



**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

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Section 1 Introduction | 3 |
| Section 2 Overview | 4 |
| Section 3 Post-16 Provision | 7 |
| Section 4 Area Planning Research Activity 2022-24 | 8 |
| Section 5 Northern Ireland – Overview Demographic Trends | 9 |
| Section 6 Local Government District – Data and Proposed Work Streams | 12 |
| 6.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area | 13 |
| 6.2 Ards and North Down Borough Council Area | 20 |
| 6.3 Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area | 27 |
| 6.4 Belfast City Council Area | 35 |
| 6.5 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area | 43 |
| 6.6 Derry City and Strabane District Council Area | 50 |
| 6.7 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area | 57 |
| 6.8 Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area | 64 |
| 6.9 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Area | 70 |
| 6.10 Mid Ulster District Council Area | 77 |
| 6.11 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area | 84 |
| Section 7 Area Planning Contacts | 91 |
| Appendix: Useful Links | 92 |

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

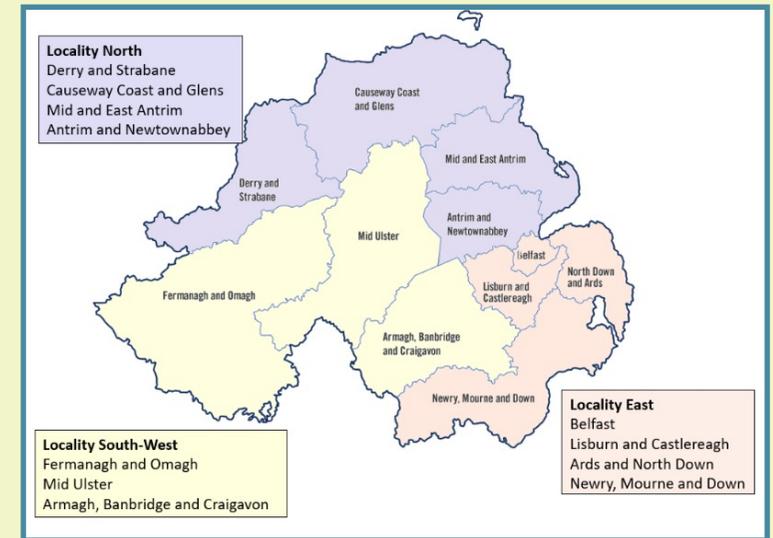
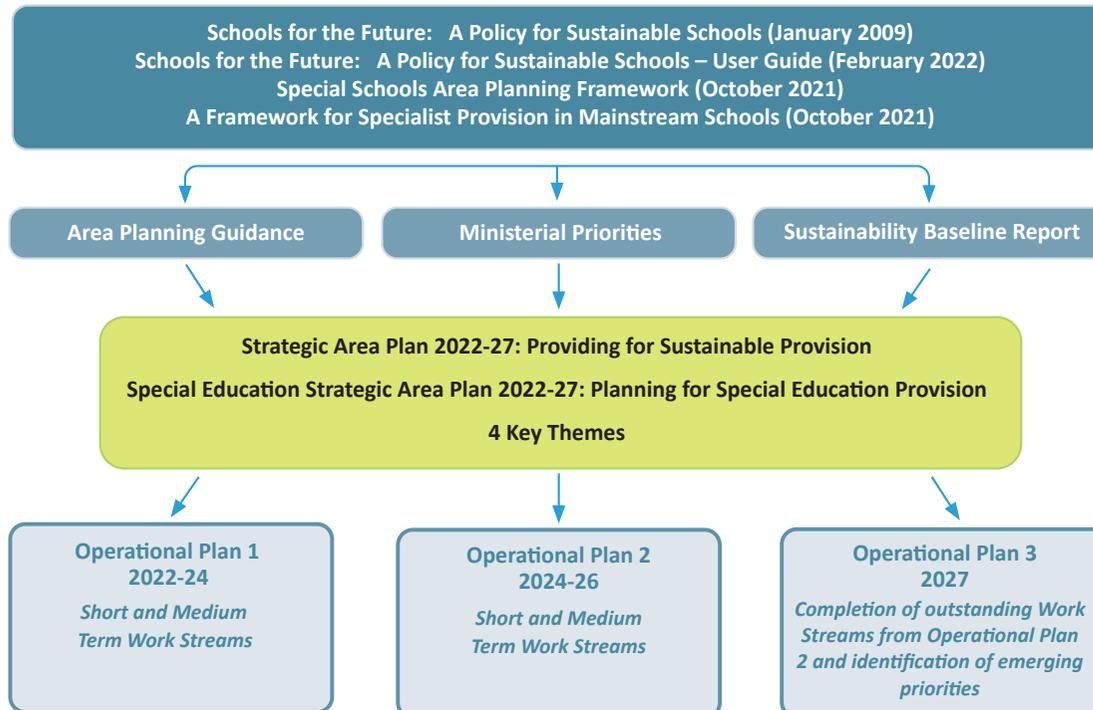
To achieve the vision of the Plans, Operational Plans will translate the vision into the practical workings of Area Planning and enact changes to the current school provision.

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

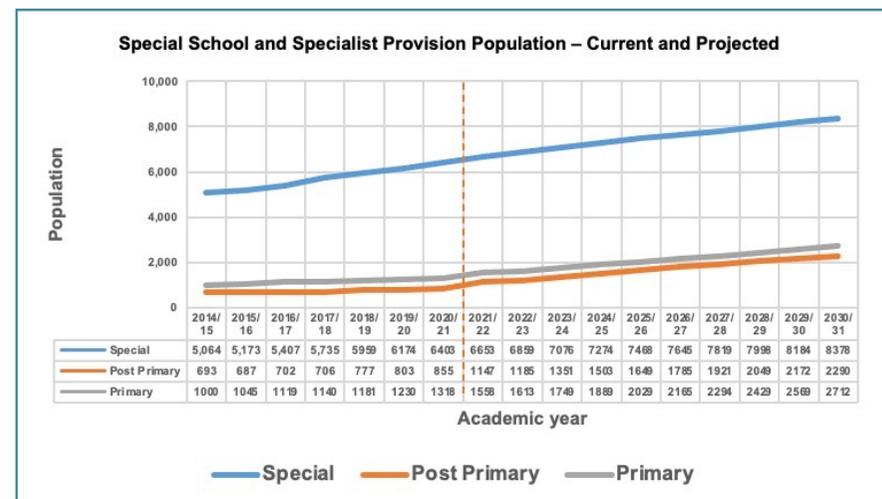


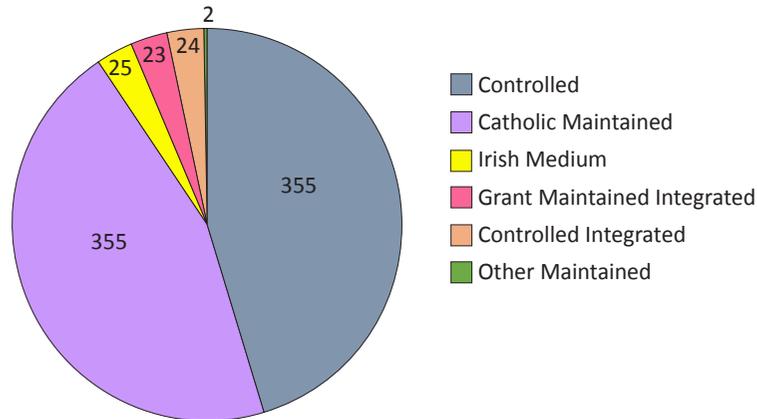
Table A - Number and Type of Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools

| 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 |

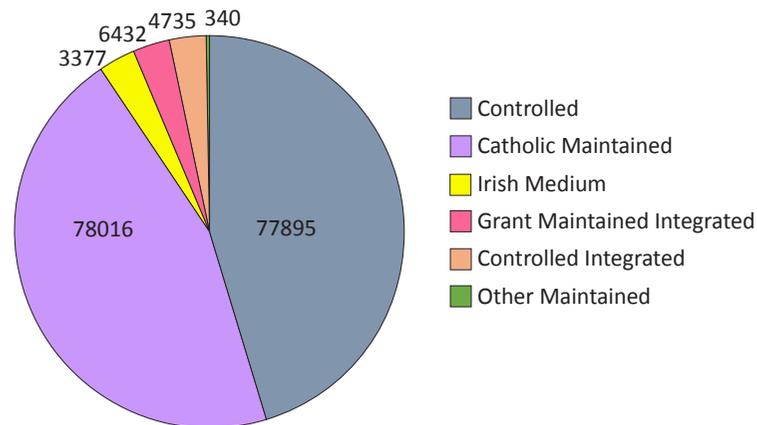
5.2 Primary Schools

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.

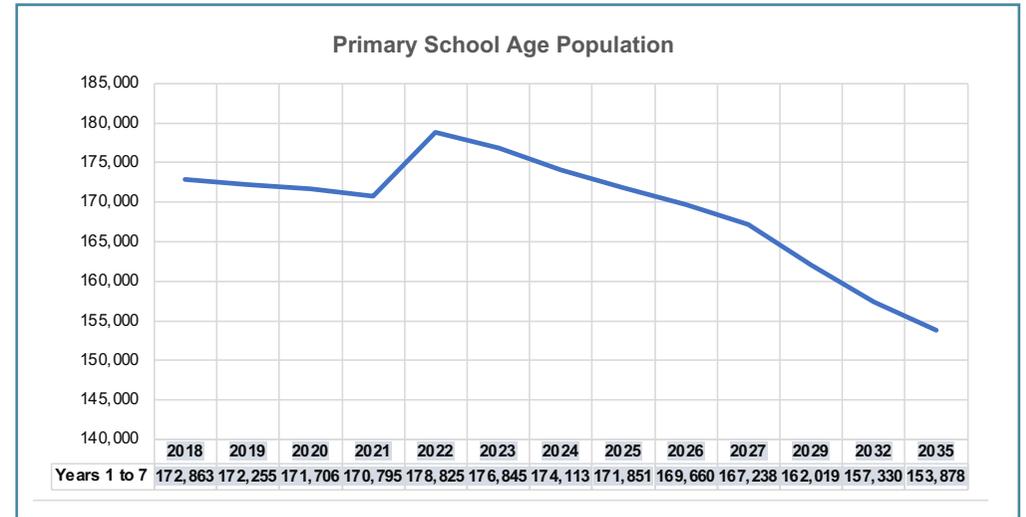
Primary Schools by Sector: 2021/22



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 |

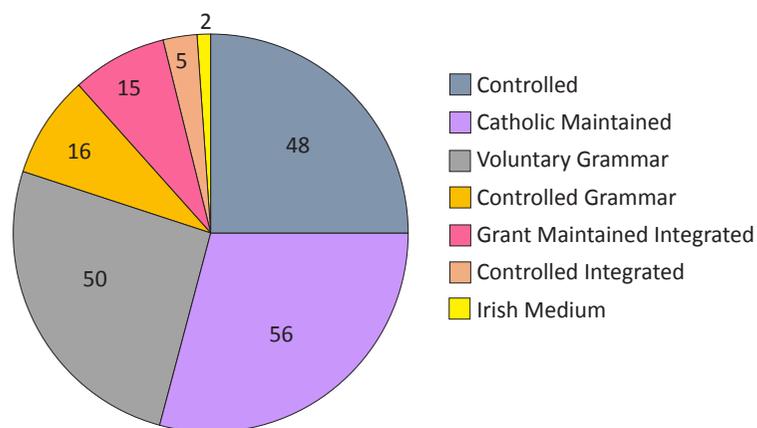
Available Places
(not adjusted for supernumerary pupils)
31,214

| 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 |

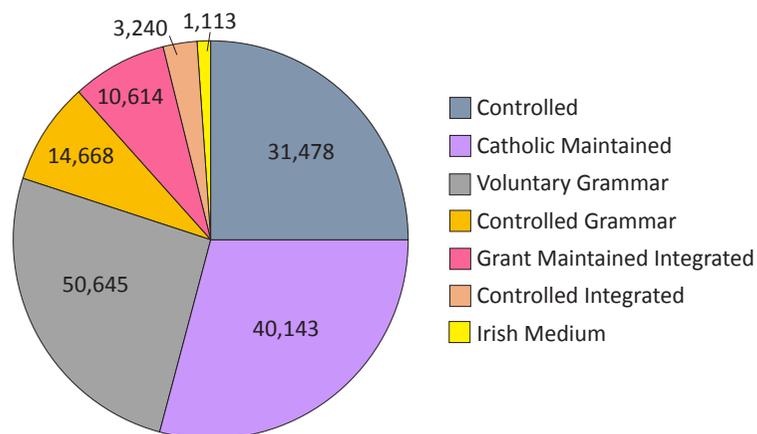
5.3 Post Primary Schools

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.

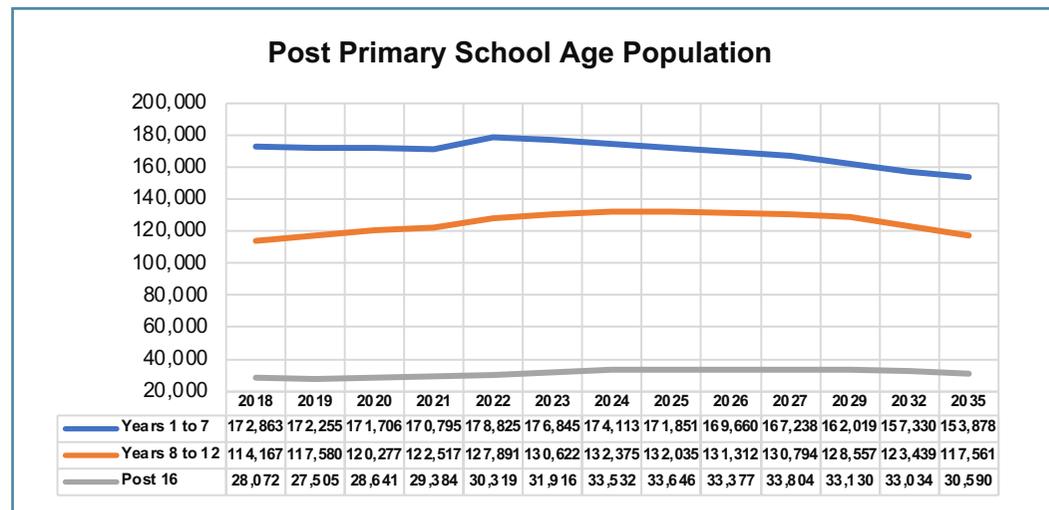
Post Primary Schools by Sector: 2021/22



Post Primary School Pupils by Sector: 2021/22



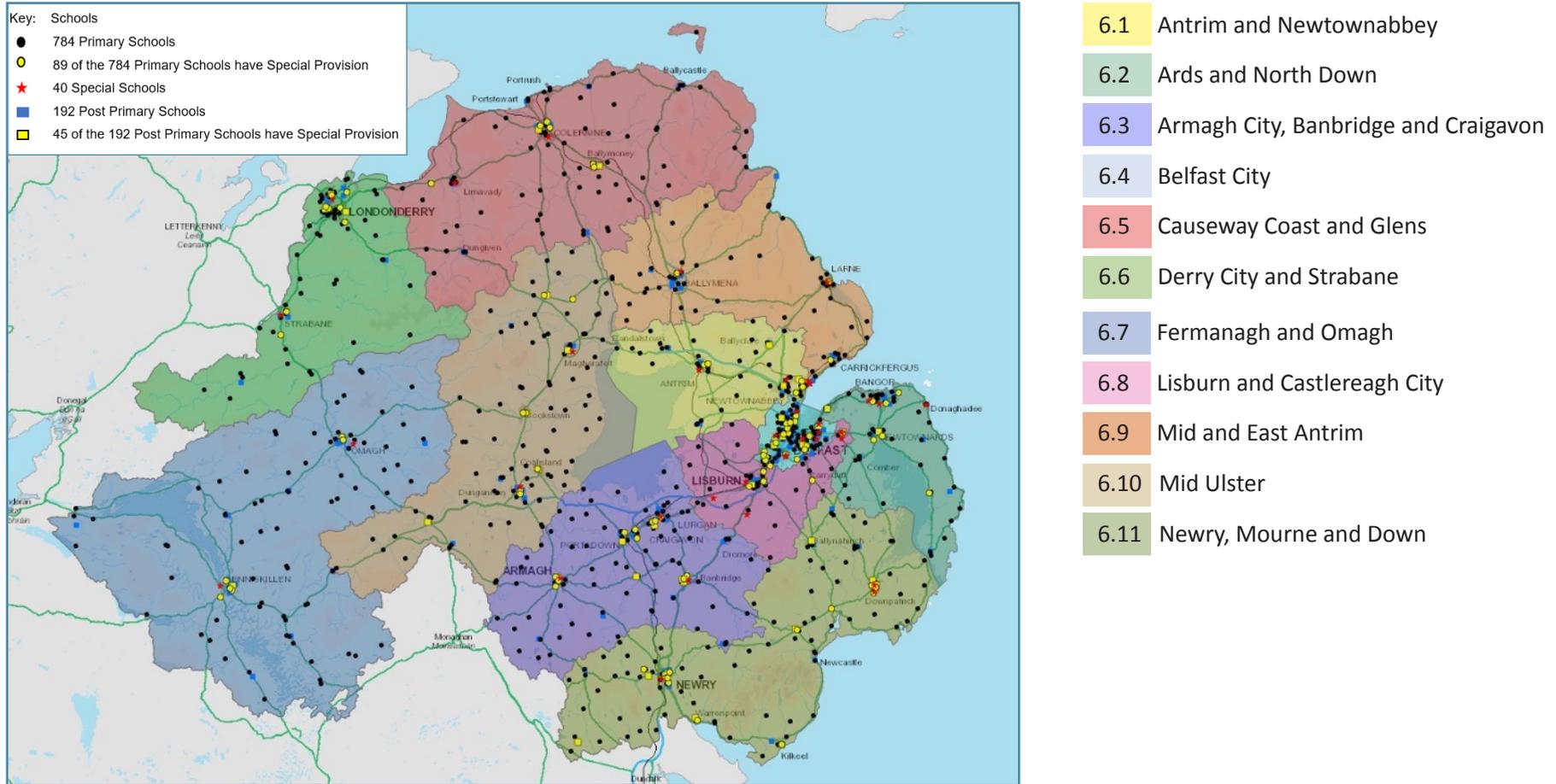
Graph C - Post Primary Schools - Historical, Current and Projected Enrolments



| 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

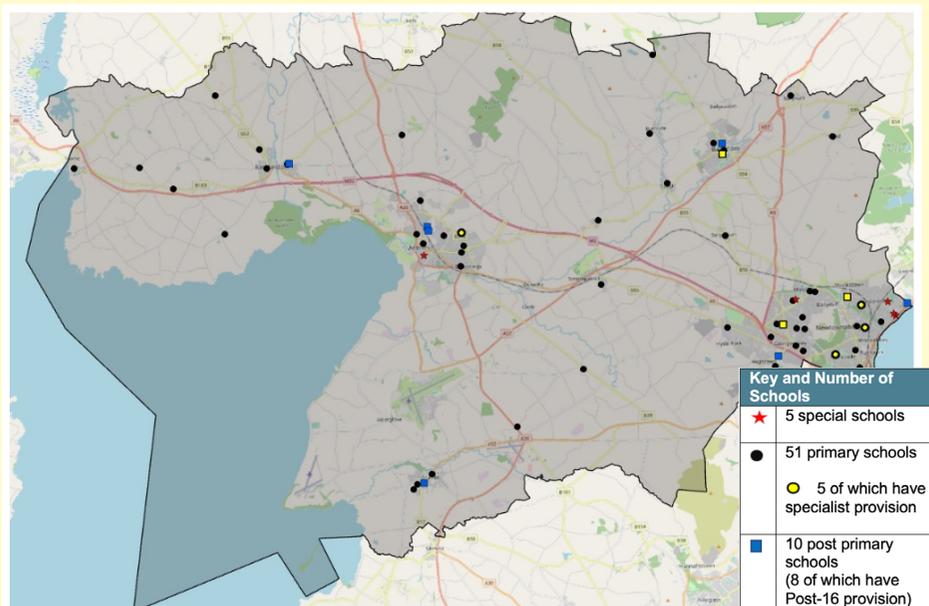
Operational Plan 1 reflects the actions now to be taken forward for the period September 2022 to August 2024.



6.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area

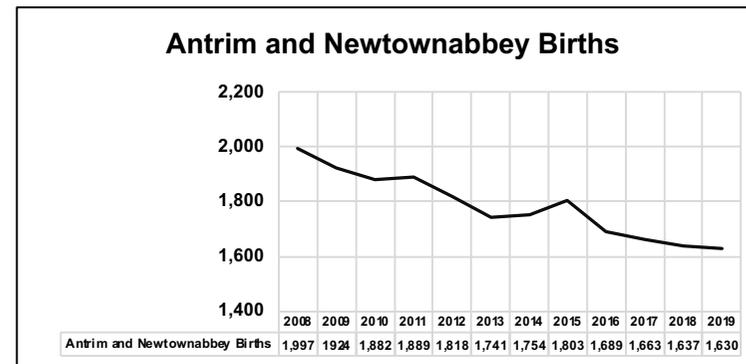
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council covers an area of 728 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in two main urban areas, Antrim and Newtownabbey and the towns of Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown. Within the LGD, there are 40 wards, 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

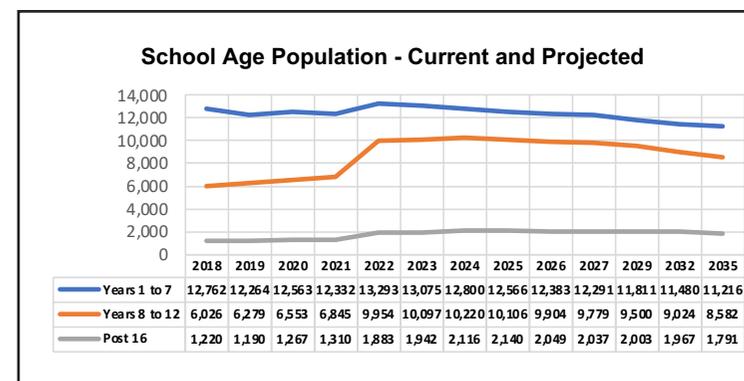


Graph 1 below shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 1 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,997 to 1,630 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary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



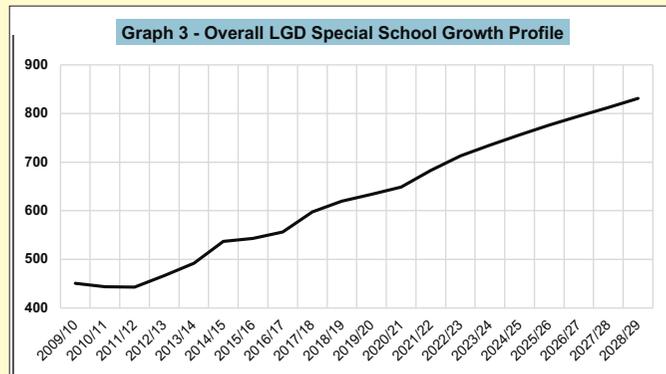
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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

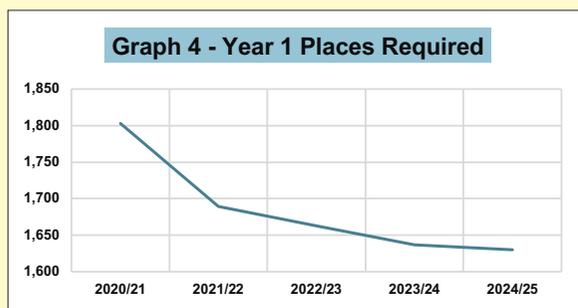
- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the fall in births within the council area, as shown in Graph 3, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the increasing 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.

| 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 |

| 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 |



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 |

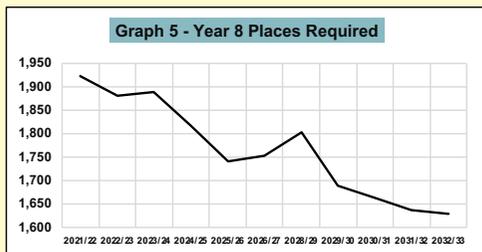


Table 6 - Movement of Pupils

| 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 |

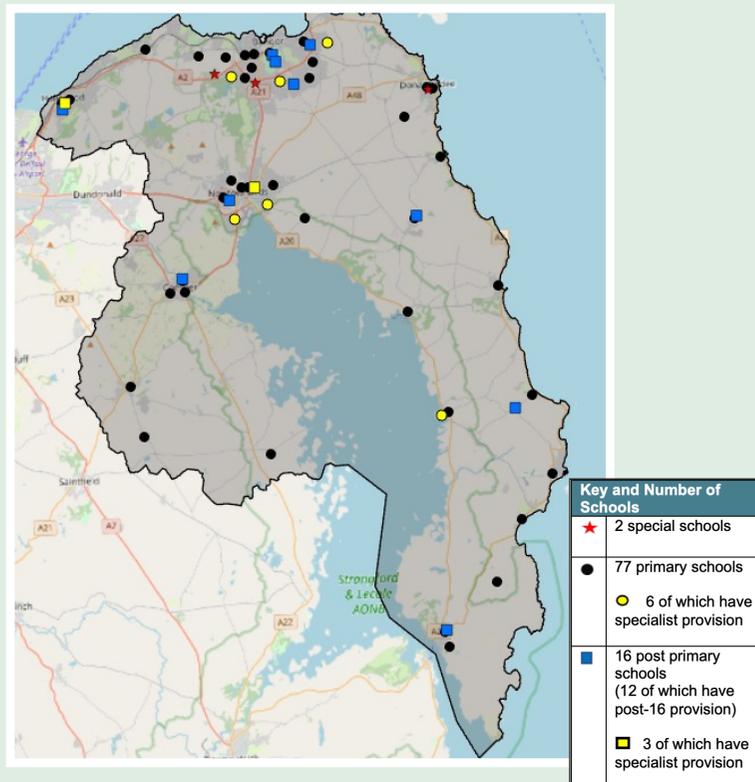
6.1.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Naiscoil Dún Sailí/ 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

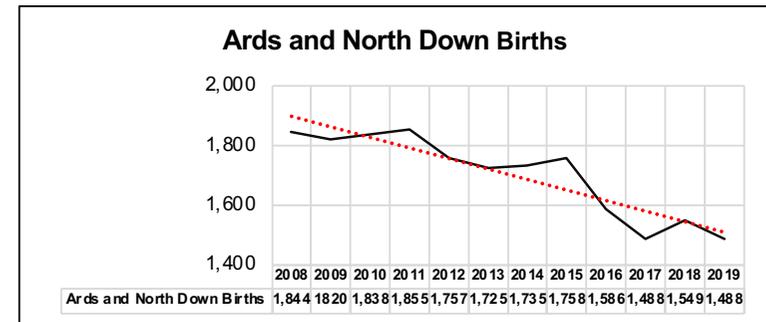
Ards and North Down Borough Council covers an area of 591 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in two main urban areas, Bangor and Newtownards and the towns of Comber, Donaghadee and Holywood. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 3 of 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

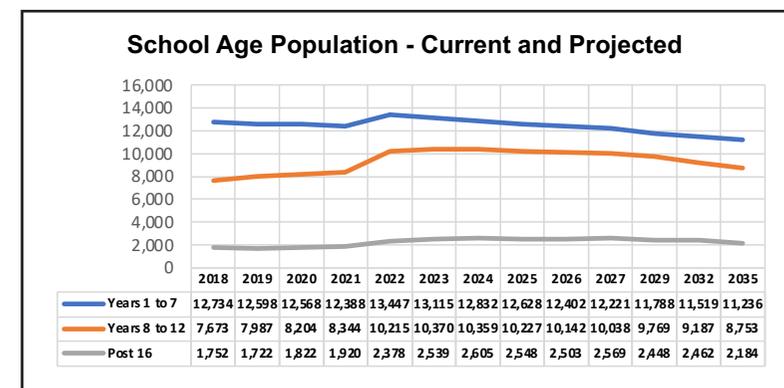


Graph 6 below shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 6 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,844 to 1,488 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary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

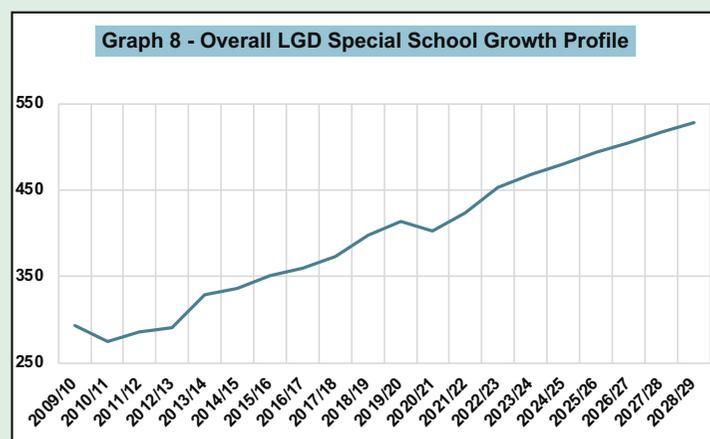


The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

| 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.

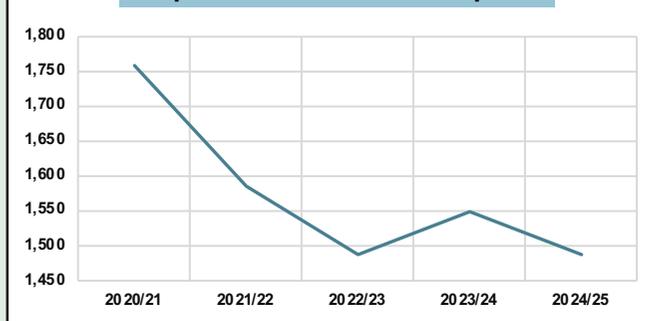
Table 8 – Primary Profile 2021/22

| 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 |

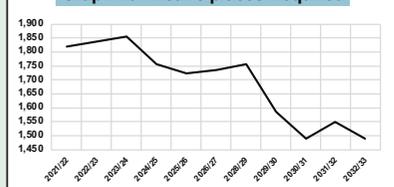
Table 12 – Movement of Pupils

| 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 Maximise resources and sustainability 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.

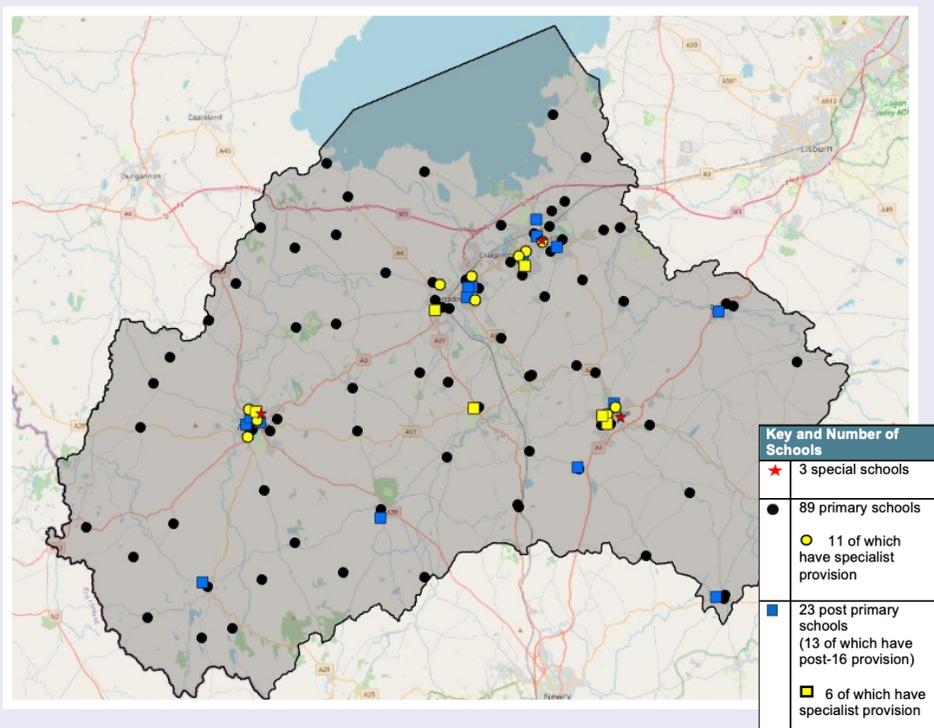
For post primary provision, a number of Development Proposals for the area have been approved or are awaiting a Ministerial decision which will impact area planning activity for post primary schools. Therefore, it is not proposed to undertake any further Development Proposal activity at present. The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

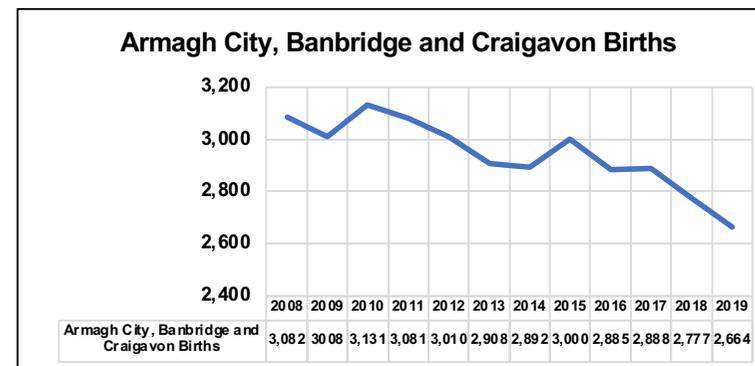
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council covers an area of 1,458 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in a number of urban areas – Armagh City, Banbridge, Craigavon Urban area, Dromore, Keady, Markethill and Tandragee. Within 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

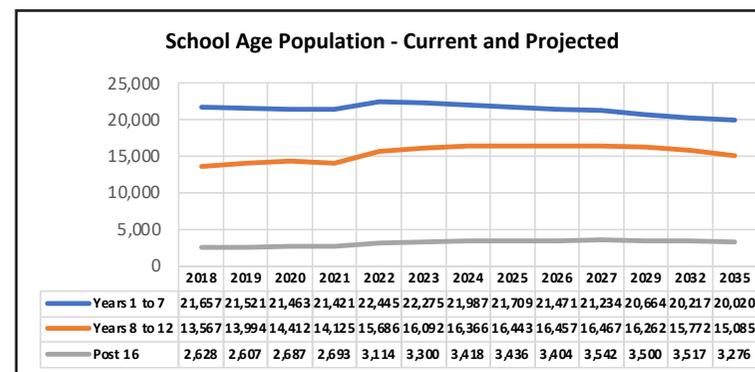


Graph 11 shows a declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 11 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 3,082 to 2,664 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age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



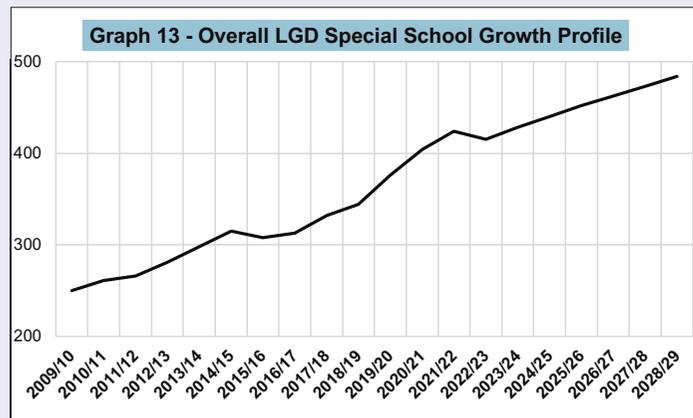
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

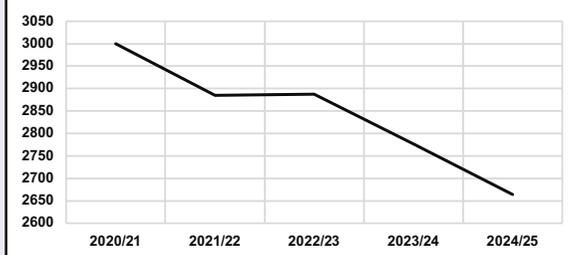
Table 14 – Primary Profile 2021/22

| 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 Establish Specialist Provision | Background / Engagement | |
| | <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 Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p> |
| Banbridge Area Key Stage Pathways | Background / Engagement | |
| | <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 Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p> |

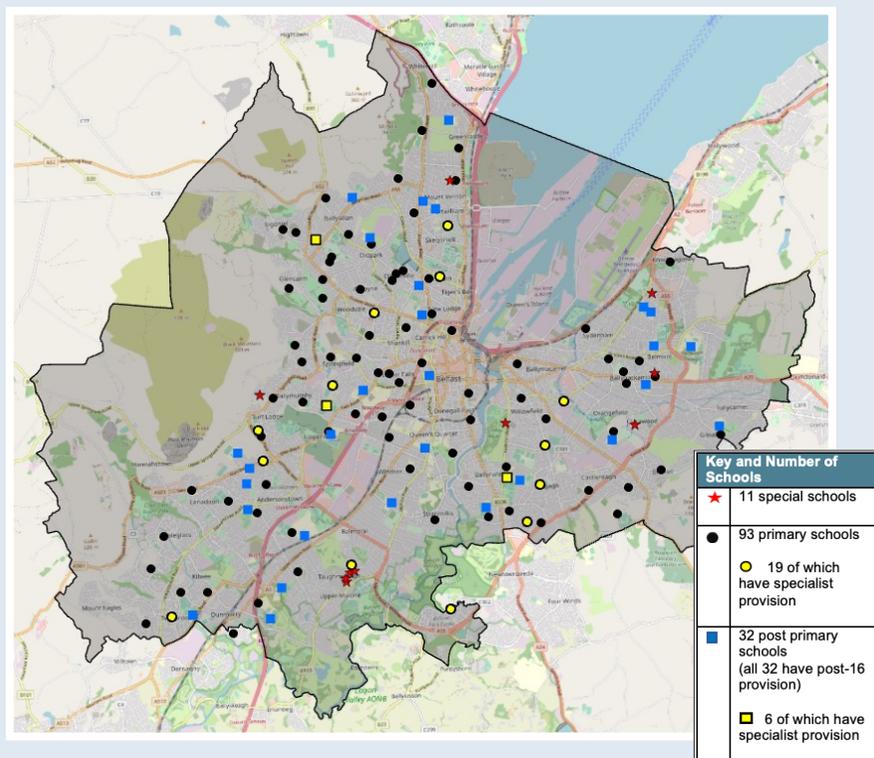
6.3.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 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 Cladmore 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: - 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

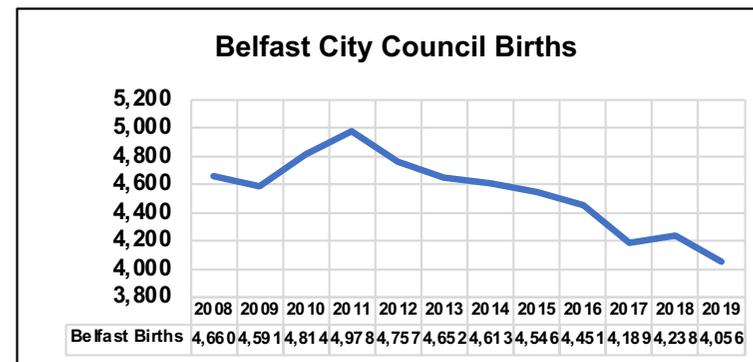
Belfast City Council covers approximately 120 square kilometres with the population residing in the core urban area of Belfast City along with smaller settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview. Within the LGD there are 60 wards, 24 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: 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

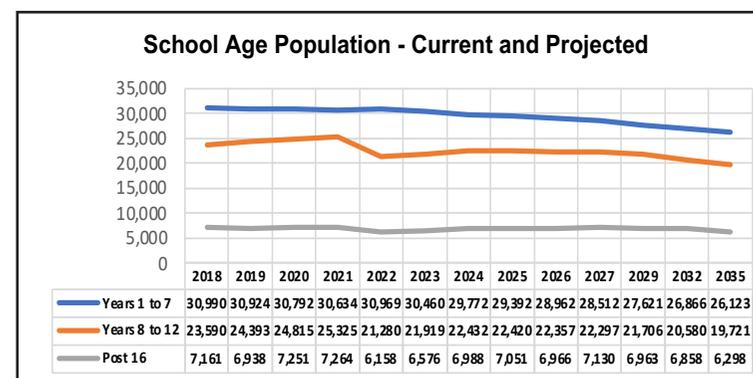


Graph 16 below shows the declining birth trend for the LGD (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 16 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 4,660 to 4,056 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary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

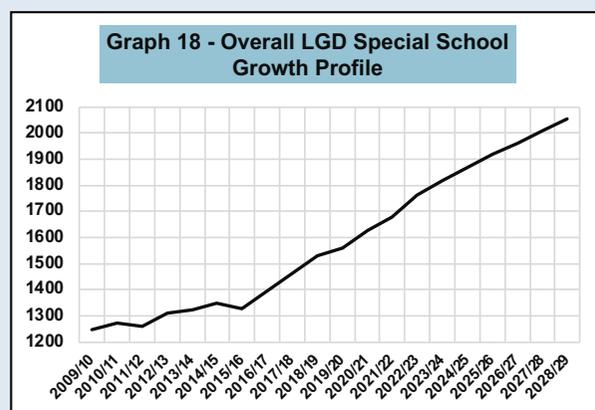


The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

| 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 |

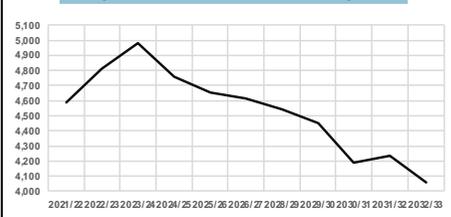
Table 24 – Movement of Pupils

| 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 Fuisseoige 40 Gardenmore Road Belfast BT17 0DF | Background / Engagement | |
| | Scoil na Fuisseoige 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 Maximise resources and sustainability 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 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</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 Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p> |

6.4.5 Medium Term Work Streams

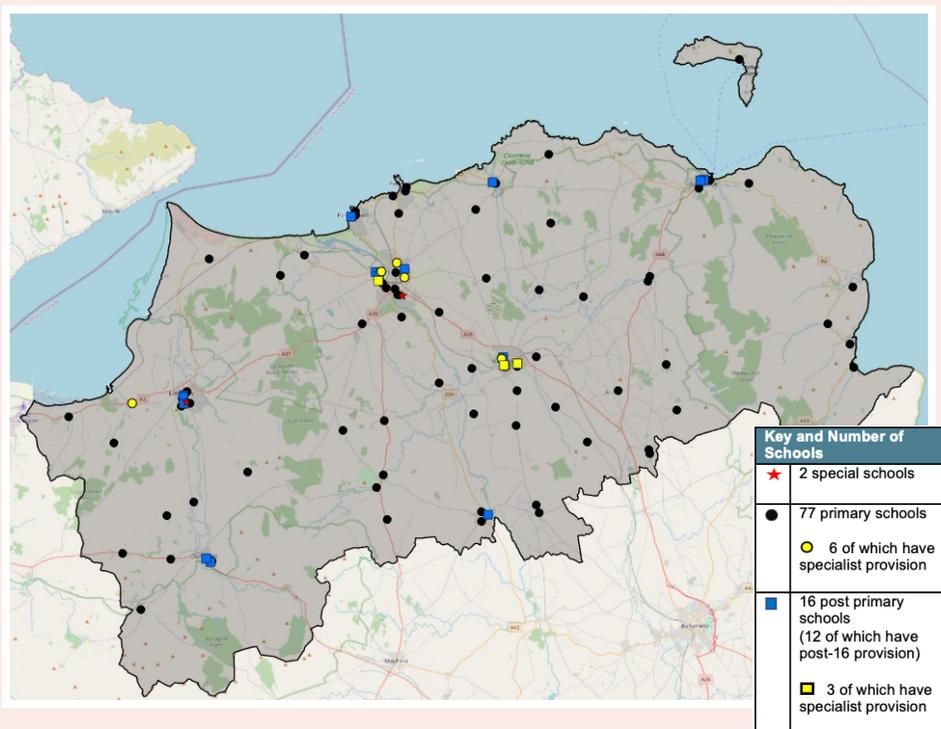
| | | |
|--|--|---|
| East Belfast, South East Belfast and Castlereagh - Integrated Education Primary Provision (carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22) | Background / Engagement | |
| | Establish a new Integrated primary school to meet the needs of pupils in the East Belfast, South East Belfast 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 |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Naiscoil 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

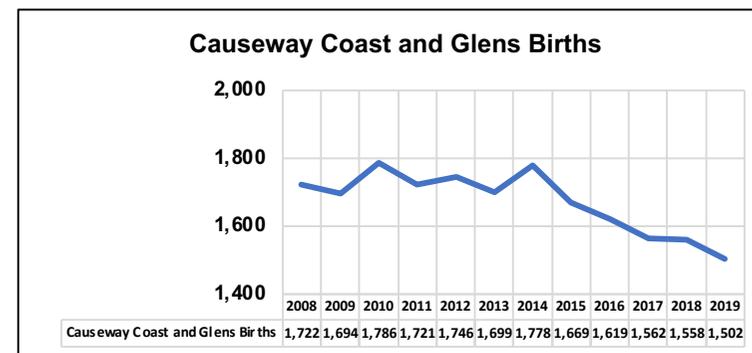
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council covers an area of 1,980 square kilometres with the population residing in the main towns of Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady alongside a number of smaller towns and villages. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 8 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Cooleasan, 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

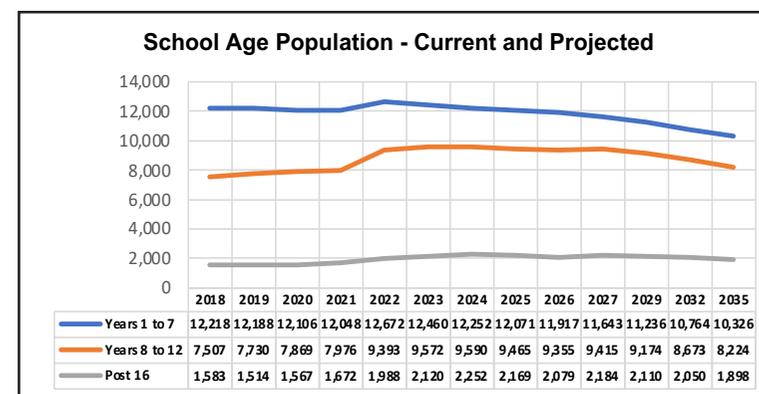


Graph 21 shows the births showing a declining trend (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 21 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,722 to 1,502 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age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

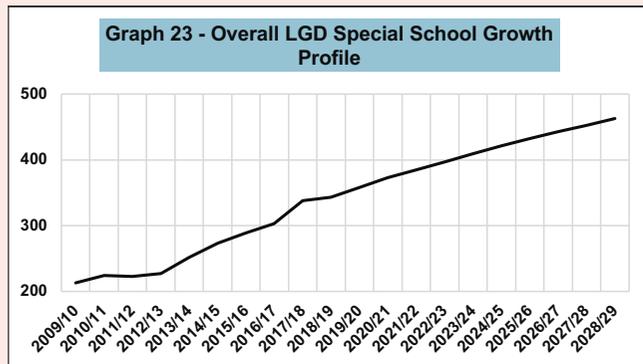


The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

| 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

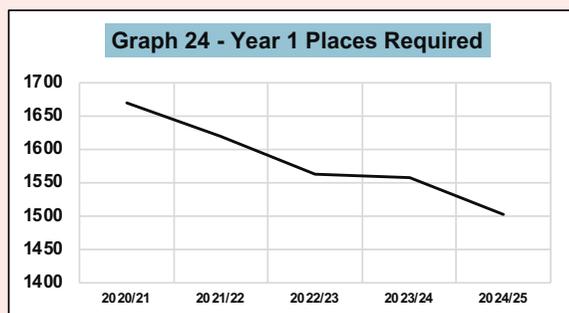
- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 21, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the 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.

| 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 |

| 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 |



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.

| 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 |

| 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 |

| 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.

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

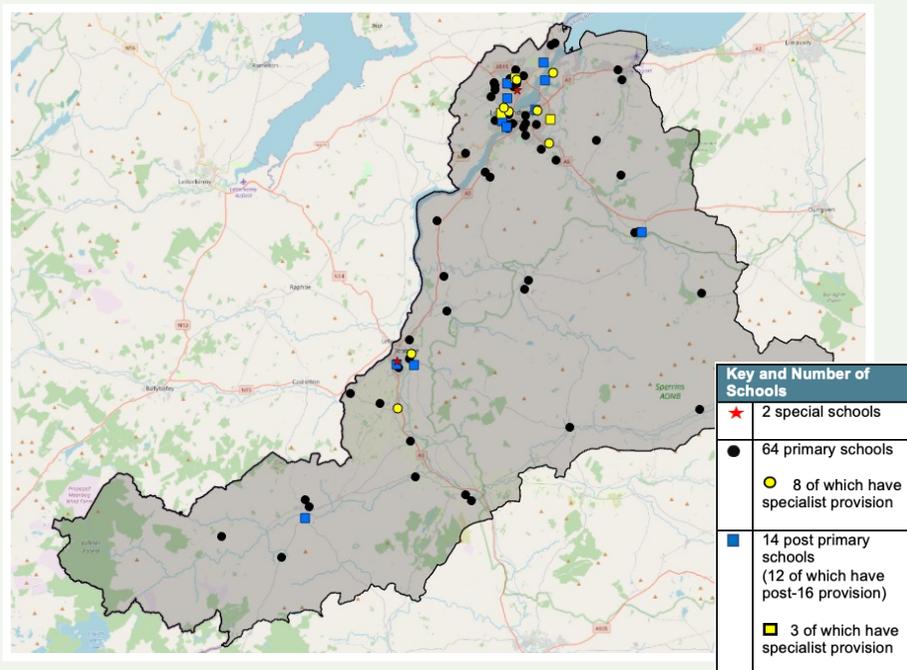
For post primary provision, a number of Development Proposals for the area are awaiting a Ministerial decision which will impact area planning activity for post primary schools. The Area Planning Locality Group, North will continue to review primary and post primary provision within the area.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area | 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) |
| Primary Schools | 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

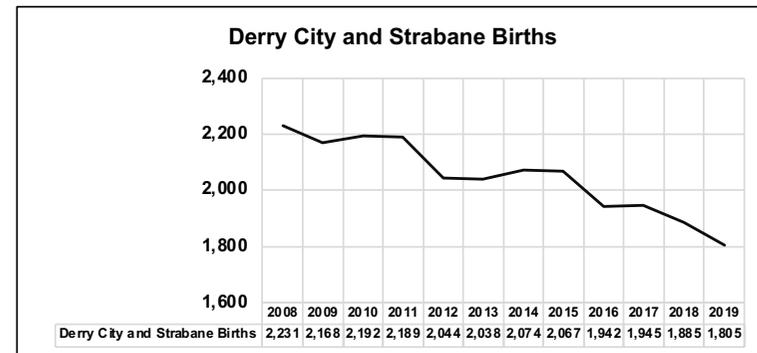
Derry City and Strabane District Council covers 1,245 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Derry City, Strabane alongside smaller towns of Castlederg, Newtownstewart and Sion Mills. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 21 of which are in the top 100 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

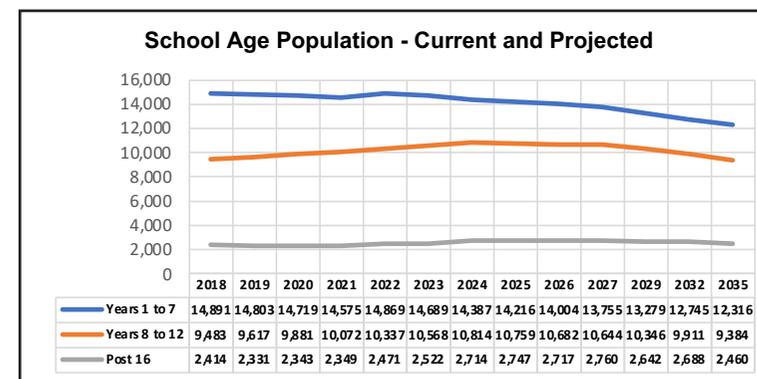


Graph 26 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 26 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,231 to 1,805 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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

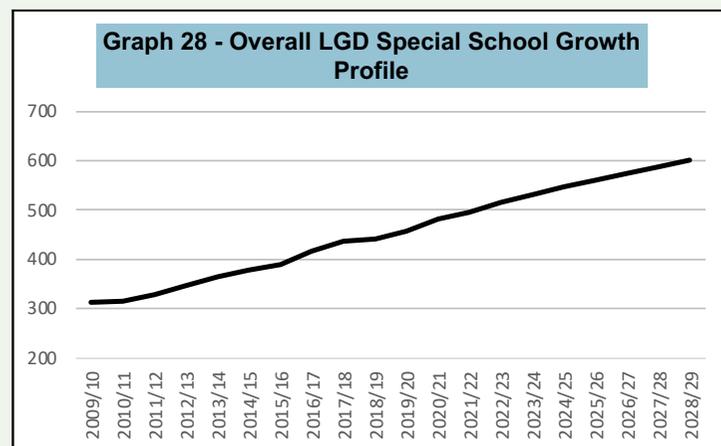


The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

| 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.

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 |

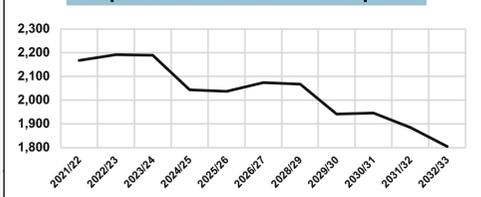
Table 36 – Movement of Pupils

| 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) |
| <p>A specialist provision placement which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is available at a pupil's nearest suitable special school; - provides pupils with equitable 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 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</p> | |
| Derry/Londonderry and Strabane Establish Specialist Provision Key Stage Pathways | Background / Engagement | |
| | <p>The Education Authority is proposing to:</p> <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) |
| <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 Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment</p> | |

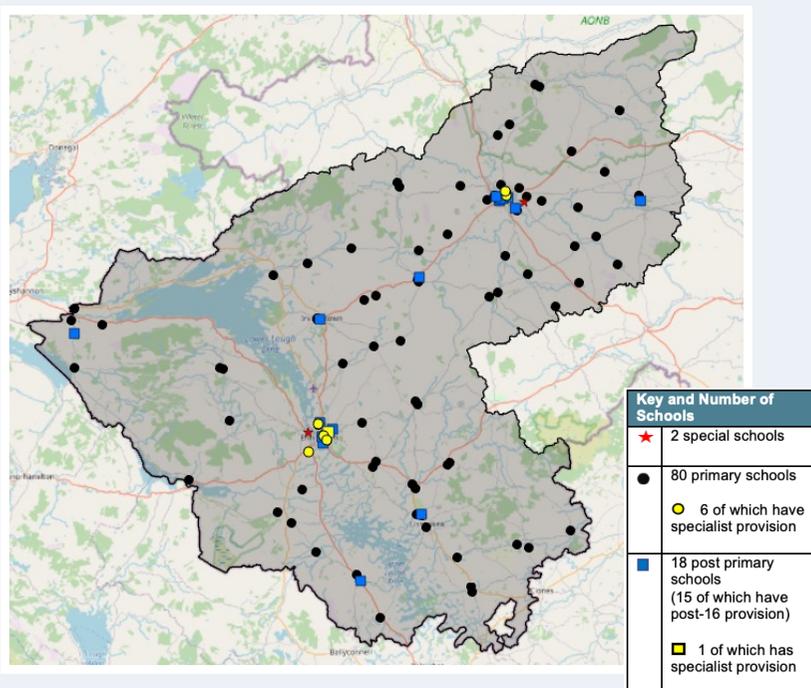
6.6.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 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

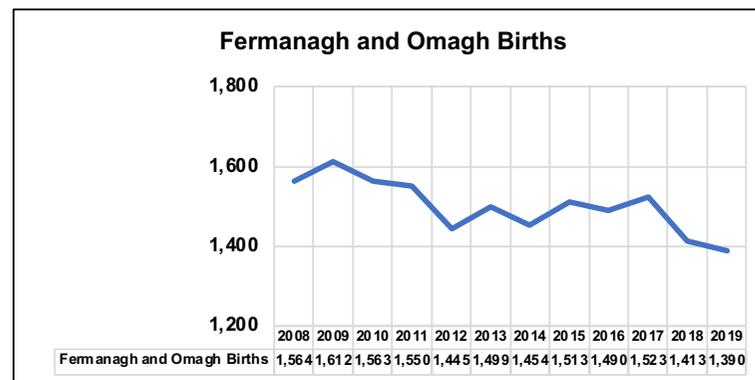
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council covers an area of 3,000 square kilometres and is largely a rural area with two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh. The majority of the population lives outside of the two towns and are spread across a wide rural area in a mix of villages and small settlements. Within 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

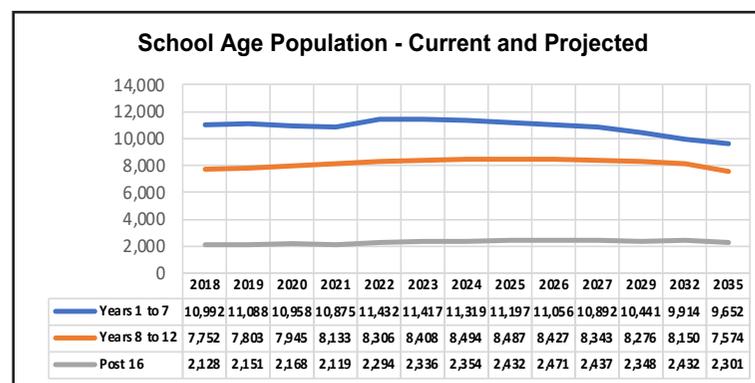


Graph 31 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 31 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,564 to 1,390 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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



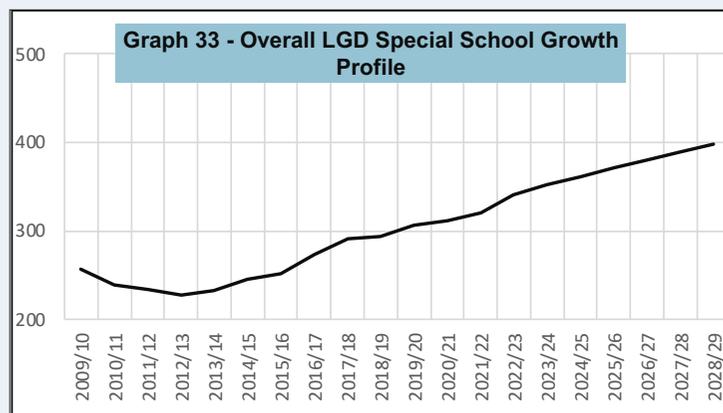
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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

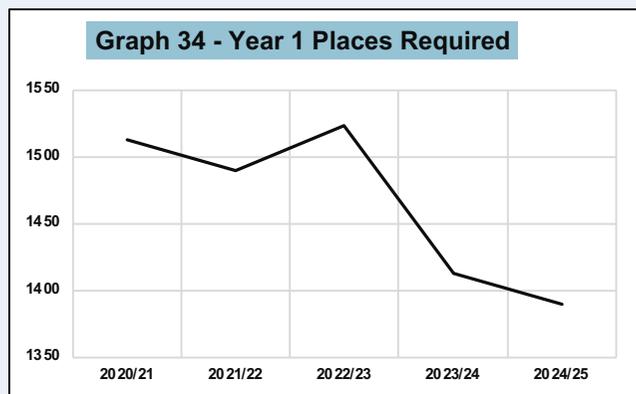
Table 38 shows the primary provision in the LGD and details the level of available Year 1 places and total available places across the area. Table 39 and Graph 34 show that over the next number of years, based on projected births, the primary school enrolment numbers will experience a decline.

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 |



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 |

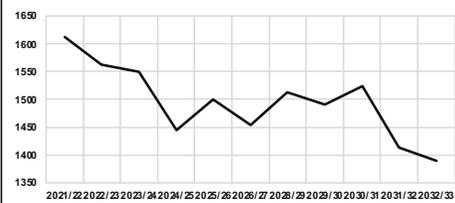
Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

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 | |
| | <p>The Education Authority is proposing to:</p> <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) |
| | <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. | Increase parity of access for all to appropriate pathways Maximise resources and sustainability Inform strategic infrastructure planning and investment |

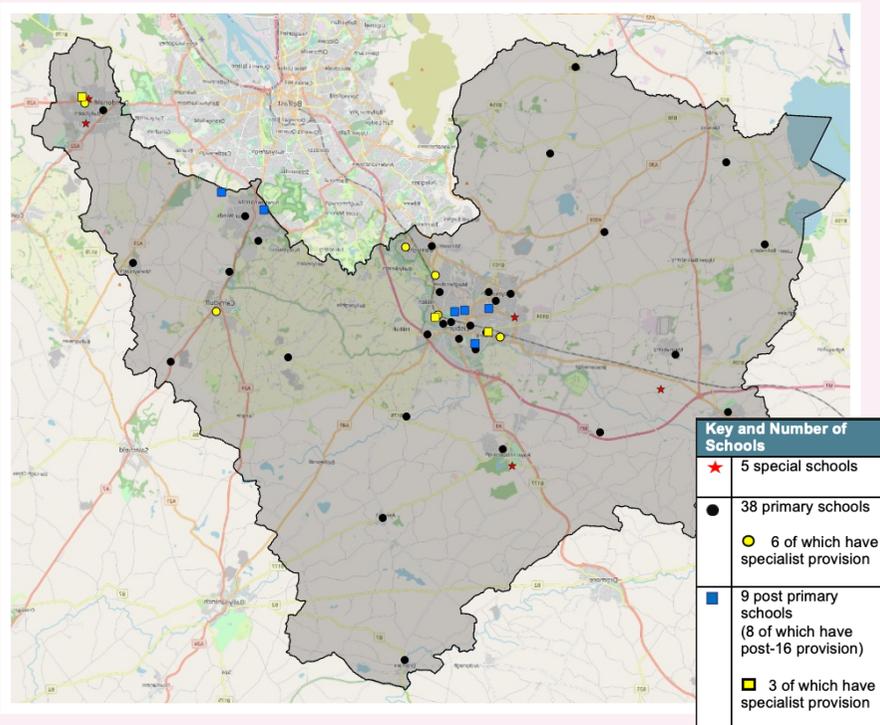
6.7.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Ballygawley Area Primary Provision <small>(work stream also spans into Mid Ulster District Council Area)</small> | 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 <small>(work stream also spans across Mid Ulster and Derry City and Strabane District Council Areas)</small> | 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

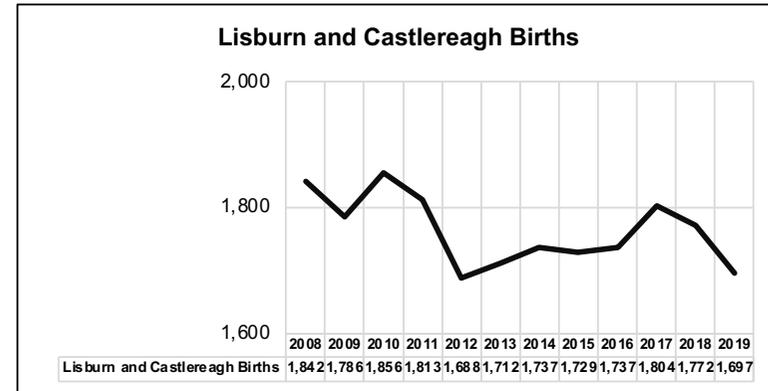
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council covers an area of 518 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Lisburn City, Greater Urban Areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh and smaller towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 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

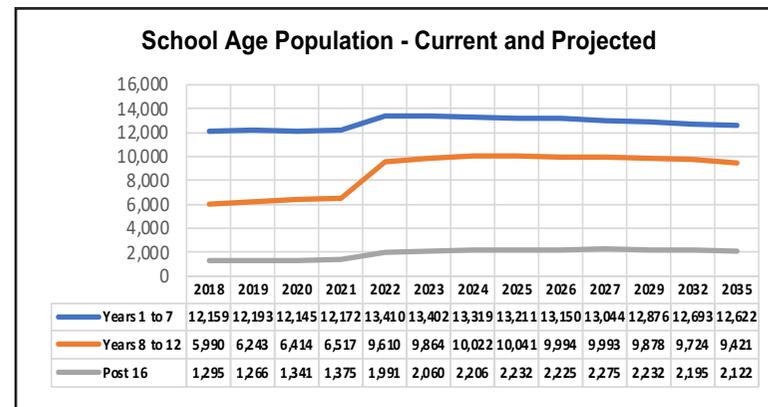


Graph 36 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 36 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,842 to 1,697 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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



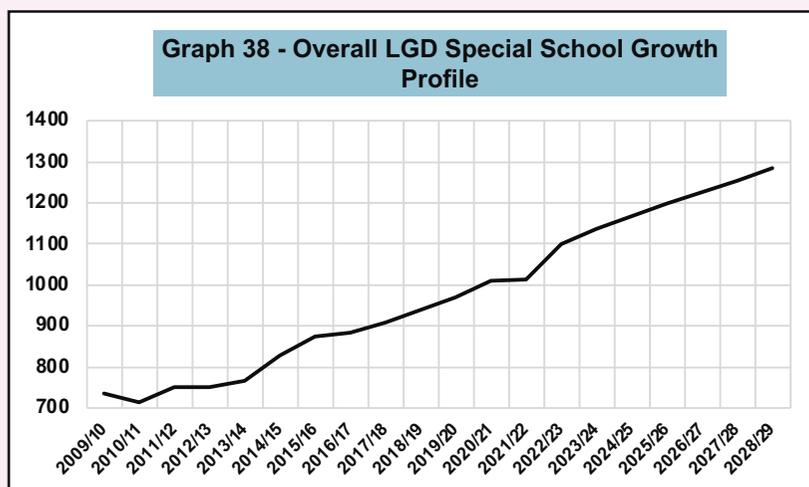
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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

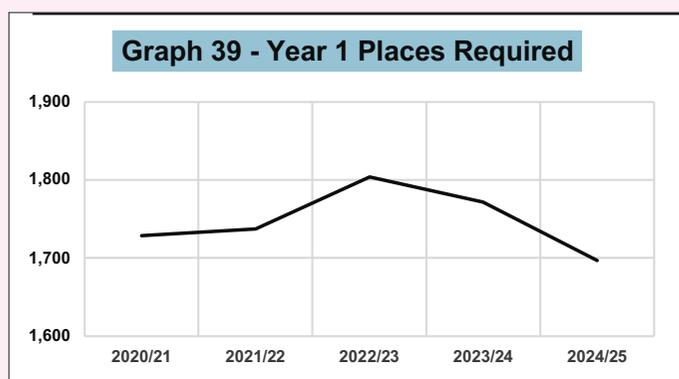
- There has been considerable growth in the number of pupils attending special schools within the area. Despite the declining birth rate within the council area, as shown in Graph 36, there is projected growth in the need for special school places. Work is ongoing to provide accommodation to meet the 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.

| 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 |

| 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 |



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 |

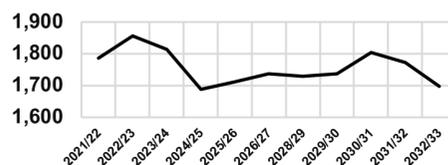
Cross LGD Flow: Movement of Pupils

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.

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.

Graph 40 - Year 8 Places Required



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

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Naiscoil 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.

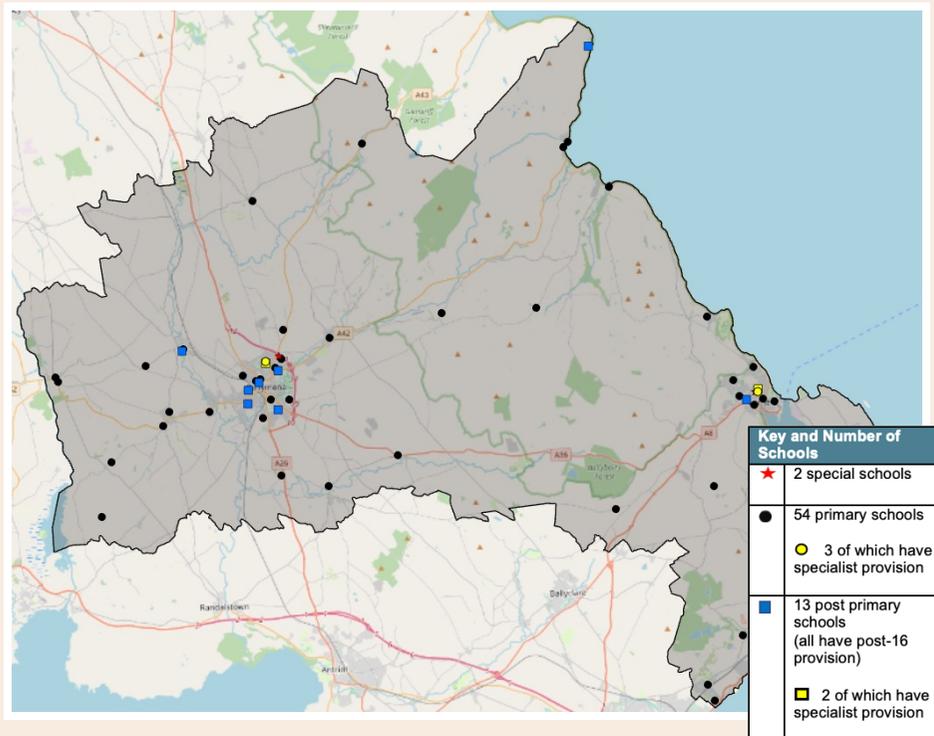
For post primary provision, all schools meet the Sustainable Schools Policy threshold for Years 8-12, for Post 16 see 3.2 above. Therefore, it is not proposed to undertake any further area planning activity at present. The Area Planning Locality Group, East will continue to monitor primary and post primary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

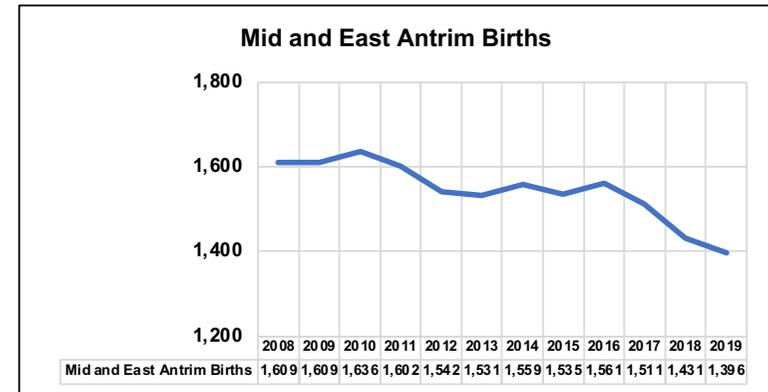
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council covers an area of 1,045 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the main urban areas of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne and smaller towns and villages. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 6 of which are in the top 100 most deprived as measured by NIMDM2017: Ballykeel, Fair Green, Castle Demesne, Sunnyslans, 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

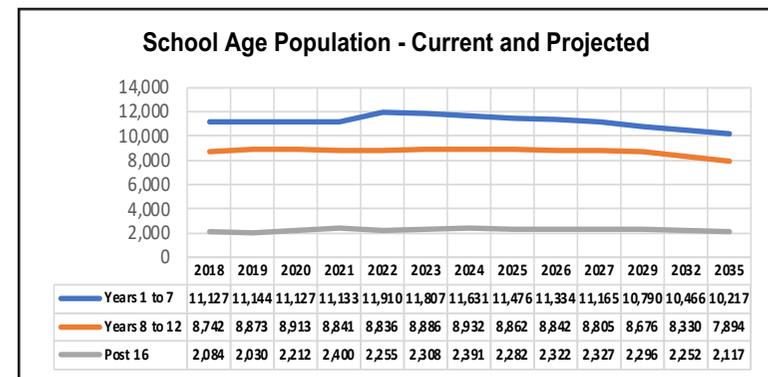


Graph 41 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 41 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 1,609 to 1,396 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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



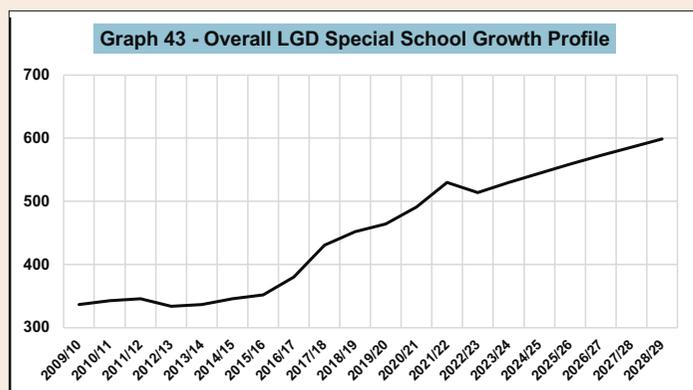
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

| 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 |

| 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 |



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 |

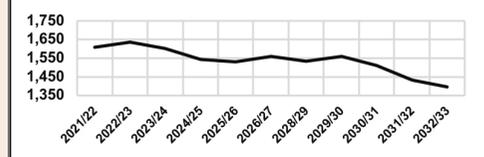
Table 54 – Movement of Pupils

| 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: - 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: - 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 |

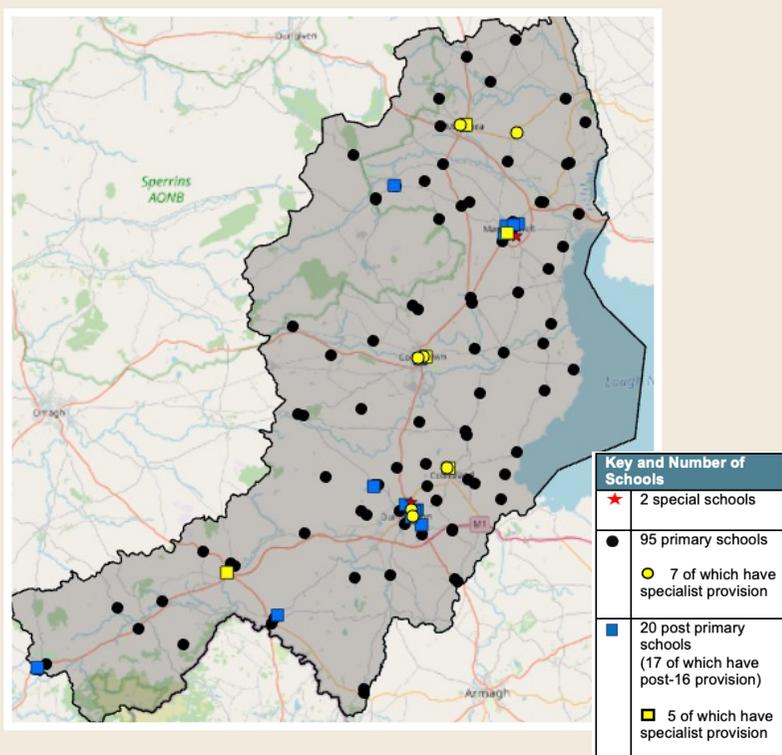
6.9.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 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

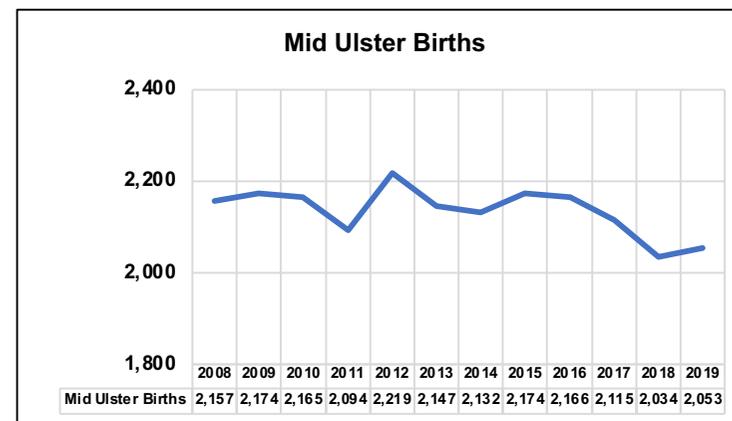
Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of 1,955 square kilometres and is a mix of rural and urban communities. The majority of the population is located in the towns of Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt along with a number of smaller population centres. Within the LGD there are 40 wards, 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

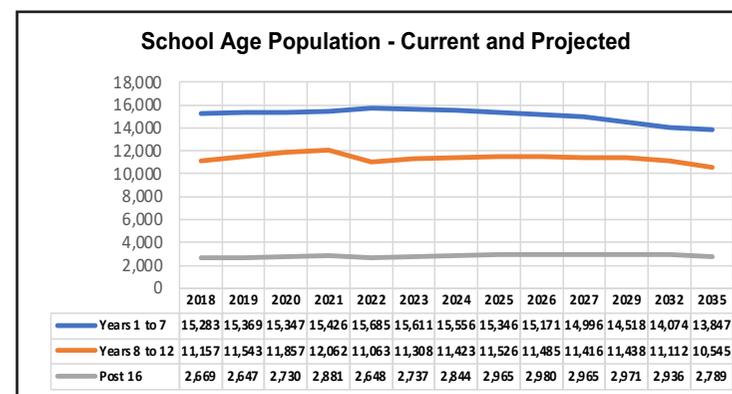


Graph 46 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 46 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,157 to 2,053 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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



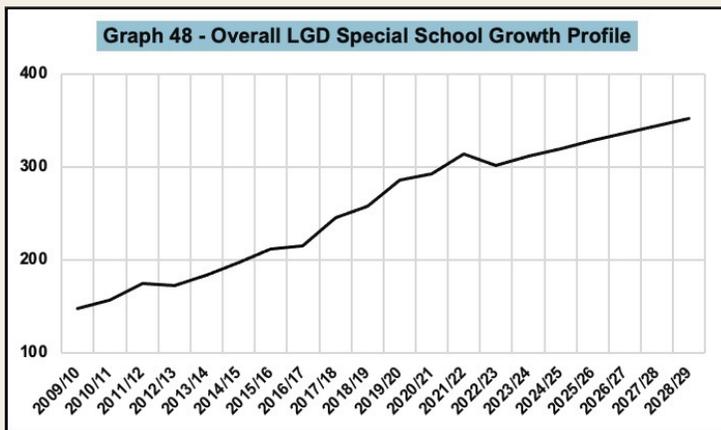
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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.

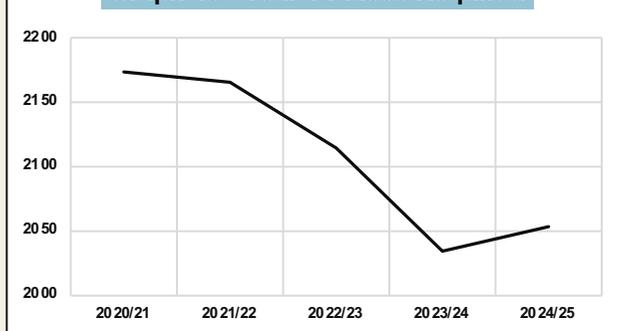
Table 56 – Primary Profile 2021/22

| 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.

Graph 50 - Year 8 Places Required



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.

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 |

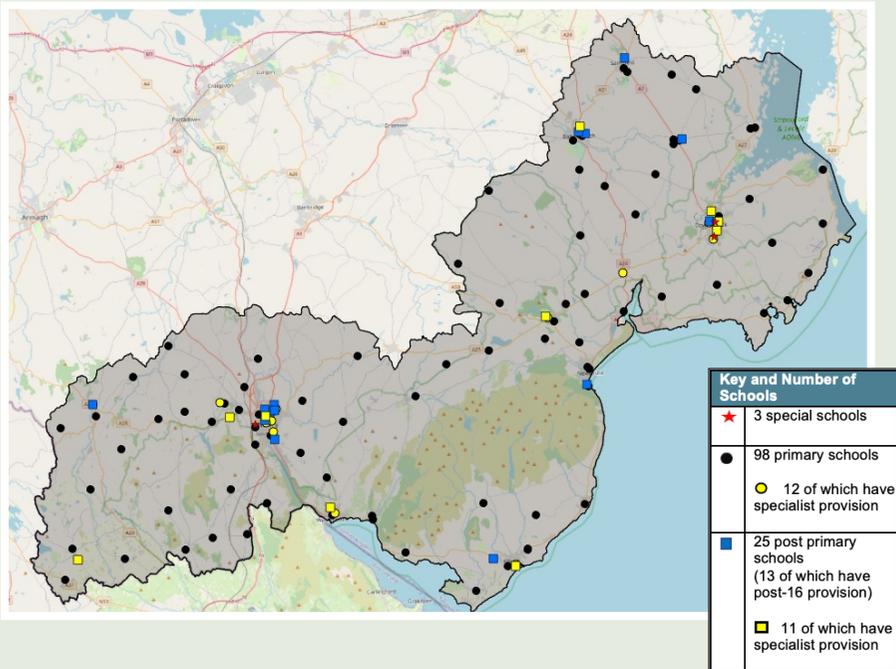
6.10.5 Medium Term Work Streams

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 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

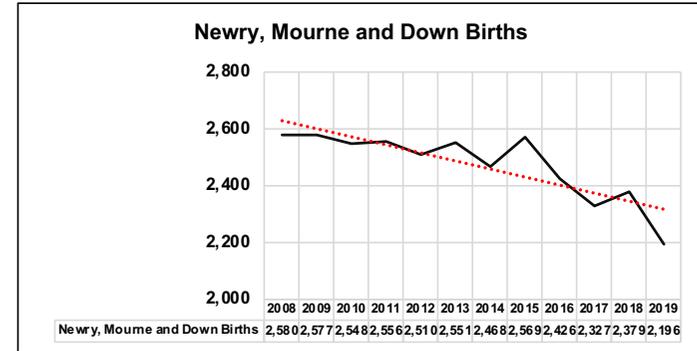
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council covers an area of 1,700 square kilometres with the majority of the population residing in the urban areas such as Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Newry City, Warrenpoint, as well as a number of smaller towns and villages spread across the area. Within 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

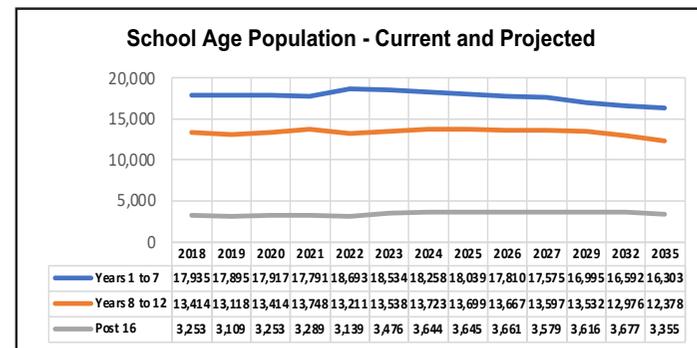


Graph 51 shows a declining trend in births (births data based on academic birth year not the calendar year). While Graph 51 shows the peaks and troughs, since 2008 the numbers have fallen from 2,580 to 2,196 in 2019. This downward trend is projected to continue for primary and post primary age pupils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



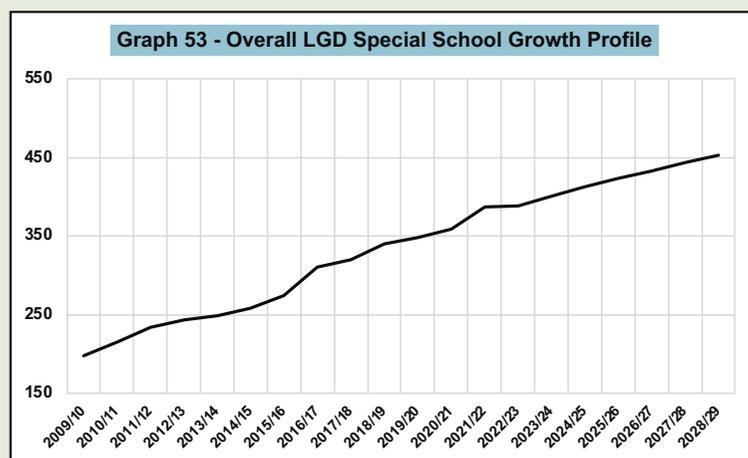
The tables below provide an overview of the statistics for special, primary and post primary schools.

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)

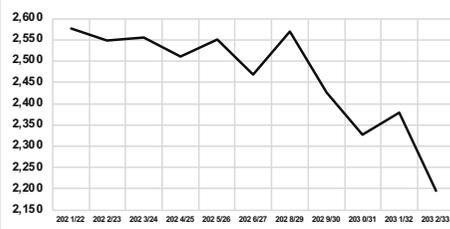
| Academic Birth Year | Newry, Mourne and Down Births | Year 8 Start |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2010 | 2,548 | 2022/23 |
| 2011 | 2,556 | 2023/24 |
| 2012 | 2,510 | 2024/25 |
| 2013 | 2,551 | 2025/26 |
| 2014 | 2,468 | 2026/27 |
| 2015 | 2,569 | 2028/29 |
| 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 <small>(carry over from Annual Action Plan 2019-22)</small> | 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. | |
| | 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 |

6.11.5 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: <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 |

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 |

