

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE LA ANNUAL PUPIL PROJECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2014



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## INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on total pupil numbers at maintained primary and secondary schools across Cambridgeshire. It does not include pupils in nursery classes, nursery and special schools or the pupil referral units.

These forecasts project pupil numbers up to 2023/24 at local authority district level. The forecasts are trend-based which means they assume that past trends continue in the future. Pupil numbers for the school year 2013/14 are taken from the January 2014 School Census. These forecasts can be expected to give a more accurate picture of overall trends than an aggregation of the individual school forecasts produced for finance or planning purposes. The main reasons for this are that:

1. No individual schools are forecast to have more pupils than their Published Admission Number (PAN). Aggregating individual forecasts for schools can underestimate total pupil numbers in an area if there are more pupils than the combined capacity of the schools in question. The LA-wide forecast is not tied to current capacities, so the forecast will not undercount pupils in areas under pressure.
2. Individual primary school forecasts have future additions for children moving into new housing developments but these children are not removed from the rolls of the primary schools they have left elsewhere within the authority (since these cannot be identified in advance). A single LA-wide forecast allows movement of children between schools in the area to cancel out.

The forecasts given in this paper can therefore be expected to give a more accurate picture of overall trends than the aggregated individual school forecasts.

Please note that these forecasts do not include expected pupil numbers from major new developments such as those around the fringes of Cambridge, Northstowe, and Alconbury Weald.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS (4-10 YEAR OLDS)

### BACKGROUND

The January 2014 School Census shows that 98% of primary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school are currently living in the county, while 0.8% come from Suffolk, 0.6% from Norfolk and 0.3% from Peterborough.

For the 353 pupils from Suffolk, the most popular Schools are Ditton Lodge, Castle Camps, Kennett, Meadow, Linton Infant/Linton Heights Junior and Burrough Green. Almost 300 pupils from Norfolk are attending a Cambridgeshire maintained school, in particular Beaupre (which is in Norfolk but maintained by CCC), Elm, Clarkson Infant/St Peter's Junior, and Townley. Of the 157 pupils from Peterborough on roll at a Cambridgeshire maintained school, around 80% are attending bordering schools such as Elton (52), Yaxley Infant/William de Yaxley Junior (27), Fourfields (26), Farcet (9) and Folksworth (9).

Figures from the January 2014 PLASC indicate that just over 100 primary aged pupils from Cambridgeshire are attending a school in Peterborough; a figure which has been falling in recent years. The most popular schools are Southfields (16) and Oakdale (13). Data from the DfE<sup>1</sup> indicates that around 140 Cambridgeshire pupils are attending a school in Suffolk, 108 are going to Norfolk, 81 to Hertfordshire, 75 to Essex, and 23 to Lincolnshire.

### PRIMARY PUPIL NUMBERS

#### ALL YEAR GROUPS

Figure 1 shows the actual and forecast number of primary aged pupils across Cambridgeshire. Trends in primary numbers broadly follow recent trends in births, both at a local and at a national level. Key points to note are:

- Primary numbers in Cambridgeshire have been on an upward trend in recent years. They have increased from a low of 42,650 in 2006/07 to 46,365 in 2013/14. At the same time last year there were around 45,000 primary pupils in Cambridgeshire schools.
- Overall, cohort change between 2012/13 and 2013/14 resulted in a net gain of 18 pupils; an overall gain was last seen in 2009/10. This is likely to reflect that losses from the barracks are now minimal, and a recent increase in housing completions in the county, especially from sites of 100 or more dwellings<sup>2</sup>.
- 4 to 5 year olds were the cohort to see the highest net gain at 80 pupils. Much smaller gains were seen to the 5 to 6 (3 pupils) and 7 to 8 cohorts (18). Reasonably large losses were seen

<sup>1</sup> Department for Education. Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014. Published 12 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2014>

<sup>2</sup> Policy and Monitoring, Cambridgeshire County Council. Housing Development in Cambridgeshire 2014. Published August 2014. [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2779/report-housing\\_development\\_in\\_cambridgeshire\\_2013](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2779/report-housing_development_in_cambridgeshire_2013)

to the 6 to 7 (47) and 8 to 9 cohorts (36), possibly reflecting the transfer for children to independent schools. No change was seen in size of the 9 to 10 year old cohort.

- Cohort change within the districts varied considerably, bringing additional children to Fenland (37 pupils), East Cambridgeshire (23) and Cambridge City (18), while resulting in losses from South Cambridgeshire (41) and Huntingdonshire (19).
- The forecasts presented here suggest an increase in total primary aged pupils over the next 10 years by 12%, to around 51,910 pupils in 2023/24, which is considerably lower than previously forecast due to lower numbers of births recently.
- While the 4 to 5 year olds are forecast to gain 69 pupils, and the 7 to 8 year olds gain two pupils, all other cohorts are forecast to lose pupils. Significant losses are forecast to continue in the 6 to 7 (66 pupils) and 8 to 9 cohorts (70 pupils).

**Figure 1: Actual and forecast numbers of primary aged pupils in Cambridgeshire, 2003/04 to 2023/24**

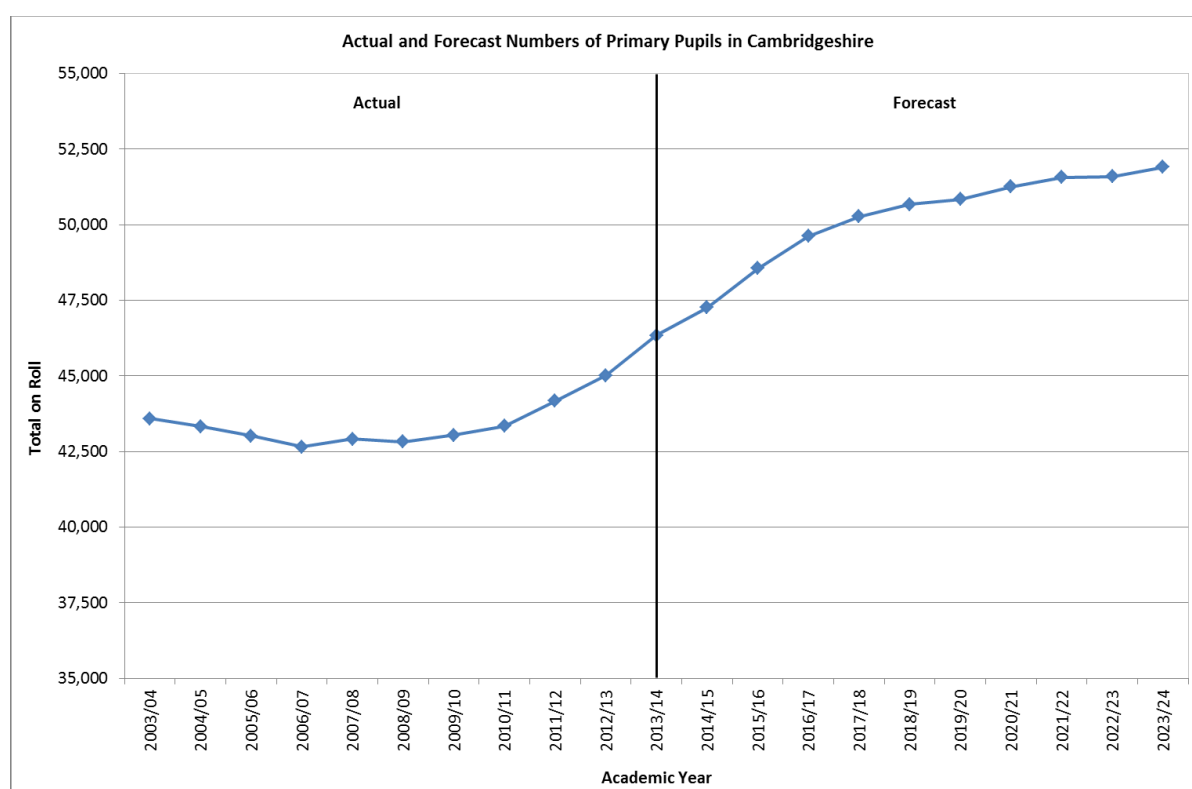
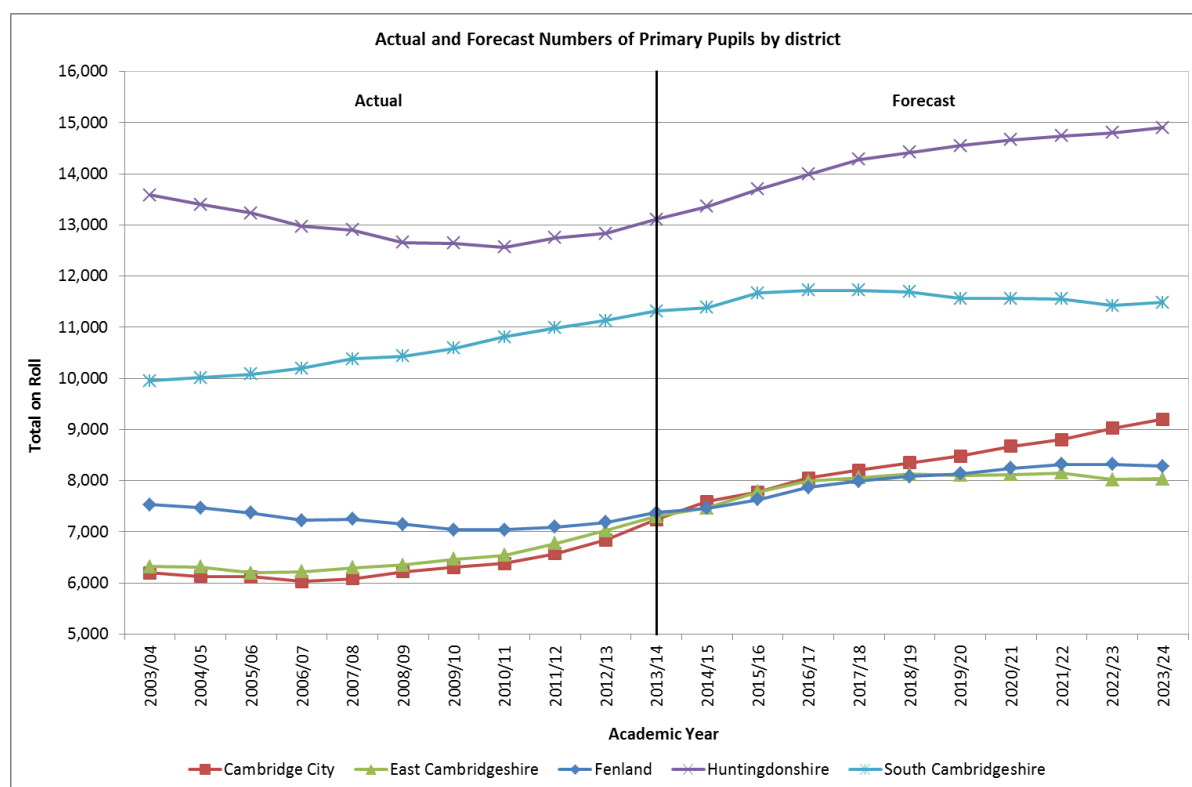


Figure 2 compares actual and forecast trends in primary aged pupils across Cambridgeshire’s districts. Increases in pupil numbers are most pronounced in the next five years; however future trends across the county are not uniform.

In five years’ time, total primary rolls are forecast to be around 9% higher than current numbers in the authority as a whole, compared to 15% higher in Cambridge City. Primary rolls are currently forecast to be 3% higher in South Cambridgeshire in five years’ time. This lower rate of growth is due to the effects of barracks closures and lower births. In ten years’ time, City numbers are forecast to be 27% higher than present, followed by 14% higher in Huntingdonshire and 12% higher in Fenland. Growth in total primary numbers in Cambridgeshire is forecast to slow after 2017/18.

**Figure 2: Actual and forecast numbers of primary aged pupils in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2003/04 to 2023/24**



## RECEPTION INTAKE

This year's reception intake was around 7,150 and is the highest since the early 1990s. Given current NHS registrations, reception cohorts are forecast to continue increasing with some fluctuations (Figure 3).

For the LA as a whole, the number of reception age pupils is forecast to be very similar in five years' time, conceivably due to a lower number of births. In contrast, total reception numbers are forecast to be 7% higher in Cambridge City, yet 4% lower in South Cambridgeshire. All districts are forecast to see growth in reception numbers between 2018/19 and 2023/24; varying from 11% in Cambridge City and 8% in Huntingdonshire, to 1% in Fenland. Overall, over the next ten years the largest growth in reception numbers is forecast in Cambridge City (19%) and Huntingdonshire (10%).

Figure 3 and Figure 4 below show a fall in reception intake in 2016/17 and 2017/18. This can be linked to a fall in the number of births. However, alongside this, changes to the way that the NHS records births also need to be considered. Children are now only registered to the area responsible for the GP practice not the area of residence. Hence, we may miss some children living in the county but registered with a GP outside the county; this is a particular issue around the county boundary. We are in contact with the data providers to try to obtain records for all children living in the county.



Figure 3: Actual and forecast numbers of reception pupils in Cambridgeshire, 2003/04 to 2023/24

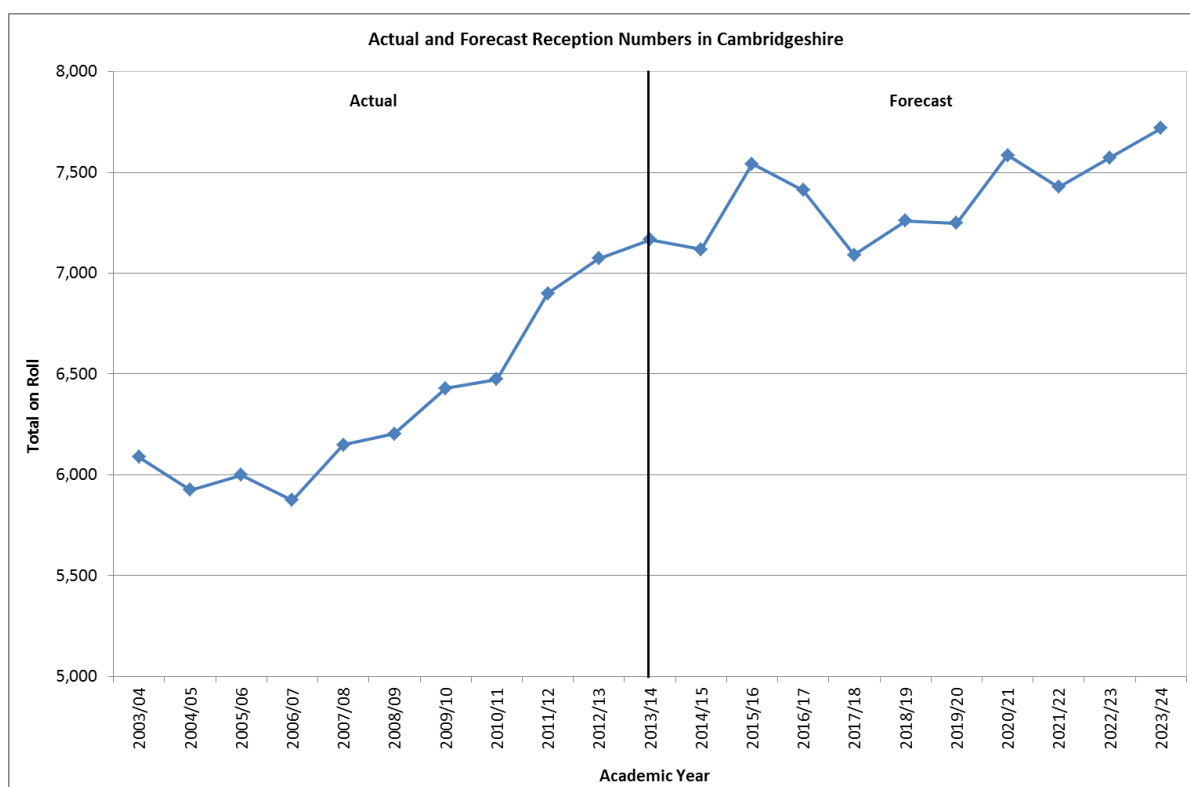
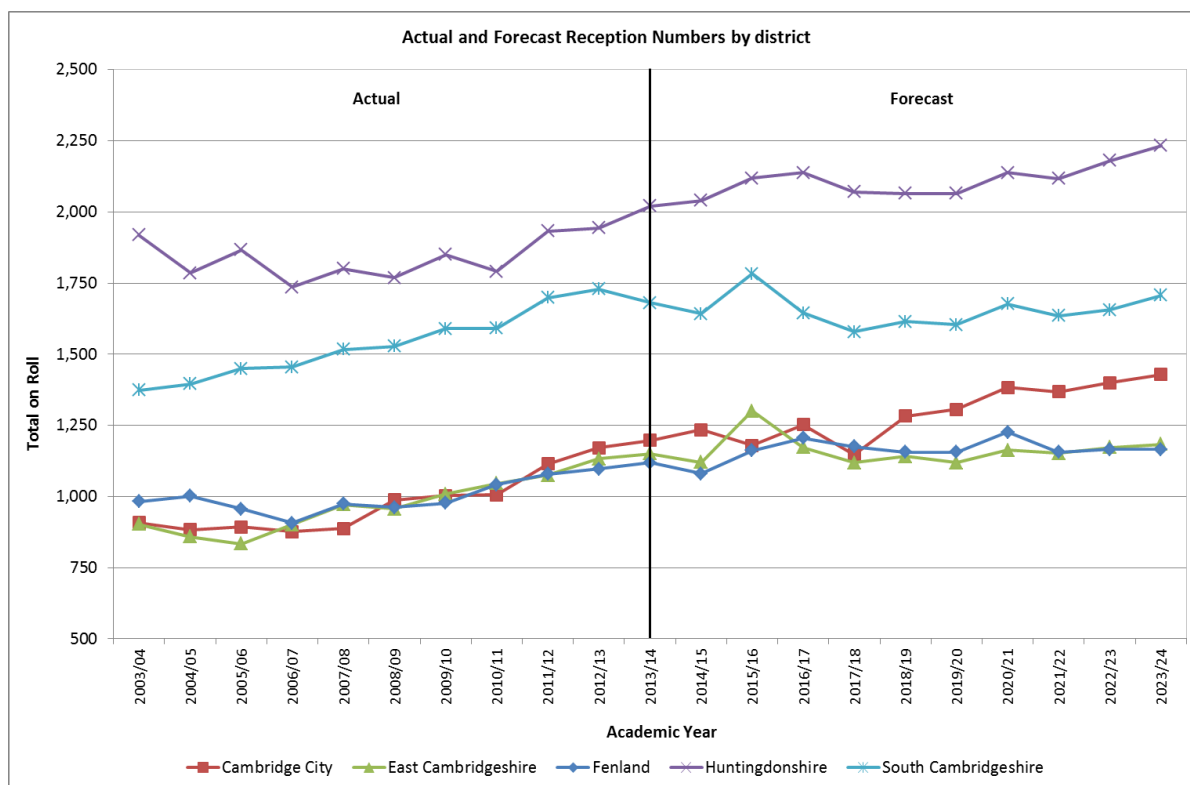


Figure 4: Actual and forecast numbers of reception pupils in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2003/04 to 2023/24



## SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS (11-16+ YEAR OLDS)

### BACKGROUND

The January 2014 School Census shows that 97% of the 32,000 secondary aged pupils (11 to 18 year olds) on roll at a Cambridgeshire school currently live in Cambridgeshire. Of the remaining pupils, 1% are from Suffolk, 0.4% from Hertfordshire and 0.4% from Peterborough. Over 300 pupils from Suffolk attend a school in Cambridgeshire, particularly Linton VC (173 pupils), Soham VC (86) and Bottisham VC (45). Around 80 secondary aged pupils from Norfolk attend a Cambridgeshire school, of which the most popular are Thomas Clarkson Academy (44) and Neale-Wade (20). The number of pupils from Peterborough who are on roll at Sawtry VC has dropped this year to 52. A further 51 pupils from Peterborough are attending Sir Harry Smith CC.

Figures from the January 2014 PLASC indicate that around 750 pupils aged between 11 and 18 years from Cambridgeshire are attending a Peterborough school. The most popular schools are Stanground Academy (338 pupils), The Kings School (214), Hampton College (55) and Nene Park Academy (45). Data from the DfE<sup>3</sup> indicates that around 353 Cambridgeshire pupils are attending a school in Lincolnshire, 230 are attending a school in Norfolk (an increase from 221 last year and 180 in 2011/12), while 120 attend a school in Central Bedfordshire, 101 attend a school in Suffolk and 60 attend a school in Hertfordshire.

### SECONDARY PUPIL NUMBERS

#### YEAR 7 INTAKE

The number of 11 year olds on roll in Cambridgeshire schools has been decreasing over the last 10 years. There are currently 5,540 11 year olds on roll compared to around 5,600 last year (Figure 5). This is the lowest recorded secondary intake since 1997/98.

The number of 11 year olds is forecast to increase rapidly over the next 10 years by 25% to around 7,000. This increase is particularly marked in Cambridge City (54%) and East Cambridgeshire (30%). Growth in secondary numbers is forecast to be lowest in South Cambridgeshire (8%). The forecast patterns of increase in numbers by district can be seen in Figure 6.

<sup>3</sup> Department for Education. Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2014. Published 12 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2014>

Figure 5: Actual and forecast numbers of 11 year old pupils in Cambridgeshire, 2003/04 to 2023/24

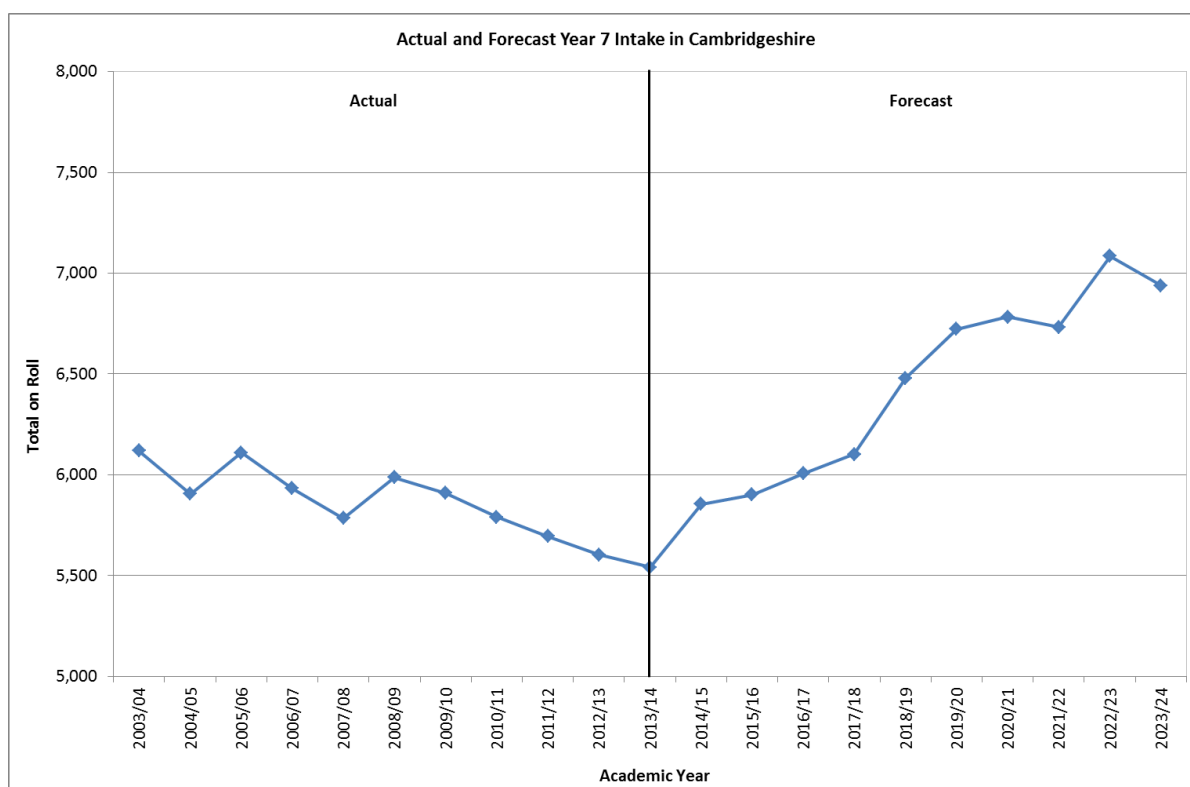
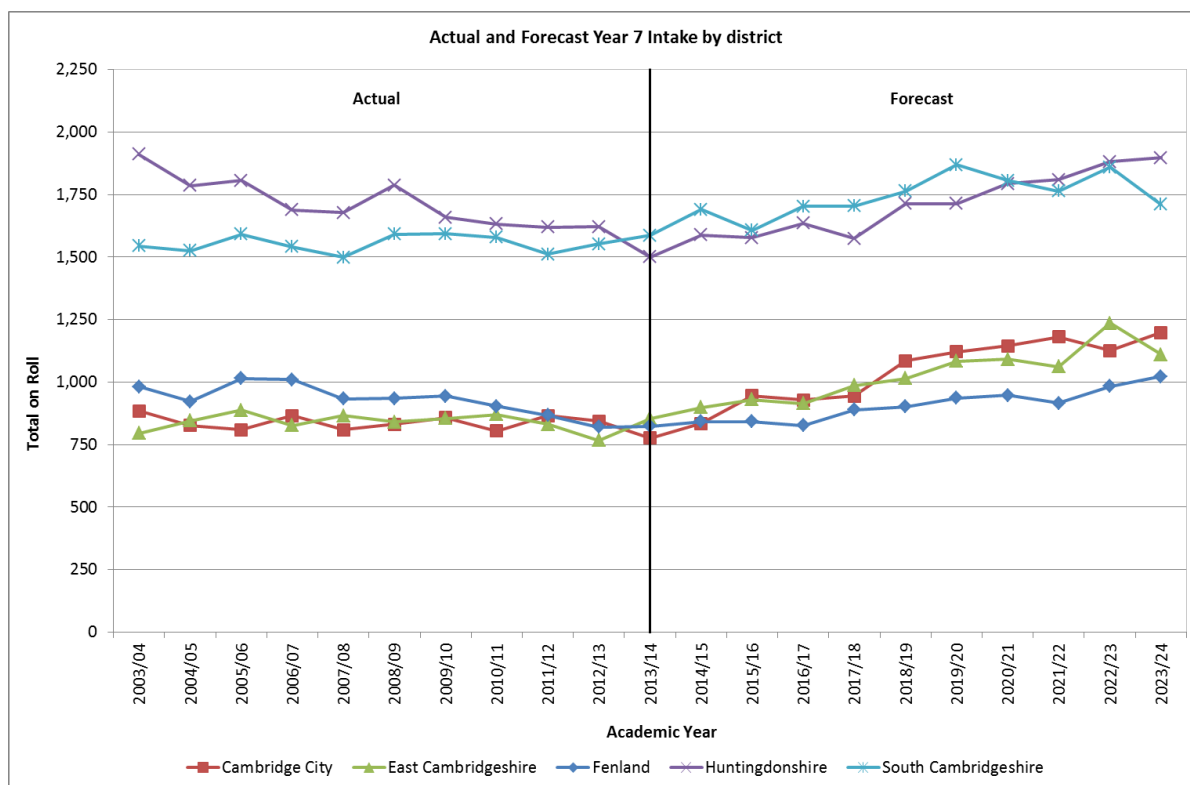


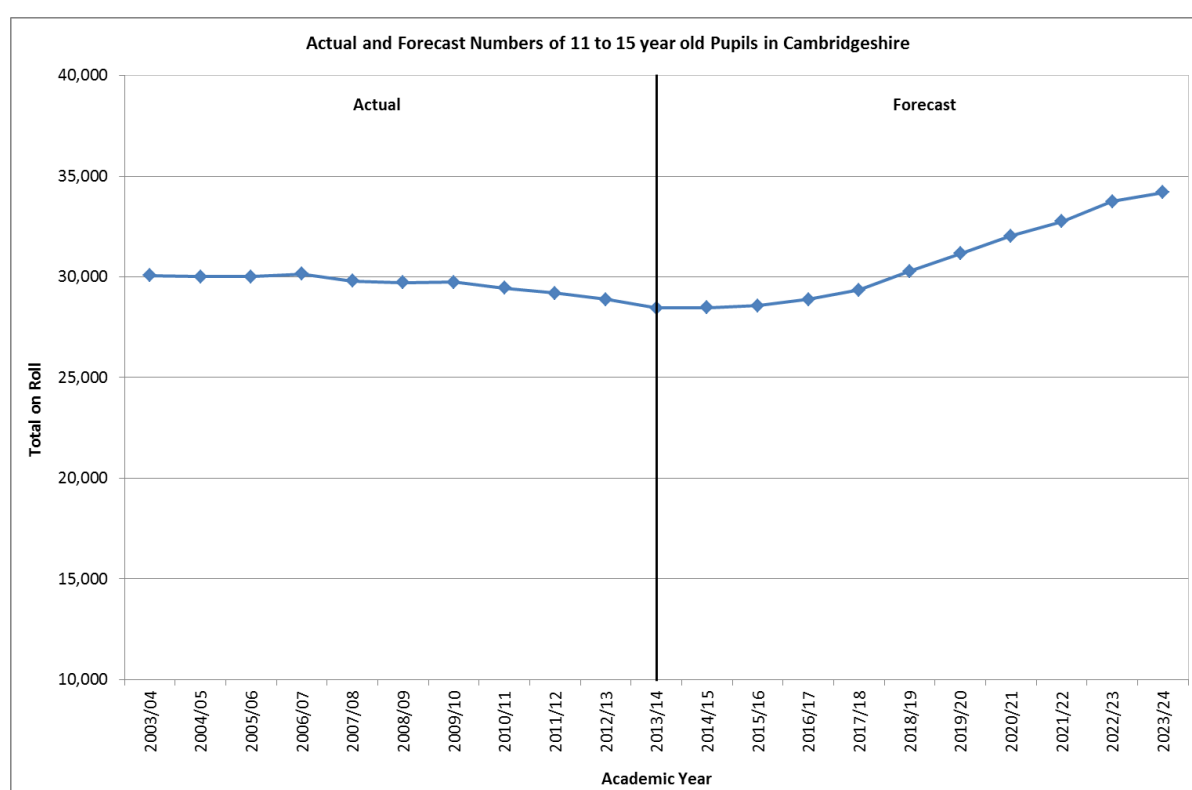
Figure 6: Actual and forecast numbers of 11 year olds in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2003/04 to 2023/24



## 11 TO 15 YEAR OLDS

The number of 11 to 15 year olds in Cambridgeshire schools was relatively stable between 2003/04 and 2009/10. However, since then numbers have been decreasing to the current figure of 28,455 pupils; this is over 400 pupils lower than last year.

**Figure 7: Actual and forecast numbers of 11 to 15 year old pupils in Cambridgeshire, 2003/04 to 2023/24**



Cohort change between 2012/13 and 2013/14 led to a net loss of six pupils. The 13 to 14 year olds and 14 to 15 year olds saw the greatest cohort change, gaining 47 and losing 69 pupils respectively. The 11 to 12 year old cohort gained 24 pupils, while the 12 to 13 cohort lost eight pupils.

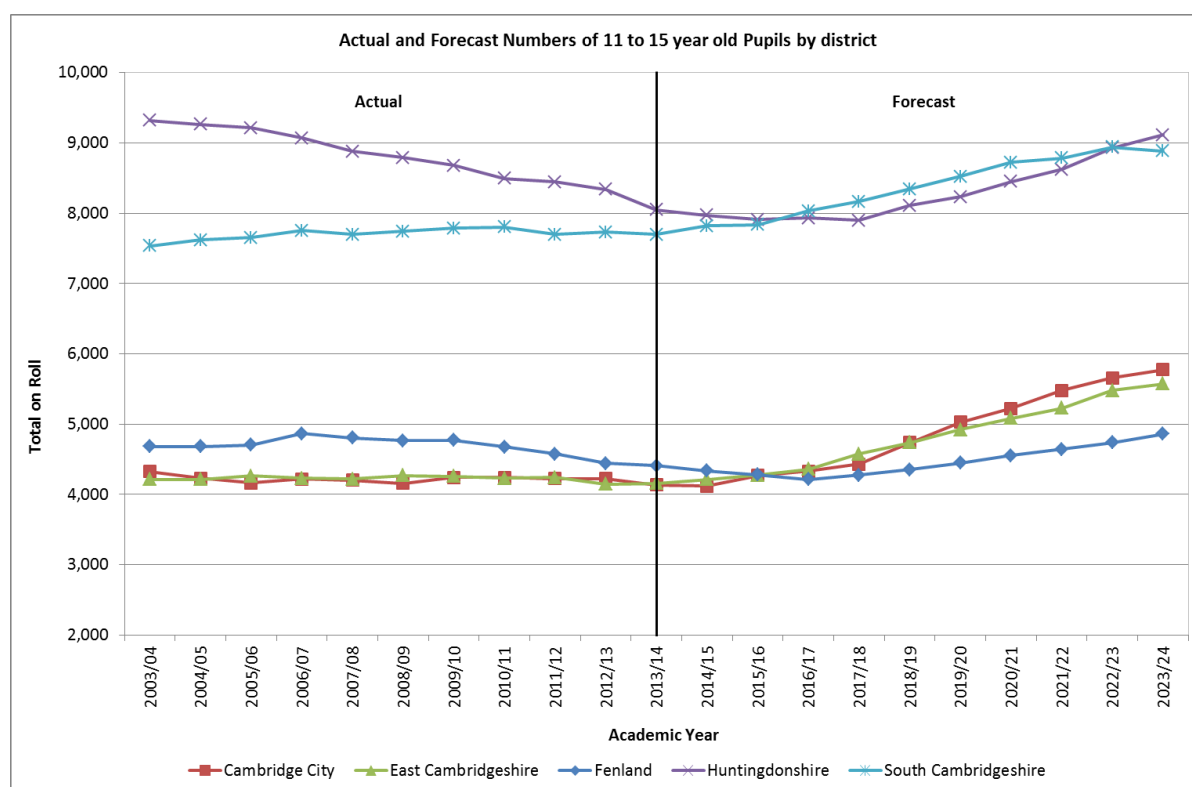
Fenland was the only district to see a net overall gain in 11 to 15 year olds (59 pupils), while the other four districts all saw a loss in the number of 11 to 15 year olds. Cambridge City saw the largest loss of 28 pupils, followed by Huntingdonshire which lost 16 pupils. South Cambridgeshire lost 12 pupils, which is considerably smaller than the loss of 40 pupils seen last year, and a loss of nine pupils was seen in East Cambridgeshire.

The forecasts presented here show that the number of 11 to 15 year olds is expected to remain relatively stable for the next two/three years before increasingly more noticeably as larger primary cohorts age through. Between now and 2023/24 the number of 11 to 15 year olds is expected to increase by 20% to around 34,200 pupils.

Figure 8 below compares trends in the number of 11 to 15 year olds across Cambridgeshire's districts. Over the next five years, there is little change forecast in the number of 11 to 15 year olds in Fenland and Huntingdonshire. In South Cambridgeshire, numbers are expected to increase by 8%

while in Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire numbers are expected to increase by 15% and 14% respectively. The higher levels of growth forecast in the latter five years of the Cambridgeshire forecast are also reflected in the districts. Overall, in ten years' time the number of 11 to 15 year olds is forecast to be higher by 40% in Cambridge City, 34% in East Cambridgeshire, 15% in South Cambridgeshire, 13% in Huntingdonshire and 10% in Fenland.

**Figure 8: Actual and forecast numbers of 11 to 15 year old pupils in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2003/04 to 2023/24**



## 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS

The sixth form forecasts assume that around 34% of 15 year olds will stay on at local authority schools over the next ten years. Rates have been increasing over the last three years in all districts except Huntingdonshire where they have been falling. The staying-on rate at 16 varies from 17% in East Cambridgeshire to 56% in Huntingdonshire. In Cambridge City and Fenland staying-on rates at 16 are 32% and 31% respectively, while in South Cambridgeshire they are 23%; all of which are in line with last year.

Overall, the number of 16 to 18 year olds in Cambridgeshire has been increasing. However, the total is forecast to fall over the next five years before increasing again (Figure 9). This fall reflects forecast decline in all districts except East Cambridgeshire over the next five years (Figure 10). Overall, the number of sixth form pupils in Cambridgeshire is forecast to increase by 28% in East Cambridgeshire and 25% in Fenland, while only by 5% in South Cambridgeshire. In Fenland and Huntingdonshire, an overall decline is forecast of 1% and 3% respectively, predominately due to the losses forecast in the next five years.

Figure 9: Actual and forecast numbers of sixth form pupils in Cambridgeshire, 2003/04 to 2023/24

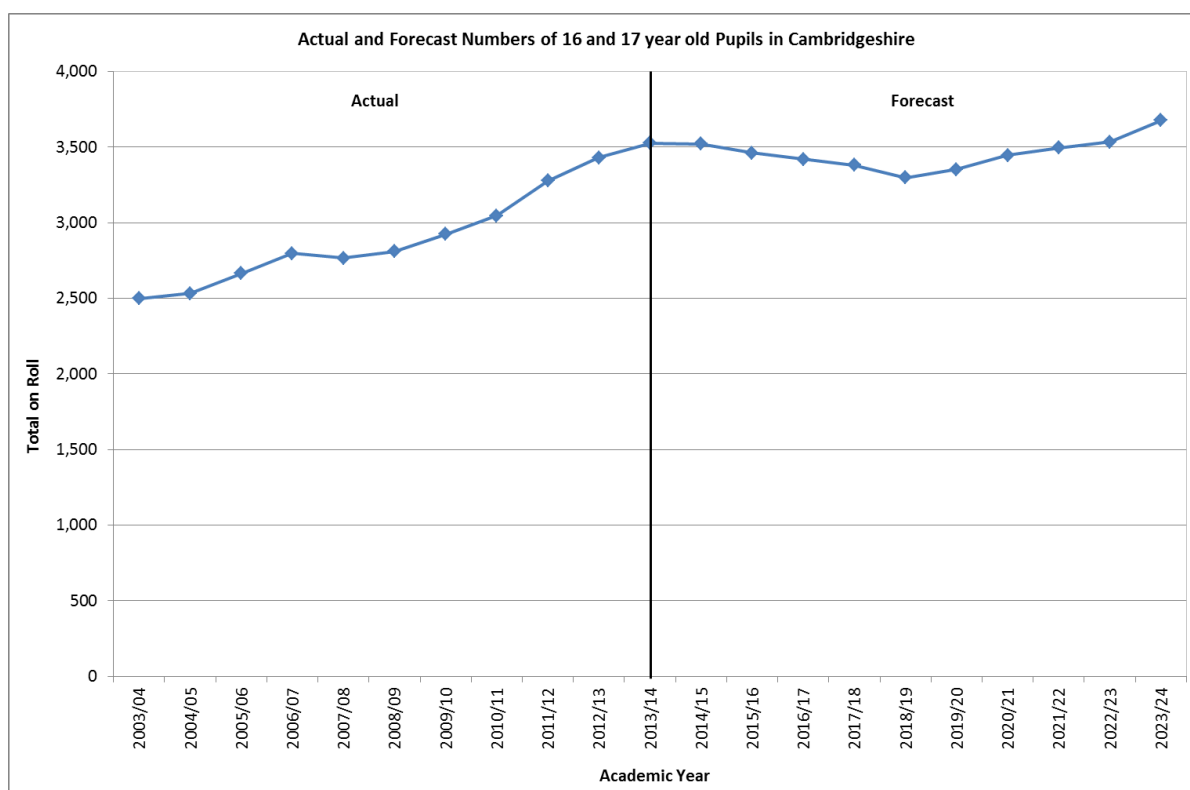
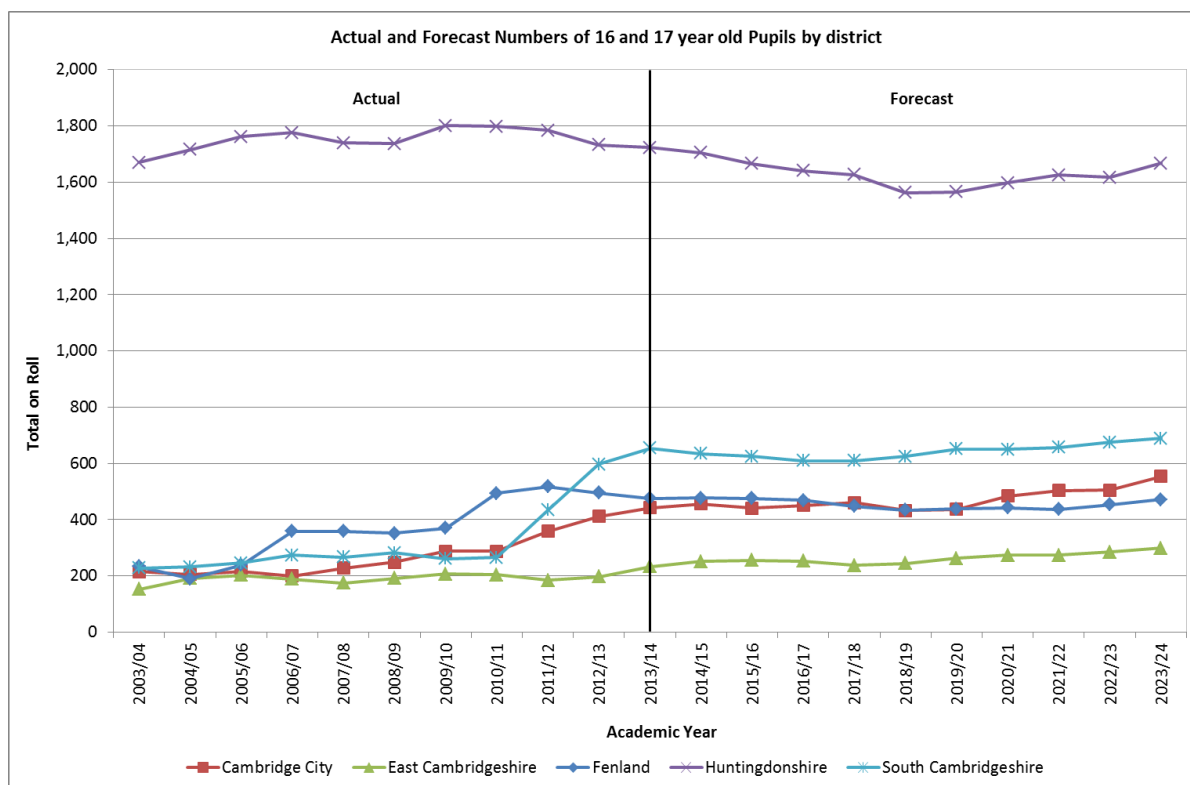


Figure 10: Actual and forecast numbers of sixth form pupils in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2003/04 to 2023/24



## ASSUMPTIONS

The projections discussed here are based on the assumption that recent trends will continue over the next ten years. Forecasts do not take into account individual housing developments, but are consistent with continued house building at the average rate observed over the last three years. In detail, the assumptions used are:

**Reception intake:** Intake of four year olds has been projected on the basis of the three year average relationship between the number of children arriving at school aged 4 and the number of births five years earlier; an arrival rate of 98%. Intakes for 2018/19 onwards are based on projected numbers of births in the Research and Performance Team's general population forecasting model.

**5 to 10 year old pupils:** Projected on the basis of changes in the size of year groups over the last two years – a net loss of 18 pupils per year group. A two year average is used so that figures are not negatively influenced by the large losses seen in 2012/13.

**11 year old pupils (Year 7 intake):** Intake of 11 year olds is projected on the basis of the three year average proportion transferring from the top primary year group to secondary school – a transfer rate of 96%. The net loss of 4% on transfer mainly represents moves into the independent sector.

**12 to 15 year old pupils:** Projected on the basis of changes in the size of year groups over the last three years- an average annual net loss of eight pupils per year group

**16 year old pupils:** Projected assuming the continuation of the most recent "staying-on rate" into maintained sixth forms for all districts except Huntingdonshire. For Huntingdonshire, the number of 16 year olds is projected on the assumption that the three-year average will continue as staying on rates here have been falling. Across the county as a whole, the staying on rate at 16 is around 34%. This is a relatively low figure because the two Cambridge sixth form colleges are excluded from these forecasts. In Huntingdonshire, the only part of the county where all secondary schools have sixth forms, the staying-on rate within the maintained sector was 56% this year.

Staying-on rates in City have been increasing steadily by two to three percentage points since 2007/08. However, following the opening of a new sixth form at Parkside (and Coleridge) in September 2011, staying on rates in City increased from 18% in 2010/11 to 28% in 2011/12 and 2013/14 were 32%. The opening of sixth forms at Comberton and Cottenham in September 2011 saw staying-on rates increase in South Cambridgeshire from 7% in 2010/11 to 20% in 2011/12 and to 25% in 2012/13. In 2013/14 this figure was 23%. Staying on rates in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland have also been increasing and are currently at 17% and 31% respectively.

**17 year old pupils:** Projected on the basis of the three-year average proportion of 16 year olds staying on into the upper sixth in Huntingdonshire. In the remaining four districts, the same assumption as for the 16 year olds is used, looking at the 2013/14 proportion. Overall, the staying on rate into upper sixth is 75%; this takes into account pupils staying on for a third year in the sixth form.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: PRIMARY PUPIL NUMBERS (AGED 4-10), ACTUAL AND FORECAST

School Year	Age:							Primary Total
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Actual								
2003/04	6,087	6,247	6,323	6,109	6,238	6,357	6,233	43,594
2004/05	5,924	6,122	6,255	6,270	6,122	6,239	6,403	43,335
2005/06	5,999	6,011	6,167	6,235	6,264	6,068	6,268	43,012
2006/07	5,874	6,017	6,015	6,150	6,248	6,259	6,090	42,653
2007/08	6,149	5,981	6,063	5,991	6,155	6,272	6,301	42,912
2008/09	6,202	6,217	6,006	5,998	5,988	6,098	6,313	42,822
2009/10	6,429	6,268	6,195	5,969	6,060	6,004	6,119	43,044
2010/11	6,474	6,426	6,291	6,167	5,969	6,018	5,992	43,337
2011/12	6,899	6,544	6,430	6,253	6,175	5,920	5,958	44,179
2012/13	7,073	6,902	6,478	6,320	6,209	6,136	5,899	45,017
2013/14	7,167	7,153	6,905	6,431	6,338	6,214	6,137	46,345
Forecast								
2014/15	7,117	7,236	7,134	6,839	6,433	6,316	6,191	47,266
2015/16	7,543	7,186	7,217	7,068	6,841	6,418	6,293	48,566
2016/17	7,412	7,612	7,167	7,151	7,070	6,815	6,395	49,622
2017/18	7,090	7,481	7,593	7,101	7,153	7,062	6,792	50,272
2018/19	7,259	7,159	7,462	7,527	7,103	7,133	7,039	50,682
2019/20	7,249	7,328	7,140	7,396	7,529	7,085	7,114	50,841
2020/21	7,586	7,318	7,309	7,074	7,398	7,514	7,063	51,262
2021/22	7,428	7,655	7,299	7,243	7,076	7,380	7,492	51,574
2022/23	7,574	7,497	7,636	7,233	7,245	7,059	7,359	51,603
2023/24	7,719	7,643	7,478	7,570	7,235	7,228	7,038	51,911



## APPENDIX 2: SECONDARY PUPIL NUMBERS (AGED 11-16+), ACTUAL AND FORECAST

School Year	Age:									Secondary Total
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11-15	16+	
Actual										
2003/04	6,119	6,136	5,966	5,978	5,878	1,335	1,163	30,077	2,498	32,575
2004/05	5,905	6,157	6,093	5,993	5,863	1,403	1,130	30,011	2,533	32,544
2005/06	6,109	5,901	6,111	6,074	5,805	1,414	1,252	30,000	2,666	32,666
2006/07	5,933	6,129	5,899	6,106	6,072	1,449	1,348	30,139	2,797	32,936
2007/08	5,785	5,980	6,118	5,925	5,997	1,495	1,272	29,805	2,767	32,572
2008/09	5,986	5,853	5,951	6,104	5,831	1,470	1,341	29,725	2,811	32,536
2009/10	5,909	6,013	5,809	5,966	6,038	1,502	1,423	29,735	2,925	32,660
2010/11	5,790	5,940	5,944	5,818	5,961	1,616	1,432	29,453	3,048	32,501
2011/12	5,695	5,787	5,875	6,008	5,824	1,929	1,350	29,189	3,279	32,468
2012/13	5,604	5,682	5,749	5,885	5,963	1,991	1,441	28,883	3,432	32,315
2013/14	5,541	5,628	5,674	5,796	5,816	2,027	1,499	28,455	3,526	31,981
Forecast										
2014/15	5,854	5,544	5,591	5,714	5,760	1,993	1,529	28,463	3,522	31,985
2015/16	5,901	5,857	5,507	5,631	5,678	1,962	1,501	28,574	3,463	32,037
2016/17	6,007	5,904	5,820	5,547	5,595	1,943	1,479	28,873	3,422	32,295
2017/18	6,101	6,010	5,867	5,860	5,511	1,919	1,464	29,349	3,383	32,732
2018/19	6,479	6,104	5,973	5,907	5,824	1,852	1,447	30,287	3,299	33,586
2019/20	6,723	6,482	6,067	6,013	5,871	1,957	1,396	31,156	3,353	34,509
2020/21	6,782	6,726	6,445	6,107	5,977	1,971	1,475	32,037	3,446	35,483
2021/22	6,732	6,785	6,689	6,485	6,071	2,013	1,483	32,762	3,496	36,258
2022/23	7,085	6,735	6,748	6,729	6,449	2,018	1,518	33,746	3,536	37,282
2023/24	6,938	7,088	6,698	6,788	6,693	2,161	1,518	34,205	3,679	37,884

Please note that due to an error in the model in the post-16 data for Fenland in 2006/07 and 2008/09, the total number of sixth form pupils is lower in these years than previously shown.

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF ACTUAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS, JANUARY 2014  
BASE

<i>School Year</i>	<i>Primary Total</i>	<i>Secondary 11-15</i>	<i>Secondary 16+</i>	<i>Secondary Total</i>	<i>Total Pupils</i>
<i>Actual</i>					
2003/04	43,594	30,077	2,498	32,575	76,169
2004/05	43,335	30,011	2,533	32,544	75,879
2005/06	43,012	30,000	2,666	32,666	75,678
2006/07	42,653	30,139	2,810	32,936	75,589
2007/08	42,912	29,805	2,767	32,572	75,484
2008/09	42,822	29,725	3,114	32,536	75,358
2009/10	43,044	29,735	2,925	32,660	75,704
2010/11	43,337	29,453	3,048	32,501	75,838
2011/12	44,179	29,189	3,279	32,468	76,647
2012/13	45,017	28,883	3,432	32,315	77,332
2013/14	46,345	28,455	3,526	31,981	78,326
<i>Forecast</i>					
2014/15	47,266	28,463	3,522	31,985	79,251
2015/16	48,566	28,574	3,463	32,037	80,603
2016/17	49,622	28,873	3,422	32,295	81,917
2017/18	50,272	29,349	3,383	32,732	83,004
2018/19	50,682	30,287	3,299	33,586	84,268
2019/20	50,841	31,156	3,353	34,509	85,350
2020/21	51,262	32,037	3,446	35,483	86,745
2021/22	51,574	32,762	3,496	36,258	87,832
2022/23	51,603	33,746	3,536	37,282	88,885
2023/24	51,911	34,205	3,679	37,884	89,795

*Please note that due to an error in the model in the post-16 data for Fenland in 2006/07 and 2008/09, the total number of sixth form pupils is lower in these years than previously shown.*

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### About the Cambridgeshire Research Group

The Research and Performance Team is the central research and information section of Cambridgeshire County Council. We use a variety of information about the people and economy of Cambridgeshire to help plan services for the county. The Research and Performance Team also supports a range of other partner agencies and partnerships.

Subjects covered by the Research and Performance Team include:

- Consultations and Surveys
- Crime and Community Safety
- Current Staff Consultations
- Data Visualisation
- Economy and The Labour Market
- Health
- Housing
- Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Population
- Pupil Forecasting

For more details please see our website:

[www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk)