

## **Projection Methodology**

Projections are based on the census of births produced by ONS each year. The information is provided on a ward basis of which there are 39 in Birmingham. Actual pupil numbers used in the process are always from the January Form 7. The methodology currently in operation has been in use since January 1992.

The process takes account of any reduction in numbers between 0 - 4 years and adjusts for the drift between wards each year using the most recent Form 7 information (ie the expected number of children at age 4 in a ward is set against the most recent actual Form 7 information and the percentage difference is assessed). A three year average percentage difference is applied to subsequent years of birth data. An allowance is also made for movement between wards during the primary phase, in the same way that is outlined for secondary schools below.

At age 10 a further set of gain/loss calculations are made to give the 11 year old population. This takes account for the loss from the system to other local education authorities and independent schools.

Secondary projections are based on the 12 constituencies and loss/gain adjustments are also made throughout the secondary phase. The gain/loss factor is calculated by using the trend in each constituency over the previous 5 years. A moving average is calculated using the sum of the 11 - 14 and 12 - 15 year olds and dividing 11 - 14 into 12 -15. This gives a factor of around 1. The last five years of these factors are averaged and this figure is applied to each 11 year old cohort as it works through the secondary phase. This then reflects the most recent trend of movement in or out of a constituency. Post 16 projections are based on the most recent staying on rates expressed as a percentage of the 15 year olds and subsequent percentage trends as the pupils move through the sixth form.

The current methodology allows for migration to other authorities as it picks up at both 4 and 11 years the usual trend in numbers attending the primary or secondary phase as opposed to the numbers available to attend. During the last projection exercise using 1999 birth data and 2000 Form 7 information Birmingham schools including Grammar Schools retained 92% of the available 10 year olds.

Housing developments are monitored and taken account of in planning school places but are not included in the forecasts. This is mainly due to the fact that in a tight urban area much of the housing is redevelopment rather than new build. There are plans for new build in the south of the City at Rubery Hollymoor (Northfield Ward) and Monyhull (Brandwood Ward) on surplus hospital sites. In the north of the city (Sutton Coldfield Wards) developments are also pending on an ex-army site and some green belt areas. Housing is based on a formula of 2 children per year group per hundred homes in both the primary and secondary phase. It is anticipated that broadly speaking these additional children will be offset by the birth rate in the city which has been falling since 1991.

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