

# Brighton & Hove School Organisation Plan

## 2012 to 2016



*Davigdor Extension completed 2010*

## Introduction

The diversity and culture that our city welcomes means that Brighton and Hove is an ever expanding place; both from people moving in and families growing, and as expected, this in turn leads to pressures on our schools and educational provisions.

According to Ofsted, we are fortunate in having only good and outstanding children's centres and more than our fair share of outstanding nursery and primary schools. This allows our youngest children to get an excellent start in their school careers. However this success means that parents and indeed children want wider access to these successful schools.

As our city grows the first principle is that we will always look to **expand popular and good / outstanding schools**. However, we must recognise that to do this may change the essential character of a school and put at risk all that makes it successful; this is always our priority for consideration.

Our second principle is that the **needs of children must always be paramount over those of adults**. There is good evidence that young children show a loss in learning at school transfer / transition year or even voluntary parental movement, e.g. nursery to infant, infant to junior, primary to secondary, and as we commit to expanding schools we must always consider the number of transfers a child might make. This may mean that we would look to merge infant and junior schools when the time is right; for example, when a Headteacher maybe moves on via promotion or even perhaps retirement. This also means that, as we look to expand our secondary places, we will also consider all-through schools, 3-16 or 18.

Our third principle is that we would **only look to create a new school where there is not an existing good or outstanding school that could be expanded**. These options might include expanding an infant or a junior school to become a primary; asking a primary to expand into secondary or a secondary to include primary provision.

Finally, we would **look to work in partnership to establish new schools** with a range of potential and significant partners including the Anglican and Catholic Diocese. We would always expect new schools to commit to the family and students of Brighton and Hove and to accept a responsibility of upholding the wellbeing of all students in our city. We would also expect each school to have its own distinctive character which will accommodate and support the diversity of our children and families.

As part of this partnership process we strive to fully support our schools, and, through their governing bodies, to all work to become outstanding. We also expect all our schools to support this working partnership. No local authority has yet achieved this but we feel this ambition is worthwhile for the students and families of our city as we continue to seek to raise expectations, standards and achievement for all.



**Balfour extension  
completed in 2009**

In that light I commend this organisation plan to you.

**Terry Parkin, Strategic Director People**



**Whitehawk extension completed 2011**

## **Demographic Overview**

The City of Brighton & Hove has been growing steadily for the last ten years. Projections included in this document show that although the rate of increase is slowing, numbers continue to rise.

Since 2000 there was a steady annual increase of 60 children a year entering the school system at reception aged 4 years old. From 2010 this appears to have slowed to 30 children a year and birth and trend data for the next few years will indicate whether this rate will continue, or whether the steady expansion is to cease.

To cater for this increase in numbers since 2005 the Council has expanded Goldstone, Westdene, Davigdor, Somerhill, Balfour Juniors, West Blatchington, West Hove Infants (Connaught Building), Queens Park, and Benfield, providing 11.5 additional forms of entry (345) more places each year. These will need to be provided in our secondary schools by 2018/19.

Beyond 2012, if numbers continue to rise, there will need to be further primary places and further secondary places. This document looks at the possibilities for future school development within Brighton & Hove. Inevitably alongside these possibilities may be other sites and opportunities become available for consideration

The type of new school places will be determined by government legislation, site availability and the funding available. Although the Local Authority has identified the need for more places, both primary and secondary, it recognises that present legislation expects new schools to be provided through free schools or academies, and that only limited capital funding will be available to the Council to develop its existing school stock.

Not all possibilities for future school organisation will be conventional.





Queens Park extension completed 2012

## **Consultation and Process**

School organisation is, at present, the domain of the Council. The Council is legally required to provide sufficient

places for those parents, who wish their children to attend a maintained or voluntary aided school. The Council is also required to consider closing schools where there are over 25% surplus places.

In making its decisions, the Council has formal procedures through which officers can make proposals, present options and ultimately gain agreement to make changes to the City's school estate. The Office of the School's Adjudicator is the arbiter when a school, parent or local group disagree with the decision of the Council.

A significant part of the Council's process is the importance given to consultation with schools, local groups and communities. However, there are times when Strategic Director of People, has delegated powers to direct schools to take an additional children. For example, in the allocations process, having the right number of school places is not always the same as having the right number of school places in the right place and, in extremis, it may be necessary to direct. Before entering the formal process for proposing change though the appropriate Committee, officers will discuss their proposals with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the directly affected school or schools.

For this document there will be a cycle of annual consultation running in parallel with the Council process:

Date	Consultation	Council Process
January	Revised Document to all schools	Revised Document to full Council
April	Discussions with Headteachers	Review of Cross Party working group
June	Discussion with Governors	Discussion with Party Groups
July	Document published	Discussion with local members
September	Discussion with identified schools	Draft Committee paper circulated
November	Recommendations to Children's committee	Committee Papers

Individual school recommendations will go to the Council or Committee with responsibility for children.

## Primary Number Projections

Below is a table showing the forecasts of overall pupil numbers in the primary sector between now and the 2017/18 Academic year.

School Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
11 12	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	2,417	2,342	2,350	17,338
12 13	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	2,417	2,342	17,871
13 14	2,790	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	2,417	18,319
14 15	2,881	2,790	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	18,783
15 16	2,851	2,881	2,790	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	19,191
16 17	2,850	2,851	2,881	2,790	2,883	2,711	2,586	19,552
17 18	2,800	2,850	2,851	2,881	2,790	2,883	2,711	19,766

Figures in Pink are Children who were offered a Reception year place in Sept 2011

Figures in green are Children already in B&H schools based on Oct 2011 Census figures

Figures highlighted in blue are the smallest year group before growth started

Figures in orange are children born but not in schools based on 2011 GP registration data

Figures in purple are an estimate of the number of children who may be born in the future

Updated figures based on the annual census show the numbers of children likely to be requiring a school place in Year R in September 2013 is 2,790. Taking into account all the Reception year places in the city, there are a total of 2,910 reception year places available each year. This includes the new places we provided at Goldstone, Queens Park, Westdene and Connaught for September 2011. This number also takes into account all Reception year places within schools which have not historically filled in the East of the City.

As can be seen from these numbers, there were sufficient places in YR for all children in 2012. However, demographic analysis identified areas in Hove where no school would be available for some local children. Hence for September 2012 we added 'bulge classes to Westdene, Goldstone, Queens Park, and Connaught. Following the final run of parental preferences we also added 'bulge' classes at Davigdor and St Andrews to try to ensure sufficient



local places for local children. The addition of 6 bulge classes (180 places) in 2012 suggests that even though numbers drop slightly in 2013, there will need to be three new forms of entry in the Hove area. The introduction of the Bilingual Free School will reduce this need to two forms of entry.

**Connaught building completed in 2011**

Overall we predict there will be a need for a further 120 places by 2015.

## Secondary projections

The table below shows the forecasts of overall pupil numbers in the secondary sector between now and the 2020/2021 Academic year

Overall we have a total of 2,370 places (79 forms of entry) per year in secondary schools across the city although this will rise to 2,400 in September 2013 when an additional form of entry is added at PACA. Consequently there is sufficient capacity in secondary schools until September 2014 when there will start to be a shortage of 17 places in Year 7.

School Year	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Forms of Entry
11 12	2,145	2,219	2,330	2,313	2,182	11,189	72
12 13	2,350	2,145	2,330	2,313	2,182	11,320	78
13 14	2,342	2,350	2,145	2,330	2,313	11,480	78
14 15	2,417	2,342	2,350	2,145	2,330	11,584	81
15 16	2,443	2,417	2,342	2,350	2,145	11,697	82
16 17	2,489	2,443	2,417	2,342	2,350	12,041	83
17 18	2,586	2,489	2,443	2,417	2,342	12,277	86
18 19	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	2,417	12,646	90
19 20	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	2,443	13,112	96
20 21	2,790	2,883	2,711	2,586	2,489	13,459	93

Figures in Pink are Children who were offered a Reception year place in Sept 2011

Figures in green are Children already in B&H schools based on Oct 2011 Census figures

Figures highlighted in blue are the smallest year group before growth started

Figures in orange are children born but not in schools based on 2011 GP registration data

- 1.3 The shortage of places in secondary schools continues beyond 2015 (based on existing capacity of 2400 places) and to meet the projected future growth in secondary pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 150 places by 2017.
- 1.4 These places will be provided by the opening of the Kings School Freeschool in September 2013 (4FE) and the expansion at Dorothy Stringer by 1FE.
- 1.5 Should other schools expand by 1 form of entry, or schools be directed to take additional numbers by the appeals process, this will impact on numbers at other schools, most notably PACA and BACA.



***BACA completed in 2012***

## Types of School

There is a conventional view of what a school should look like, often a local school maintained by the Council or Church. This view has been endorsed by Building Bulletins BB 98 (Secondary) and BB99 (Primary), published by Government, which recommends the size of classrooms and specialist teaching spaces such as science laboratories. It also recommends how much and what type of external space is needed. The recommendations, which are not statutory, are based on pupil numbers. Team games playing space is required for every child above the age of 8 and the amount required is laid down in the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999

Type	Comment
Maintained	Receive funding from local authorities. They all follow the National Curriculum and are regularly inspected by Ofsted.
Faith	Faith schools are maintained schools with a particular religious character. These are mostly run in the same way as other state schools and are inspected by Ofsted. However, their faith status may be reflected in their religious education curriculum, admissions criteria and staffing policies. The governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria School buildings and land are normally owned by a charitable foundation, often a religious organisation (although in Brighton & Hove the council owns many of the playing fields attached to Voluntary Aided schools. The governing body contributes to building and maintenance costs

## School Phases –

Type	Comment
All-through	Any combination of the phases mentioned below with its age range defined in its title. E.g. a 7-16 all through school
Infant	Take children aged four to seven (or 3 to 7 if they have a maintained nursery class). There is a maximum infant class size of 30 children
Junior	Take children aged seven to eleven. There is no maximum class size although schools in Brighton & Hove try to restrict Junior classes to a maximum of 32 children
Primary	Take children aged four to eleven (or 3 to 11). Class sizes for junior and infant phases as above
Special	Take children of school age. Special schools cater for children with specific special educational needs. These may include physical disabilities or learning difficulties.
Secondary	Take children from the age of eleven. Class sizes generally smaller than 30 children. Some secondary schools finish when children are aged sixteen others include a sixth form and finish when children are eighteen.

Seemingly, with the onset of free schools and academies, this conventional wisdom may yet change. The concept that a school can be provided in any building and potential changes to future planning regulations offers the City an opportunity to look at schools in a different way.

Type	Comment
UTC	Technical schools for 14 to 19 year-olds, a kind of halfway house between schools and <a href="#">colleges</a> , will have a strong focus on vocational education and work-based learning, with the ultimate aim of training teenagers to become the builders, technicians and engineers of the future. Sponsored by colleges and universities, each will cater for up to 800 students and have at least two specialisms, such as engineering, construction and environmental services, geared towards the skills needed for the local economy. They will be run on the same basis as the academies programme. They will offer vocational routes, including apprenticeships, alongside core academic subjects, such as English, Math, Science and IT.
Academy	Academies are independently managed, all-ability schools. They are set up by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) and the local authority. Together they fund the land and buildings, with the government covering the running costs. They can also be new style academies that do not have sponsors. Both types of Academies sit outside of Local Authority control.
Free School	A government funded, non-selective school free to attend and sitting outside Local Authority control. The concept of free schools is based upon a similar model found in <a href="#">Sweden</a> as well as US <a href="#">charter schools</a> . These schools can be set up by sponsors, parents groups, faith based groups etc.
Satellite School	A satellite school can be part of the local school network or it can be private. This technique is a way of reducing over crowding and allowing student athletes and musicians flexible schedules. These programs can also be a good option for children with learning disabilities that require individual attention or modified scheduling for optimal learning.
Studio School	Studio Schools are a state school model for 14 to 19 year olds of all abilities. They seek to address the growing gap between what young people require to succeed in life and the skills and knowledge that the current education system provides. Studio Schools approach learning by involving students' within enterprise projects and real work. The aim is to root students' learning in the real world and help them to develop the skills they need to succeed.
Virtual School	A <b>virtual school</b> or <b>cyber school</b> describes an institution that teaches courses entirely or primarily through online methods.
Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)	PRUs are maintained by a local education authority with a focus on getting pupils back into a mainstream school. The pupils may include teenage mothers and children excluded from school. These units should have a management committee made up of a range of people from the likes of mainstream schools, social services, probation, school governors and the youth service – for which the local authority has overall responsibility.



## **Immediate Issues**

- 1. Permanent expansion of schools in Brighton & Hove**
- 2. Options for new 3 forms of entry Junior provision in Hove**
- 3. Bulge classes in September 2012**
- 4. Temporary Classrooms**
- 5. West Blatchington school size and new building**
- 6. The use of vacant classrooms**
- 7. Special school building and sites**
- 8. Secondary Virtual provision from September 2013**
- 9. Further academies and Free schools**



***Westdene Extension completed 2012***

## 1. Permanent expansion of schools in Hove and Brighton

Officers will present to 15th October 2012 Children and Young peoples Committee options for additional school places between September 2013 and September 2016.

To meet the projected future growth in primary pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 120 places by 2015 in Hove, and a further 30 places in the south of Brighton by 2014.

To meet the projected future growth in secondary pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 150 places by 2017.

This report sets out the options available to meet the increase in demand for pupil places in the City.

All proposals will be dependant on capital funding being made available.

The Committee paper makes the following recommendations:

- (1) That Committee notes the possible options for providing additional pupil places within the City and recognises that all proposals will be dependant on capital funding being made available.
- (2) That Committee agrees that Officers will consult with schools, their communities and where appropriate the relevant diocese on the proposal to permanently expand the following primary schools from September 2013 by one form of entry (FE) each;
  - St. Andrews C.E. Primary (from 2 FE to 3 FE)
  - Stanford Infants (from 3 FE to 4 FE)
- (3) That Committee agrees that Officers will consult with schools, their communities and where appropriate the relevant diocese on the proposal to permanently expand the following primary schools from September 2014 by one FE each.
  - The Connaught Building, West Hove Infants ( from 3 FE to 4 FE)
  - St Marks C.E. Primary (from 1 FE to 2 FE)
- (4) That Committee agrees that Officers will consult with schools, their communities and where appropriate the relevant diocese on the proposal to permanently expand the following primary school for September 2015 by one FE.
  - Aldrington C.E. Primary (from 1 FE to 2 FE )
- (5) That Committee agrees that Officers will consult with schools, their communities and where appropriate the relevant diocese on the proposal to permanently expand the following junior schools, should their relevant infant school be expanded as proposed above by one FE each.
  - Stanford Junior School (from September 2016)



- 'Connaught' Junior School (from September 2017)
- (6) That Committee agrees that Officers will consult with schools and their communities on the proposal to expand places at Hove Park.
  - (7) That Committee recognises that Kings School Free School (5 FE) is planned to open in September 2013 and that officers will assist the proposers in their search for a permanent site.
  - (8) That Committee will support the application for a new central Brighton school (3fe) to open in 2014 by making available a list of potential sites within the City.
  - (9) That Committee agrees that Officers will continue to explore other potential opportunities for primary and secondary schools.
  - (10) That Committee agrees to the publication of the updated School Organisation Plan 2012 to 1016 and Consultation Document by end of October 2012

The funding required to meet these proposals is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Additional places</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Costs £million</b>
<b>2012 / 13</b>	Portslade 3 FE additional junior places	360	Sept 2013	£6.3
<b>2013 / 14</b>	Hove Police station 3FE additional junior places	360	Sept 2014	£3.9
<b>2013 / 14</b>	2 FE additional primary school places – possibly Stanford and St Andrews	420	Sept 2013	£5.0
<b>2014 / 15</b>	1 FE additional infant places Connaught @ West Hove	90	Sept 2014	£1.25
<b>2014 / 15</b>	1 FE additional primary places Brighton – possible St Marks	210	Sept 2014	£2.5
<b>2015 / 16</b>	1 FE additional primary places Hove possibly Aldrington	210	Sept 2015	£2.5
<b>2015 / 16</b>	1FE additional junior places Hove police station	120	Sept 2016	£1.25
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,770</b>		<b>£22.9</b>

The position regarding secondary school provision is very similar but the timeframe for implementation of any programme is behind that for primary. We anticipate needing to provide additional forms of entry from 2016, but with no indication of whether funding will be available. Current projections show that there will be a need for at least an additional 6 forms of entry by 2019, but

this will not allow any surplus capacity within the city to allow for parental preference or movers in. To accommodate for this we would need a further 6 forms of entry at least.

There is no funding identified as being available for the provision of secondary school places.

## 2 Options for new 3 forms of entry Junior provision in Hove

Building	Comment	Possible Site Purchase Cost	Potential Cost of Construction Works
Hove Police Station	Preferred option provided we can secure for a sensible price	£2.0m to £2.5m	£1.5m
Hove Park Upper School	Part of an all through element of Hove Park School	Zero	Circa £5m
Hove Park Depot	A long way from The Connaught	Zero	Circa £5m

Given the continuing pressure for infant places in Hove and the 'bulge' expansion of Connaught, a further option will be to make Connaught a four form entry Infant School and to provide a new 4fe Junior provision to match this. However, The Connaught site is not large enough to take an additional form of entry without securing the use of the day centres at the rear of the site. The Hove Police Station building is the correct size for a three form entry junior school. To make this a four form entry junior school would require an extension to the property.

**The costs shown in the table above are for the three forms of entry required to match the existing size of The Connaught.**

## 3. 'Bulge' classes in September 2012

Projections of pupil numbers showed that there was a spike in numbers for reception classes for September 2012. Although all children could be accommodated somewhere in the city, analysis of the post code data showed that nearly 180 additional places were needed in Hove and at the Brighton & Hove border.

Rather than direct children to schools a significant distance from their local area, and to provide the needed extra places, the Council added 'bulge' classes for the September 2012 intake at:

1. Connaught (managed by West Hove Infant School)
2. Westdene
3. Goldstone
4. Queens Park
5. Davigdor

## 6. St Andrews

Each of these schools is popular with parents, and the first four have undergone major building work to provide accommodation for an additional form of entry from September 2011. Even though these four schools have already begun to take additional children, each school has a number of brand new classrooms that will be empty in September 2012.

The latter two schools were required to take an extra form due to the popularity of Hove schools. Accordingly, the need for space in these two schools only became apparent in May 2012, once all the parental preferences were known, causing considerable disquiet in the local community. However, because of the parental preferences scheme, other than having significant numbers of surplus places 'just in case' it is hard to prevent this happening, other than by ensuring all schools are considered good by families.

The addition of these 'bulge' classes in September 2012 above the planned expansions will enable more local children to attend local schools. The 'bulge' class will carry on through the school for seven years. The 'bulge' class will not set a precedent for future years and, once the 2012 'spike' has been accommodated future intakes at the schools will revert to the Published Admissions Number subject to the Council's review of permanent places needed for the foreseeable future.

### 4. Temporary Classrooms

There are currently a total of 28 temporary buildings accommodating 43 teaching spaces in all schools across the city. The table below shows which school have temporary buildings and the age of each unit. In addition, we have 2 HORSAs Kitchen and Dining Rooms. HORSAs buildings are temporary buildings, although they are masonry construction on proper dug foundations, because they were constructed around 1947 to allow for raising of the school leaving age (to 15) and the post war baby boom. It was anticipated at the time of construction that they would be in use for approximately 10 years. Unsurprisingly they are now life expired.

NAME OF SCHOOL	MOBILE/TIMBER Date of Build	HORSA CLASSROOM	HORSA KDR	Buildings	Classrooms
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>					
Hertford Infant	1 Single Timber pre 1974				
	1 Small Timber pre 2009				
Mile Oak Primary	1 Double Mobile 1990				
St Joseph's RC	1 Single Timber pre 1974				
St Peter's Infant			Yes		
Saltdean Primary	1 Single Mobile 1995				
West Blatchington Infant	1 Single Timber pre 1974 1 Double 2009				

West Blatchington Junior	1 Single Timber pre 1974 1 Double 2009				
West Blatchington Primary	1 Double 2010 1 Double 2011				
West Hove Infant	1 Single Mobile 1992				
<b><u>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</u></b>					
Blatchington Mill	2 Double Mobile – Transferred Single Mobile 1988 1 Double Mobile 1 Sixth Form Common				
Dorothy Stringer	1 Double Mobile				
Hove Park Lower	1 Double Mobile 1992 1 Double Mobile 1992				
Hove Park Upper	1 Single Timber pre 1974		Yes		
Portslade CC – 6 <sup>th</sup> Form		1 Double			
<b><u>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</u></b>					
Downs View	1 Small Single – Hired 1 Double Mobile 1997 1 Double Mobile 2002 – (Ash Cottage)				
Patcham House	1 Double Mobile				

Total Buildings 28  
Total Rooms 43  
Total HORSAs KDR 2

Portslade buildings 2  
Portslade rooms 4  
Portslade HORSAs KDR 1

Hove Buildings 16  
Hove Rooms 25  
Hove HORSAs KDR 1

Brighton Buildings 10  
Brighton Rooms 14  
Brighton HORSAs KDR 0

Given the funding situation, it is unlikely that we will be able to replace much of this temporary accommodation in the foreseeable future. However, the replacement of pre 1980's hatted accommodation will remain a priority and we will do what we can within our expansion programme. This year, for example, we have managed to remove a considerable number of huts from Westdene Primary School and one from Queens Park Primary school as a result of the expansions at these schools.

Looking forward, if when we acquire a site adjacent to St Peters Community Infant school to allow for the school to become an all through primary school, we hope to be able to also replace their HORSIA KDR at the same time, thus removing this from the list. Owing to the pressure on school places, we have no choice other than to give additional school places the highest priority.

## **5. West Blatchington Primary School - size and new building**

As part of the merger of West Blatchington Infant and Junior Schools in 2009, the Council agreed to provide a rationalised school, either, by rebuilding the entire school or, by extending the infant site so that it was large enough to accommodate the entire school subject to the finance being available. At the same time as West Blatchington became an all-through primary school, pupil numbers across the city, in the Hove area particularly, began to increase significantly. To cater for this, West Blatchington Primary School agreed to take a third form of entry. The school has continued to do this for the last three years and the consequent need for temporary classrooms to cater for these children has further exacerbated the accommodation / capital issue.

Although no formal commitment can be given for new building at West Blatchington at this stage, in September 2013, the school will revert to a two form entry primary school. This would help to reduce the problems associated with the instability of the number on roll. The instability of the number on roll at the school is caused by the relative inaccessibility to those who do not live in the immediate environs of the school.

Any potential future development of Toads Hole Valley could include the promised rebuild of West Blatchington Primary School on a new site, which would be more accessible than the current site. Should this happen, the increase in houses for the developed area would require the school to become at least a three form entry primary school, linked with new secondary school provision.

Officers have already met with En Plan, who have recently submitted their vision for Toads Hole Valley. Included in their proposal is the land allocation for a new school and community facilities.

Should this plan progress a new school will be provided on the south western part of the site by 2017. The demand for school places in the City will require an all-through 3 to 16 school providing 3 forms of primary entry at age four, with nursery provision and six forms of secondary entry at age eleven. Although the potential site will be smaller than the area previously prescribed for a school of this size, recent legislation change removes the requirement for a determined playing field area.

The Council has proposed, that the primary element of the school will be provided by moving West Blatchington Primary school (2FE) onto the site and expanding the school, with the addition of a further form of entry. Reproviding the school in Toads Hole valley will release the present school site which could be sold for further housing and produce a capital receipt which can be included in the funding for the new school. Further funding may be made available

through the Governments Academy programme, as the new school will have to be an academy.

Projections identify the need for a further 12 secondary FE by 2018/19. The opening of Kings School Free School in 2013/14 will provide 4FE enabling the need for places to be met until 2016/17. The provision of 6 secondary FE at Toads Hole Valley by 2017/18 will address the City's need for places, accepting that there will still need to be additional secondary school places elsewhere in the City for 2019 and beyond.

## 6

### 6. The use of vacant classrooms

As the primary population in the City continues to grow, a number of schools that previously has spare capacity are becoming full.

Schools with spare capacity have sought to use vacant classrooms in a variety of ways, such as providing larger staffrooms (as the number of classroom assistants has increased), parents' rooms, resource libraries and IT centres. These developments mirror the type of provision provided whenever new schools are built and are seen as good practice.

However, policy remains that schools, who have an identified number of classrooms, should return any adapted rooms to their original function if numbers in the school increase. The Statutory Director of Children's Services retains powers to direct schools in this position, to ensure that space is used effectively for the benefit of all children in the city.

To resolve this situation the council can decide to provide additional accommodation, either permanent or temporary, or the council has to insist the school uses its classrooms as planned and makes their own arrangements for the displaced activities.

Given the paucity of funding and general lack of certainty moving forward, the council is presently unable to provide new or temporary accommodation, but will work with the school to see if they can help in smaller ways, such as funding to support the reinstatement of classrooms and the locating of other local centres, that could be hired/leased by a school to provide facilities off-site.

It may help those concerned by similar issues to know that the rental of a double mobile classroom is circa £120,000 per year.

### 7. Special school buildings and sites

At present the council maintains the following sites:

School	School site(s)	Comment
Ace	Queensdown,	
Cedar Centre	Lynchett Close Cedar Centre at Coldean	Soft Federation
Patcham House	Old London Road	

Downs Park	Foredown Road	
Downs View	Downs View School Warren Road Woodingdean Downs View Link College – Surrenden campus	
Hillside	Foredown Road	

In addition to this there are a number of specialist units:

Unit
Year 11 Connected HUB
Brighton & Hove Pupil Unit – Primary and Secondary
Swan Centre
West Blatchington Unit
Rudyard Kipling
Carden
Longhill
Hove Park
I- Can
Bevendean hearing impairment unit

Plans are being discussed as part of the Special Education Review to reduce the number of sites used within the city to provide special education. Part of this consideration is the wish to co-locate special education onto mainstream school sites in line with national best practice, whenever possible.

## 8. Secondary Virtual provision from September 2013

As part of the solution to the increasing numbers of secondary pupils the Council is beginning to explore possibilities surrounding a virtual secondary school. The work of Professor Ian Cunningham’s South Downs Learning Centre and Digital Education Brighton, linked to other programmes, such as Nisai Virtual learning, have offered the Council an opportunity to explore a different approach to full-time schooling.

This work will continue and include whether a developed model could be established by the Council. This is at an early stage of development, but the Council is optimistic that a proposal for a new central Brighton School will be made in the next year.

## 9. Further Academies and ‘Free Schools’

Legislation has now been passed that determines, that any new school created will be an Academy or ‘Free School’, unless there are no sponsors or proposers interested in opening a school. In addition, the government now has powers to require any surplus LA school land to be available for Academies and Free Schools before any other development is considered.



The Council's expansion of an existing successful and popular school, through annexing an additional building with West Hove managing the Connaught building met the previous requirements but, given the policies noted above, may not be an option in the future.

Given the likely expansion of Academies and 'Free Schools' within the City, it would be prudent to agree policy and protocols to enable their inclusion in our overall strategic plan. This will be done on an individual school basis initially but once a significant number are established and mindful of the budget costs to the Council, there will need to be formal decisions identifying the councils approach to future school place planning.

- There are two academies in the City BACA and PACA
- Whitehawk is to become an academy in 2013 with City College as the sponsor
- City College is to become a 'chain' sponsor and will be available for other academy proposals
- The Bilingual Primary free school will be temporarily housed at BACA for 2 years. A permanent site has yet to be agreed
- The Kings School Secondary Christian free school will open in September 2013. A permanent site has yet to be agreed
- A new central Brighton free school is to be proposed in the near future
- City College is considering a possible secondary academy as part of their Pelham Tower development
- Any school development at Toads Hole valley will be an academy
- Future development of Hove Park Secondary two sites is likely to require the new development to be an academy

Under new funding arrangements, free schools and academies buildings will be funded by central government if the proposal offers greater diversity within the City's school estate. If a new school is developed to meet just basic need for school places, funding for building will be from the Council.

Funding to run academies is through the *Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant* (LACSEG), which removes funding from that received by the Council for other schools.

### **Longer Term Issues**

- 1. Increase in Secondary Numbers from 2015**
- 2. University Technical College**
- 3. Possible merger of Junior and Infant Schools**

## **1. Increase in Secondary Numbers from 2015**

To meet the projected future growth in secondary pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 360 places (12FE) by 2019.

The need for additional Secondary places begins in 2014/15, but this will be met by the 125 (4FE) Y7 places offered in the City by the Kings Free School

To meet this need the Council is exploring a number of options:

- Expansion of Hove Park
- Development of Toads Hole Valley Site
- Portslade 6<sup>th</sup> form site
- Patcham Court Farm
- A new central Brighton secondary school
- Expansions of other existing schools
- City College Development

## **2. University Technical College**

The definition of a UTC is a Technical school for 14- to 19-year-olds, a kind of halfway house between schools and [colleges](#), that will have a strong focus on vocational education and work-based learning, with the ultimate aim of training teenagers to become the builders, technicians and engineers of the future.

UTC's will be Sponsored by colleges and universities, each will cater for up to 800 students and have at least two specialisms – such as engineering, construction and environmental services – geared towards the skills needed for the local economy. They will be run on the same basis as the academies programme. They will offer vocational routes, including apprenticeships, alongside core academic subjects, such as English, maths, science and IT.

Although Government appears very supportive to the idea of a UTC in Brighton & Hove we were unable to identify a suitable site in time for the bidding round in January 2012

The establishment of a UTC would provide further variety of education in the City but given the nature of the curriculum offer and the expected catchment area, encompassing B&H and East and West Sussex, it would take very few students from the City itself.

### 3. Possible mergers of Junior and Infant Schools

The separate Infant and Junior Schools in the City are as follows:

Infant School	Junior School	Comment
Portslade Infant School		Proposal to be 2fe primary by Sept. 2013
	St Nicolas VA CE Junior School	Proposal to be 2fe primary by Sept. 2013
St Peters Infants		Proposal to be 1fe primary by Sept. 2013
Hangleton Infants	Hangleton Juniors	Discussion held with headteachers. Potential merger when one head leaves
West Hove Infants	West Hove Juniors	West Hove infants manages the Connaught site
Connaught Infants		
Davigdor	Somerhill	Proposed merger declined by Junior School in 2009
Downs Infant	Downs Juniors	Proposed merger declined by schools in 2011, but merger proposed in principal when the head of the infants leaves.
Stanford Infants	Stanford Juniors	Proposed merger declined by schools in September 2012
Hertford Infants	Hertford Juniors	Proposed merger declined by infant school in 2007 and 2009
Patcham Infants	Patcham Juniors	Proposed merger declined by schools in January 2012

Brighton and Hove City Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000. Protocols were established following the Scrutiny Panel and report recommendations following the merger of three primary schools in 1999. The protocol has been revised in the light of the creation of the Children and Young People's Trust and its publication of the Primary Strategy for Change. The revised protocol was adopted at the Cabinet Member meeting on 30th July 2008 for implementation in September 2008.

The Council produced a Primary Strategy for Change for the DCSF in June 2008. This document reflected Brighton and Hove City Council's policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate. The Council believes the advantages of the creation of all through primary schools are as follows:

- Greater continuity in teaching, pupil care and development under a single headteacher and teaching staff. It is very important to ensure continuity in

planning the curriculum across the stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.

- The school could offer a greater range of teaching skills, including the opportunity to appoint curriculum co-ordinators with the time to oversee the effective teaching of individual subjects across the whole 4–11 age range.
- Greater flexibility that a 4–11 school has in organising classes, deploying teachers and support staff and using resources, including buildings, more effectively.
- Closer contact with parents over a longer period of time and covering the full span of the children's primary education.
- Practical advantages to parents e.g. the same staff development days, the same school policies relating to home links, uniform, codes of conduct etc.
- Transfer to a different school environment after three years or less of schooling might be seen as an unnecessary disruption to pupil's sense of security and well being.
- A positive feature of 4–11 schools is the social interaction between younger and older pupils