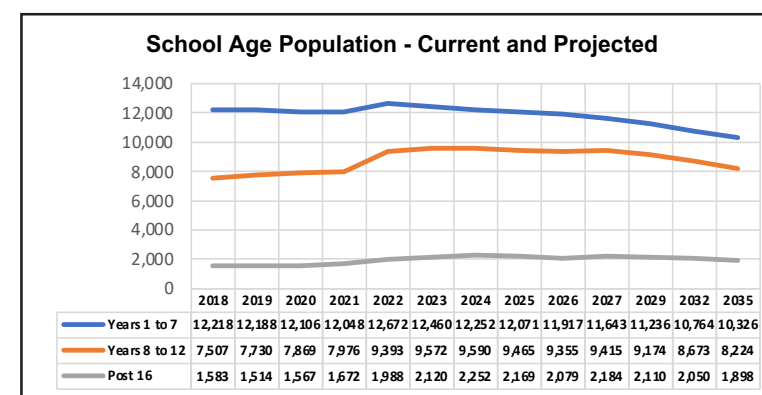


Graph 21 shows the births showing a declining trend (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 21 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,722 to 1,502 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 22.

Graph 21 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 22 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary schools in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



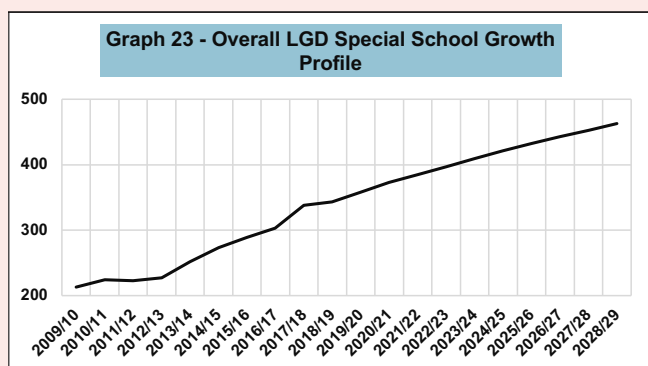
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.5.1 Special Schools

Table 25 shows that both schools, Rossmar School and Sandelford School have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 23 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 25 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Rossmar School	3-19	MLD & SLD	79	85	81	88	94	102	112	124	132	143	144	155
Sandelford School	3-19	SLD	145	138	146	164	179	187	191	214	211	215	229	230
Total			224	223	227	252	273	289	303	338	343	358	373	385



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 21, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- To meet current increasing demand, the new Rossmar School has been extended.
- While Table 25 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.5.2 Primary Schools

Table 26 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 27 and Graph 24 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

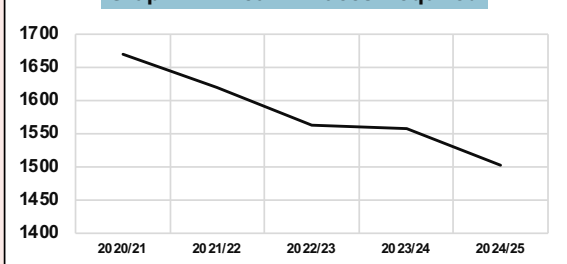
Table 26 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	30	23	7	16	164	1	6,066	4,232	865	566	299	1,834
Controlled	39	28	11	18	256	4	8,464	6,318	1,202	846	356	2,146
Controlled Integrated	3	1	2	1	28	1	666	648	95	83	12	18
Controlled Irish Medium	1	1	0	0	4	0	145	121	21	15	6	24
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	0	2	0	19	0	524	530	83	83	0	0
Irish Medium	2	0	2	2	5	0	236	199	34	30	4	37
Total	77	53	24	37	476	6	16,101	12,048	2,300	1,623	677	4,059

Table 27 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Causeway Coast and Glens Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,669	2020/21
2016	1,619	2021/22
2017	1,562	2022/23
2018	1,558	2023/24
2019	1,502	2024/25

Graph 24 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 26 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors, with the exception of Integrated.
- Table 27 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,582 births per annum. At present there are 2,300 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 77 primary providers 37 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 37 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified in the work streams below.
- Included within the primary population of 12,048 pupils are 476 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 92 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 384 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All of the 6 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.5.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 28 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 29 and Graph 25 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers experience a decline.

Table 28 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	4	3	1	3	2	204	1	2,470	2,013	470	327	143	457
Controlled	5	4	1	3	1	460	2	3,050	2,475	612	460	152	575
Controlled Grammar	1	1	0	0	0	11	0	910	871	130	140	0	39
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	1	0	1	0	25	0	500	431	80	43	37	69
Irish Medium	1	0	1	1	1	11	0	300	272	65	56	9	28
Voluntary Grammar	4	4	0	0	0	54	0	3,560	3,586	541	562	0	0
Total	16	13	3	8	4	522	3	10,790	9,648	1,898	1,588	341	1,168

Table 29 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Causeway Coast and Glens Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,786	2022/23
2011	1,721	2023/24
2012	1,746	2024/25
2013	1,699	2025/26
2014	1,778	2026/27
2015	1,669	2028/29
2016	1,619	2029/30
2017	1,562	2030/31
2018	1,558	2031/32
2019	1,502	2032/33

Table 30 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	243	119	6	-118
2020	189	104	3	-82
2019	187	114	2	-71
2018	169	106	3	-60
2017	153	119	4	-30

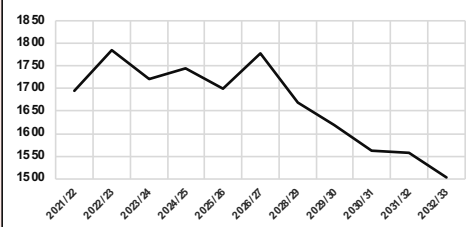
Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 30 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,898 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,588 places filled in 2021/22 this indicates there are sufficient places.
- 8 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 4 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 32,589 pupils are 1,568 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 110 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 1,458 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All 3 of the post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Graph 25 - Year 8 Places Required



Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.5.4 Short Term Work Streams

Balnamore PS 80 Balnamore Road Ballymoney BT53 7PT	Background / Engagement	
	Balnamore PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 45 pupils, but this has subsequently fallen to below 30 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Education Authority is currently and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
St Brigid's PS Cloughmills 6 Loughill Road Ballymena BT44 9LT	Background / Engagement	
	St Brigid's PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 35 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools will engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability

Ballycastle Area Ballymoney Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ballymoney area; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ballycastle area. 	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Limavady Establish Specialist Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in Limavady where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies 	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.5.5 Medium Term Work Streams

For post primary provision, a number of Development Proposals for the area are awaiting a Ministerial decision which will impact area planning activity for post primary schools. The Area Planning Locality Group, North will continue to review primary and post primary provision within the area.

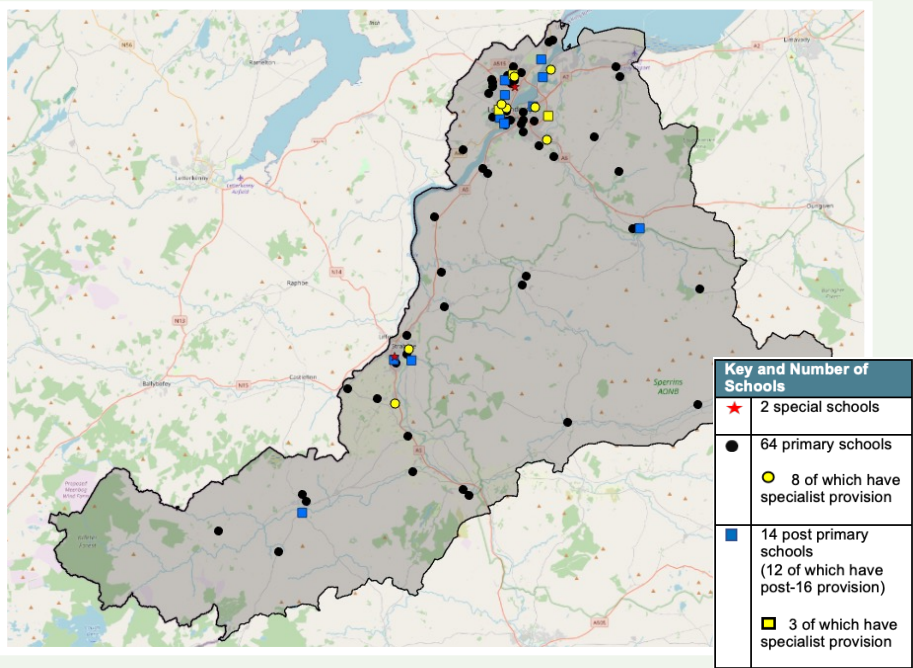
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area Primary Schools	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta will review primary provision within the LGD to explore innovative and collaborative working to provide sustainable provision in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Innovative, creative and shared solutions for sustainable provision	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.6 Derry City and Strabane District Council Area

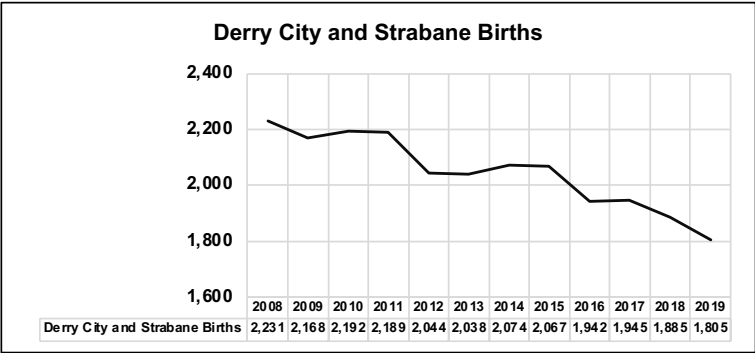
Derry City and Strabane District Council covers 1,245 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Derry City, Strabane alongside smaller towns of Castlederg, Newtownstewart and Sion Mills. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 21 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: City Walls, Brandywell, Galliagh, Creggan, South Ballymagroarty, Strabane North, Northland, Creggan, Strabane West, Shantallow, Skeoge, Castlederg, Victoria, Sheriff’s Mountain, Ballycolman, Glenderg, Sion Mills, Carn Hill, Dunnamanagh, Ebrington and Finn. Map 6 shows primary schools both within the urban and rural areas, with the main concentration of schools located in/around the urban areas, Derry City and Strabane, particularly special and post primary schools.

Map 6: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area

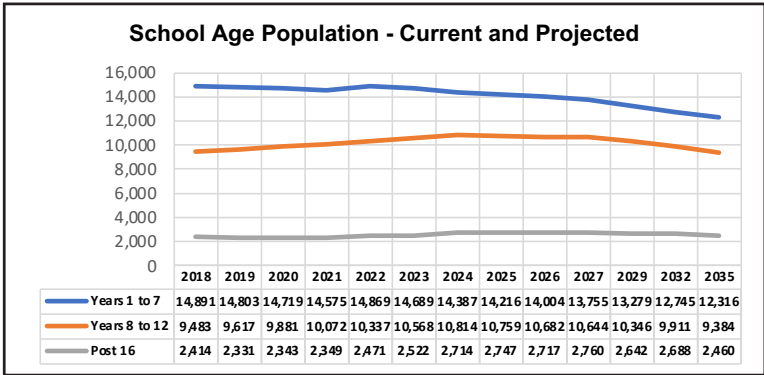


Graph 26 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 26 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,231 to 1,805 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 27.

Graph 26 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 27 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in Derry City and Strabane District Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



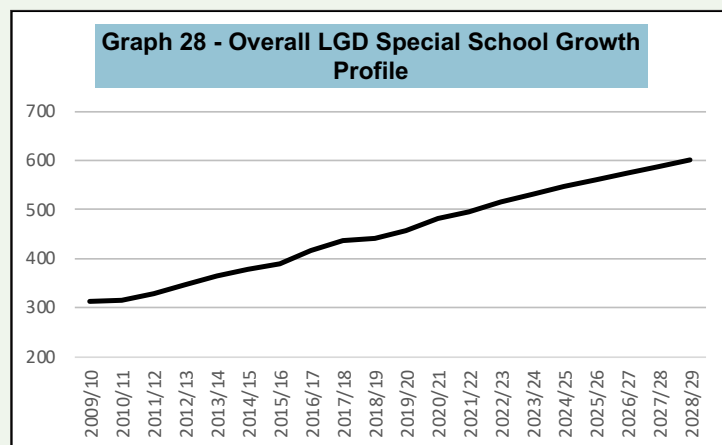
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.6.1 Special Schools

Table 31 shows that both schools, Ardnashee School and College and Knockavoe School and Resource Centre, have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 28 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 31 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Ardnashee School and College	3-19	MLD & SLD / Behaviour Support	232	235	241	249	259	275	300	319	318	330	342	349
Knockavoe School and Resource Centre	3-19	MLD & SLD	83	93	105	116	118	114	116	118	122	128	140	146
Total			315	328	346	365	377	389	416	437	440	458	482	495



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 26, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. A new build school for Ardnashee School and College is currently on site. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 31 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.6.2 Primary Schools

Table 32 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 33 and Graph 29 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 32 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	38	16	22	9	439	4	13,076	9,845	1,859	1,316	543	3,231
Catholic Maintained Irish Medium	1	0	1	1	1	0	196	110	25	23	2	86
Controlled	21	11	10	7	183	4	4,539	3,825	647	531	116	714
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	0	23	0	400	377	56	41	15	23
Irish Medium	3	0	3	1	16	0	452	418	73	68	5	34
Total	64	27	37	18	662	8	18,663	14,575	2,660	1,979	681	4,088

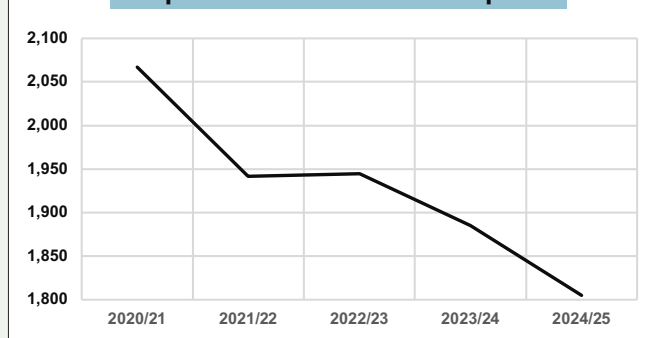
Table 33 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Derry City and Strabane Births	Year 1 Start
2015	2,067	2020/21
2016	1,942	2021/22
2017	1,945	2022/23
2018	1,885	2023/24
2019	1,805	2024/25

Overview Comments

- Table 32 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors. As part of the re-setting programme, controlled and maintained, including maintained Irish medium schools in the city, have been re-set to reflect enrolments thereby reducing the number of available places.
- Table 33 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,929 births per annum. At present there are 2,660 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 64 primary providers 18 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 18 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified in the workstreams below.
- Included within the primary population of 14,575 pupils are 662 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 48 pupils are being met in one of the 7 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 614 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. 4 of the 7 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Graph 29 - Year 1 Places Required



6.6.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 34 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 35 and Graph 30 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 34 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	6	5	1	1	2	436	2	5,550	5,225	924	890	34	325
Controlled	2	1	1	1	1	134	1	1,440	1,528	268	297	0	0
Controlled Grammar	1	1	0	0	1	27	0	700	604	110	109	1	96
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	1	1	64	0	800	577	130	77	53	223
Voluntary Grammar	4	3	1	0	0	73	0	4,640	4,487	666	676	0	153
Total	14	10	4	3	5	734	3	13,100	12,421	2,098	2,049	88	797

Table 35 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Derry City and Strabane Births	Year 8 Start
2010	2,192	2022/23
2011	2,189	2023/24
2012	2,044	2024/25
2013	2,038	2025/26
2014	2,074	2026/27
2015	2,067	2028/29
2016	1,942	2029/30
2017	1,945	2030/31
2018	1,885	2031/32
2019	1,805	2032/33

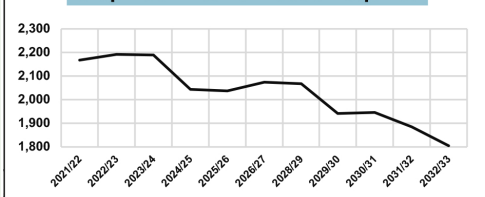
Table 36 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	112	85	18	-9
2020	112	52	5	-55
2019	126	56	11	-59
2018	137	43	6	-88
2017	160	47	24	-89

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 36 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 30 - Year 8 Places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 2,098 Year 8 places available across the council area with 2,049 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate a need for places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 3 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 5 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 12,421 pupils are 734 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 50 pupils are being met in one of the 3 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 684 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All 3 of the post primary schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Derry City and Strabane District Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.6.4 Short Term Work Streams

Sion Mills PS West View Terrace Sion Mills Strabane BT82 9HP	Background / Engagement	
	Sion Mills PS is proposing to transform to controlled integrated status.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty - Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
St Eugene's PS 58 Fyfin Road Victoria Bridge Strabane BT82 9JH	Background / Engagement	
	St Eugene's PS is proposing to transform to controlled integrated status.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty - Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Lisneal College 70 Crescent Link Londonderry BT47 5FQ	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is exploring the need for an increase in the approved admission and enrolment numbers for Lisneal College. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Derry/Londonderry Establish Special School Places	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to establish additional special school places to meet the needs of Children and Young People with a Statement of Special Education Need within the Derry/Londonderry area.	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors, staff, parents and stakeholders of all special schools in the area to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
Derry/Londonderry and Strabane Establish Specialist Provision Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision, Social Communication in Derry/Londonderry and Strabane where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies. - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Strabane area. - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary and post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Strabane area. - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways in primary schools in the Derry/Londonderry area. 	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

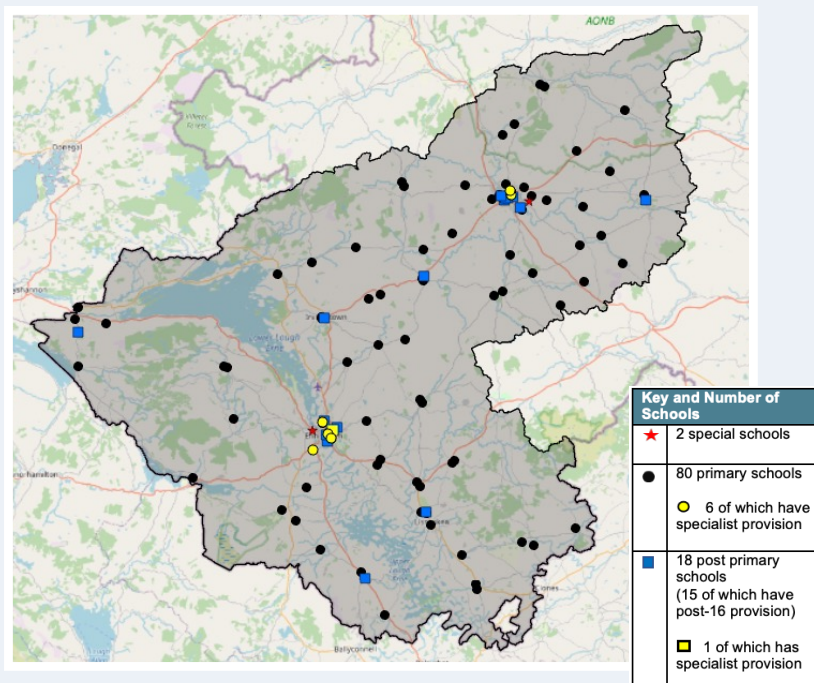
6.6.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Derry City Primary Provision (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	Establish a new Integrated primary school to meet the needs of pupils in Derry/Londonderry. The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education is working with the Integrated Education Fund to bring forward further integrated provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Irish Medium Post Primary Provision (work stream also spans across Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster District Council Areas)	Background / Engagement	
	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is proposing to establish a new Irish Medium post primary school to meet the needs of pupils in Fermanagh and Omagh, Mid Ulster and Derry City and Strabane Council areas. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working to bring forward Irish Medium post primary provision for the areas.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.7 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area

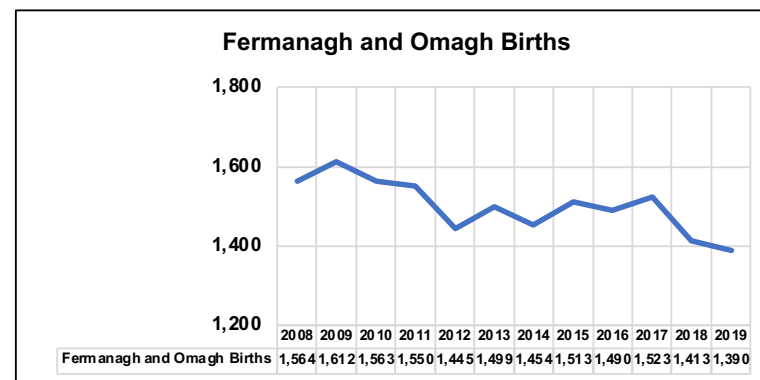
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council covers an area of 3,000 square kilometres and is largely a rural area with two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh. The majority of the population lives outside of the two towns and are spread across a wide rural area in a mix of villages and small settlements. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 11 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Strule, Newtownbutler, Rosslea, Fintona, Erne, Lisnaskea, Belleek and Boa, Lisnarrick, Irvinestown, Portora and Donagh. Map 7 shows a number of primary schools in the rural areas with a concentration of schools located in/ around the urban areas, Enniskillen and Omagh, particularly special and post primary schools.

Map 7: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area

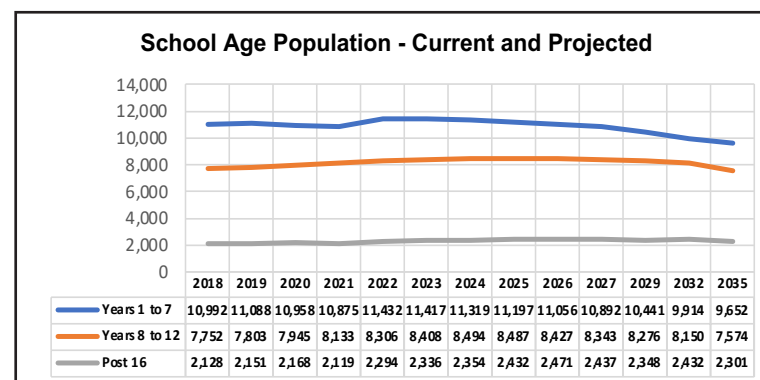


Graph 31 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 31 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,564 to 1,390 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 32.

Graph 31 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 32 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



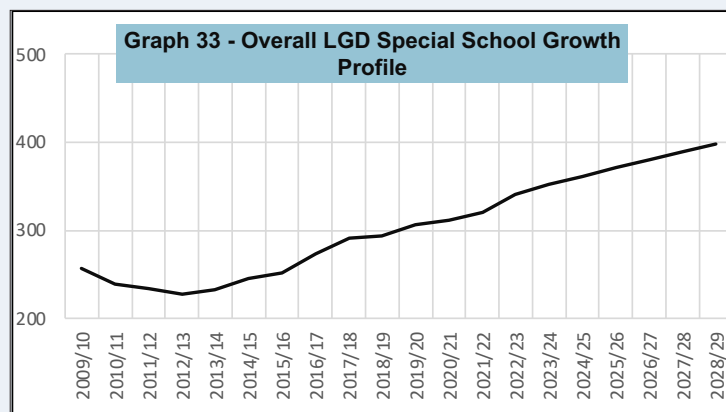
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.7.1 Special Schools

Table 37 shows that both schools, Arvalee School and Resource Centre and Willowbridge School, have experienced increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 33 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 37 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Arvalee School and Resource Centre	3-19	MLD & SLD	105	112	102	103	108	119	135	142	142	146	156	162
Willowbridge School	3-19	MLD & SLD	134	122	126	130	137	133	139	149	152	160	156	158
Total			239	234	228	233	245	252	274	291	294	306	312	320



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 31, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 37 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.7.2 Primary Schools

Table 38 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 39 and Graph 34 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

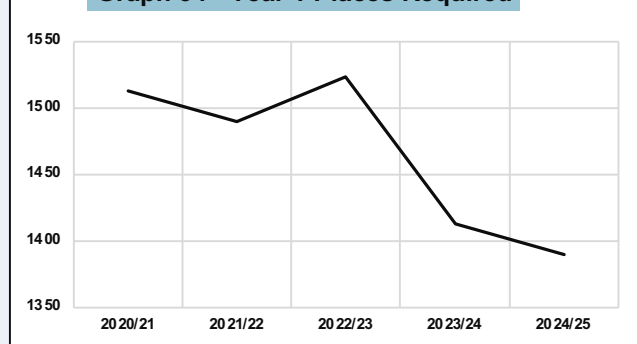
Table 38 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	49	44	5	23	334	1	8,766	6,879	1,246	983	263	1,887
Controlled	27	23	4	15	159	4	4,319	3,110	612	402	210	1,209
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	0	2	0	39	1	777	663	111	107	4	114
Irish Medium	2	1	1	1	2	0	243	223	44	34	10	20
Total	80	68	12	39	534	6	14,105	10,875	2,013	1,526	487	3,230

Table 39 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Fermanagh and Omagh Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,513	2020/21
2016	1,490	2021/22
2017	1,523	2022/23
2018	1,413	2023/24
2019	1,390	2024/25

Graph 34 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 38 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 39 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,466 births per annum. At present there are 1,526 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 80 primary providers 39 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 39 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified in the work streams below. The outworking of area planning activity taken forward through the 2019-22 Annual Action Plan is currently embedding in the area.
- Included within the primary population of 10,875 pupils are 534 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 56 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 478 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. 3 of the 6 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.7.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 40 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 41 and Graph 35 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 40 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	8	3	5	5	2	367	1	3,835	3,235	702	596	106	600
Controlled	2	2	0	1	2	105	0	1,195	1,075	220	182	38	120
Controlled Grammar	1	1	0	1	0	13	0	660	672	95	93	2	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	2	0	1	1	112	0	1,045	1,061	175	221	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	5	5	0	1	0	114	0	4,270	4,209	586	619	0	61
Total	18	13	5	9	5	711	1	11,005	10,252	1,778	1,711	67	781

Table 41 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Fermanagh and Omagh Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,563	2022/23
2011	1,550	2023/24
2012	1,445	2024/25
2013	1,499	2025/26
2014	1,454	2026/27
2015	1,513	2028/29
2016	1,490	2029/30
2017	1,523	2030/31
2018	1,413	2031/32
2019	1,390	2032/33

Table 42 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	104	105	16	17
2020	124	96	5	-23
2019	111	83	2	-26
2018	99	111	4	16
2017	73	109	11	47

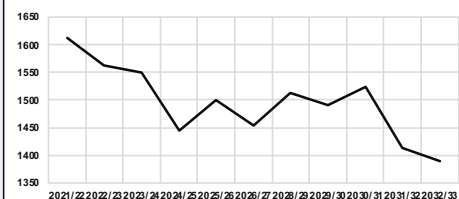
Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 42 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,778 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,711 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate a need for places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 9 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 5 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 10,252 pupils are 711 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 8 pupils are being met in one of the 2 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 703 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. The post primary schools with specialist provision require a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and between primary.

Graph 35 - Year 8 Places Required



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area

The statistics for the area provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the rurality of the area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.7.4 Short Term Work Streams

Bunscoil an Traonaigh Drumbrughas North Lisnaskea BT92 OPE	Background / Engagement	
	Bunscoil an Traonaigh is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 15 and approved enrolment number of 58. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 59 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Lack PS 6 Tirwinny Road Lack Enniskillen BT93 0BU	Background / Engagement	
	Lack PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 28 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
St Colmcille's PS 2 Rockstown Road Carrickmore Omagh BT79 9BE	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is proposing the establishment of a part-time Irish Medium nursery unit at St Colmcille's PS. The school currently has an approved admission number of 55 and approved enrolment number of 365. At September 2021, the school and Irish Medium unit (Years 1-7) had an enrolment of 368 pupils. The school currently has a full-time nursery unit.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways

St John the Baptist PS 38 Roscor Lane Enniskillen BT93 3DP (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	St John the Baptist PS is experiencing low pupil numbers. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 29 pupils which falls below the minimum threshold of 105 pupils for a rural primary school. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options and future sustainability.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability

Co Fermanagh Maintained/Catholic Voluntary Post Primary Provision (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Trustees are reviewing maintained/Catholic voluntary post primary school provision in Co Fermanagh to address sustainability and consolidate provision. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Trustees are and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors representatives of maintained/voluntary post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12 Sixth forms with fewer than 100 pupils that cannot offer a full range of courses	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Fermanagh Area Omagh Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide key stage pathways from primary to post primary for specialist provision, Learning and Social Communication, in the Fermanagh area; - provide key stage pathways from primary to post primary for specialist provision, Learning and Social Communication, in the Omagh area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Omagh and Enniskillen areas; - establish specialist provision, Social Communication in Omagh where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Omagh area. <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

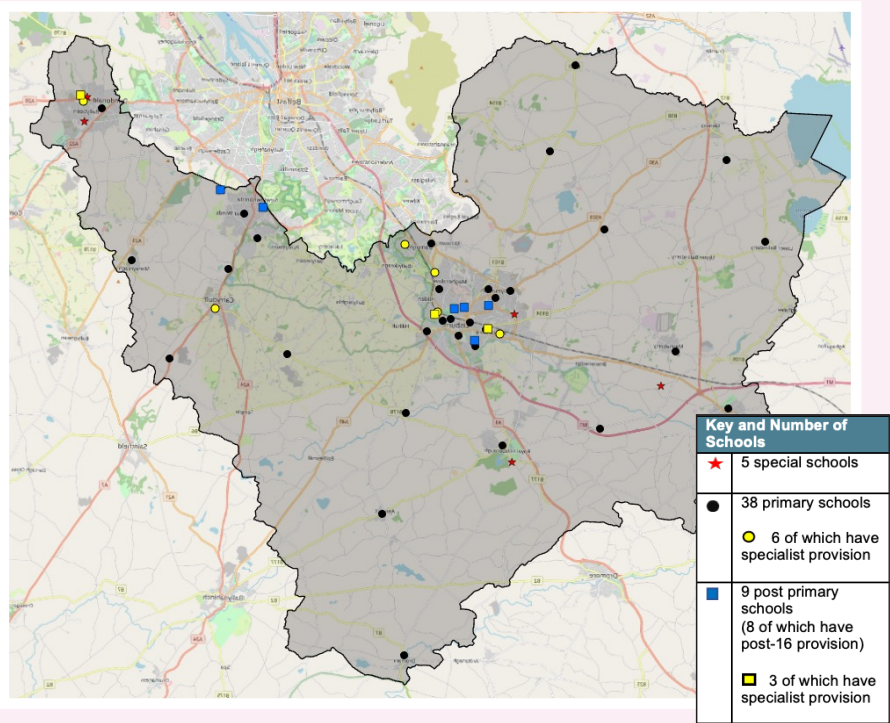
6.7.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Ballygawley Area Primary Provision (work stream also spans into Mid Ulster District Council Area)	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools proposes to review maintained primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, composite classes, oversubscription and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
South East Fermanagh Controlled Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review controlled primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of controlled primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Irish Medium Post Primary Provision (work stream also spans across Mid Ulster and Derry City and Strabane District Council Areas)	Background / Engagement	
	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is proposing to establish a new Irish Medium post primary school to meet the needs of pupils in Fermanagh and Omagh, Mid Ulster and Derry City and Strabane Council areas. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working to bring forward Irish Medium post primary provision for the areas.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
West Tyrone Area Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Trustees are proposing to review post primary school provision in West Tyrone to address sustainability and consolidate provision. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools will engage with the Boards of Governors of post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity to repurposed area to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.8 Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

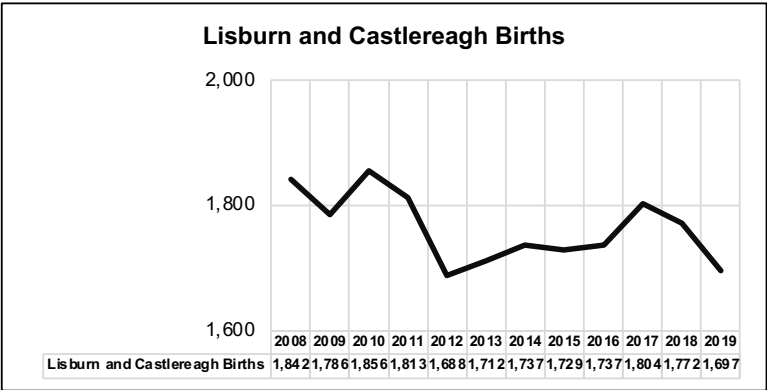
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council covers an area of 518 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Lisburn City, Greater Urban Areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh and smaller towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 1 of which is in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Old Warren. Map 8 shows the concentration of schools are located in/around the urban areas with a small number of schools in the rural areas.

Map 8: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

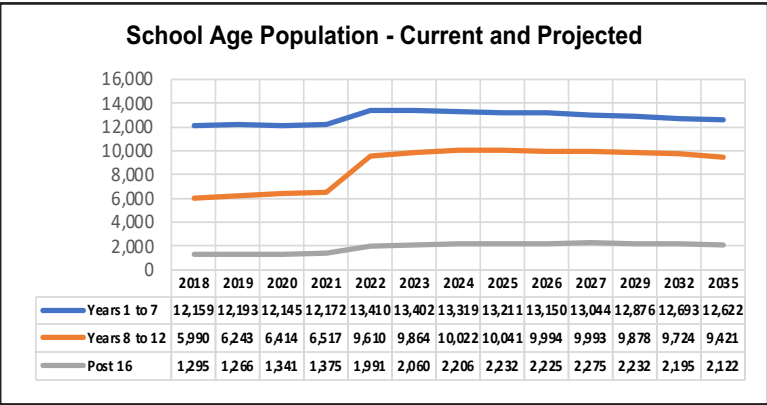


Graph 36 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 36 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,842 to 1,697 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 37.

Graph 36 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 37 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



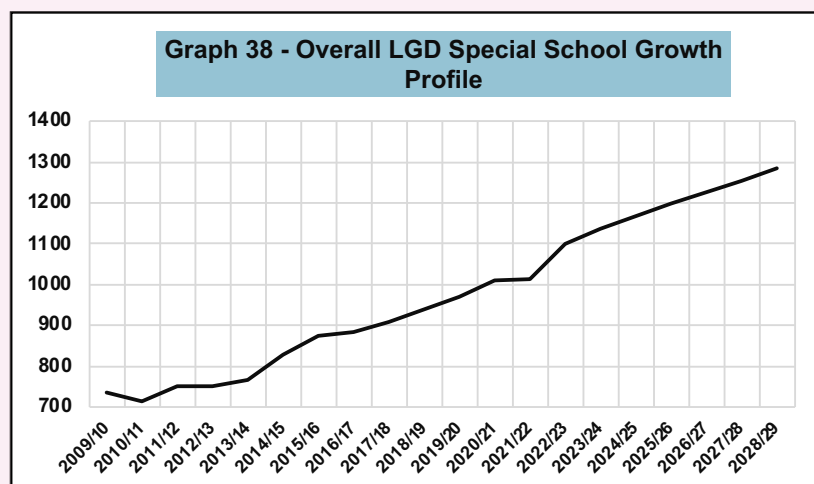
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.8.1 Special Schools

Table 43 shows that all schools have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 38 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 43 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Beechlawn School	11-19	MLD	152	161	153	159	176	182	200	209	226	242	254	256
Brookfield School	3-11	MLD	119	123	122	136	152	160	150	147	146	147	152	152
Longstone School	4-16	MLD/ Behaviour Support	143	152	156	145	159	160	170	190	212	208	214	208
Parkview School	3-19	SLD	153	159	161	169	173	181	175	176	176	187	199	205
Tor Bank School	3-19	SLD	148	157	159	159	169	192	188	187	181	186	193	193
Total			715	752	751	768	829	875	883	909	941	970	1,012	1,014



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 36, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 43 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.8.2 Primary Schools

Table 44 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 45 and Graph 39 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

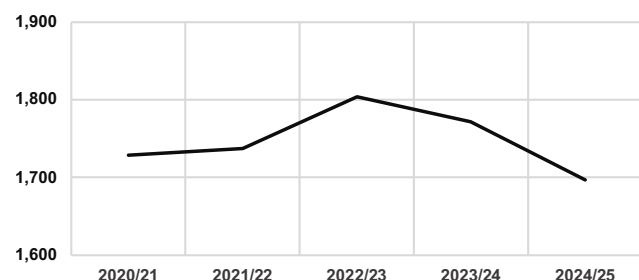
Table 44 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	7	3	4	1	106	1	2,850	2,748	405	365	40	102
Controlled	27	12	15	1	369	4	9,127	8,325	1,303	1,187	116	802
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	2	1	0	42	0	941	887	142	142	14	54
Controlled Integrated	1	0	1	0	11	1	240	212	30	30	0	28
Total	38	17	21	2	528	6	13,158	12,172	1,880	1,880	167	986

Table 45 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Lisburn and Castlereagh Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,729	2020/21
2016	1,737	2021/22
2017	1,804	2022/23
2018	1,772	2023/24
2019	1,697	2024/25

Graph 39 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 44 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 45 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,748 births per annum. At present there are 1,880 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 38 primary providers 2 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. The 2 schools have been reviewed with no area planning action identified within this Operational Plan 1.
- Included within the primary population of 12,172 pupils are 528 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 146 pupils are being met in one of the 6 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 382 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All of the 6 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.8.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 46 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 47 and Graph 40 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 46 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	1	1	0	0	1	86	1	530	552	106	98	8	0
Controlled	4	4	0	0	2	219	1	3,048	2,784	565	472	93	264
Controlled Integrated	1	1	0	0	0	72	1	850	910	160	172	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	1	0	1	0	0	99	0	1,300	1,435	200	227	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	2	2	0	0	0	41	0	2,130	2,211	310	326	0	0
Total	9	8	1	0	3	517	3	7,858	7,892	1,341	1,295	101	264

Table 47 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Lisburn and Castlereagh Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,856	2022/23
2011	1,813	2023/24
2012	1,688	2024/25
2013	1,712	2025/26
2014	1,737	2026/27
2015	1,729	2028/29
2016	1,737	2029/30
2017	1,804	2030/31
2018	1,772	2031/32
2019	1,697	2032/33

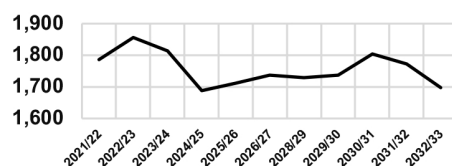
Table 48 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	803	420	12	-371
2020	847	429	2	-416
2019	811	439	6	-366
2018	765	428	5	-332
2017	709	409	1	-299

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 48 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 40 - Year 8 Places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,341 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,347 places filled in 2021/22 which would indicate there are sufficient places. However, based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 3 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 7,892 pupils are 517 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 74 pupils are being met in one of the 3 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 443 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. 2 of the 3 post primary schools with specialist provision require a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the rurality of the area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.8.4 Short Term Work Streams

Millennium Integrated PS 139A Belfast Road Lisdoonan Saintfield BT24 7HF	Background / Engagement	
	Millennium Integrated PS is proposing to increase its approved admission and enrolment numbers. The Board of Governors, working with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, is currently and will continue to engage regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Lagan College 44 Manse Road Belfast BT8 6SA	Background / Engagement	
	Lagan College is proposing to increase its approved admission and enrolment numbers. The Board of Governors, working with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, is currently and will continue to engage regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Castlereagh Area Establish Specialist Provision Dundonald Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the Castlereagh area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in primary and post schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Dundonald area. 	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.8.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Naíscoil Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh Carryduff Area - Irish Medium Nursery Provision	Background / Engagement	
	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is proposing to establish a new Irish Medium nursery school to meet the needs of pupils in the Carryduff and wider area. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working to secure a site to bring forward further Irish Medium nursery provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

No medium term work streams are identified for primary or post primary provision in the LGD. Area planning activity is currently in progress or has been undertaken in the area and, since the implementation of the Sustainable Schools Policy, six primary schools' approved enrolments have been modified to reflect 7, 14 or 21 classbase models and two primary school discontinuances have been completed.

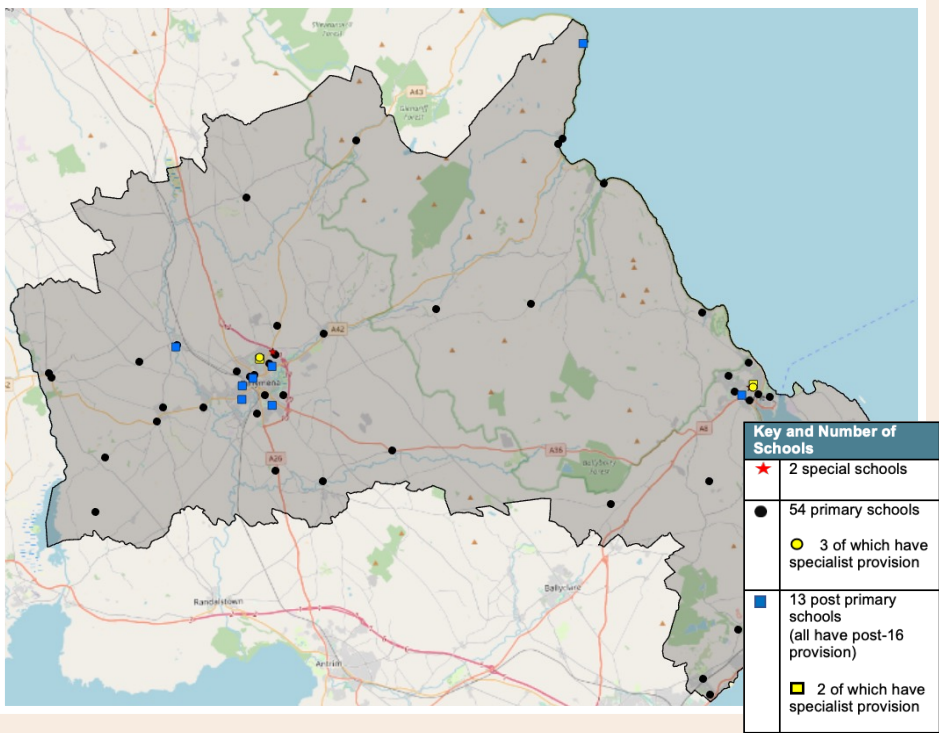
For post primary provision, all schools meet the Sustainable Schools Policy threshold for Years 8-12, for Post 16 see 3.2 above. Therefore, it is not proposed to undertake any further area planning activity at present. The Area Planning Locality Group, East will continue to monitor primary and post primary provision within the area.

Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity to repurposed area to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.9 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area

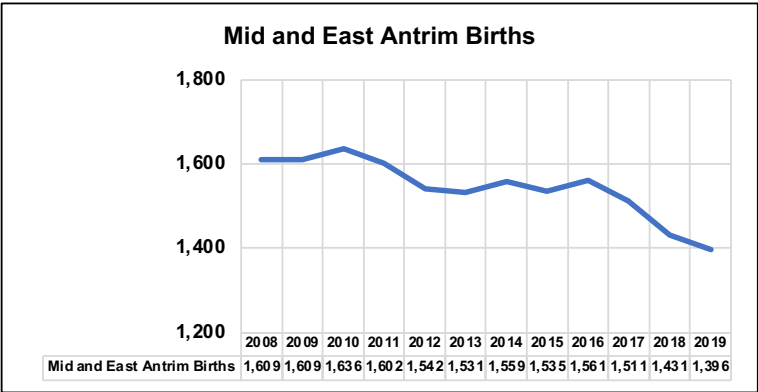
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council covers an area of 1,045 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne and smaller towns and villages. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 6 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Ballykeel, Fair Green, Castle Demesne, Sunnylands, Ballee and Harryville and Castle. Map 9 shows the concentration of schools are located in/ around the urban areas with a small number of schools in the rural areas.

Map 9: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area

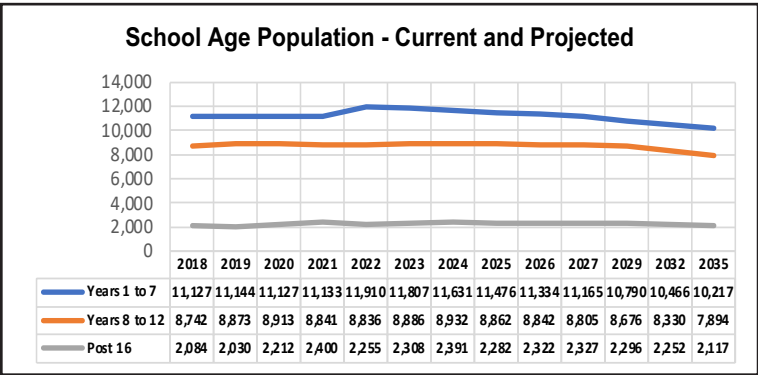


Graph 41 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 41 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,609 to 1,396 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 42.

Graph 41 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 42 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



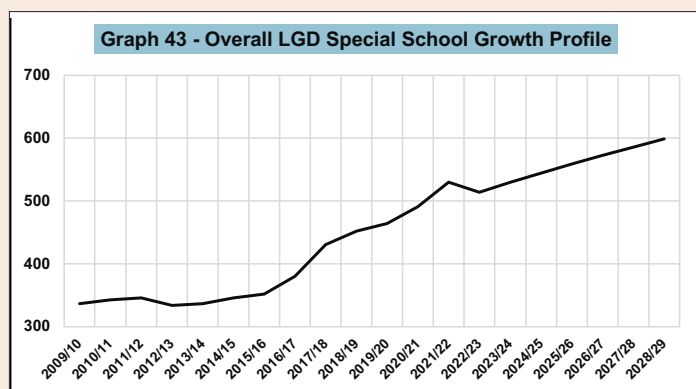
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.9.1 Special Schools

Table 49 shows that both schools, Castle Tower School and Roddensvale School, have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 43 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 49 – Special Schools’ Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Castle Tower School	3-19	MLD & SLD	261	256	255	253	259	260	276	306	320	317	331	331
Roddensvale School	3-19	SLD	82	90	79	84	87	92	104	125	132	147	161	161
Total			343	346	334	337	346	352	380	431	452	464	492	492



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 41, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 49 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.9.2 Primary Schools

Table 50 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 51 and Graph 44 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

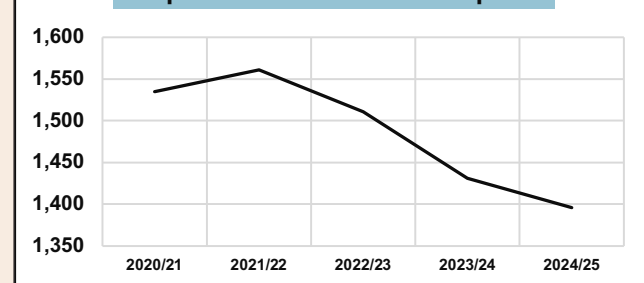
Table 50 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	10	5	5	2	49	0	2,394	1,972	333	285	48	422
Controlled	38	18	20	9	287	3	9,789	8,252	1,381	1,161	220	1,537
Controlled Integrated	3	2	1	3	17	0	358	256	51	31	20	102
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	0	3	0	29	0	754	653	116	110	6	101
Total	54	25	29	14	382	3	13,295	11,133	1,881	1,587	294	2,162

Table 51 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Mid and East Antrim Births	Year 1 Start
2015	1,535	2020/21
2016	1,561	2021/22
2017	1,511	2022/23
2018	1,431	2023/24
2019	1,396	2024/25

Graph 44 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 50 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 51 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 1,487 births per annum. At present there are 1,587 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 54 primary providers, 14 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 14 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified within this Operational Plan 1.
- Included within the primary population of 11,133 pupils are 382 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 48 pupils are being met in one of the 3 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 334 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All of the 3 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.9.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 52 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 53 and Graph 45 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 52 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	2	1	1	1	1	49	0	1,560	1,313	285	211	74	247
Controlled	4	2	2	0	0	198	2	3,540	3,404	615	501	114	136
Controlled Grammar	2	2	0	0	0	16	0	1,700	1,711	425	258	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	2	0	0	0	144	0	1,450	1,673	240	288	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	3	3	0	0	0	29	0	2,895	3,140	425	471	0	0
Total	13	10	3	1	1	436	2	11,145	11,241	1,821	1,729	188	383

Table 53 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Mid and East Antrim Births	Year 8 Start
2010	1,636	2022/23
2011	1,602	2023/24
2012	1,542	2024/25
2013	1,531	2025/26
2014	1,559	2026/27
2015	1,535	2028/29
2016	1,561	2029/30
2017	1,511	2030/31
2018	1,431	2031/32
2019	1,396	2032/33

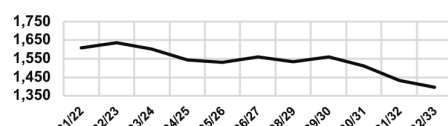
Table 54 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	192	263	11	82
2020	170	289	1	120
2019	181	286	3	108
2018	177	271	2	96
2017	163	211	2	50

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 54 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 45 - Year 8 Places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 1,821 Year 8 places available across the council area with 1,729 places filled in 2021/22. Based on the declining birth rate, the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Plan 2022-27 will decline. There is a demand for places in the Integrated sector which is addressed in the work streams below.
- One school does not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- One school does not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 11,241 pupils are 436 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 62 pupils are being met in one of the 2 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 374 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. All of the post primary schools with specialist provision require a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the rurality of the area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.9.4 Short Term Work Streams

Acorn Integrated PS 110 Victoria Road Carrickfergus BT38 7JL	Background / Engagement	
	Acorn Integrated PS is proposing the establishment of an additional part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 29 and approved enrolment number of 203. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 193 pupils. The school currently has a nursery unit.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Braidside Integrated PS 87 Fry's Road Ballymena BT43 7EN	Background / Engagement	
	Braidside Integrated PS is proposing the establishment of an additional part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 58 and approved enrolment number of 406. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 280 pupils. The school currently has a nursery unit.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Hazelbank PS 20 Hazelbank Road Ballymena BT42 4LP	Background / Engagement	
	Hazelbank PS is experiencing increases in pupil numbers as a result of previous area planning activity in the area. The school currently has an approved admission number of 17 and approved enrolment number of 120. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 150 pupils. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Moyle PS 18 Sallagh Park Larne BT40 1NS	Background / Engagement	
	Moyle PS is experiencing increases in pupil numbers. The school currently has an approved admission number of 46 and approved enrolment number of 322. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 372 pupils. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Slemish College Larne Road Ballymena BT42 3HA	Background / Engagement	
	Slemish College is proposing to increase its approved admission and enrolment numbers. The Board of Governors, working with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, is and will continue to engage regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Ulidia Integrated College 112 Victoria Rise Carrickfergus BT38 7JL	Background / Engagement	
	Ulidia Integrated College is proposing to increase its approved admission and enrolment numbers. The Board of Governors, working with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, is and will continue to engage regarding provision for the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Carrickfergus Area Establish Specialist Provision Carrickfergus Area Larne Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the Carrickfergus area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Carrickfergus area; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Larne area. 	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.9.5 Medium Term Work Streams

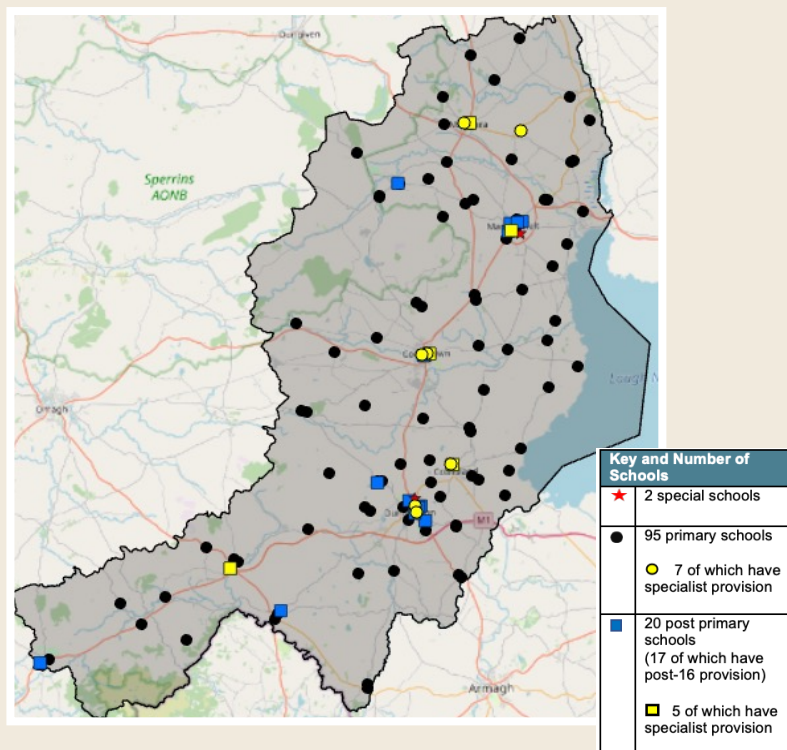
Greater Rural Antrim Controlled Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review controlled primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, oversubscription, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors on primary school provision in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity to repurposed area to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.10 Mid Ulster District Council Area

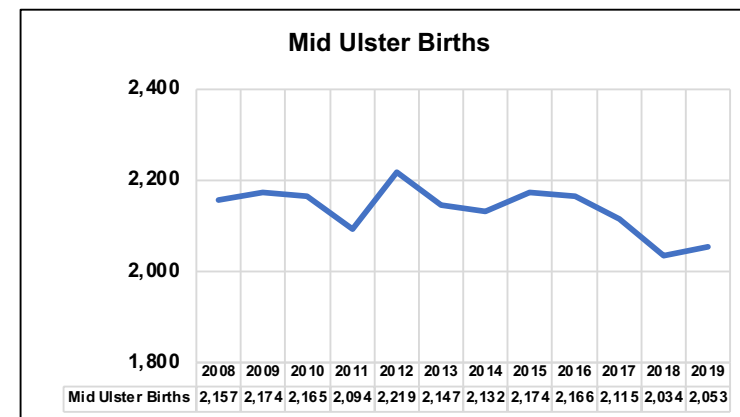
Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of 1,955 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in the towns of Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt along with a number of smaller population centres. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 3 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Coalisland South, Pomeroy and Ardboe. Map 10 shows the concentration of schools are located in/ around the urban areas, particularly special and post primary schools with a number of primary schools within the rural area.

Map 10: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Mid Ulster District Council Area

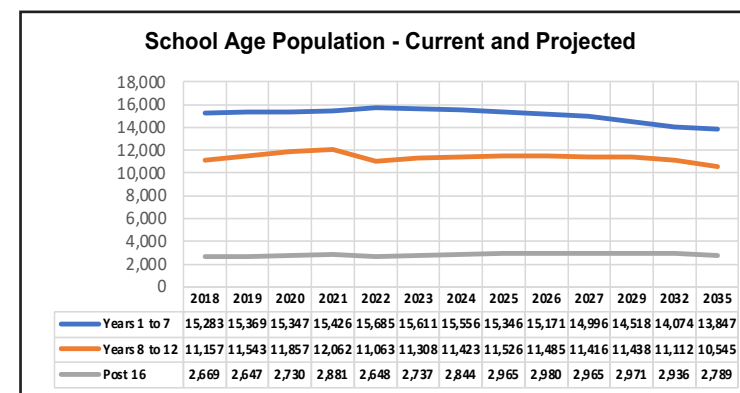


Graph 46 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 46 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,157 to 2,053 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 47.

Graph 46 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 47 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Mid Ulster District Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



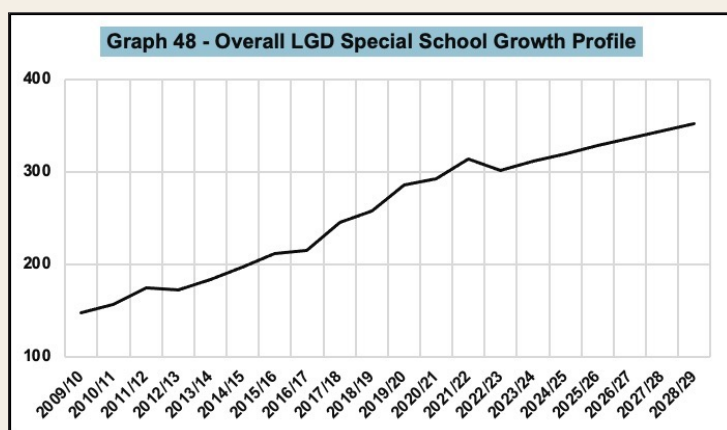
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.10.1 Special Schools

Table 55 shows that both schools have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 48 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 55 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Kilronan School	3-19	SLD	69	80	72	82	92	105	110	130	141	155	162	172
Sperrinview School	3-19	SLD	87	94	100	102	105	106	105	115	116	131	130	142
Total			156	174	172	184	197	211	215	245	257	286	292	314



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 46, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- A proposal for a new school(s) is currently being progressed with consultation with stakeholders to begin in Autumn 2022.
- While Table 55 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.10.2 Primary Schools

Table 56 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 57 and Graph 49 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

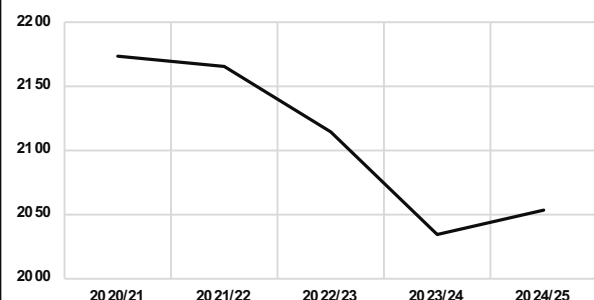
Table 56 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	55	51	4	15	413	5	11,099	9,894	1,579	1,429	150	1,205
Controlled	32	28	4	14	200	2	5,294	4,358	758	615	143	936
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	0	3	0	27	0	616	624	88	91	0	0
Irish Medium	5	2	3	3	6	0	677	550	107	89	18	127
Total	95	81	14	32	646	7	17,686	15,426	2,532	2,224	311	2,268

Table 57 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Mid Ulster Births	Year 1 Start
2015	2,174	2020/21
2016	2,166	2021/22
2017	2,115	2022/23
2018	2,034	2023/24
2019	2,053	2024/25

Graph 49 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 56 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 57 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 2,108 births per annum. At present there are 2,532 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 95 primary providers 32 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 32 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified in the workstreams below. The outworking of area planning activity taken forward through the 2019-22 Annual Action Plan is currently embedding in the area.
- Included within the primary population of 15,426 pupils are 646 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 191 pupils are being met in one of the 7 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 455 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Five of the 7 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.10.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 58 shows the post primary provision in the Council and details the level of year 8 and total school available places across the area. Table 59 and Graph 50 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers show a decline.

Table 58 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	8	4	4	3	2	380	3	6,230	6,403	1,120	1,030	90	0
Controlled	5	3	2	3	2	176	2	2,857	2,405	485	444	41	452
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	2	0	0	1	91	0	1,210	1,302	210	246	0	0
Voluntary Grammar	5	4	1	0	0	80	0	4,515	4,833	693	788	0	0
Total	20	13	7	6	5	727	5	14,812	14,943	2,508	2,508	131	452

Table 59 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Mid Ulster Births	Year 8 Start
2010	2,165	2022/23
2011	2,094	2023/24
2012	2,219	2024/25
2013	2,147	2025/26
2014	2,132	2026/27
2015	2,174	2028/29
2016	2,166	2029/30
2017	2,115	2030/31
2018	2,034	2031/32
2019	2,053	2032/33

Table 60 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	164	496	15	347
2020	90	378	6	294
2019	86	372	5	291
2018	109	377	5	273
2017	115	302	2	189

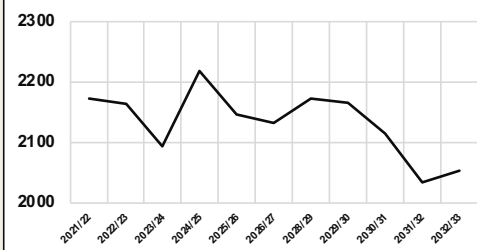
Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 60 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Overview Comments

- At present there are 2,508 Year 8 places available across the council area with 2,508 places filled in 2021/22. There are sufficient places in the area based on the declining birth rate the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline.
- 6 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 5 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 14,943 pupils are 727 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 151 pupils are being met in one of the 5 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 576 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Four of the 5 post primary schools with specialist provision require a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Graph 50 - Year 8 Places Required



Mid Ulster District Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the rurality of the area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years for special, primary, post primary and specialist provision in mainstream schools.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.10.4 Short Term Work Streams

Gaelscoil Aodha Rua 97 Donaghmore Road Dungannon BT70 1HD (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 21 and approved enrolment number of 135. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 142 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways

Roan St Patrick's PS 114 Killyliss Road Dungannon BT70 1LE	Background / Engagement	
	Roan St Patrick's PS has experienced an increase in pupil numbers. The school currently has an approved admission number of 12 and approved enrolment number of 83. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 158 pupils. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is and will continue to engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Magherafelt NS 32A Castledawson Road Magherafelt BT45 6PA	Background / Engagement	
	Magherafelt NS is proposing to transform to controlled integrated status.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty - Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways

Magherafelt Area Establish Specialist Provision Magherafelt Area Cookstown Area Dungannon Area Maghera Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- establish additional specialist provision in the Magherafelt area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies;- establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Magherafelt area;- establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Cookstown area;- establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Dungannon area; and- establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Maghera area.	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision;- provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person;- provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and- is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers.	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Mid Ulster Establish Special School	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing the establishment of a new special school provision to meet the needs of Children and Young People with a Statement of Special Education Need within the Mid Ulster area.	
	The Education Authority will engage with the Board of Governors, staff, parents and stakeholders of all special schools in the area to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school;- provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person;- is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and- is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs.	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

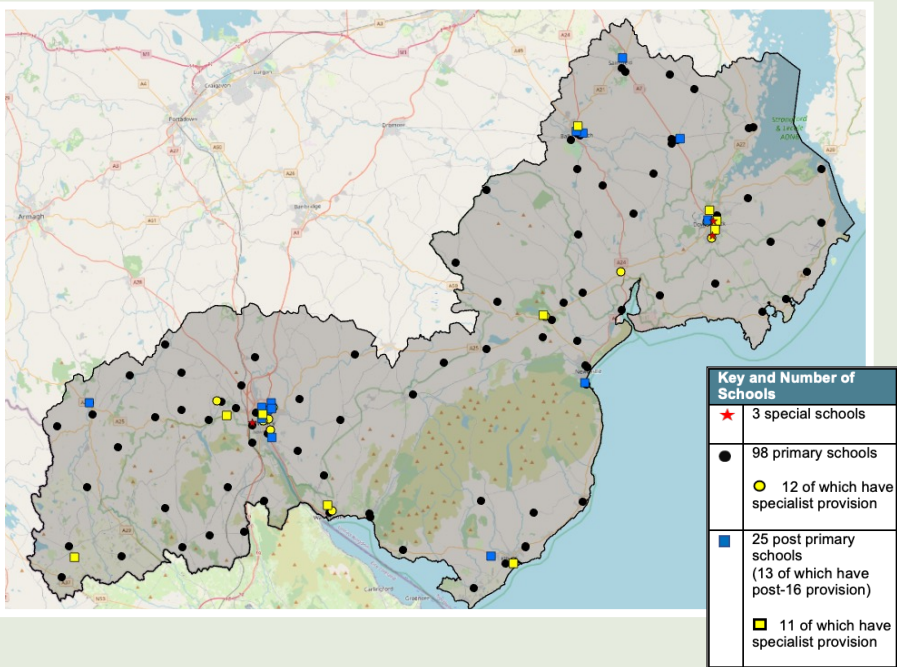
6.10.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Ballygawley Area Primary Provision (work stream also spans into Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area)	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools proposes to review maintained primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, composite classes, oversubscription and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Caledon/Aughnacloy Area Maintained Primary Schools	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools proposes to review maintained primary school provision in the area to address sustainability, oversubscription, composite classes and consolidate provision to provide where possible to 7, 14 or 21 classroom school(s). The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors on primary school provision in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of no more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
Irish Medium Post Primary Provision (work stream also spans across Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Areas)	Background / Engagement	
	Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is proposing to establish a new Irish Medium post primary school to meet the needs of pupils in Fermanagh and Omagh, Mid Ulster and Derry City and Strabane Council areas. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working to bring forward Irish Medium post primary provision for the areas.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
South Tyrone Area Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review controlled post primary school provision in the area to address sustainability. The Education Authority is and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.11 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

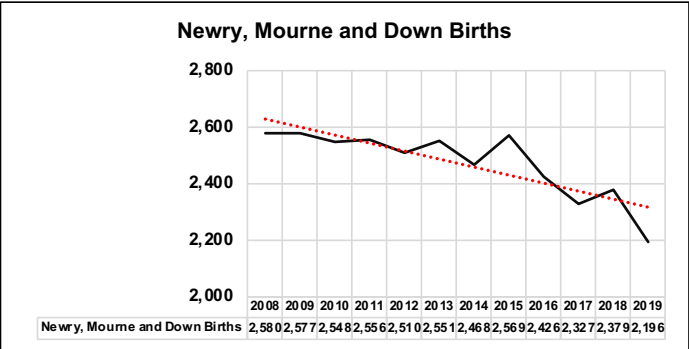
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council covers an area of 1,700 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the urban areas such as Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Newry City, Warrenpoint, as well as a number of smaller towns and villages spread across the area. Within the LGD there are 41 wards, 11 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Ballybot, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton, Mullaghbane, Cathedral, Fathom, Bessbrook, Forkhill, Abbey, Murlough and Warrenpoint. Map 11 shows the concentration of schools are located in/around the urban areas with a small number of schools in the rural areas.

Map 11: Special, Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

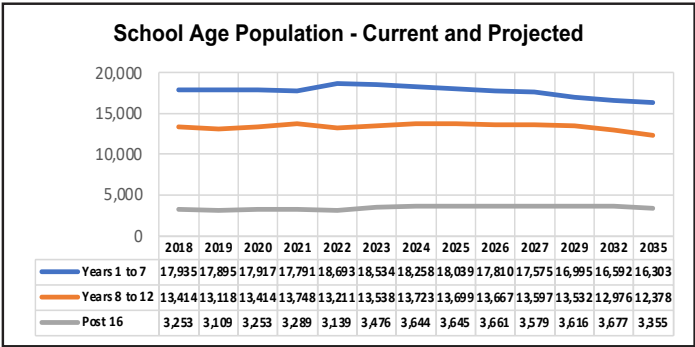


Graph 51 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 51 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,580 to 2,196 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils as presented in Graph 52.

Graph 51 - Birth Data (source: NISRA)



Graph 52 - Historic, Current and Projected School Age Pupils in Attendance at Primary and Post Primary Schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area (source: DE Census Data/NISRA)



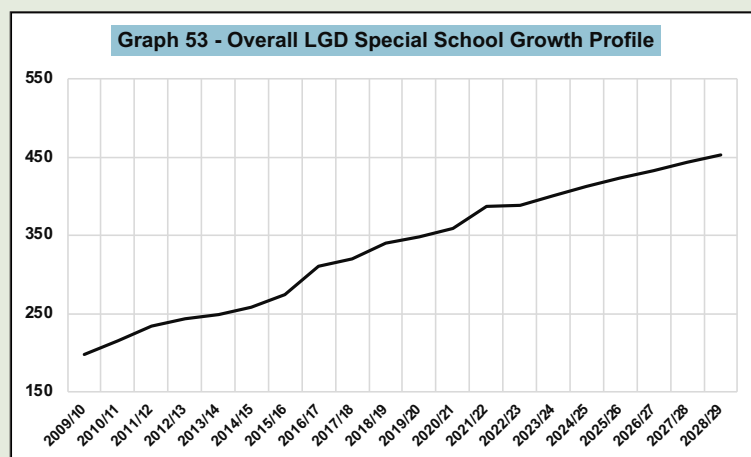
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

6.11.1 Special Schools

Table 61 shows that both schools have experienced substantial increases in enrolment numbers. Graph 53 shows the upward trajectory of enrolment numbers which is projected to continue to increase.

Table 61 – Special Schools' Enrolment History

School Name	Age Range	Historical School Type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Ardmore House School	11-14	SBEW	1	8	2	2	0	2	2	2	5	7	19	22
Knockevin School	3-19	SLD	92	89	89	91	95	96	133	138	141	139	140	146
Rathore School	3-19	SLD	122	138	153	156	164	177	176	180	194	203	200	220
Total			215	235	244	249	259	275	311	320	340	349	359	388



Overview Comments

- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 51, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing need for places in special schools. Work is also ongoing to identify capacity to facilitate repurposing and accommodation needs within schools.
- While Table 61 identifies the historical school type, the current provision is changing and schools have adapted to meet the changing needs of children and young people within their area.

6.11.2 Primary Schools

Table 62 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 63 and Graph 54 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

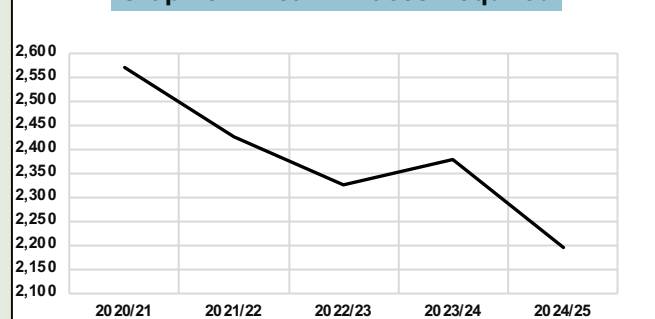
Table 62 – Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Number of Rural Schools	Number of Urban Schools	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 1 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	71	55	16	25	781	8	15,455	13,570	2,207	1,831	376	1,885
Controlled	18	11	7	8	196	4	3,477	3,007	499	422	77	470
Controlled Integrated	4	3	1	1	23	0	544	488	79	59	20	66
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	1	1	0	13	0	399	410	57	60	0	0
Irish Medium	3	1	2	2	9	0	346	316	54	58	0	30
Total	98	71	27	36	1,022	12	20,231	17,791	2,896	2,430	473	2,451

Table 63 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

Academic Birth Year	Newry, Mourne and Down Births	Year 1 Start
2015	2,569	2020/21
2016	2,426	2021/22
2017	2,327	2022/23
2018	2,379	2023/24
2019	2,196	2024/25

Graph 54 - Year 1 Places Required



Overview Comments

- Table 62 shows that overall there are available places in all sectors.
- Table 63 shows a declining birth rate for the area with a 5 year average of 2,379 births per annum. At present there are 2,896 Year 1 places available across the council area. The level of provision will meet current and projected demand.
- Out of a total of 98 primary providers 36 do not meet the minimum enrolment threshold as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy. All 36 schools have been reviewed with area planning action identified in the workstreams below. The outworking of area planning activity taken forward through the 2019-22 Annual Action Plan is currently embedding in the area.
- Included within the primary population of 17,791 pupils are 1,022 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 242 pupils are being met in one of the 12 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 770 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in specialist provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Ten of the 12 schools with specialist provision have a pathway of provision across Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

6.11.3 Post Primary Schools

Table 64 shows the post primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 8 places and total available places across the area. Table 65 and Graph 55 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the post primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

Table 64 – Post Primary Profile 2021/22

Sector	Number of Schools	Urban	Rural	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Years 8-12	Number of Schools Below the SSP Threshold Post-16	Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need	Schools with Specialist Provision	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Approved Admission	Actual Admission	Year 8 Places Available	Total Places Available
Catholic Maintained	10	6	4	6	3	563	7	6,865	7,131	1,275	1,230	45	0
Controlled	5	3	2	4	1	176	3	2,305	2,063	420	379	41	242
Controlled Grammar	1	1	0	0	0	18	0	934	965	128	140	0	0
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	2	0	1	0	103	1	1,020	887	180	136	44	133
Voluntary Grammar	7	7	0	0	0	132	0	5,720	5,991	879	943	0	0
Total	25	19	6	11	4	992	11	16,844	17,037	2,882	2,828	130	375

Table 65 – Projected Births (source: NISRA)

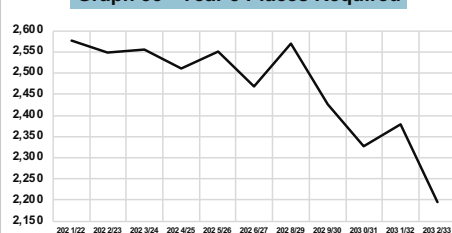
Academic Birth Year	Newry, Mourne and Down Births	Year 8 Start
2010	2,548	2022/23
2011	2,556	2023/24
2012	2,510	2024/25
2013	2,551	2025/26
2014	2,468	2026/27
2015	2,569	2028/29
2016	2,426	2029/30
2017	2,327	2030/31
2018	2,379	2031/32
2019	2,196	2032/33

Table 66 – Movement of Pupils

Transfer Year	Out	In	Home or Outside NI	Gain/Loss
2021	144	266	19	141
2020	134	316	4	186
2019	135	313	11	189
2018	154	349	18	213
2017	115	288	8	181

Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils
In the analysis of enrolment numbers, the cross LGD flow of pupils, which is a natural feature within all LGDs, has been taken into consideration. In reflecting catchment areas and parental choice, Table 66 shows the level of movement of pupils both in and out of the LGD.

Graph 55 - Year 8 Places Required



Overview Comments

- At present there are 2,882 Year 8 places available across the council area with 2,828 places filled in 2021/22. There are sufficient places in the area based on the declining birth rate the demand for Year 8 places within the timeframe of this Strategic Area Plan 2022-27 will decline. However, within the Integrated sector there is a need for places which is addressed in the work streams below.
- 11 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for Years 8-12.
- 4 schools do not meet the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold for post-16, see Section 3 above.
- Included within the post primary population of 17,037 pupils are 992 pupils with a statement of SEN – the needs of 208 pupils are being met in one of the 11 schools with specialist provision with the needs of 784 pupils being met in a mainstream class with support.
- There are geographical areas and sectors within the LGD where there are shortfalls in provision. The work streams below address some of the shortfalls with further provision planned for 2024-27. Ten of the 12 post primary schools with specialist provision require a pathway of provision across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

The statistics for the LGD provide an overview of current provision and projections for special, primary and post primary schools within the area. The work streams below are reflective of the area planning activity planned over the next two years. The level of area planning activity is based on areas of most need and capacity within the area planning partners.

In taking forward area planning activity for the LGD the following have been taken into consideration: the needs of an area, the rurality of the area, the projected demographic trends and previous area planning activity (which has yet to be fully embedded). The section below provides the work streams, short and medium term, identifying area planning activity for the next two years, 2022-24 special, primary, post primary and mainstream specialist provision.

Area Planning will continually review and plan for provision within the area in accordance with the Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision and the Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision.

6.11.4 Short Term Work Streams

All Children's Controlled Integrated PS The Walled Garden 34 King Street Newcastle BT33 0DH	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing the establishment of a new part-time nursery unit at the All Children's Controlled Integrated PS. The school currently has an approved admission number of 29 and approved enrolment number of 203. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 207 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Integrated Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Bunscoil an Iúir 74 Kilmorey Street Newry BT34 2DH	Background / Engagement	
	Bunscoil an Iúir is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 18 and approved enrolment number of 129. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 110 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways
Gaelscoil na mBeann 139A Newcastle Road Kilkeel BT34 4NL (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)	Background / Engagement	
	Gaelscoil na mBeann is proposing the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at the school. The school currently has an approved admission number of 15 and approved enrolment number of 75. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 80 pupils. The school does not currently have nursery provision.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Irish Medium Education	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways

St Colman's PS 43 Sheeptown Road Newry BT34 2LA	Background / Engagement	
	St Colman's PS has experienced an increase in pupil numbers. The school currently has an approved admission number of 25 and approved enrolment number of 174. At September 2021, the school had an enrolment of 228 pupils. The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools will engage with the Board of Governors on area planning options.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Statutory Duty – Access to Places	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Newcastle Area Establish Specialist Provision Crossmaglen Area Warrenpoint Area Ballynahinch Area Downpatrick Area Kilkeel Area Key Stage Pathways	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish specialist provision in the Newcastle area where there is a shortfall or no provision in order to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning and social communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Crossmaglen area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Learning) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Warrenpoint area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Warrenpoint area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (learning) in both primary and post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ballynahinch area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Ballynahinch area; - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Downpatrick area; and - establish key stage pathways for specialist provision (Social Communication) in post primary schools to provide pathways between primary and post primary schools in the Kilkeel area. <p>The Education Authority will engage with the Boards of Governors of schools in the area, and/or relevant managing authority, to ensure that every child and young person has a suitable placement in their nearest suitable school.</p>	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A specialist provision placement which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable mainstream school with specialist provision; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - provides a pathway of provision for all ages and stages of development; and - is inclusive, providing opportunities for education alongside mainstream peers. 	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

6.11.5 Medium Term Work Streams

Strangford and Kilclief Area Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is proposing to review maintained primary school provision in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Primary pupils being taught in composite classes of more than two year groups	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Ballynahinch/Crossgar /Saintfield Area Non-Selective Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority and Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are proposing to review non-selective post primary school provision in the Ballynahinch/Crossgar/Saintfield area to address sustainability and consolidate provision. The Education Authority, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education are and will continue to engage with the Boards of Governors of post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12 Sixth forms with fewer than 100 pupils that cannot offer a full range of courses	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing across all sectors Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Newry Area Post Primary Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Trustees are proposing to review post primary school provision in Newry City to address sustainability and consolidate provision. The Education Authority, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Trustees will engage with the Boards of Governors of post primary schools in the area.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	Post primary sustainable schools policy threshold Years 8-12	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment
Special Schools Special School Provision	Background / Engagement	
	The Education Authority is proposing to review special schools to develop solutions to meet demand and identify capacity for repurposed areas to inform an accommodation planning programme. The Education Authority and special schools will work in partnership to meet current and projected demand.	
	Statutory Duty / Ministerial Priority	Key Theme(s)
	A special school placement which: - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable access to excellent provision and meets the individual needs of the child or young person; - is either in a single 3-19 school or through collaborative 3-19 provision; and - is responsive to changing educational, physical and medical needs.	Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Promote cooperation, collaboration and sharing between all special schools and specialist provision in mainstream schools across all sectors (as appropriate) Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment

Section 7 Area Planning Contacts

The Area Planning Local Group membership has been revised for September 2022 with the main links and contact within each of the area planning partners identified below:

	Contact Person (s)	E-mail Address (s)	Contact Number (s)
Catholic Schools' Trustee Service (CSTS)	Pauline Martin - Trustee Support Officer	P.Martin@csts.st-marys-belfast.ac.uk	028 9026 8323 / 07741 547613
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG)	Peadar Ó Cuinneagáin	pocuinneagain@comhairle.org	028 9089 7314 / 07759 839430
Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC)	Andrew Brown – Schools' Support Officer Jill Brown – Schools' Support Officer Derek Harkness – Schools' Support Officer Heather McKenzie – Schools' Support Officer Richard Reid – Schools' Support Officer Tracey Woods – Schools' Support Officer	Andrew.Brown@csscni.org.uk Jill.Brown@csscni.org.uk Derek.Harkness@csscni.org.uk Heather.McKenzie@csscni.org.uk Richard.Reid@csscni.org.uk Tracey.Woods@csscni.org.uk	028 9531 3049 / 07860 828 049 028 9531 3040 / 07860 828 053 028 9531 3049 / 07395 283 209 028 9531 3048 / 07739 743 290 028 9531 3040 / 07938 485 903 028 9531 3042 / 07860 528 004
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)	Majella Corrigan - Director of Planning & School Provision Edel Teague - Area Planning Programme Manager	Majella.corrigan@ccmsschools.com Edel.teague@ccmsschools.com	028 9201 3014 028 9201 3014
Education Authority (EA)	Michael McConkey – Head of Area Planning Sinead McCartan – Area Planning Lead Officer Nigel Freeburn – Lead Officer for Special Education Area Planning	Michael.McConkey@eani.org.uk Sinead.McCartan@eani.org.uk Nigel.Freeburn@eani.org.uk	07973 634021 07733 435010 07766 387122
Governing Bodies Association (GBA)	Nuala O'Neil – Chief Executive Officer Geraldine Pettigrew – Area Planning Consultant Dermot Mullan – Area Planning Consultant Dr Helen McNally – Schools' Support Officer	Nuala@gbani.org mtgpettigrew@gmail.com dermot.mullan@gmail.com Helen@gbani.org	028 9031 2259
Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)	Lorna McAlpine - Senior Development Officer Alastair Rowan - Development Officer Emma Hume - Development Officer Lynn Johnston - Development Officer	lmcalpine@nicie.org.uk arowan@nicie.org.uk ehume@nicie.org.uk ljohnston@nicie.org.uk	028 9097 2910 028 9097 2910 028 9097 2910 028 9097 2910
Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC)	Peter Hamill, Secretary to the TRC	edunorth@ireland.anglican.org	028 9082 8860

Appendix: Useful Links

Area Planning Guidance, Terms of Reference, Minister Speeches	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/area-planning-overview
Schools for the Future: A policy for Sustainable Schools	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/sustainable-schools
Sustainable Schools Policy User Guide (SSP User Guide)	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/sustainable-schools-policy-user-guide-february-2022
Development Proposal Circular 2017/09	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201709-guidance-publication-development-proposal-updated-september-2018
Amalgamation Guidance Circular 2018/15	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201815-guidance-implementation-approved-development-proposals-school-amalgamations
Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Sustainable Provision	https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning
Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision	
Annual Area Profiles	https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/annual-area-profiles
School Enrolments	DE statistics and research
Admissions and Applications	EA website

