

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HOW THE NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES IS CALCULATED

What the GLA does

1. The Royal Borough's school projections are prepared by the GLA. What follows is a short summary of the GLA's method. Further or more detailed enquiries should be addressed to the GLA School Roll Projection Service itself or reference made to its publication "LA User Guide"
2. The GLA draws its data from the census, mid-year estimates produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the London Housing Capacity and any additional planning information provided by individual LAs.
3. Projections for individual LAs are made looking at ten years ahead, using actual roll data from the previous four years. Two types of ratio are used in the projection model: roll replacement ratio and catchment ratio.
4. The replacement ratio reflects the net gains and losses from one year to the next, combining the effects of cross-border inflows and outflows and the effects of pupils changing school. This ratio is calculated for each of the four years under review and the average taken.
5. The catchment ratio takes into account changes in population numbers and is the ratio of pupils on roll in maintained schools in the Royal Borough to the number of children of the same age in the local population. This ratio is also averaged out over four years.
6. For the Royal Borough's projections, the GLA uses the catchment and replacement ratios in combination, the averages of the two calculations being brought together in varying proportions over the ten year period to reflect local conditions. These calculations do not take account of the effects of housing developments which are added separately.

What the Royal Borough does

7. The GLA projections suffer from considerable limitations. The GLA's view is that the borough's two primary planning areas (north and south) are too small to guarantee reliable forecasting of primary projections. The secondary projections are based to some extent on the rolls of the secondary schools. The unusual pattern of secondary schools in the Royal Borough and the fact that they are always full (so that their rolls therefore cannot reflect increasing demand) means that the secondary projections tend inherently under-estimate future demand. Both sets of projections therefore require a great deal of work to make them useful.
8. Historically, the **primary projections** have tended to under-estimate the demand for school places in the north and over-estimate it in the south. In reality, a slow but steady increase in the rolls over the last twenty years has characterised both areas. Projections showing sudden,

sharp change in either area are for that reason to be regarded with great caution.

9. On arrival, the primary projections for the 4+ group are calibrated against the numbers actually in school in that age group. That figure is then compared with the number of actual births in the five years ("0" year olds) previous to the first year of the projections. These figures have been in a more or less uniform relation since 2001.
10. The projections are then further checked in the following ways.
 - The number of children in the current reception group is compared with the number in Year 6. The likelihood of any projected rise or fall indicated by the projections can be judged in part from that.
 - The GLA's assumptions about migration out of the borough ("demographic drift") are tested against what has actually happened in the last five years. This tends to show that migration out of the borough has been over-estimated in the north and wrongly discounted in the south.
11. These checks have the effect of considerably modifying conclusions that might otherwise be drawn from an examination of the raw GLA figures. Two other factors have to be borne in mind in considering what the actual demand for places is likely to be.
 - The effect of out-borough enrolments: this is increasing and is the reason why it has been necessary to open an additional reception class in the south of the borough.
 - The effect of projected housing developments.
12. It should be noted that the figures in the primary projections **are not altered** as a result of these considerations. Instead, a considered judgement is made about their value as forecasts. A rather different approach is taken with the **secondary projections**. The imbalance between community and RC places has made it necessary to revise the GLA's base figures to remove that element of RC capacity which is not available to most of the Royal Borough's residents. That had been seriously distorting the real picture of demand. The adjustment is made in two ways.
 - The capacity in the RC schools provided for out-borough pupils and therefore not available to Royal Borough residents is subtracted from the actual physical capacity of those schools. This calculation removes 848 places from Cardinal Vaughan's capacity, 200 places from Sion-Manning's and 500 places from St. Thomas More's.

- A balancing adjustment is then made to the GLA figures of demand by subtracting the number of RC pupils (estimated at 110) who do not get a place in one of our own RC schools. That calculation is necessary because those pupils usually seek (and find) a place at an RC school outside the Royal Borough rather than looking to the community provision within it.

13. These adjustments are made after the GLA base figures have been received. To estimate the actual likely need for places, it is necessary to make additional assumptions about the following three factors.

- The effect of new housing developments in the Royal Borough.
- The effects which the completion of new housing developments and other changes in neighbouring LAs (particularly LBHF and Westminster) may have in permanently closing off school places to Royal Borough residents.
- The additional demand which may be created by a new school which is planned to attract pupils who would otherwise have gone to schools in the independent sector.