

Dear

I am writing to you in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Nottinghamshire County Council. Firstly I apologise for the delay in replying to you and hope that it has not caused any inconvenience. I have the following information.

How many secondary school classes in your area are expected to have (a) between 30 and 35 pupils and (b) over 35 pupils in the school year 2017/18?

Classes not established yet.

How many secondary school classes in your area had (a) between 30 and 35 pupils and (b) over 35 pupils in the years (i) 2015/16 (ii) 2016/17.

The January 2016 census shows 31 classes of between 30 and 35 pupils and no classes of over 35 pupils. The January 2017 census shows 24 classes of between 30 and 35 pupils and 1 class of more than 35 pupils.

How many primary school classes in your area are expected to have (a) between 30 and 35 pupils and (b) over 35 pupils in the school year 2017/18?

Classes not established yet.

How many primary school classes had (a) between 30 and 35 pupils and (b) over 35 pupils in the years (i) 2015/16 and (ii) 2016/17

The January 2016 census shows 713 classes of between 30 and 35 pupils and 38 classes of over 35 pupils. The January 2017 census shows 696 classes of between 30 and 35 pupils and 36 classes of more than 35 pupils.

What is the largest class size at a secondary school in your area expected to be in the school year 2017/18?

Classes not established yet.

What is the largest class size at a primary school in your area expected to be in the school year 2017/18

Classes not established yet

Based on current projections, how many additional secondary school places do you estimate you will have to provide in your local area in 2020/21?

In 2013 NCC expanded primary provision at first admission by 215 places, which equated to a composite increase in the permanent net capacity of Nottinghamshire primary schools by 1505 places (215x7 = 1505). This growth in primary provision is being seen as an increase in demand for secondary school places – 7 years later in secondary schools. NCC is anticipating growth in secondary school place provision through an analysis of the net capacities of secondary academies. In addition to the “primary bulge” that is working through the system, Nottinghamshire is seeing a significant growth in housing which is also contributing to the demand for secondary (and primary) school places. Housing gain is driven by market forces and is unpredictable – as is therefore, the potential pupil place demand.

Currently, NCC Pupil Place Planning is anticipating a growth in the demand for secondary places in specific locations where demand is particularly high. The flexibility of the secondary school sector to accommodate higher numbers through the use of surplus places and the reconfiguration of existing buildings is considerable – therefore to place a precise figure on expected secondary expansion is impossible at the time. However, the possibility of a corresponding growth in secondary places as was seen in the primary sector would not be an unreasonable assumption.

Based on current projections, how many additional primary school places do you estimate you will have to provide in your local area in 2020/21?

NCC, in common with many other local authorities has seen a small but noticeable drop in the number of applications for first admissions places – approximately 400 in 2017. Demographic data – published on an annual basis – and contained in the HMG, SCAP report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-capacity> indicates that this trend is set to continue, therefore the most likely additional provision will arise as a result of housing gain.

In Nottinghamshire several major housing sites are indicated to be well advanced through their early stages by 2020/21 and to have met the initial triggers for there to be a requirement for more places. Build rates and the associated demand for extra places is market driven and subject to individual project triggers; however it is probable that an additional 3 – 5 forms of entry will have been required in order to mitigate the need arising from housing growth. Given that a 1 form entry school equates to 30 new places at first admission and ultimately 210 when all classes are filled, three forms of entry produces 90 new admission places, (630 when all are filled) and 5 forms of entry produces an additional 150 first admission places and an ultimate capacity increase of 1050 permanent places. It must be borne in mind that housing growth and the associated pupil place demand is subject to market volatility and may occur significantly later or earlier in the planning cycle.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail complaints@nottscc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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