

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Are local secondary schools full?

A. Over the past 3-4 years, local schools/colleges have increased their capacities (Published Admission Numbers) to accommodate the preferences of parents. The vast majority of any appeals have come from parents living outside of the locality.

Q. Will schools/colleges be full in the future?

A. School population data (provided by WSCC) forecast that the intake for years 2013-2017, do not indicate any significant changes in student numbers projected for local schools.

INTAKE/FORECAST INTAKE (Horsham/Southwater locality)				
2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
758 (current)	719	674	771	740

Q. Is there an urgent need to build a new secondary school?

A. Future student numbers will only significantly increase if large scale housing development takes place. The WSCC “rule of thumb” states that 1000 new homes “create” a single form of entry (30 students) for a year group. 5-6,000 new homes would, therefore, be required to have a 6 form entry school. Even if planning permission is granted for housing, the pace of building is often slow, particularly under current market conditions.

Q. How many children are bussed out of Southwater on a daily basis?

A. An exact figure is difficult to confirm but the likely number is approximately 400.

Q. How much does a new secondary school cost?

A. Again, variations in the size and extent of facilities make an accurate prediction difficult to provide. The new secondary academy in Bognor Regis cost approximately £40m.

Q. Will the money for a new school “dry up” if the Free School proposal is delayed?

A. As noted in our previous statement, if demographic changes make a new school necessary the Department for Education has a legal obligation to fund new school provision. Under current legislation any new build must be a Free School or Academy.