

Sufficiency Report on Post-16 School Places in Worcestershire Secondary Schools

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1. Executive Summary

Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) ambition is to ensure all learners receive outstanding teaching, learning and skills in high quality safe learning spaces. WCC promotes the interests of young people, working with local communities to stimulate and support a diversity of 16-19 provision that meets local needs. In doing so, the Council aims to provide access and support to ensure participation in good quality education or training, for young people aged 16-19 and up to 25 years of age for those with learning difficulties/disabilities), to meet the economic need of the area and give young people the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training by a) securing sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996, and b) to make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those between 20 and 25 with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), support that will encourage, enable and assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of ESA 2008.

In Worcestershire, post-16 school sufficiency is delivered by the Education and Early Help service within Worcestershire Children First (WCF). WCF is a wholly owned Council Company of Worcestershire County Council and was launched on 1st October 2019 following a directive by the Department for Education to form an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for Children's Social Care. The ADM was extended to include Education and Early Help.

2. Background

Local authorities have a critical role in supporting young people to access education and training. Statutory responsibilities on the local authorities, as well as schools and post-16 providers, ensure these responsibilities are undertaken. The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced wide reaching reforms to support children with special education needs and disabilities, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age, and replacing statements and Learning Disability Assessments with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Statutory guidance published by the DFE in September 2016 under the Education and Skills Act 2008 (ESA 2008)¹ sets out the duties local authorities are required to undertake in relation to the participation of young people in education, employment or training. Worcestershire Children First recently published a paper that sets out to provide an understanding of the support for young people with special education needs and disabilities in post-16 and further education setting entitled [Post 16 Graduated Response within Worcestershire](#).

To ensure compliance of its statutory obligations, the DFE monitor local authorities' performance using data collected and submitted to the National Client Caseload Information Service (NCCIS). The data shows

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561546/Participation-of-young-people-in-education-employment-or-training.pdf
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the number of young people participating in education and training, those who are not participating and those who are NEET or where activity is not known.

The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed two new duties on local authorities with regards to young people aged 16 and 17. These relate to the raising of the participation age (RPA):

- A local authority in England must ensure that its functions are exercised (so far as they are capable of being so) to promote the effective participation in education or training of persons belonging to its area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
- A local authority in England must make arrangements to enable it to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of persons belonging to its area to whom are failing to fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.

As part of the *Raising the Participation Age* initiative and to support the continued development of young people, from September 2012, all schools including Academies and Free Schools have been under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils in years 9-11 on the full range of post-16 options, including apprenticeships. From September 2013, the careers duty was extended to include Years 8 - 13 with an equivalent requirement applied to students aged 16 - 18 in colleges, through funding agreements. Schools are expected to engage, as appropriate, in partnership with external, expert careers providers but are otherwise free to make arrangements that fit the needs and circumstances of their pupils. In fulfilling their new duty, schools should secure access to independent face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support for young people to make successful transitions, particularly children from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who have learning difficulties or disabilities. Schools and colleges are expected to provide careers guidance that conforms to the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance.²

Qualifications available to post-16 students are varied. The new AS and A Levels were introduced in a phased approach from September 2015, with the last tranche of subjects being introduced in May 2018. AS Levels are now treated as standalone qualifications and have been decoupled from A Levels and do not count towards A Level final grades. Schools and colleges offer a choice of subjects to enable students to build an individualised curriculum, subject to take up and viability to deliver within the setting.

The Technical and Further Education Act (2017), takes forward the Government's programme to reform technical and further education. These reforms, proposed in the Sainsbury Report, were made government policy in the post-16 Skills Plan. The Sainsbury Report recommended replacing the 20,000 further education courses with 'T-level' qualifications that will last for two years and incorporate technical skills, English and maths at GCSE level, and a three-month work experience placement.

In addition, in January 2018 the Baker Clause was introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act. It means every school must give training providers and colleges access to every pupil in years 8 to 13, so they are able to fully understand the options for pursuing non-academic routes.

² www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance
www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Worcestershire County Council's approach to providing support to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education and/or training is delivered through the Business and Skills Team and a plethora of information can be obtained at www.skills4worcestershireshire.co.uk

3. Purpose of the report

This report sets out the response to Worcestershire's duty to ensure a sufficiency of places in school sixth form provision across its area as a vital aspect to ensuring this breadth of opportunity. In addition, it broadly touches on its related responsibility with regards to provision in post-16 colleges and establishments and with training providers. Other duties placed on the Authority such as tracking attainment and participation, training provision and careers advice are outside of this report.

4. Current Post-16 Education Provision in Worcestershire

Post-16 Education Provision in Schools – Demographics

Post-16 numbers in schools have fluctuated over the past 7 years with an overall downward trend. However, since 2017 Secondary school pupil numbers have been increasing. A recent paper on national statistics indicated '*The **Secondary school** population began rising in 2016 and is projected to continue increasing until 2024 before gradually dropping until the end of the projection period. The peak and then fall is primarily due to the lower births seen in 2013 and beyond, which start to reach secondary school age in around 2025.*'³

The number of pupil numbers entering Year 7 in Worcestershire is set to peak in the academic year 2023-2024 with cumulative pupil numbers on roll reaching a high in 2025-26. The inclusion of post-16 pupils follows through *to a peak in 2027-28*. Pupil numbers in this report and current forecasts reflect the number of pupils on roll taken at October each year. As these higher pupil numbers feed into Secondary schools and the demand for places start to increase, this report will set to monitor and advise schools to ensure that schools are able to match that increase with an increase in sixth form provision, as well as ensuring the delivery and timetabling of the national curriculum and a choice of post-16 subjects.

Where there are areas of significant housing growth it will be necessary to ensure that there is also provision for post-16 places to meet the needs of new families moving into Worcestershire. By 2030, housing growth across the county is predicted to create an additional 24,534 homes requiring a forecasted provision of 981 additional post-16 school places⁴. Further details are set out under the heading [Post-16 Future Needs in Worcestershire](#) of this report.

Post-16 Education Provision in Schools - Landscape

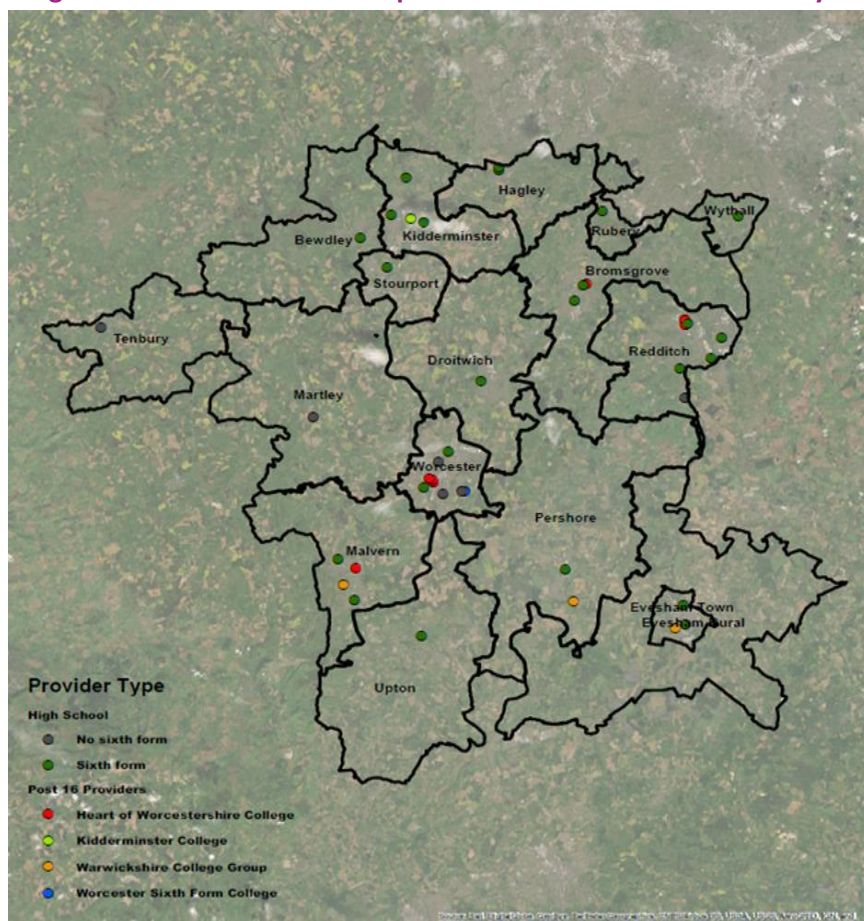
In recent years the location and supply of school sixth form provision in Worcestershire has remained largely unchanged. Schools set their own sixth form admissions criteria, manage their own sixth form admissions and the level and number of courses on offer.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-pupil-projections-july-2020>

⁴ Based on 50% stay on rate and current secondary pupil yield from housing development
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Sixth Form provision is provided in all 6 District Council areas across Worcestershire. These 6 districts are split into 16 Education Planning Areas. Of these, only two Education Planning Areas, Martley and Tenbury do not offer sixth form provision in a school setting.

Diagram 1 - Location of Post-16 provision in Worcestershire as they relate to Education Planning Areas



For September 2020, five high/secondary schools that offer sixth form provision have changed their Published Admission Number (PAN) for admittance into the first year of entry to the high/secondary school in response to local demographic change. The De Montfort School has decreased from 165 to 150, Baxter College has decreased from 196 to 180, Pershore High increased from 252 to 282, Hanley Castle High School from 162 to 180 and Christopher Whitehead Language College from 254 to 284. The impact on sixth form provision at these settings is unlikely to impact until 2025. This is the point at which high/secondary school pupil numbers, as set out in national predictions, are anticipated to be at their peak. However, this does not preclude any increase or decrease in pupil numbers as a result new housing growth and parental preference.

Assessment and Performance of School Sixth Forms

In Worcestershire, there are 31 mainstream publicly funded schools offering secondary education provision of which 25 also deliver post-16 sixth form provision. 20 of these schools (80%) are rated as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’. This is an increase from 76% in 2019. Since 2019, four schools have received

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updated Ofsted ratings: Baxter College is now rated Good and has improved from previously being considered as Inadequate, Hagley Catholic College is rated Good having previously rated Outstanding in October 2011, North Bromsgrove has been rated Requires Improvement having previously rated as Inadequate and The De Montfort School has been rated Inadequate having previously rated Requires Improvement. Three other schools – King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre Kidderminster, The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre and Tudor Grange Academy Worcester all remain Good. Where sixth form provision is offered, schools have a sixth form PAN for admission of external pupils who did not attend the school in year 11. All but four high schools with sixth form provision have academy status. These details are summarised in [Table 1](#).

Table 1 - Ofsted Ratings for Secondary / High Schools with Post-16 Provision in Worcestershire

School_Name	PAN 2020	Sixth Form PAN_2020	Ofsted Rating	Inspection Date	Education_Planning_Area	Maintained_Academy	Academy Conversion
Arrow Vale RSA Academy	224	15	Outstanding	05-Dec-18	Redditch	Academy	01-Sep-12
Baxter College	180	10	Good	14-Jan-20	Kidderminster	Academy	01-Sep-12
Christopher Whitehead Language College	284	12	Good	18-Jun-18	Worcester	Academy	01-Jul-11
Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form	305	15	Good	02-May-17	Droitwich	Academy	01-Jul-11
Dyson Perrins C.E. Academy	168	10	Good	01-May-18	Malvern	Academy	01-Aug-11
Hagley Catholic High	190	30	Good	15-Oct-19	Hagley	Academy	01-Oct-14
Hanley Castle High	180	20	Good	27-Jun-17	Upton	Academy	01-Aug-11
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	190	52	Outstanding	10-Dec-08	Hagley	Academy	01-Jul-11
Holy Trinity	50	30	Good	05-Jul-17	Kidderminster	Academy	01-Sep-14
King Charles I	224	10	Good	28-Jan-20	Kidderminster	Academy	01-Apr-12
North Bromsgrove High School and Sixth Form (PFI)	300	10	Requires Improvement	15-May-19	Bromsgrove	Maintained	
Pershore High	282	8	Good	16-Oct-17	Pershore	Academy	01-Jul-11
Prince Henry's High	315	10	Outstanding	22-May-13	Evesham	Academy	01-Mar-11
South Bromsgrove High	335	20	Outstanding	23-Oct-12	Bromsgrove	Academy	01-Nov-13
St Augustine's Catholic High	235	50	Outstanding	22-Jun-17	Redditch	Academy	01-Jul-14
The Bewdley School	168	8	Good	11-Sep-19	Bewdley	Maintained	
The Chase	240	40	Good	12-Sep-16	Malvern	Academy	01-Nov-11
The De Montfort School	150	30	Inadequate	05-Nov-19	Evesham	Maintained	01-Jan-21
The Stourport High School & Sixth Form Centre	254	15	Requires Improvement	08-Nov-18	Stourport	Academy	01-Aug-11
Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	252	20	Good	03-Oct-18	Redditch	Academy	01-Aug-11
Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch	180	20	Requires Improvement	28-Jun-18	Redditch	Academy	01-Apr-14
Tudor Grange Academy, Worcester	210	3	Good	19-Jun-19	Worcester	Academy	01-Sep-09
Waseley Hills High	178	50	Requires Improvement	06-Sep-18	Rubery	Academy	01-Sep-12
Wolverley C.E. Secondary	150	8	Good	08-Sep-16	Kidderminster	Maintained	
Woodrush High	180	10	Outstanding	04-Dec-13	Wythall	Academy	01-Jul-11

Under the post-16 reforms, schools are now required to provide a wider breadth of qualifications to post-16 pupils. Historically, sixth forms have catered for those pupils seeking A Level programmes of study. However, as a result of legislation introduced in September 2013 entitled 'Raising the Participation Age' (RPA) aimed at encouraging young people to stay in education and training until they are 18, together with changes proposed under the Technical and Further Education Act, sixth forms have been required to diversify to provide more vocational programmes of study to respond to a competitive market and provide alternative Level 3 qualifications.

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Level 3⁵ qualifications are:

- A level
- access to higher education diploma
- advanced apprenticeship
- applied general
- AS level
- international Baccalaureate diploma
- level 3 award
- level 3 certificate
- level 3 diploma
- level 3 ESOL
- level 3 national certificate
- level 3 national diploma
- level 3 NVQ
- music grades 6, 7 and 8
- tech level

Tech level is a new qualification equivalent to 3 A level qualifications. Learners can follow several routes including a Digital route, Construction route, Education and Childcare route and, Health and Science route. In 2019, seven publicly funded schools in Worcestershire were shown as delivering this qualification: Arrow Vale RSA Academy in Redditch, Baxter College in Kidderminster, Christopher Whitehead Language College in Worcester, Hagley Catholic High School in Hagley, Prince Henrys High School in Evesham, Stourport High School in Stourport and Trinity High School and Sixth Form in Redditch. Four further settings, Heart of Worcestershire, The Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group, Warwickshire College Group and Worcester Sixth Form College are listed as delivering the qualification.

Many schools still maintain minimum qualifications for study on entry to sixth form, with many academic qualifications requiring grade 5 or above, with 9 being the highest and 4 the lowest. This restricts the opportunities for many students to maintain at school sixth forms if alternative qualifications are not offered.

[Table 2](#) sets out a range of performance data with regards to Year 11 pupils. In assessing the performance data, there is an indication that transfer rates into school sixth forms are higher in those schools where the percentage of pupils with Grade 5 or above in English and mathematics are greater than 50% and the Attainment 8 score is above 50. There are a couple of anomalies and further analysis is required to understand whether there are any inhibitors to transfer or whether circumstance or pupil preference to seek alternative forms of education, employment or training prevail.

Attainment 8 measures the achievement of pupils across 8 qualifications including mathematics, English, 3 further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure, usually sciences and 3 further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the DfE approved list, such as a language and geography or history. Each individual grade a pupil achieves is assigned a point score, which is used to calculate a pupil's Attainment 8 score (see second step below).

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-level>

Table 2 - Year 11 Performance Data Summary

School Name	At end of KS4 2019 - all pupils			
	Entering Ebacc	Staying in Education or Entering Employment 2017	Grade 5 or above in English & Maths GCSE	Attainment 8 Score
Arrow Vale RSA Academy	22%	147 / 161 91%	38%	43.4
Baxter College	47%	No recorded data	26%	39
Christopher Whitehead Language College	83%	217 / 228 95%	44%	49.1
Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form Centre	35%	235 / 249 94%	52%	52.9
Dyson Perrins CE Academy	21%	82 / 84 98%	22%	41.8
Hagley Catholic High School	58%	163 / 167 98%	71%	57.2
Hanley Castle High School	72%	157 / 160 98%	52%	53.3
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	71%	166 / 167 99%	58%	53.4
Holy Trinity School	22%	20 / 20 100%	42%	46.9
King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre	77%	162 / 172 94%	38%	45.7
North Bromsgrove High School	47%	196 / 202 97%	34%	43.1
Pershore High School	23%	212 / 220 96%	44%	49.2
Prince Henry's High School	72%	293 / 307 95%	52%	49.6
South Bromsgrove High School	65%	315 / 326 97%	49%	49.2
St Augustine's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre	47%	194 / 199 97%	58%	54.1
The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre	56%	51 / 162 93%	51%	48.1
The Chase	29%	200 / 212 94%	52%	52.9
The De Montfort School	18%	125 / 135 93%	28%	40.6
The Stourport High School & VI Form College	69%	187 / 190 98%	38%	44.3
Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	18%	228 / 239 95%	25%	40.4
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	31%	139 / 148 94%	21%	34.1
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	18%	154 / 166 93%	37%	42.5
Waseley Hills High School	34%	125 / 131 95%	38%	46.6
Wolverley CE Secondary School	80%	86 / 91 95%	28%	44.4
Woodrush High School	76%	162 / 168 96%	44%	48.2

Table 3 - Number of Pupils on Roll in Years 12 and 13 in state-funded mainstream schools

Sixth Form Number on Roll School Name	October 2015		October 2016		October 2017		October 2018		October 2019	
	year 12	year 13	year 12	year 13	year 12	year 13	year 12	year 13	year 12	year 13
Arrow Vale RSA Academy	77	69	81	47	59	43	79	48	80	62
Baxter College	82	68	88	49	47	56	55	38	52	51
Christopher Whitehead Language College	58	0	86	47	118	75	100	104	90	98
Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form Centre	123	118	109	105	119	97	99	103	97	88
Dyson Perrins CE Academy	87	75	56	70	25	33	36	23	14	33
Hagley Catholic High School	130	91	119	97	106	96	113	99	112	100
Hanley Castle High School	107	90	101	95	115	90	110	99	115	99
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	174	161	181	141	172	138	174	151	130	158
Holy Trinity School	14	15	23	13	19	13	20	12	31	16
King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre	71	65	58	63	46	51	58	42	57	44
North Bromsgrove High School	88	59	78	67	59	65	17	47	65	16
Pershore High School	137	113	98	105	63	93	83	61	101	74
Prince Henry's High School	175	154	181	139	179	161	165	171	170	156
South Bromsgrove High School	209	155	189	191	177	174	173	166	178	164
St Augustine's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre	149	93	157	107	125	108	125	105	150	96
The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre	95	57	71	63	60	62	46	47	47	32
The Chase	154	172	100	148	123	99	139	124	134	132
The De Montfort School	45	48	75	33	40	58	46	34	58	34
The Stourport High School & VI Form College	86	87	80	73	55	59	57	48	79	44
Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	113	82	109	90	95	72	104	74	95	87
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	69	84	84	52	74	45	17	54	17	14
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	71	31	65	54	55	60	65	42	28	60
Waseley Hills High School	48	35	34	42	39	30	33	30	48	30
Wolverley CE Secondary School	60	36	31	41	22	20	26	17	12	19
Woodrush High School	68	38	64	56	45	57	61	39	45	52
	2490	1996	2318	1988	2037	1855	2001	1778	2005	1759

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Stay on Rates

The number of pupils in a sixth form varies widely between schools. This is shown in [Table 3](#). Wolverley CE Secondary School has the smallest number on pupils on roll in year 12 with 12 pupils whereas the largest school sixth form, South Bromsgrove High School, has the greatest number on roll in year 12 of 178 pupils. For all schools, where there are a greater number of pupils in attendance in a sixth form, there is an increased likelihood of the school delivering a greater number of subjects as scale supports the viability of subject delivery.

A Department for Education report published in March 2017 entitled [Understanding costs of A level provision via the decision making process behind class sizes](#), indicated that the minimum viable A level class size is, on average, 11.7 pupils. There are four schools where the number of pupils in year 12 is less than 30. This represents approximately 25% of the previous number of pupils in year 11 indicating a lower than anticipated number of pupils transitioning from mainstream year groups to sixth-form provision. These are Dyson Perrins CE Academy, Tudor Grange Academy Redditch, Tudor Grange Academy Worcester and Wolverley CE Secondary School. With the exception of Tudor Grange Academy Worcester, these schools have had lower pupil numbers in year 11. With higher cohorts progressing through the secondary system, there is an anticipation that school sixth form pupil numbers will increase.

[Table 4](#) below shows the percentage of sixth form numbers on roll in year 12 calculated as a percentage of the cohort at year 11. This will also include a small number of external pupils who may have entered the school at Year 12. As higher pupil numbers move through the secondary school system, higher pupil base numbers will ultimately increase sixth form pupil numbers in popular sixth forms, leading to an expectation of higher sixth form numbers across the County.

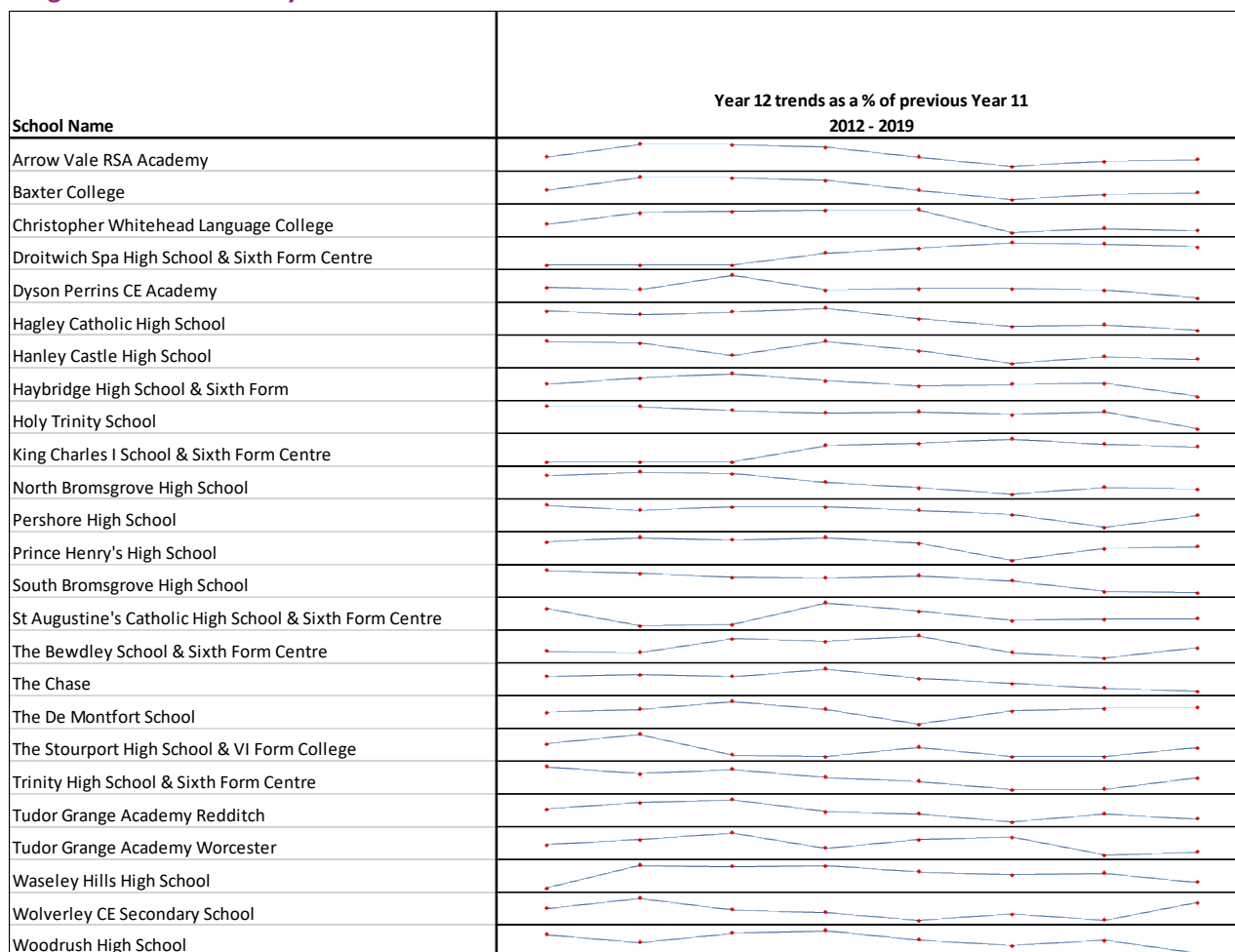
Table 4 - Year 12 Pupils as a Percentage of the Previous Year 11 Cohort

Stay on Rates of Yr12 as a % of the previous Yr11 cohort	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
School Name	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11	Yr12 pupils as % of previous Yr11
Arrow Vale RSA Academy	47.3	63.5	62.4	58.8	46.8	34.9	41.6	44.0
Baxter College	36.9	45.6	46.4	47.1	48.1	30.5	34.0	31.9
Christopher Whitehead Language College	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	37.7	51.8	47.8	40.9
Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form Centre	47.5	45.1	61.5	45.1	46.2	46.1	44.6	36.1
Dyson Perrins CE Academy	74.2	65.8	71.8	85.3	51.4	29.1	34.0	16.5
Hagley Catholic High School	76.4	75.0	68.1	76.5	70.8	63.1	67.3	65.9
Hanley Castle High School	71.7	73.5	75.0	72.8	71.1	71.9	71.9	68.0
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	116.7	116.2	109.5	105.5	108.4	103.0	108.1	79.8
Holy Trinity School	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	74.2	95.0	71.4	62.0
King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre	40.7	44.0	42.0	35.3	30.9	25.7	31.5	30.0
North Bromsgrove High School	43.8	35.8	40.4	40.2	35.1	28.8	8.8	28.0
Pershore High School	50.8	56.4	53.2	56.8	49.5	28.4	43.2	45.1
Prince Henry's High School	62.0	60.5	59.2	58.9	59.9	57.9	53.4	53.0
South Bromsgrove High School	60.1	50.8	51.5	63.5	58.5	53.8	54.2	54.6
St Augustine's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre	62.9	61.7	73.8	71.6	77.3	61.3	56.1	65.5
The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre	46.9	49.4	46.4	57.6	43.8	36.6	30.5	26.4
The Chase	55.0	60.4	72.9	59.9	37.0	57.7	61.2	62.6
The De Montfort School	47.0	59.9	32.0	29.4	42.1	29.4	29.7	41.4
The Stourport High School & VI Form College	52.9	44.9	49.8	41.5	37.0	28.1	28.6	40.5
Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	51.3	57.9	61.7	48.5	47.0	38.0	46.8	41.3
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	35.9	43.1	52.8	32.4	43.3	46.5	22.7	27.4
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	0.0	56.7	52.1	53.8	39.4	32.2	37.6	15.1
Waseley Hills High School	34.7	43.0	33.8	31.4	24.8	30.0	25.6	39.3
Wolverley CE Secondary School	35.4	26.7	37.0	40.0	29.8	23.4	28.9	14.8
Woodrush High School	46.4	33.1	28.7	39.8	38.1	26.0	36.1	25.9

Over the past 7 years the average stay on rate in year 12 has ranged from 37.3% in 2019 to 45% in 2014, although across Worcestershire numbers varies significantly. In October 2019, analysis of the number of pupils in year 12 in a school sixth form in comparison with the number of pupils in year 11 of the previous year and attending the same schools, varied from 14.8% to 79.8% with approximately one third of school sixth forms in Worcestershire maintain over 50% of year 11 pupils in year 12.

The trends for each school sixth form can be seen in [Diagram 2](#).

Diagram 2 - Post-16 Stay on Rate Trends between Year 12 and Year 11 of the Previous Year



There are numerous reasons why transfer rates show a change, these include parental/pupil preference, Ofsted ratings, peer and cohort preferences, examination results, or the ability to offer suitable post-16 provision and course availability. Analysis of year 12 number on roll indicates that there is a correlation between stay-on rates and Ofsted ratings. Of those schools that are rated Outstanding, the number of pupils in year 12 on average is 54% of the previous year 11 and 40.6% for those schools rated Good. However, for schools rated as Requires Improvement the number of pupils in year 12 on average is 34.2% of the previous year 11 and 41.4% for schools rated Inadequate.

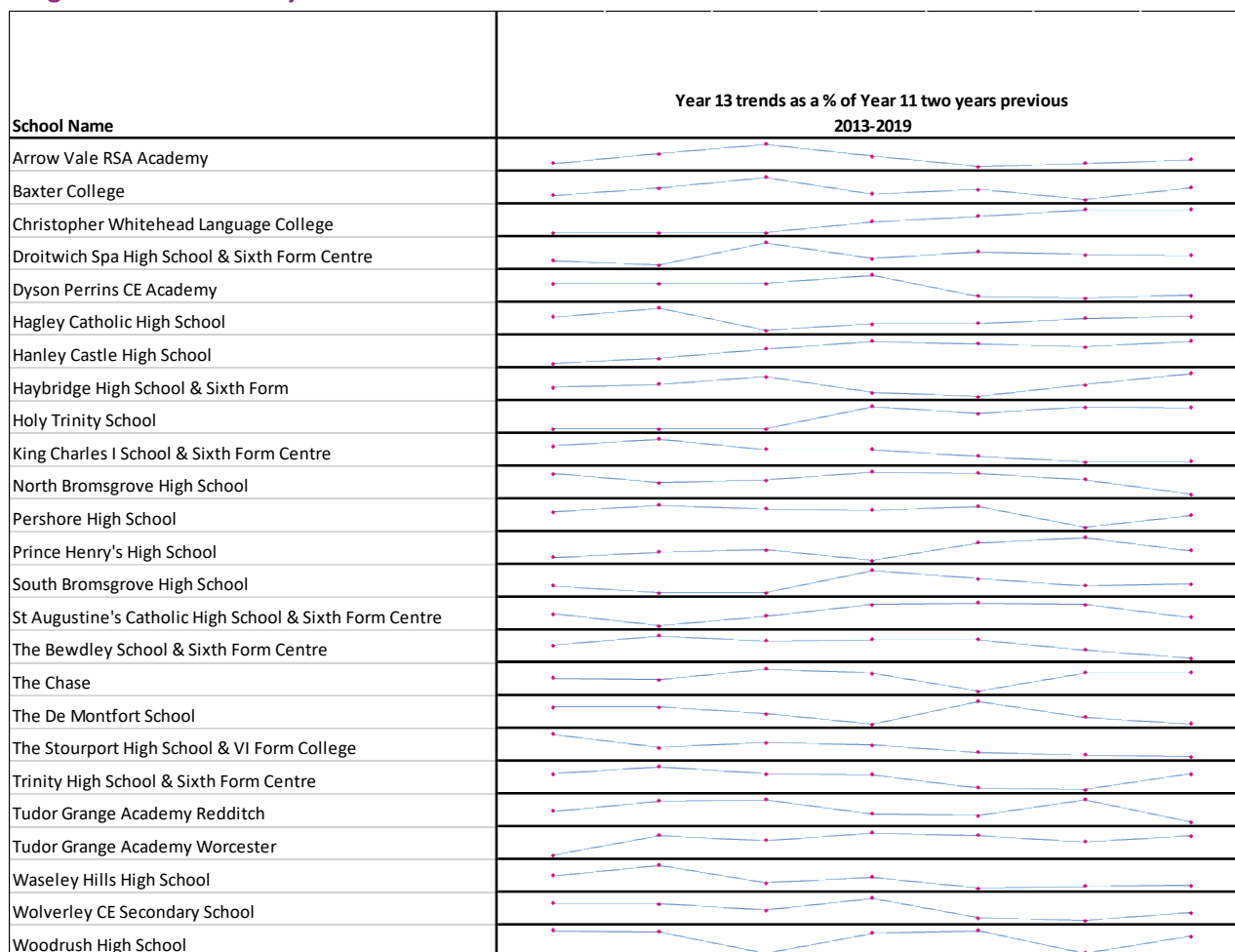
In 2019, the percentage of pupils in year 13 compared with the previous year 12, remains broadly the same as in 2018 with 87.9% of pupils remaining in year 13 compared with 87.3% in 2018 however, between 2014 and 2019 the number of pupils in year 13 declined from 2,036 to 1,759. This is consistent with lower pupil numbers feeding through the system and the increased availability of education, employment opportunities for pupils aged 16-18. [Diagram 3](#) shows sixth form trends at individual schools. [Diagram 4](#) details actual past, present and forecasted pupil numbers between October 2014 and October 2030 providing an overview of pupil numbers in Worcestershire schools. [Table 5](#) shows the number of year 13 pupils on roll as a percentage of year 11 from two years preceding. This figure indicates the retention rate in year 13 for each school sixth form.

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Table 5 - Year 13 Pupils as a Percentage of the Year 11 Cohort from Two Years Preceding

Stay on Rates of Yr13 as a % of the Yr11 cohort 2 years preceding	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
School Name	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous	% stay on rate Yr13 from Yr11 2 yrs previous
Arrow Vale RSA Academy	28.3	38.5	48.9	35.9	24.9	28.4	32.6
Baxter College	27.4	31.3	37.6	28.2	30.6	24.7	31.5
Christopher Whitehead Language College	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	32.9	45.6	46.9
Droitwich Spa High School & Sixth Form Centre	38.0	36.2	44.5	38.5	41.1	39.9	39.6
Dyson Perrins CE Academy	52.3	52.3	52.8	68.6	30.3	26.7	31.1
Hagley Catholic High School	59.4	62.5	54.8	57.1	57.1	58.9	59.5
Hanley Castle High School	53.9	56.5	60.8	64.6	63.4	61.9	64.7
Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	88.7	91.0	95.8	85.5	82.6	90.4	98.1
Holy Trinity School	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.9	41.9	60.0	57.1
King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre	33.5	38.4	31.4	31.3	27.1	23.5	23.9
North Bromsgrove High School	28.7	19.8	21.9	30.6	29.3	22.9	8.3
Pershore High School	41.8	48.6	44.8	43.6	47.0	27.5	38.5
Prince Henry's High School	48.1	50.0	50.7	46.8	53.3	55.3	50.5
South Bromsgrove High School	50.3	46.8	47.0	58.1	53.9	50.5	51.4
St Augustine's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre	45.5	37.3	44.3	51.4	53.2	51.5	43.0
The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre	32.8	42.0	37.3	38.2	38.3	28.7	21.2
The Chase	52.3	50.2	63.0	57.6	36.7	58.2	58.1
The De Montfort School	29.6	29.7	26.5	21.6	32.6	25.0	21.9
The Stourport High School & VI Form College	48.6	32.4	38.3	35.3	27.3	24.5	22.1
Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	39.2	43.8	39.2	38.6	31.0	29.6	39.2
Tudor Grange Academy Redditch	26.0	32.7	33.6	24.4	23.2	34.0	18.7
Tudor Grange Academy Worcester	0.0	36.2	26.5	40.9	36.4	24.6	34.7
Waseley Hills High School	28.1	33.7	24.6	27.5	21.9	23.1	23.3
Wolverley CE Secondary School	25.2	24.8	22.2	27.3	19.2	18.1	21.1
Woodrush High School	34.1	33.1	22.2	32.7	33.9	22.5	30.8

Diagram 3 - Post-16 Stay on Rate Trends between Year 13 and Year 11 Two Years Previous



Post-16 Education Provision in Colleges

Although this report focuses on the provision of post-16 places in schools across the County, the provision of places by other post-16 providers has an impact on demand for places in schools. The following summary seeks to set out the current post-16 education provision in Worcestershire outside of schools.

In additional to school sixth form provision, the county is supported with 4 college groups including a sixth form college. Admissions policies into the colleges are dependent on the level of entry to the required course. Historically, colleges have offered a greater breadth and depth of courses catering for a wider range of abilities.

Prior to the Technical and Further Education Act, in 2015, the programme of reform of technical and further education introduced a series of area reviews of further education. Worcestershire was included in the second wave of reviews. The Marches and South Worcestershire Review in 2016 provided several recommendations including the continuing merger of South Worcestershire College with Warwickshire Colleges which took place in 2016 and other mergers outside of the Worcestershire boundary.

The RPA initiative together with the Local Area Review of Post 16 and Training Institutions undertaken in 2016 for The Marches and Worcestershire and the national priority to raise productivity has also driven a response to broaden the scope of post-16 provision. Additionally, Ofsted inspections and the former Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)⁶ have responded with initiatives to respond to the Technical and Further Education Act and have driven a requirement to ensure wider participation in post 16 Education including broadening the scope of apprenticeships.

- **Heart of Worcestershire College** (HOW College) established in August 2014 on the merging of Worcestershire College of Technology (Malvern and Worcester Campuses) and North East Worcestershire College (New College - Bromsgrove and Redditch Campuses). HOW College provides vocational, technical and professional courses, access programmes, apprenticeships, degrees, foundation degrees, HNDs, HNCs, NVQs and business training for students aged over 14 years. The college was rated Good by Ofsted in January 2018 having previously been rated as Requiring Improvement in March 2016. The College currently attracts approximately 3,000 16-19 students per academic year across all campuses. Building development has taken place at HOW College (Worcester) with a £4million 'new build' Duckworth Centre of Engineering on Great Western Avenue, Worcester which opened in October 2019. Additional refurbishment of facilities has also taken place at HOW College Cathedral building. Proposals for a new Construction and Automotive Skills Centre at Kidderminster College are currently in the planning stages.
- **Kidderminster College** merged with NCG (Newcastle College formerly Newcastle College Group) in August 2014. The College offers a number of level 2 and level 3 vocational courses, specialising in BTEC and vocational qualifications. The college has undergone a £2.5 million investment programme to improve college facilities and further work is planned as outlined below. Ofsted has not published a current report on this establishment. The college currently attracts circa 4,500 students enrolled each year in Worcestershire.
- **Warwickshire College Group**. South Worcestershire Colleges formerly Evesham College, Malvern Hills College and Pershore College of Horticulture merged with Warwickshire College Group in August 2016. The sites in Worcestershire predominantly deliver vocational qualifications with specialities in work life experiences at Evesham, where a new state-of-the-art engineering centre was launched in September 2018, together with sites at Malvern Hills being recognised as a centre of Art, and Pershore College as a nationally recognised Centre for Horticulture. Provision is for all ages over 16 years of age. Warwickshire College Group was rated Good by Ofsted in March 2018. There are approximately 4,500 students on roll across the college group.
- **Worcester Sixth Form College** was established in 1983. It is a specialist in education provision for pupils aged 16 – 19 offering a wide choice of A Level subjects, level 2 and level 3 vocational subjects, a range of professional programmes and links with sports and academic academies. Worcester Sixth Form converted to an Academy and merged with Hereford Sixth Form College in April 2019 under the Heart of Mercia Academy Trust

⁶ The education and skills remit of BIS transferred to the Department of Education (DFE) in July 2016 following ministerial changes.

(Multi-Academy Trust), on conversion Worcester Sixth Form College was rated Good in February 2016. In 2018 there were 1,399 students (16 – 18 years) on roll.

Where college groups exist, the DFE Performance Tables⁷ 16-18 results for 2018-2019 publish statistics on college groups and not individual establishments. Where the sponsor is outside of Worcestershire, the details will be held under the sponsor's home local authority.

5. Post-16 Future Needs in Worcestershire

Secondary school pupil numbers declined in 2013 and remained stable until 2017. The decline impacted sixth form numbers which fell by 18% from 4,624 in October 2012 to 3,779 in October 2018. This is evidenced in [Diagram 5](#) below. However, since October 2018 growth in secondary school pupil numbers continues to gather momentum, this increase is likely to impact school sixth form pupil numbers and post 16 provision across the County from 2020. This growth is set to continue until September 2025, where pupil numbers in secondary schools across Worcestershire are predicted to be at their highest. Pupil numbers are set to continue to rise until 2027 but with less impact in line with the current sixth form transfer rate of 39.9%; from 2027 pupil numbers are predicted to decline.

The demographic growth does not account for growth from new housing and it is likely that further expansions in mainstream provision will be required to mitigate the impact from housing growth. The Five-Year Housing Land Supply figures from the six district councils indicate that from 2020 – 2030 24,534 new dwellings will be delivered across Worcestershire.

Bromsgrove District Council set out in the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 to deliver a housing target of 7,000 within the plan period. In April 2020, the Council reported that 202 dwellings were completed between April 2018-March 2019 and 294 dwellings were completed between April 2019-March 2020. Of the required 7,000 dwellings, 2,635 had been delivered by March 2020 with a balance of 4,365 to be completed by 2030. Bromsgrove District Council commenced consultation in September 2018 to undertake a review of the Development Plan however, following publication of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on Planning for the Future⁸ and the likely reforms, work on the plan has stopped and the District Council will not be publishing any consultation material until more certainty exists on the plan making system.

Redditch Borough Council Infrastructure Deliver Plan Report identifies the need for 6,400 dwellings to be delivered during the plan period 2011 – 2030. In April 2020, the Council reported 279 completions between April 2019 – March 2020, providing a total number of 2,074 completions between 2011 and 2020. The balance of 4,326 to be delivered by 2030. The Redditch Borough Council Area has a number of constraints and any future housing need is likely to be sourced from within neighbouring district council areas.

⁷ <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/download-data?currentstep=datatypes®iontype=la&la=885&downloadYear=2018-2019&datatypes=ks5>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>
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The South Worcestershire Councils consisting of Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council are currently reviewing the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) with adoption anticipated in November 2021. SWDP2 will set out development plans up to 2041. Housing requirements covering the current South Worcestershire Development Plan cover the plan period 2006 - 2030 and sets out to deliver 28,400 dwellings during the plan period. As at December 2019, 16,113 of the 28,400 dwellings had been completed with balance of 12,287 to be completed by 2030.

The Wyre Forest Core Strategy (2006-2026) was adopted in 2010 set out a housing target of 4,000 dwellings during the plan period up to 2026. A replacement Local Plan (2016-36) has recently been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (April 2020) and the housing requirement as calculated in the most recent monitoring report uses the Standard Method for assessing housing need. This equates to 355.6 per annum.

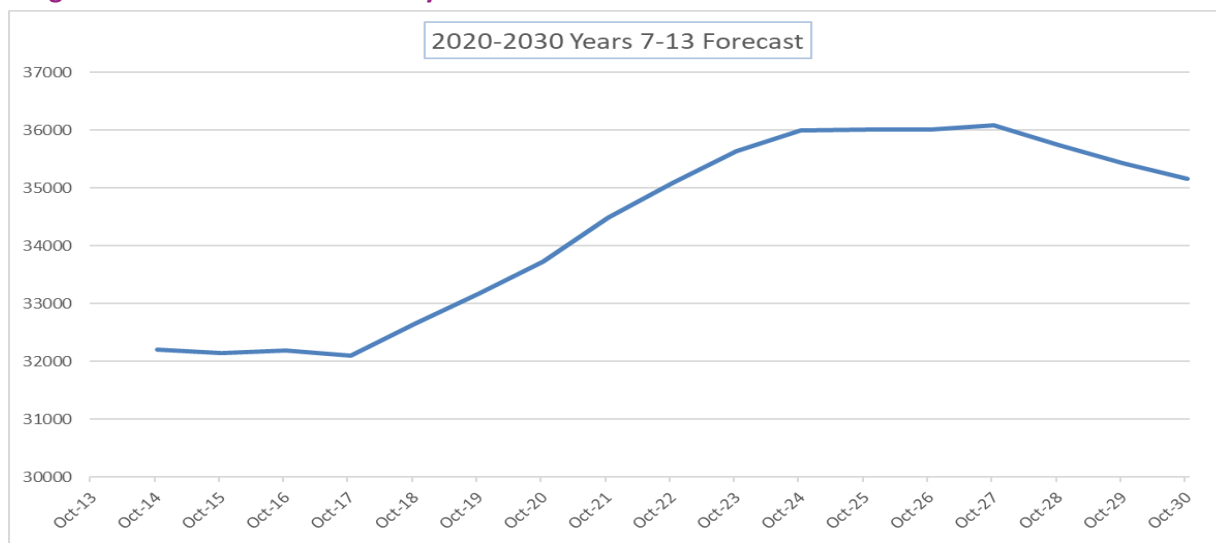
[Table 6](#) sets out the number of dwellings identified as being required to be delivered per year by each district council between 2020 and 2030 to meet local housing need and, the estimated impact on school sixth form provision assuming an average stay on rate of 50% of year 11, is estimated to yield 98 sixth form pupils on average per year in school sixth form provision across Worcestershire, with further impact on other education, employment and training provision

Table 6 - Projected sixth form pupil yield from new housing

District Council	Balance of housing to be delivered per year	Estimated sixth form Pupil yield (year 12 & year 13) per year ⁹
Bromsgrove	436.5	17.46
Malvern Hills (inc. Wider Worcestershire allocation)	654.4	26.18
Redditch	432.6	17.30
Worcester	226.6	9.06
Wychavon (inc. Wider Worcestershire allocation)	348.7	13.95
Wyre Forest	355.6	14.22

⁹ Number of dwellings x pupil yield (0.04) to derive total estimated year 12 and 13 pupils per year during the plan period 2020-2030

Diagram 4 - Mainstream Secondary School Forecasts 2020-2030

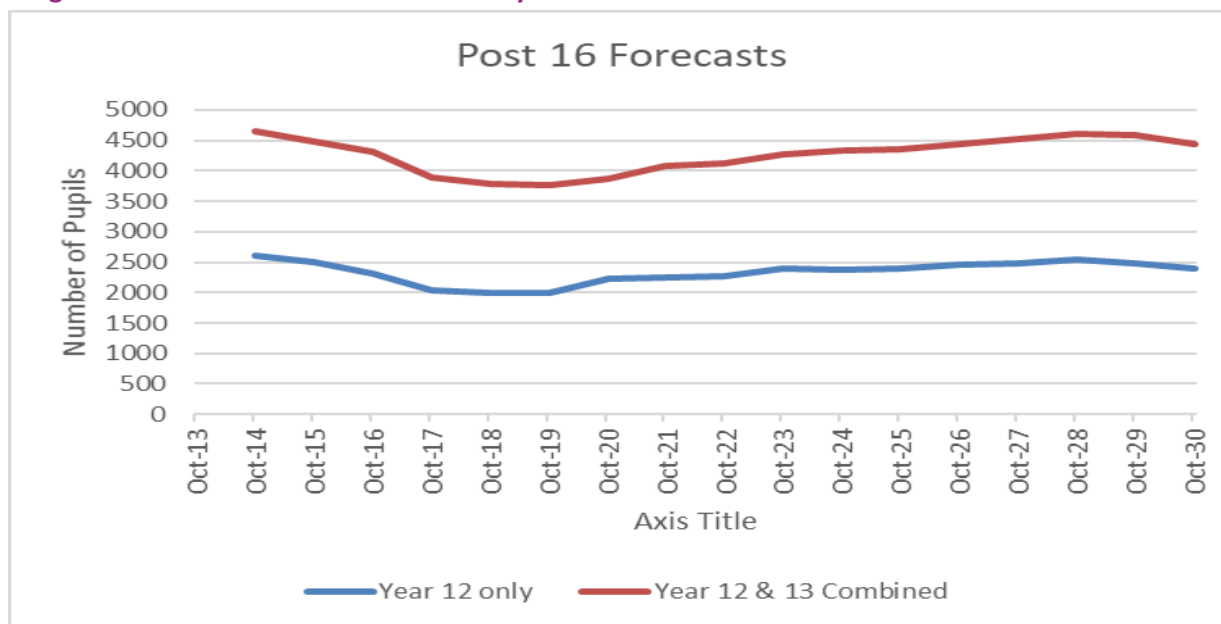


As at the School Census in October 2019, there were 5,556 pupils on roll in year 11 in publicly funded secondary schools in Worcestershire and 2,005 pupils in year 12. This was 4 pupils more than in October 2018 which was the lowest number on roll in year 12 over a seven-year timespan. There were a further 1,763 pupils on roll in year 13 in October 2019. Sixth form pupil numbers were set to be at their lowest in October 2019 across the seven-year time span.

The number of pupils in Year 11 is forecast to be 5,636 in October 2020 rising by 13% to 6,385 by October 2027. It is anticipated that there will be a similar 14.9% percentage increase in Post-16 provision with pupil numbers in year 12 rising from 2,221 to 2,553 in October 2028.

Other factors that may influence a significant change include an increase or decrease in stay on rates as a result of course availability, entrance criteria or published admission number; together with other factors such as additional post-16 options in employment or training and apprenticeships.

Diagram 5 - Post 16 Provision in Secondary School Forecasts 2020-2030



Forecasts indicate that sixth form numbers in secondary school provision are estimated to increase from 3,871 in October 2020 to 4,445 in October 2030, this equates to a 19% increase, with total sixth form pupil numbers peaking in October 2028 with 4,602. This is indicative of higher pupil numbers in the high school system with a retention rate equating to 39.9% on average. There is currently some capacity within the system to accommodate the predicted increase in sixth form pupil numbers from demographic growth. However, as higher pupil numbers come through the system, it is anticipated that any surplus capacity will be utilised to support provision across years 7 – 11 or 9 – 11 depending on two tier or three tier provision.

Most secondary and high schools have a net capacity or funding agreement that allows flexibility for a full year group in both year 12 and year 13 to assist with curriculum and timetabling. The School Capacity Annual Census (SCAP) sought to collect up dated data in June 2018 on Post-16 capacities in schools. The data held by WCC is therefore current and up to date. However, as a result of the forecast increase in secondary pupil numbers, there is unlikely to be a sufficiency of places in the more popular secondary schools particularly where there is anticipated large scale housing growth and ultimately, there may be displacement to other settings particularly when entry requirements are not met, or alternative curriculum options are sought.

Funding new provision

The funding of new post-16 places rests with the ESFA. Where there is a gap in provision, the EFSA will either consider requests from existing providers that are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted or will seek new provision from independent learning providers (ILPs) without an ESFA contract for delivery to young people aged 16 to 19 currently holding (or receive in the course of the year), an Ofsted rating graded Outstanding for overall effectiveness. The EFSA apply standard criteria to ensure that gaps are well evidenced prior to securing additional places and will only seek to fund new provision where it adds value and is a high-quality addition to the existing offer for young people.

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Additionally, Worcestershire County Council seeks contributions towards sixth form provision through section 106 planning obligations where there is a demonstrated need to support additional or expanded provision.

6. Conclusion

The number of pupils attending school sixth forms has seen a downward trend in recent years. This corresponds with reduced cohort numbers transitioning through secondary schools and increased education, employment and training opportunities, resulting in low growth in school sixth form pupil numbers. Anticipated increases in pupil numbers in years 7-11 are predicted which is set to eliminate surplus places. The more popular school sixth forms are likely to be impacted the most, currently this equates to one third of the secondary schools that offer sixth form provision.

WCC has up to date Post-16 capacity data to which schools operate. As a result, further analysis can be undertaken to assess the availability of places on offer and to ensure that schools can meet the demands from increased pupil numbers in sixth form accommodation at a time when increased growth in mainstream secondary provision will also be moving through the secondary school system. Where schools have indicated they can support a Published Admission Number over and above their Sixth Form capacity and additionally, have safeguarded accommodation for on average 50% of their mainstream Published Admission number, this is a good indication that they will likely be able to meet demand.

This year, Covid-19 has impacted on many young people and the Government has put in place several initiatives¹⁰ to support young people who have had to rethink the options available to them. Wider initiatives and options, around 'Inspiring Worcestershire Agenda'¹¹, the 'Kickstart' Scheme¹² for young people and the Governments 'Winter Economy Plan' are providing greater opportunities for young people, the indication from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the period 2019-20 was of a sustained demand for apprenticeships and learning opportunities. However, the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on local businesses has been assessed as having an impact on the apprenticeship scheme and has not been without its challenges. The impact of Covid-19 on the workplace and business environment and on the local economy, will require greater reporting for the 2020-21 period.

In addition, Young people in Worcestershire are being supported by Worcestershire Children First Vulnerable Learners Team. Worcestershire Children First continue to work with schools to assess and support young people who may be at risk of becoming NEET.

Post-16 provision across Worcestershire is varied and schools that provide post-16 options through sixth form provision offer an important part to play across the school landscape. This report has explored current post-16 provision and shown that at present, schools are able to meet the demand for places in school sixth forms; however, for schools with small sixth forms, there have been challenges in maintaining a viable breadth of curriculum as numbers have slumped. WCF will continue to work closely with schools

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-covid-19-support-packages>

¹¹ <https://www.wlep.co.uk/current-projects/inspiring-worcestershire/>

¹² https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20829/here2_help_business_kickstart_scheme

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that currently have low numbers on roll in their sixth forms to ensure sustainability and retention of those settings to provide young people with the choice of attending local sixth form provision. In addition, for those schools where the transfer rate to sixth form provision is viable but is below the anticipated transfer rate, to explore whether there are any barriers to pupils entering school sixth forms and identifying whether there are the resources to deliver the depth and breadth of qualifications to sustain provision.

As pupil numbers increase, post-16 providers will face a number of new challenges. WCF will work alongside schools and other partners to ensure Worcestershire is well placed to provide a range of qualifications to young people in school settings, for those that require them. WCF will continue to monitor pupil numbers in secondary school sixth forms and will work with schools to identify and support Post 16 growth to meet local need where it is required. It will be more important than ever to understand the impact of housing growth on post-16 places and will continue to work with developers and district councils to ensure correct provision is in place.

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