



Falkirk Council

**EDUCATION
CAPACITY
STATEMENT
2021/22**

FEBRUARY 2022

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INTRODUCTION



- 1 Falkirk Council has a dual role in planning for future growth and education. As the local education authority, Falkirk Council has statutory responsibility for the adequate and efficient provision of school education across the council area. This extends to considering the potential for school capacity pressures and making sure the necessary resources (staff, budgets, suitable facilities etc.) are in place to deliver a nurturing, learning environment for our children and young people. The council, as the local planning authority, has recently prepared and adopted the [Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 \(LDP2\)](#) which sets the long term, strategic direction for the future use and development of land within the council area. This plan makes provision for 8,066 new homes between 2017-2030 with proposals and detailed policies guiding where and how development should, or should not, take place. In some school catchments, developer contributions will be required to fund upgraded school facilities (such as additional teaching space) to meet the extra demand for school places, created by development. The nature and level of these contributions are negotiated and agreed between Falkirk Council and applicants through the planning application process.

- 2 [SG13: Developer Contributions](#) sets out Falkirk Council's approach to contributions for education, including the circumstances in which contributions will be sought and how the amounts payable will be calculated. This supplementary guidance to LDP2 was adopted by the council in July 2021 following approval from Scottish Ministers. Within SG13, Falkirk Council made a commitment to prepare an annual education capacity statement. The purpose of this statement is threefold:
 - To summarise the main conclusions drawn from school roll projections for primary and secondary schools;
 - To report progress on the Council's investment plans for nurseries and schools where these are relevant for school capacity and housing growth; and
 - To indicate which primary and secondary schools have capacity pressures and which would likely require developer contributions to mitigate the impact of development on local education provision.

- 3 This document is the first edition of the statement and will be updated annually every year or sooner as necessary, for example, in response to significant changes to school roll projections. It must be stressed the information in the statement is an indicative guide to school capacity issues and does not substitute the need to engage early with Falkirk Council on development proposals with implications for local education. Contact information is provided on page 14, if you have any questions specifically concerning residential development and education provision in the council area.

SCHOOL ROLL PROJECTIONS



New Build Impact on School Roll Capacity

- 4 The school roll projections take account of new house building in the catchment area for each school and estimate the number of children coming from each development. This is based on a pupil product ratio (PPR). The ratios are set out in SG13 and are derived from the council's 2018 PPR analysis, which looked at completions from all sites with houses of 10 units or more and sites with flats of 20 units or more for the period 2007-2017. The ratio analysis will be available on the council's website. It does not provide a definitive figure for the number of children who will eventually come from individual sites. The ratios are based on separate averages of all children from houses and all children from flats rather than an average from all types of housing. Separate averages produce higher ratios for houses but more realistically reflect actual children coming from sites. The 5 year school roll projections for primary schools and 10 year projections for secondary schools can be viewed [here](#).

- 5 New build housing is taken into account using the housing land audit (HLA) which includes sites with planning permission and local development plan sites. Windfall sites granted or minded to grant after the HLA's approval may also be taken into account. The following lists the 9 sites by primary school catchment which are taken into account in the school roll projections but not included in the 2020/2021 HLA:
 - Airth Primary School - South Bellsdyke Farm, Brackenlees (5 houses, private) and Moss Road, Dunmore (indicative 10 houses, private)
 - Avonbridge Primary School - Slamannan Road North, Avonbridge (18 houses, private)
 - Bankier Primary School -The Tavern, Kilsyth Road, Haggs (12 houses, private) No phasing was taken into account as the site is considered non-contributing to the housing land supply.
 - Comely Park Primary School - 150 High Street, Falkirk (23 flats, private); 8 Lint Riggs, Falkirk (6 flats private); and Erskine Church, Hodge Street, Falkirk (15 flats, private).
 - Victoria Primary School - Etna Road/Kennard Street, Falkirk (15 houses and 8 flats, private and registered social landlord)
 - Whitecross Primary School - Manuel Works, Whitecross (400 houses)

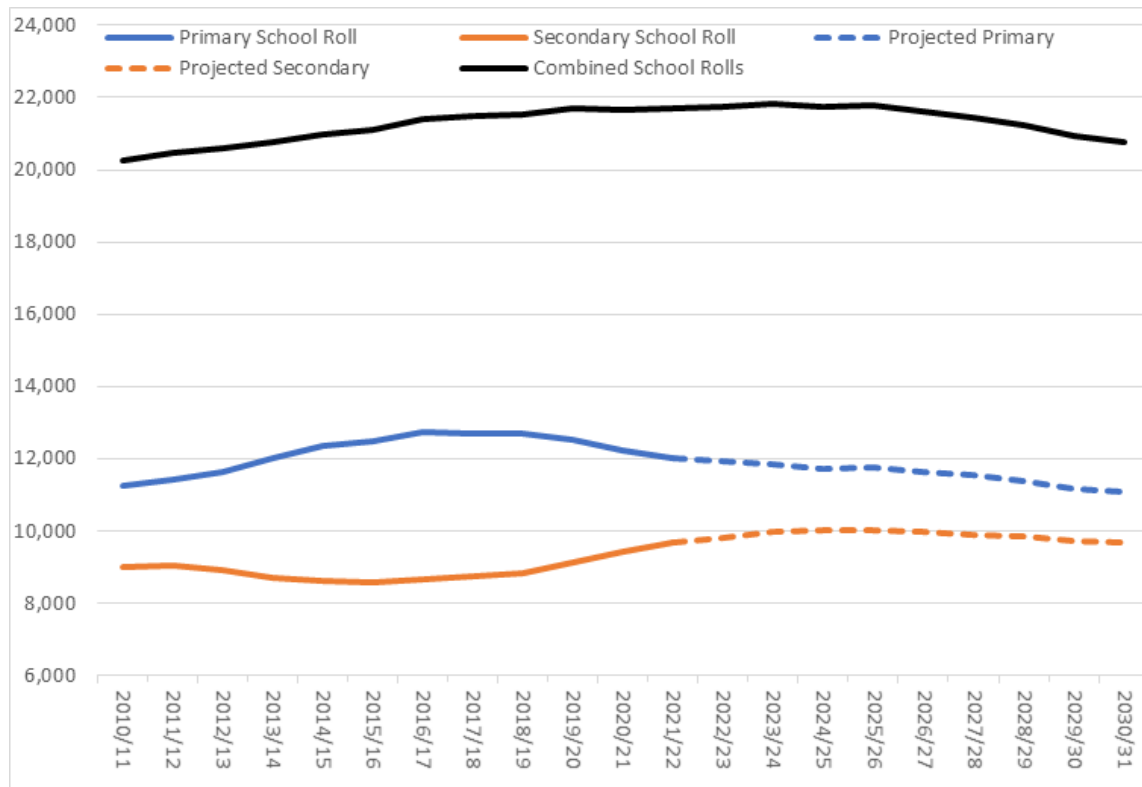
- 6 The pupil product ratios are applied to the sites and development in year 1 is ascribed to pupils attending school in year 2. For example, 15 houses completed in year 1 would deliver 5 children into the school in the next year based on a ratio of 0.32.

Key Trends

- 7 Figure 1, below, shows there has been an increase in the combined school rolls in the period 2010/11 to 2019/20. Combined school rolls are projected to maintain a constant level from 2020/21 to 2025/26 and thereafter decline. The figure also shows that the secondary school age population has grown steadily from 2018/19 and that growth is projected to level off from 2023/2024. The number of primary school age children in the council area has declined since 2018/19 and this decline is projected to continue over the present decade.



Figure 1: projected trends in school rolls over the period 2010/11 to 2030/31



- 8 The Braes, Denny, and Larbert areas have seen strong community growth in recent years and this has been reflected in increasing school rolls in these areas. Some of the new housing growth has been absorbed within the school capacity where this is available, but additional investment in capacity has been necessary at certain schools.

SCHOOL ESTATE INVESTMENT UPDATE



9 There has been some major investment in school capacity in recent years to deal with latent and upcoming pressures from large scale new housing growth. Kinnaird Primary School has been operating with a large proportion of its classes in modular accommodation for over 10 years now, and major extension and alteration works continue to resolve this. The final phase of these extension works is planned to commence in 2022. Larbert High School has similarly been affected by the huge growth in the area's housing stock and the final phase of the extension works will be ready in April 2022. Maddiston and Denny Primary Schools also have further extension and alteration works planned to start in 2022 having relied on temporary modular classrooms for a number of years to manage growing rolls. Like Kinnaird Primary School, the first phase of these works has been the construction of a standalone early years setting (both becoming available in 2022).

10 A 4 year programme of work to develop the capacity and flexibility of early years provision across the council area will come to an end this year (2022). This has been required to meet the recent doubling of statutory nursery hours for 3 and 4 year olds and increased statutory provision for 2 year olds.



LIKELIHOOD OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS



11 This section provides an indication of whether a particular primary or secondary school catchment has, or will likely experience, capacity pressures, taking into account school roll projections based upon birth rates, population trends and the programming of housing, or mixed use, sites recorded by the approved 2020/2021 Housing Land Audit. School roll projections suggest some schools will be close to or exceed the Council's maximum working occupancy of 90%. This threshold is used by the Council as it accounts for:

- needed flexibility to accommodate year to year variance in class numbers;
- composite classes which have individual floorspace requirements; and
- the design of old school buildings which can restrict the number of pupils a school can accommodate.

12 The following categories were used to assess the capacity pressures at primary, and secondary, schools in the council area and the likely need for developer contributions to mitigate these pressures:

- **Contributions will be required:** This means developer contributions will be needed to address capacity pressures anticipated from future, residential development. School roll projections suggest the school's occupancy levels will consistently reach or exceed the council's maximum working occupancy of 90%, or will have a capacity issue for a particular age cohort(s), over the 5 year period with respect to a primary school, or the 10 year period in the case of a secondary school. While a school may not have a capacity issue in the 5 year or 10 year period, the school is at high risk of a capacity issue beyond the relevant period because of rising school rolls.
- **Contributions may be required:** This means developer contributions may be needed to address capacity pressures anticipated from future, residential development. School roll projections suggest the school's occupancy levels will be consistently between 84% - 89% working occupancy, or potentially could have a capacity issue for a particular age cohort(s), over the 5 year period with respect to a primary school or the 10 year period in the case of a secondary school. While a school may not have a capacity issue in the 5 year or 10 year period, there is a possibility that the school will have a capacity issue beyond the relevant period as a result of rising school rolls.
- **Contributions unlikely to be required:** This means developer contributions are unlikely to be needed for education based on current projections. School roll projections suggest the school's occupancy levels will be consistently below 84% occupancy, and is unlikely to have a capacity issue over the 5 year period with respect to a primary school or the 10 year period in the case of a secondary school.

- 13 The results of the assessment are provided on the following pages where primary schools are listed according to their secondary school cluster. The results will also be shown in an online interactive map. A summary of school roll projections can be viewed on the council's website.
- 14 Please note the assessment should be used for indicative purposes only as school capacity is subject to change and influenced by a number of variable factors. It is strongly recommended that prospective applicants contact Richard Teed of Children's Services to get the up-to-date position on school capacity. His contact details are stated on page 14.

Bo'ness Academy School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Bo'ness Academy	77-83%	83% from 2026-2031/32	Contributions unlikely to be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Blackness	26-51%	51% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions unlikely to be required
Bo'ness Public	58-63%	63% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Deanburn	49-52%	52% in 2024/25 and 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
Grange	95-117%	117% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions will be required
Kinneil	61-80%	80% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required

- 15 Bo'ness Academy is experiencing a steady increasing roll and will increase in the long term as a result of new residential developments in the area. Most of the primary schools in Bo'ness have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of some new residential development. However, Grange Primary School is reaching capacity, and developer contributions will be required to fund capacity upgrades at this school to mitigate the continued and increased demand for places from new housing building within the school's catchment area.

Braes High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Braes High School	84-95%	95% in 2025/26	Contributions will be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Avonbridge	29-30%	30% in 2022/23 & 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
California	69-82%	82% in 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
Drumbowie	31-38%	38% from 2022/23 to 2023/24	Contributions unlikely to be required
Maddiston	99-110%	110% in 2026/27	Contributions will be required
Shieldhill	48-57%	57% in 2024/25	Contributions unlikely to be required
Wallacestone	57-63%	63% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required

- 16 Braes High School is experiencing a steady increasing pupil roll and this increase is projected to continue over the next 7 years with the continued housing development in the area. Capacity investment will be required to support this growth.
- 17 One of the growth areas is within the catchment of Maddiston Primary School. This primary school is one of six feeder schools to Braes High School and, due largely to ongoing housing growth within the school catchment, is currently over capacity and reliant on temporary modular classrooms. There are plans to replace these with a permanent extension, and new development in the area will be expected to contribute to this.



Denny High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Denny High	86-96%	96% in 2031/32 (rising)	Contributions will be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Antonine	56-62%	62% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Bankier	60-67%	67% in 2022/23 (rising)	Contributions will be required
Bonnybridge	58-66%	66% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Denny	118-136%	136% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions will be required
Dunipace	81-87%	87% in 2023/24	Contributions will be required
Head of Muir	56-59%	59% in 2026/27	Contributions may be required
Nethermains	54-55%	55% in 2023/24 & 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required

- 18 The area in and around Denny has experienced high levels of housing growth and this is expected to continue. There are capacity pressures projected within Denny High school, Bankier, Denny and Dunipace Primary Schools in the medium to long term primarily due to rising school rolls linked to future growth in the area.
- 19 Denny Primary School is currently at overcapacity and the school roll is projected to continue rising over the next 5 years or more associated with volume housing development in the area. Developer contributions will be required for eligible, residential developments in this catchment towards the continued expansion of this school's capacity.
- 20 For Dunipace Primary School, some capacity related investment is now anticipated because of recent and ongoing new housing development.
- 21 Bankier Primary school is expected to reach and exceed capacity following planned large-scale housing developments in the area. The required expansion of the school will be funded by developer contributions.

- 22 Head of Muir Primary has available capacity, but rising school rolls linked to housing growth in the area may necessitate the need for developer contributions to fund a further expansion of the school.

Falkirk High Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Falkirk High	73-78%	78% from 2023/24 to 2025/26	Contributions unlikely to be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Bainsford	67-74%	74% in 2023/24	Contributions unlikely to be required
Bantaskin	64-66%	66% in 2022/23 to 2024/25 and 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
Carmuir	61-64%	64% in 2024/25	Contributions unlikely to be required
Comely Park	70-85%	85% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Easter Carmuir	65-71%	71% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Langlees	68-72%	72% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions unlikely to be required
Limerigg	mothballed	mothballed	Contributions unlikely to be required
Slamannan	42-53%	53% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required

- 23 There are no risks of accommodation pressures at any of the schools within the Falkirk High Cluster.

Graeme High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Graeme High	81-102%	102% in 2031/32	Contributions will be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Hallglen	58-73%	73% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Laurieston	69-76%	76% in 2023/24	Contributions unlikely to be required
St Margaret's	73-84%	84% in 2022/23	Contributions will be required
Victoria	74-86%	86% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions may be required
Westquarter	110-116%	116% in 2023/24 & 2025/26	Contributions will be required
Whitecross	51-71%	71% in 2026/27 (rising)	Contributions will be required

- 24 Within the east of the Falkirk area, there has been continued house building and this is reflected in the rising school roll at Graeme High School, which is projected to continue over the next 5 years. Capacity will need to be increased in response to this and this will be funded from developer contributions.
- 25 Most of the primary schools within the area do not have accommodation issues but some have increasing school rolls such as Victoria Primary School and Whitecross Primary School.
- 26 Victoria Primary school does not have any short-term risk of accommodation pressures, but there is ongoing housing development in the area which coincides with an increasing roll. As a consequence, this school will be closely monitored, and contributions may be required.
- 27 Circa 900 houses have been built within the Westquarter school catchment in recent years and the school is experiencing capacity pressures and this is expected to continue.
- 28 Hallglen and Laurieston Primary Schools have no risk of accommodation pressures at the present time.

- 29 St Margaret's Primary School catchment will host some major housing growth in the coming years at Gilston, and the capacity of the school will need to be increased to meet the educational needs of future growth.
- 30 Similarly, Whitecross Primary School will be affected by two large scale housing developments in the coming years and this small school will need to be substantially expanded to accommodate this growth.

Grangemouth High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Grangemouth High	61-70%	70% in 2022/23 and 2025/26	Contributions unlikely to be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Beancross	94-107%	107% in 2022/23	Contributions will be required
Bothkennar	mothballed	mothballed	Contributions unlikely to be required
Bowhouse	61-63%	63% in 2024/25	Contributions unlikely to be required
Moray	54-56%	56% from 2022/23 to 2024/25	Contributions unlikely to be required

- 31 There are no foreseeable accommodation pressures within Grangemouth High School, Bowhouse and Moray Primary Schools.
- 32 Beancross is already at very high occupancies and relies on temporary modular classrooms to boost its operational capacity. However, there is no housing development planned for this area and it is projected that the roll will begin to decline gradually in line with birth rates.



Larbert High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Larbert High	82-99%	99% in 2024/25	Contributions will be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Airth	74-84%	84% in 2024/25	Contributions may be required
Carron	63-69%	69% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Carronshore	52-58%	58% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Kinnaird	88-97%	97% in 2022/23	Contributions will be required
Ladeside	65-86%	86% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
Larbert Village	77-83%	83% from 2023/24 to 2024/25	Contributions unlikely to be required
Stenhousemuir	77-84%	84% in 2023/24	Contributions may be required

- 33 The Larbert area has been one of the main growth areas with lots of new housing built, and this is set to continue over the next six years. Larbert High School is currently at very high occupancies following the high levels of house building within the catchment, despite major investment in capacity, with the roll projected to continue rising for the next 4-5 years.
- 34 Kinnaird Primary School is still facing capacity pressures with the high levels of house building in the catchment. The school roll is currently over capacity and this is projected to continue over the next 3 years. There has been major capacity related investment in the school in recent years and the final phase is expected to be complete in 2022. The school has no further room to grow, so major new growth will not be possible in this area.
- 35 Airth Primary School is not currently at risk of accommodation pressures, but the school rolls are predicted to increase year-on-year, so this is going to be closely monitored and contributions may be required for any future housing developments.

36. The other primary schools within the Larbert High School Catchment are not currently projected to have accommodation pressures, but occupancies remain very high at Stenhousemuir Primary School.

St Mungo's High School Cluster

Secondary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 10 year period (2022/23 - 2031/32)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 10 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
St Mungo's High	77-89%	89% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required

Primary School	Projected range in occupancy over the 5 year period (2022/23 - 2026/27)	Projected peak in occupancy during the 5 year period	Likelihood score for developer contributions
Sacred Heart	53-58%	58% in 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
St Andrew's	66-71%	71% in 2022/23 (rising)	Contributions unlikely to be required
St Bernadette's	73-77%	77% from 2024/25 to 2025/26	Contributions may be required
St Francis	75-84%	84% from 2022/23	Contributions may be required
St Joseph's	52-56%	56% in 2022/23	Contributions unlikely to be required
St Mary's	44-48%	48% from 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required
St Patrick's	67-71%	71% from 2024/25 to 2026/27	Contributions unlikely to be required

37. St Mungo's High School has a consistently high occupancy, but intake for the school is currently under control and is expected to remain within capacity based on currently anticipated levels of new housing development.
38. The denominational primary schools do not currently have any projected occupancy pressures, but St Bernadette's is a small school with continued high occupancies so will be monitored closely and contributions may be required.

USEFUL CONTACTS



39. The following list provides useful contacts to enquire about a particular matter regarding residential development and education provision within the Council area:

For advice on the Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 and associated supplementary guidance, contact:

Development Plan Unit
Place Services
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk FY2 7YZ
Telephone: 01324 504720
Email: ldp@falkirk.gov.uk

For information on planning applications or to arrange pre-application discussions, contact:

Development Management Unit
Place Services
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk FY2 7YZ
Telephone: 01324 504748
Email: dc@falkirk.gov.uk

For information on school rolls and capacity, contact:

Richard Teed
Children's Services
Falkirk Council
Sealock House
2 Inchyra Road
Grangemouth FK3 9XB
Telephone: 01324 506621
Email: Richard.teed@falkirk.gov.uk