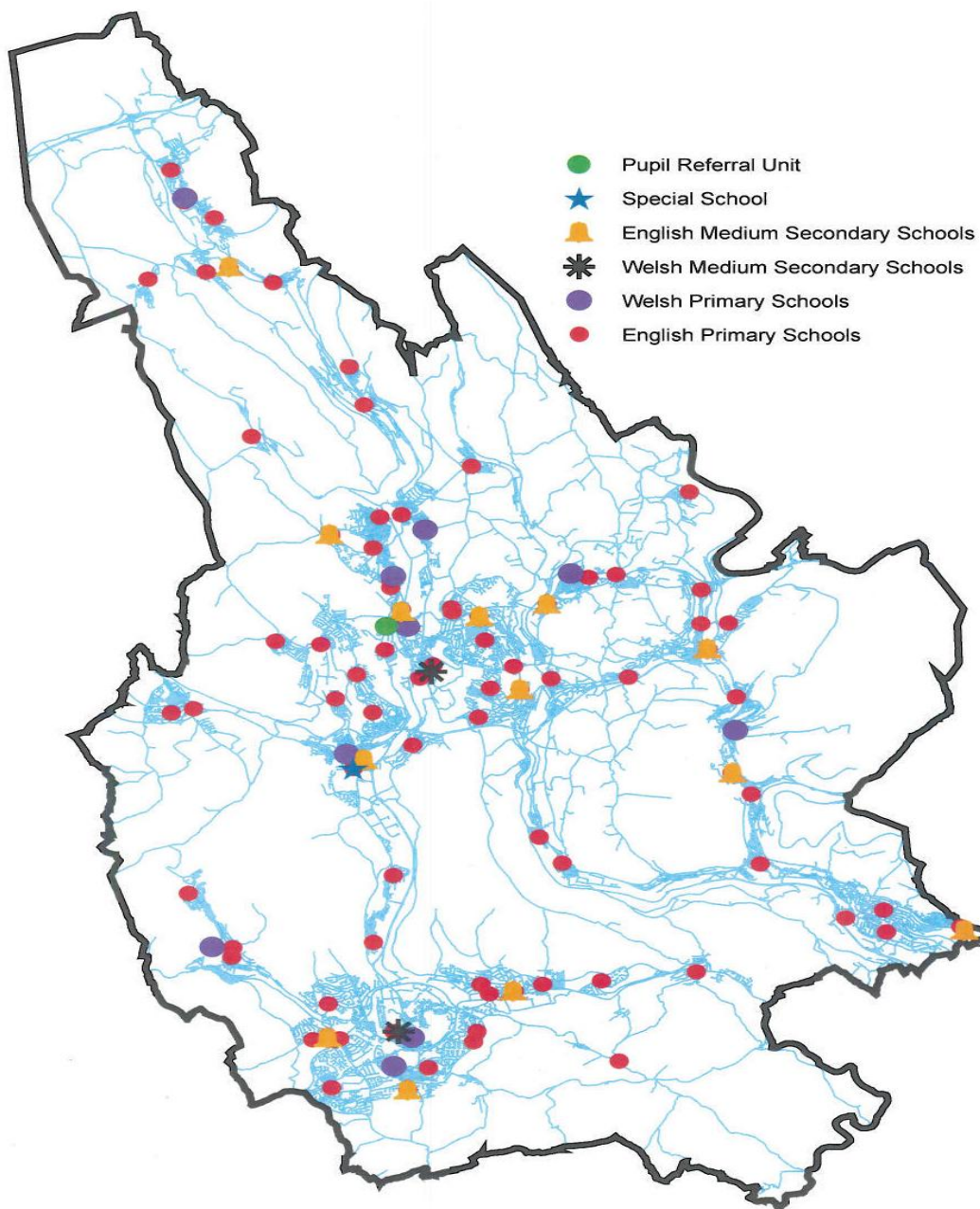


SCHOOL PLACES PLAN 2013/14 – 2023/24



November
2014

A greener place
Man gwyrddach



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Executive Summary

The plan is designed to support the Council, its partners and other providers. It outlines key principles for the effective organisation of school places, the demand for places, the current provision, and issues and opportunities for the future.

It is intended that this plan will enable all stakeholders to gain a shared understanding of :

- The trends and impact of future pupil numbers in primary and secondary schools in Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC); and
- The policies and principles against which the impact of future demand levels should be managed.

It identifies the key issues to be addressed in formulating policy and actions for the medium to longer term planning of school places. It is set against the Local Authority's (LA's) responsibility to provide sufficient school places of the right type, at the right time and in the right place, whilst balancing parental demand and efficient use of resources.

Key strategic considerations

To review the future composition and mix of schools, having regard to such factors as

- Size and viability of schools
- Future pupil projections
- Current and future levels of surplus school places
- School type, including age ranges.

Key issues identified include:

- The need to meet increasing demand for Welsh-medium education in both Primary (154 pupil increase forecast by 2019) and Secondary (935 pupil increase forecast by 2023) phases.
- The need to consider federation and governance as a way of organising schools to increase their future viability, both from a curriculum and financial perspective.
- Developing new larger area based Primary schools as a means of reducing surplus places, reducing running costs and making schools more educationally and financially viable. This will have limited impact before 2021 in view of Welsh Government's approved bids for Band A of the 21st Century Schools programme, but has potential for later years.
- Plan for the reduction in English-medium secondary school surplus places (631 pupil reduction forecast by 2023) and invest in improving condition of remaining schools.
- Review post 16 provision and assess the merits of school 6th forms vis a vis tertiary education.
- Review single sex vis a vis co-educational provision.
- Consider status of foundation schools in the context of school place planning.
- Assessing the demand for additional Faith Primary provision.
- Need to continually review sizes of schools and
- Review and reduce surplus capacity in schools with more than 25% surplus places and consider proposals in schools with overfilled places in excess of 10%

The consequences of future pupil number changes will result in increased demand for school places in some localities whilst in others there will be a need to consider the removal of increased numbers of surplus places.

The 21st Century stakeholder group determined that there should be a minimum size for a school. This was recommended as 120 pupils in the Primary sector and, in the Secondary sector, 750 (11-16) and 900 (11-18) pupils.

Introduction

CCBC faces a number of future challenges in respect of school place planning. This School Places Plan identifies a range of short, medium and long-term key issues to be addressed. The timeline of 2013/14-2023/24 incorporates Band A of the 21st century schools process (2014-2021).

It is evident that different challenges exist between Primary and Secondary schools, different localities and particularly so between English and Welsh-medium provision.

It is important that the Council reviews the places that are available in different areas, to ensure that efficient use is being made of resources and value for money is being secured, particularly so in the current economic climate.

There are many housing developments planned within CCBC as evidenced in the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) to 2021. The Education service works closely with planning to ensure that we can provide school places for children who will move into new housing, ensuring that place planning keeps ahead of demand.

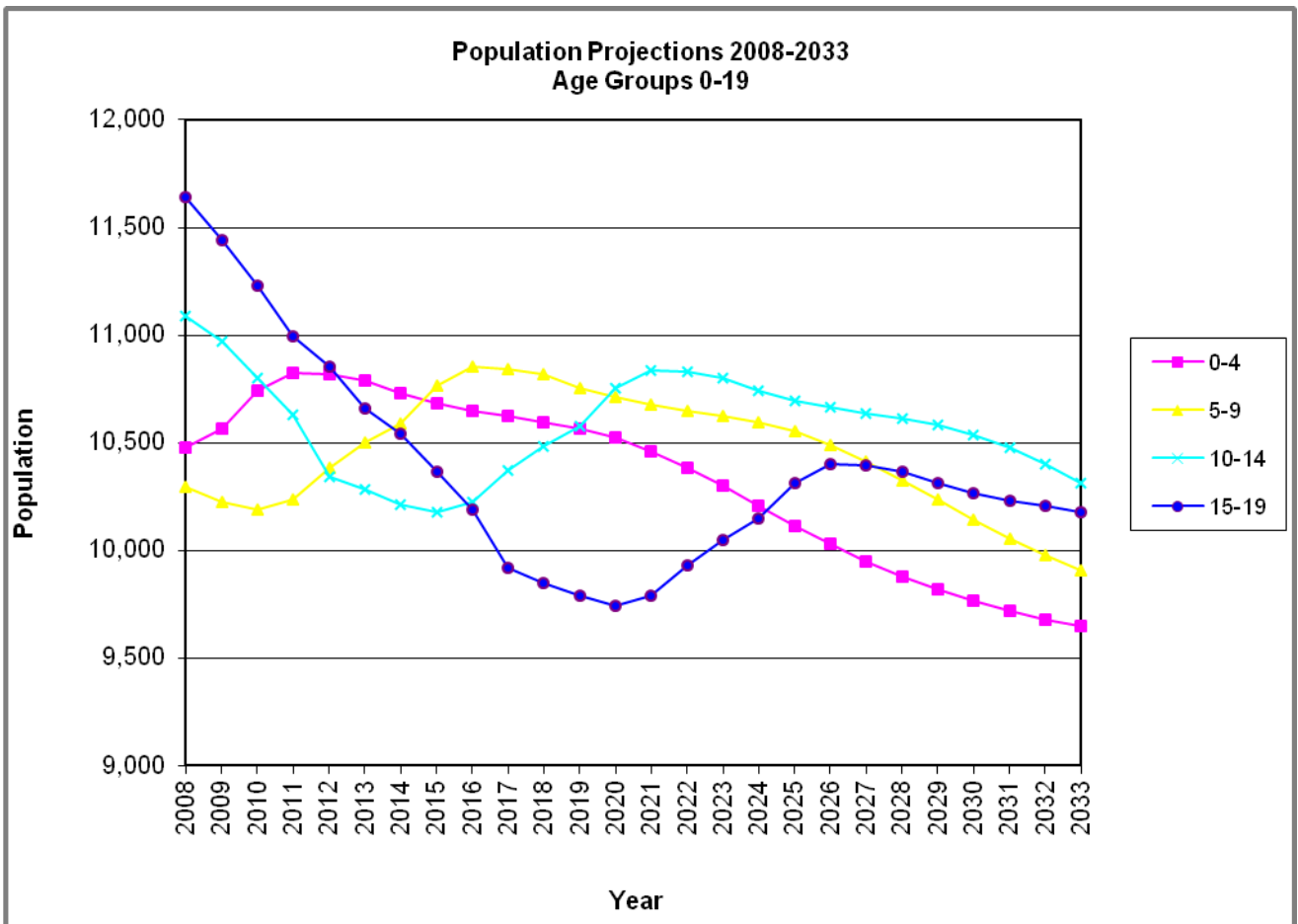
The plan is aligned to CCBCs 21st century schools programme and the 3 bids submitted and approved by WG in December 2011 align to the issues outlined in the plan.

CCBC Population Projections 2008-2033

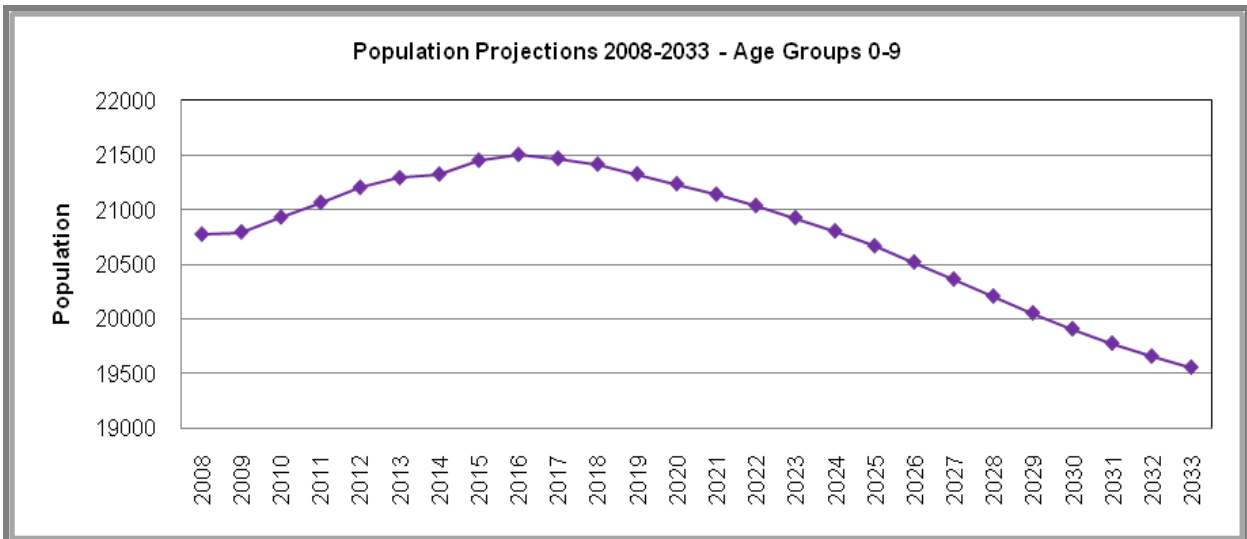
Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population. They are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration at a specific point in time and will assist the Council and its partners in effectively planning for population change over the next 25 years.

The key findings for CCBC schools are:

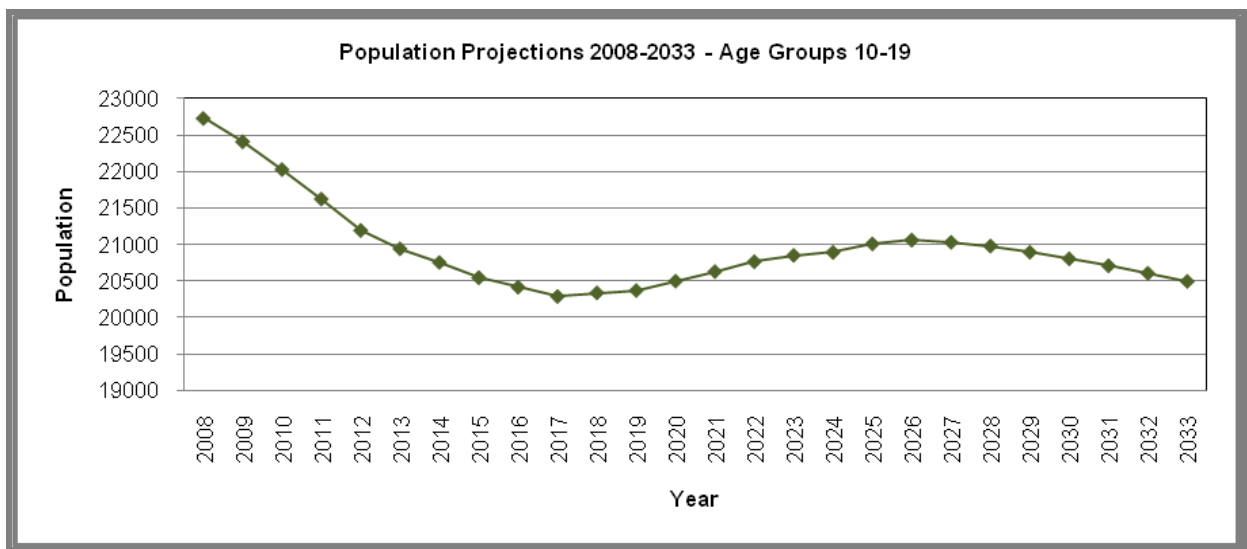
- The total population of the county borough is projected to increase by 9,572 (5.6%) by 2033. This is less than half the projected average population growth (13.2%) to be seen across all Welsh local authorities
- It is projected that slightly more growth will be seen in the male population (5.8%) than the female population (5.3%)
- The most recent actual data show that births in the county borough have seen an upward trend since 2001/02. This trend is expected to continue until around 2014-15 and births are expected to follow the general pattern seen across all local authorities in Wales



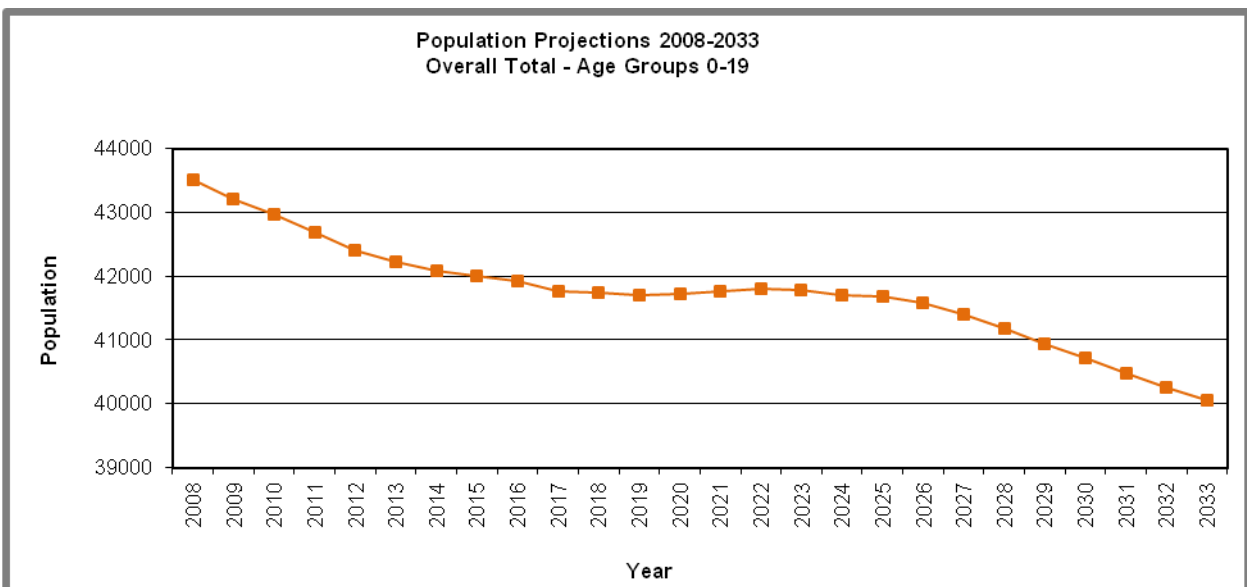
Source : WAG 2008-based population projections for all 22 local authorities in Wales (2010).



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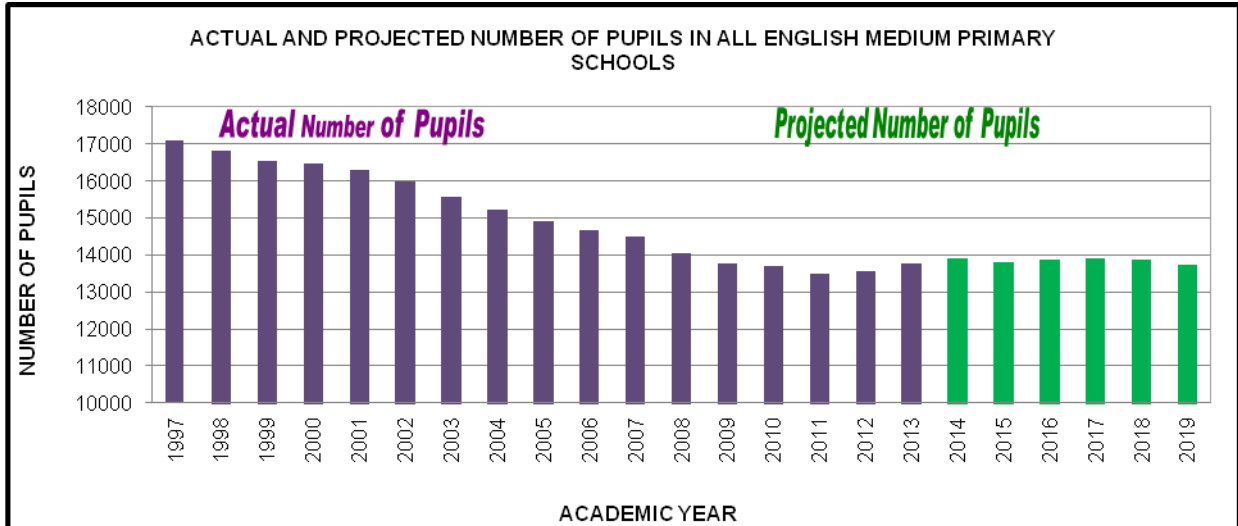
Source : WAG 2008-based population projections for all 22 local authorities in Wales (2010).



Source : WAG 2008-based population projections for all 22 local authorities in Wales (2010).

CCBC Pupil Projections to 2023

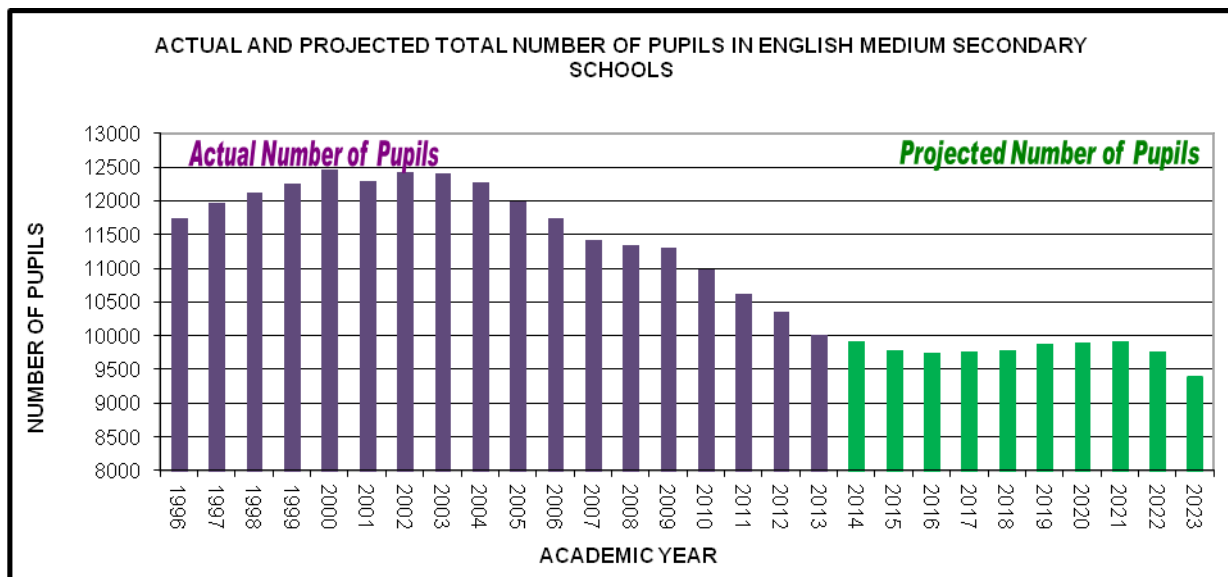
Pupil projections are undertaken on an annual basis and reflect trends re inward/outward migration, new and likely housing developments. The graph below shows the actual trend from 1996 to 2013 and the projections to 2019, based on English-medium Primary schools.



1996 = 16,989 pupils; 2013 = 13,786 pupils; 2019 = 13,719 pupils.

A decrease of 67 pupils is forecast by 2019.

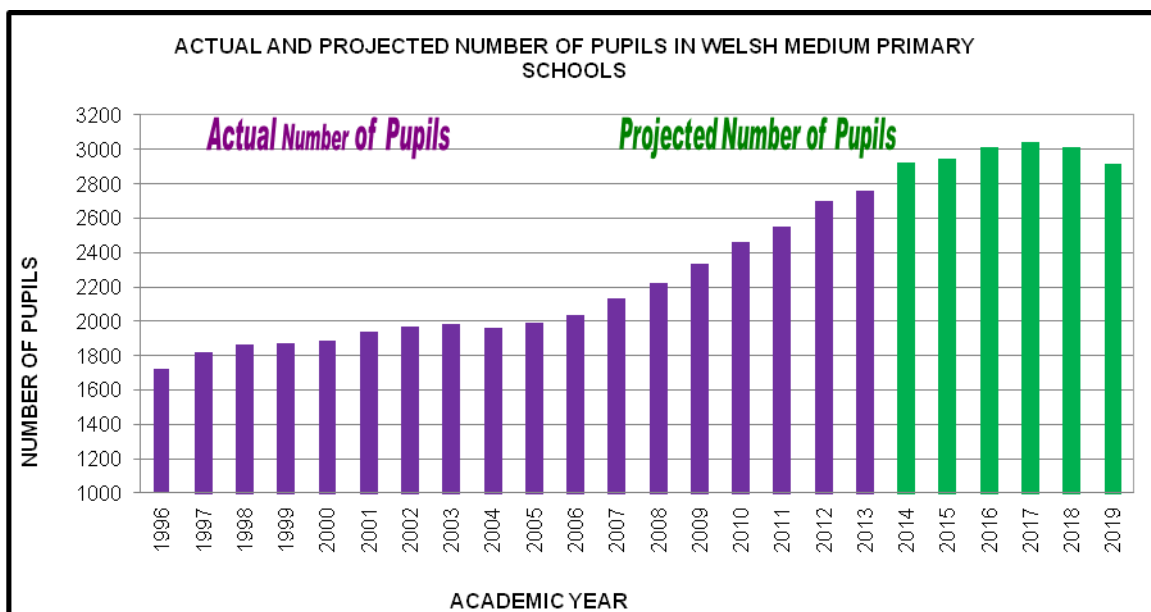
The graph below shows the actual trend from 1996 to 2013 and the projections to 2023, based on English-medium secondary schools (total).



1996 = 11,743 pupils; 2013 = 10,016 pupils; 2023 = 9,385 pupils

A reduction of 631 pupils is forecast by 2023.

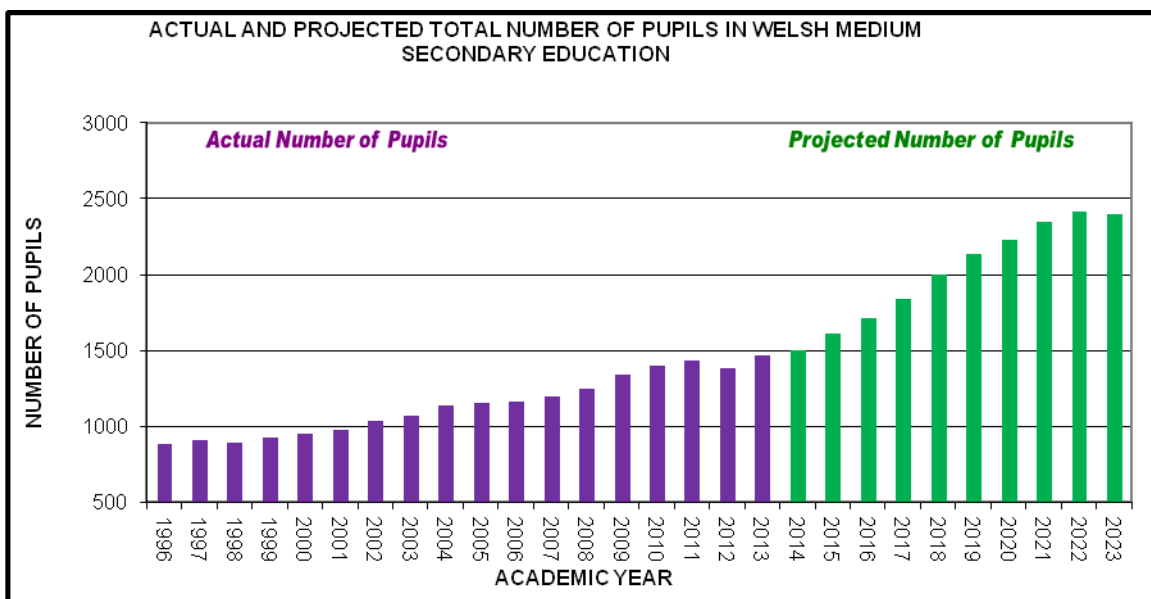
The graph below shows the actual trend from 1996 to 2013 and the projections to 2019, based on Welsh-medium Primary schools.



1996 = 1,719 pupils; 2013 = 2,763 pupils; 2019 = 2,917 pupils.

An increase of 154 pupils is forecast by 2019.

The graph below shows the actual trend from 1996 to 2013 and the projections to 2023, based on Welsh-medium secondary (Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni).

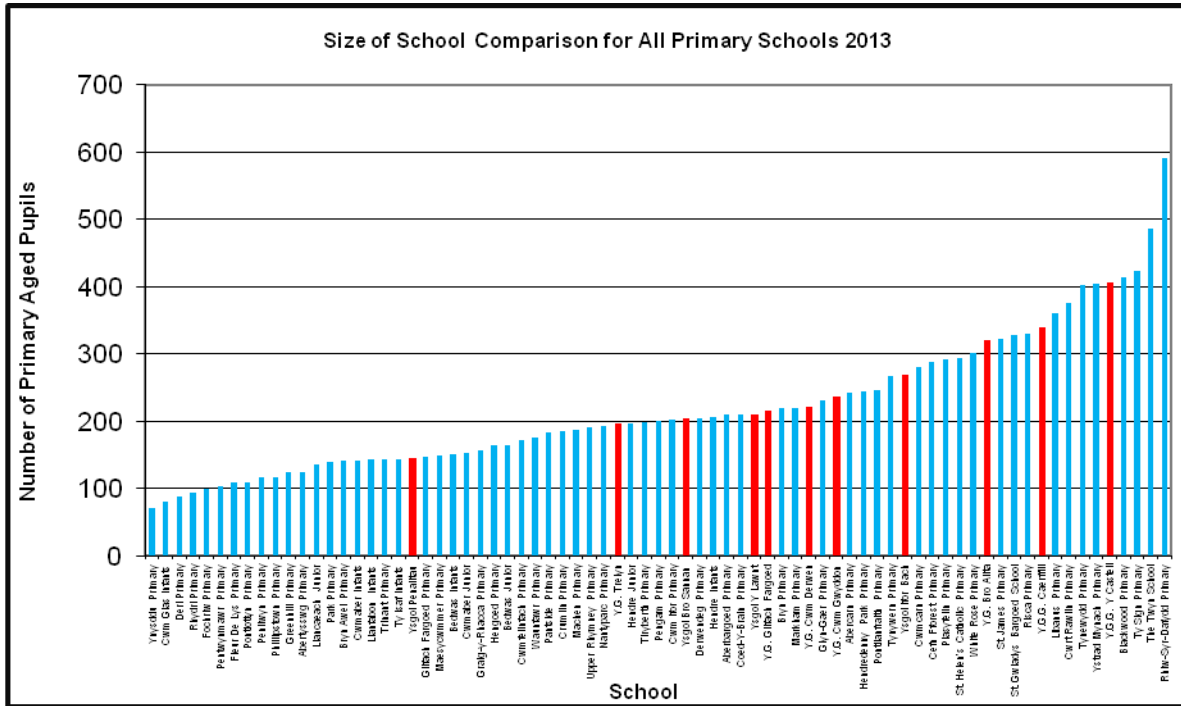


1996 = 883 pupils; 2013 = 1,465 pupils; 2023 = 2,400 pupils.

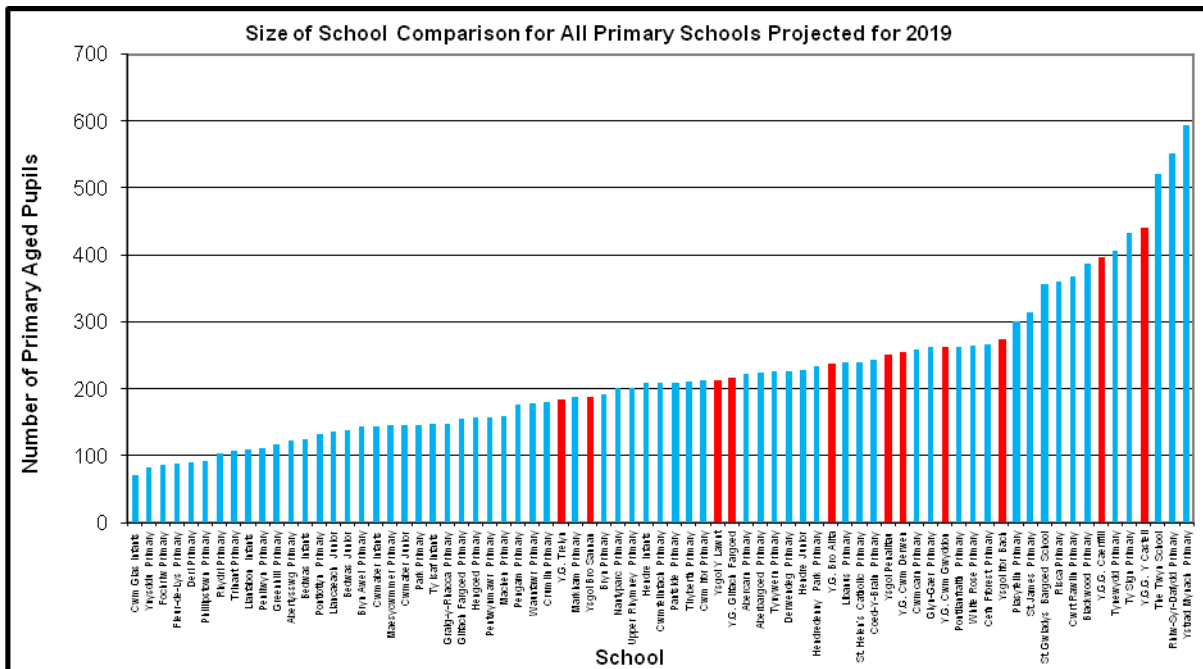
An increase of 935 pupils is forecast by 2023.

Size of Schools

This graph below illustrates the relative sizes (actual as at September 2013) of CCBC Primary schools in ascending order. The red lines represent Welsh-medium Primary schools.

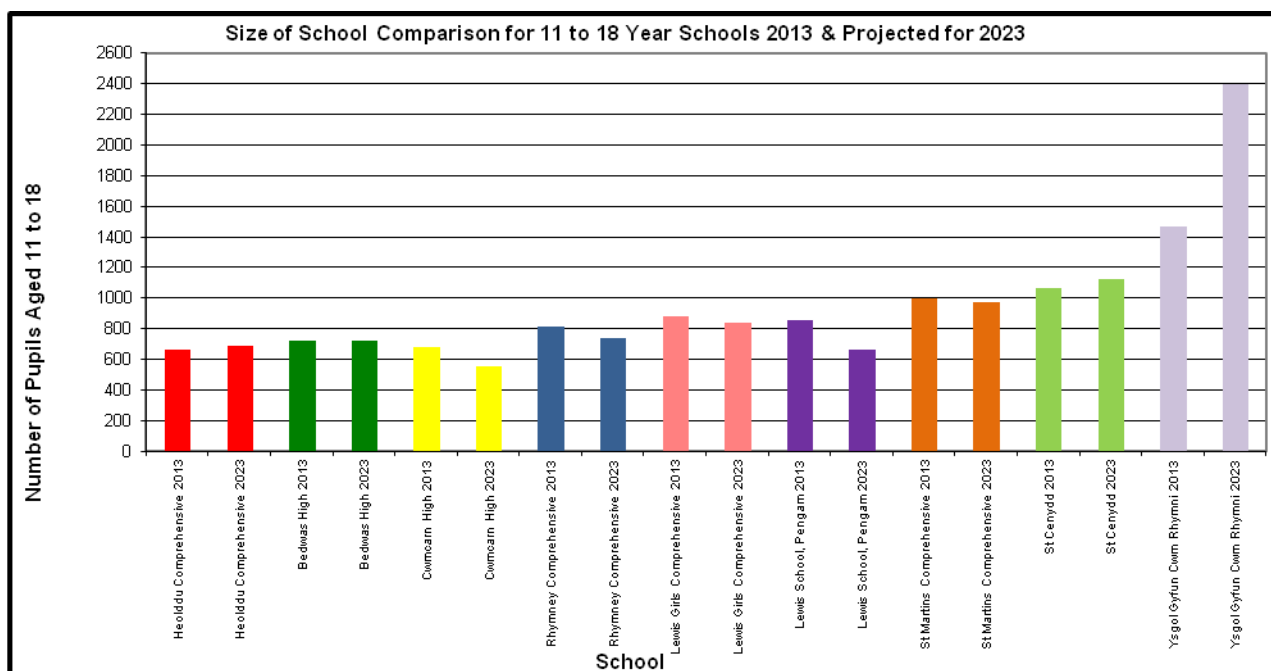


This graph below illustrates the relative sizes (projected as at September 2019) of CCBC Primary schools in ascending order. The red lines represent the Welsh-medium Primary schools.

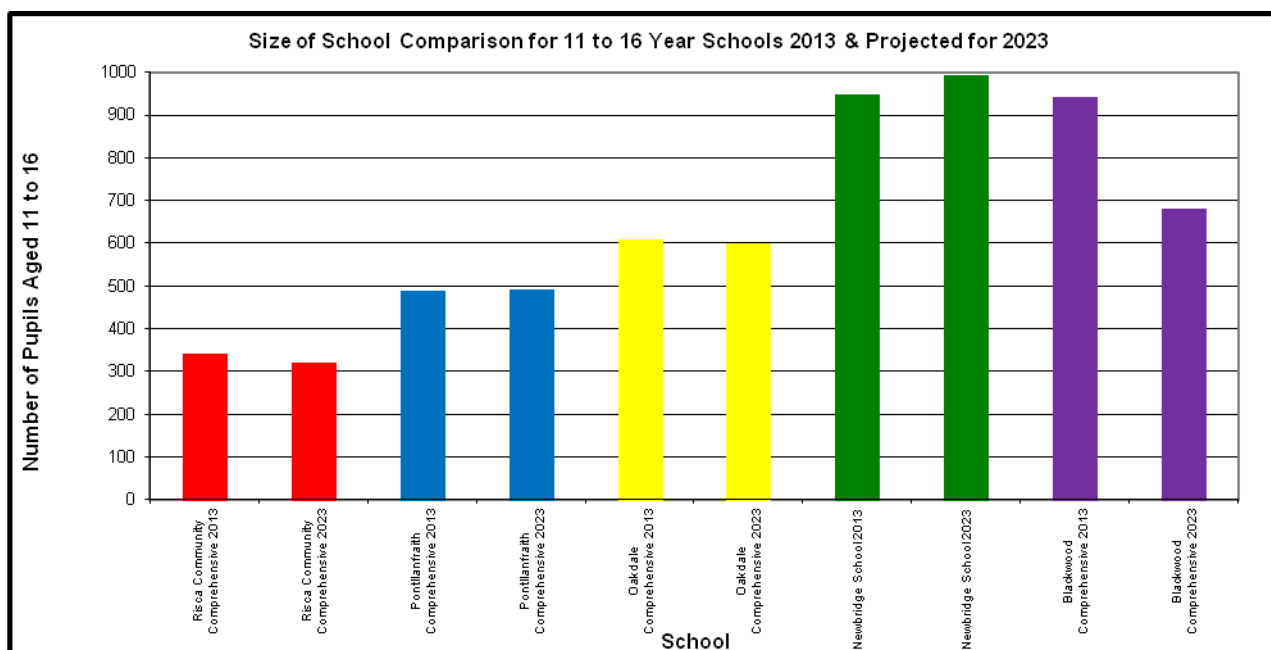


Overall there are 11 schools forecast below 120 pupils by 2019 (all English-medium) with a further 23 schools in the 120-200 pupil range (21 English-medium and 2 Welsh-medium).

The graph below shows all 11-18 Secondary schools with actual (2013) and projected (2023) pupils.



The graph below shows all 11-16 Secondary schools with actual (2013) and projected (2023) pupils.



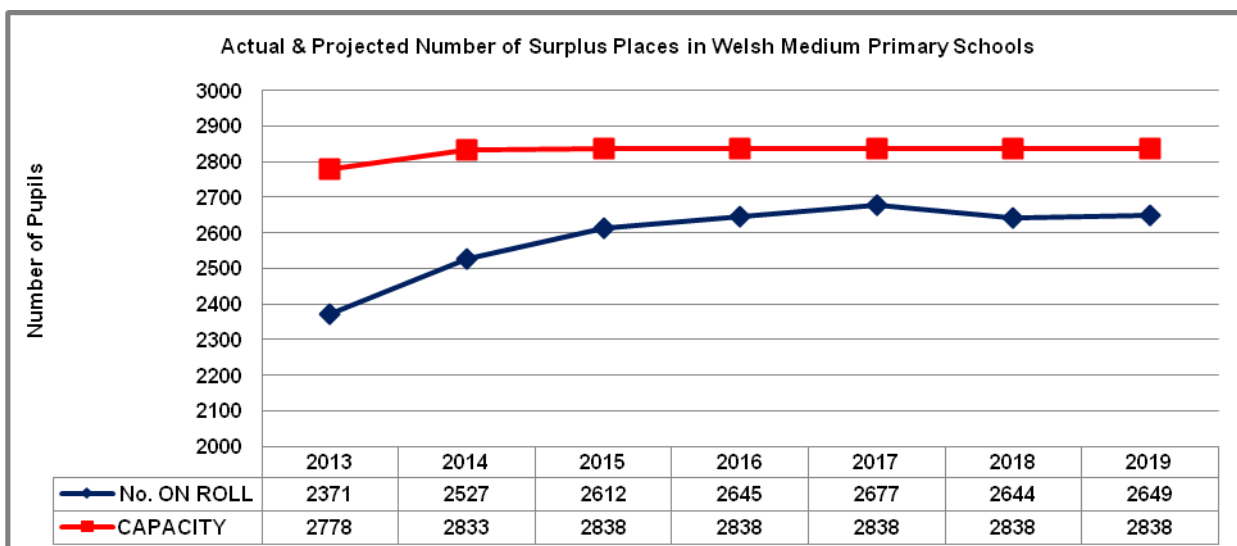
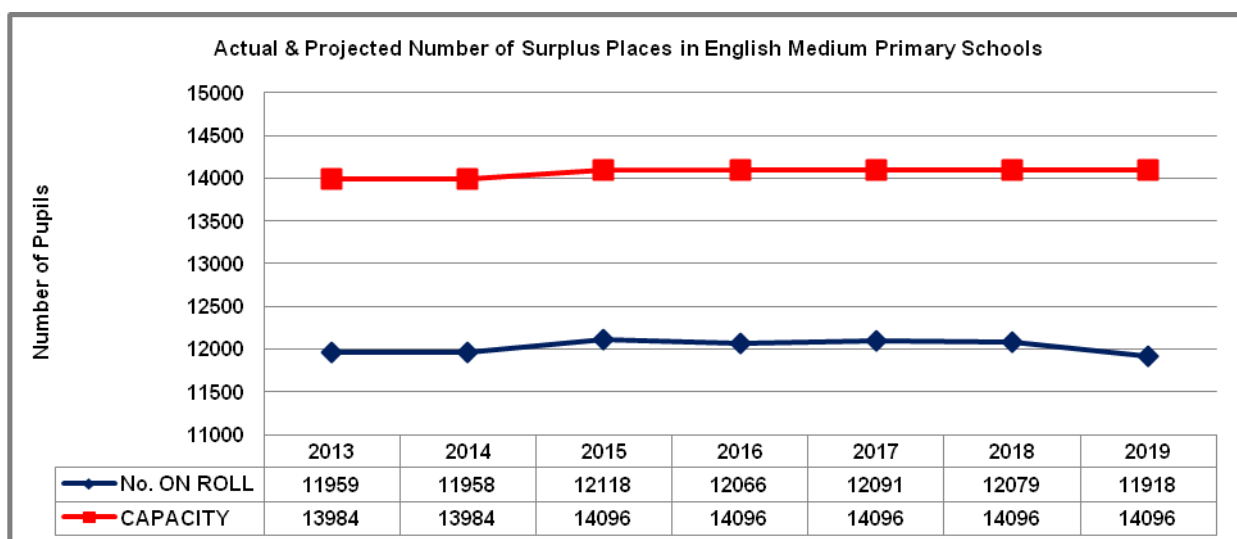
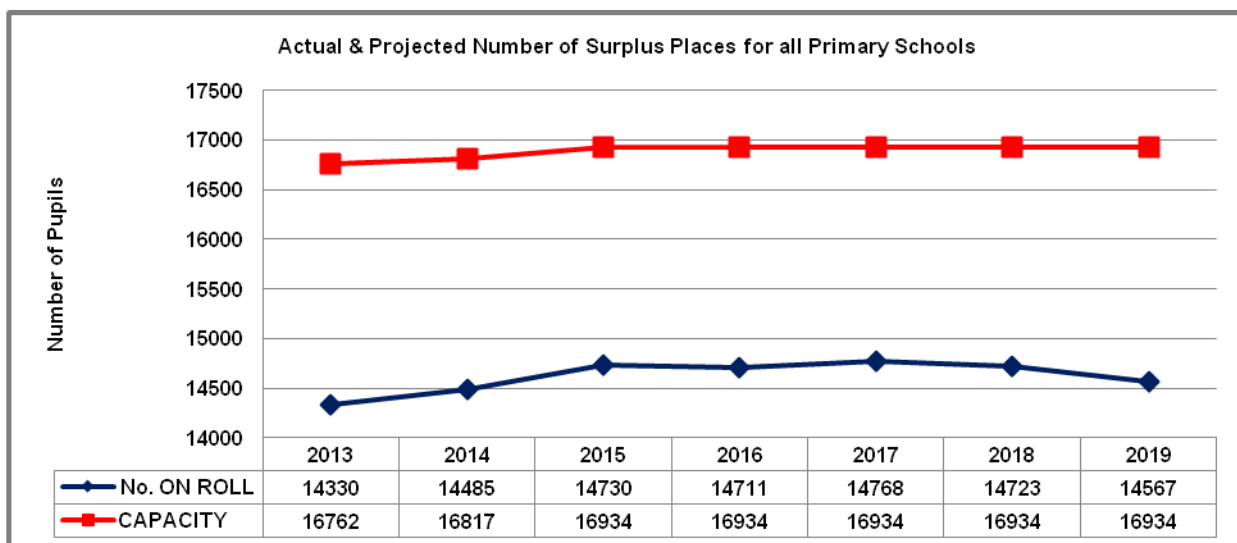
These graphs illustrate that 9 English-medium secondary schools are projected to have less pupils by 2023 as compared to 2013.

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni is forecast to be 52 pupils over capacity by 2023.

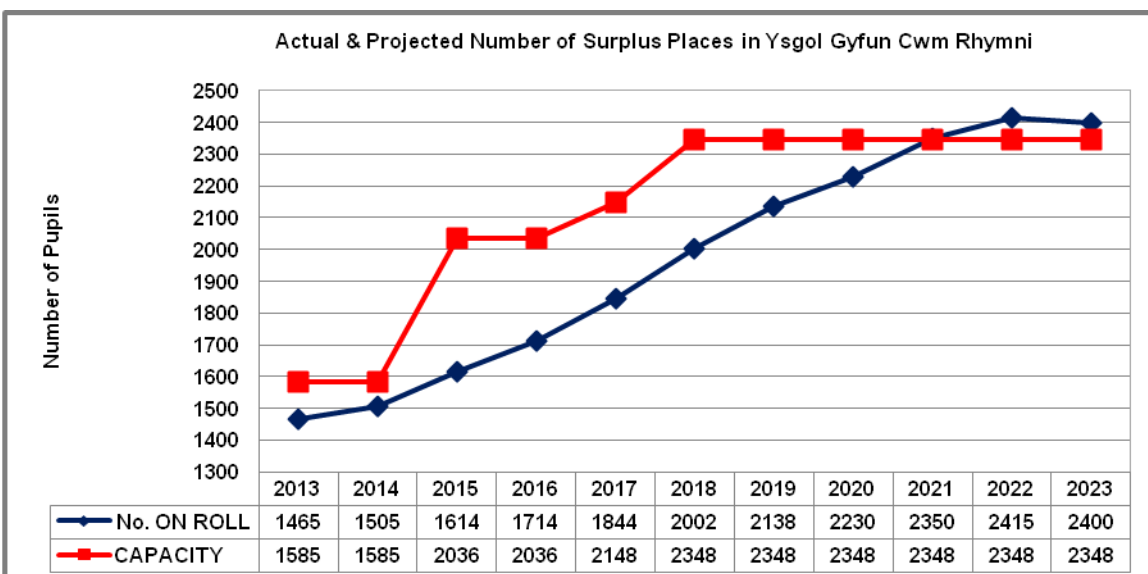
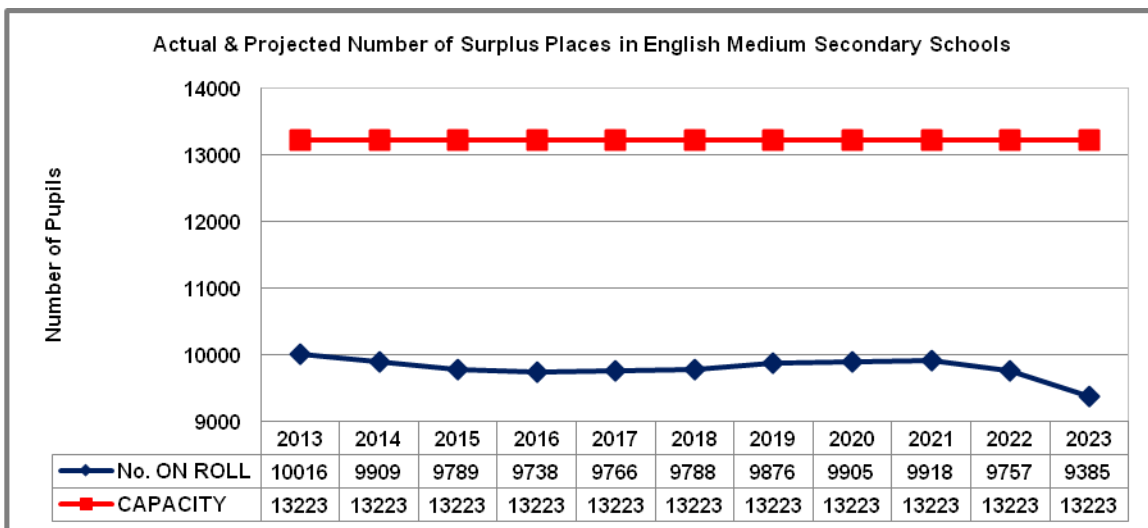
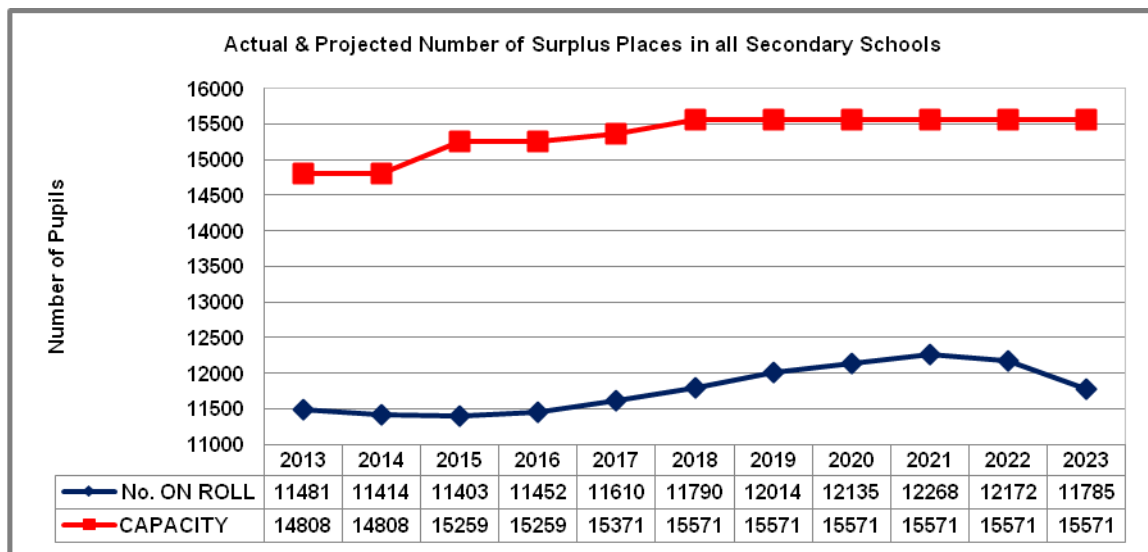
Whilst 5 of the 14 schools are above the 750(11-16)/900(11-18) pupil thresholds as of 2013, only 4 schools are forecast above these thresholds by 2023 (3 English and 1 Welsh-medium).

Surplus Places

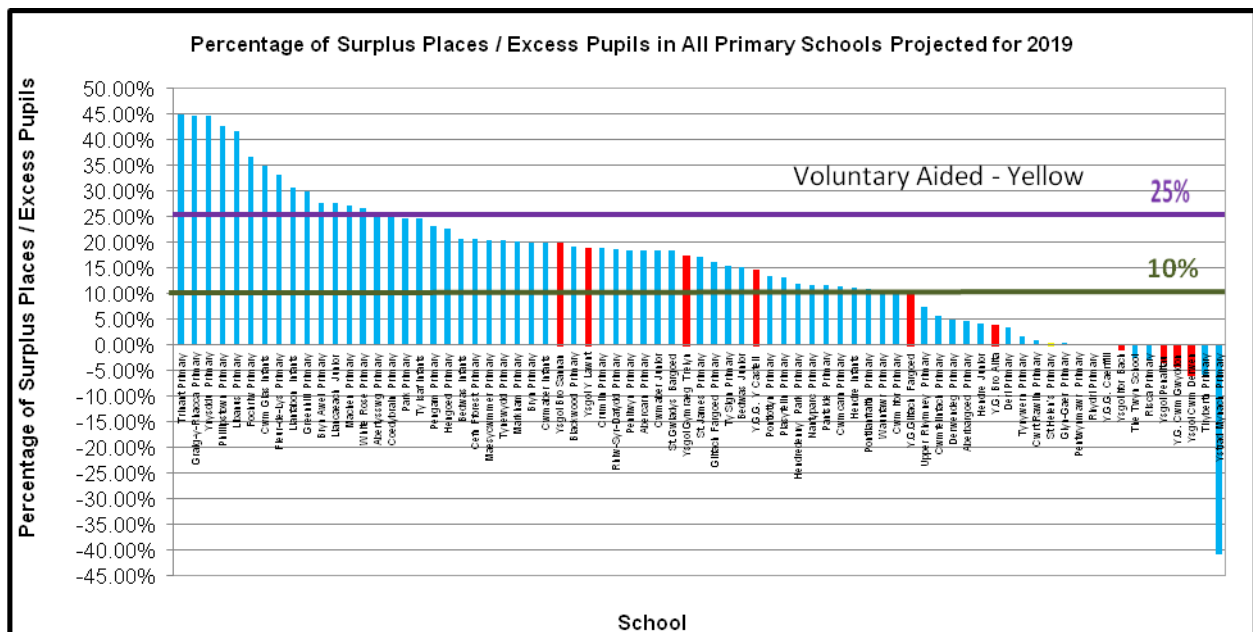
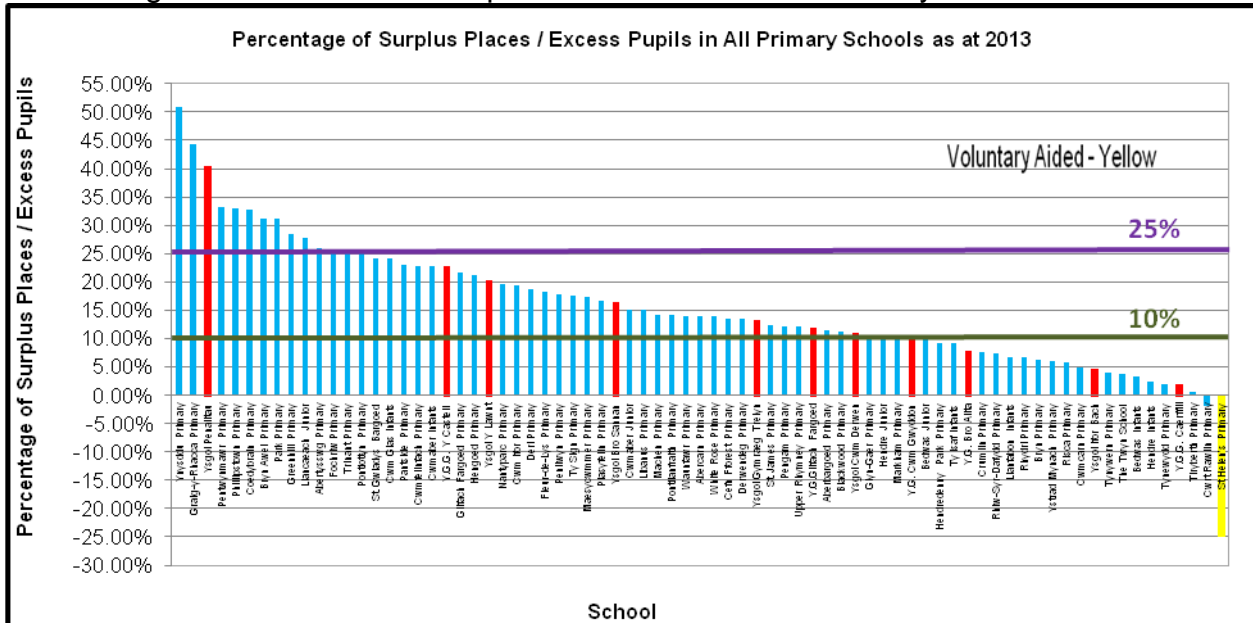
These graphs show the actual (2013) and projected (annually 2014 to 2019) surplus places for Primary schools (all schools, English-medium, Welsh-medium respectively). The lines represent capacity (red) and pupil numbers (blue).



These graphs show the actual (2013) and projected (annually 2014 to 2023) surplus places for Secondary schools (all schools, English-medium, Welsh-medium respectively). The lines represent capacity (red) and pupil numbers (blue).



The graphs below illustrate the relative percentage of surplus places (actual as at September 2013 and projected as at September 2019) of CCBC Primary schools in descending order. The red lines represent Welsh-medium Primary schools.

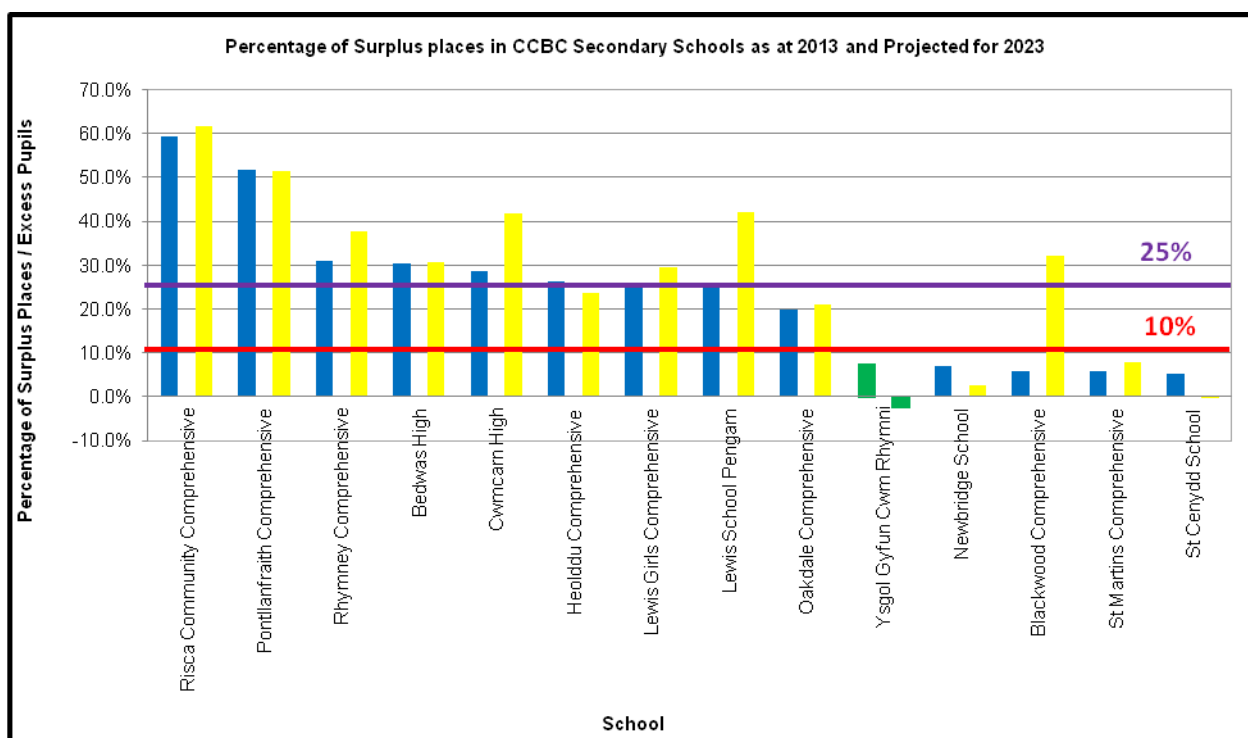
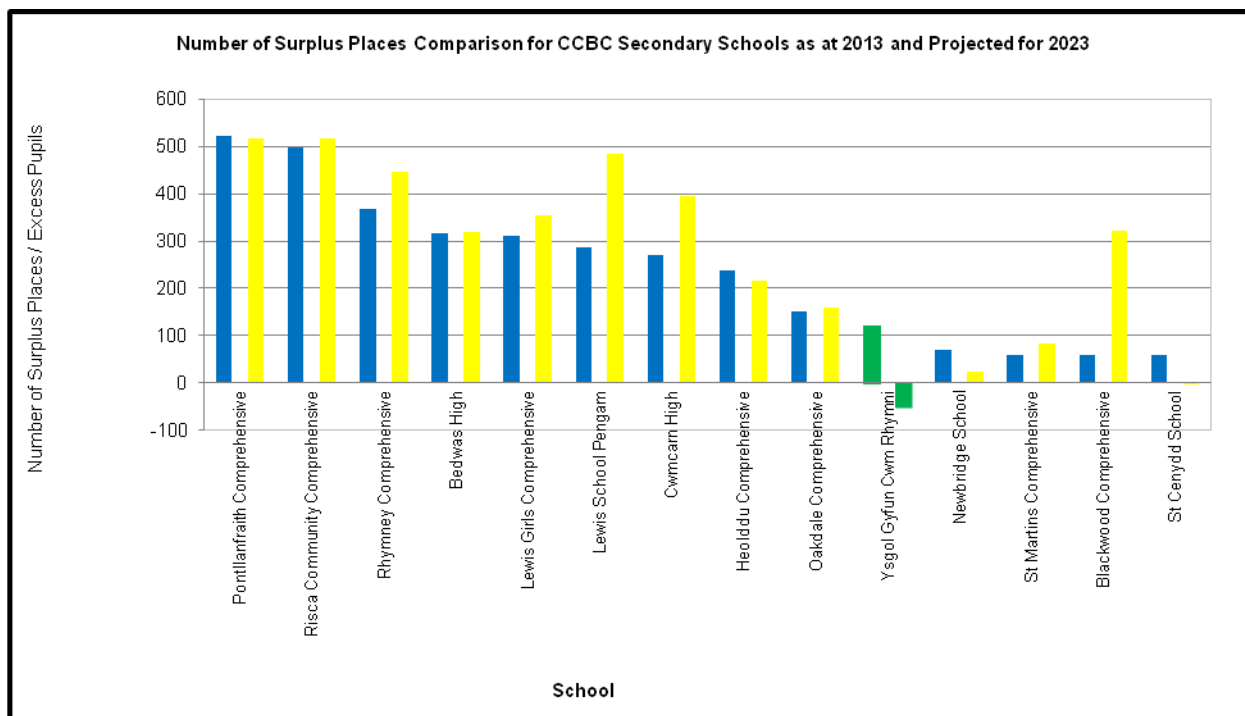


Overall there are 15 Primary schools forecast to have in excess of 25% surplus places by 2019 (all English-medium). 8 Primary schools are forecast to have excess pupils by 2019. Many of these can be managed by limiting out of catchment admissions and by increasing capacity via s106 Planning agreements.

The purple line represents 25% surplus places which has historically been a published performance indicator. The significance of the green line is based on a recent report which recommended surplus places be reduced to an average 10% by December 2012.

(Source : The Structure of Education services in Wales Independent Task and Finish Group Report, dated 9th March 2011)

The graphs below compare the relative number and percentage of surplus places (actual as at September 2013 and projected as at September 2023) of Secondary schools in descending order.



Of the 13 English-medium schools 9 show an increased % of surplus places by 2023 as compared to 2013. **Formula Amount Per Pupil 2014/15**

The amounts shown are net of SRBs (specialist resource bases) and amended for retrospective adjustments. The formula amount has been divided by the net average pupil numbers (based on January 2014 actuals, September 2014 & January 2015 estimates and excluding 6th form pupils who are funded separately).

As regards Welsh-medium, there is a projected increase of 154 by 2019 in Primary, with a projected increase of 935 by 2023 in Secondary.

Sizes/viability of schools

10 of the Primary schools (All English-medium) are presently below the 120 pupils threshold as determined by the 21st Century schools (Key Principles) process. This number increases to 11 (all English-medium) by 2019. No current Primary schools are small as per WG's definition. There is a general increase in size of smaller Primary schools forecast by 2019.

A further 27 Primary schools (25 English-medium and 2 Welsh-medium) are presently between 120 and 200 pupils. This number reduces to 23 (21 English-medium and 2 Welsh-medium) by 2019.

9 of the Secondary schools are presently below the 750/900 thresholds as determined by the 21st Century schools (Key Principles) process. This number increases to 10 by 2023, with only 4 Secondary schools (2 English-medium and 1 Welsh-medium) projected to be above those thresholds by then.

9 of the 13 English-medium secondary schools are expected to have a lower number of pupils by 2023.

Surplus Places

14 Primary schools (13 English-medium and 1 Welsh-medium) have more than 25% surplus places presently. This number increases to 15 (all English-medium) by 2019.

8 English-medium Secondary schools have more than 25% surplus places presently. This number remains at 8 by 2023.

There are 3327 surplus places overall in secondary schools at present, gradually increasing to 3786 (by 2023). If YGCR is excluded, these numbers are 3207 (2013) and 3838 (2023) respectively.

Phase 1 of CCBC's Secondary Rationalisation Programme agreed rationalisation proposals in respect of Islwyn West. These will result in a new school with effect from January 2017.

The authority wide percentage of surplus places for all 14 secondary schools currently projected for September 2016 is 24.9%. When Phase 1 is implemented, the projected percentage of surplus places would decrease to 20.4% across Caerphilly as a whole.

As regards Welsh-medium, there are 407 surplus places overall in Primary schools at present, with 189 surplus places by 2019. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni presently has 120 surplus places, projected to decrease to 52 excess pupils by 2023.

Buildings/Property Condition Surveys/25-year maintenance

As regards English-medium Primary schools, 6 are classified as condition A, 34B and 24C. As regards Welsh-medium Primary schools, 2 are classified as condition A, 4B and 5C.

As regards English-medium Secondary schools, 2 are classified condition B, 10C and 1D. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni is categorized as condition A.

The 25-year maintenance figure for Primary amounts to £83.1m and £57.6m for Secondary (excludes 2 PFI schools). These costs range from £0.4m to £3.5m in the Primary sector and £1.8m to £9.2m in the Secondary sector.

Catchment Areas

These are a combination of those inherited by CCBC in 1996 (and following formal review in 1999), those determined by the Welsh Government in respect of the Lower Islwyn area (English-medium Secondary) and those determined locally following provision of additional Primary schools since 2004 (Welsh-medium). A small number of catchment area boundaries have also changed, either by local agreement or following a formal consultative process and determination by Cabinet.

3 of the English-medium Secondary schools in the 'Islwyn' area have shared catchment areas, being the only examples in CCBC apart from Welsh-medium and the 1 aided Primary school.

The Rhymney Valley (former Mid Glamorgan) and Islwyn (former Gwent) divide is historical and pre-dates Local Government Reorganisation in 1996. More recent boundary changes have seen the Aberbargoed and Maesycwmmwr wards transfer into the Islwyn political constituency.

With the need to address increasing demand for Welsh-medium education, combined with the need to reduce surplus school places, catchment areas will inevitably require review.

Single Sex Schools

Lewis School Pengam and Lewis Girls Comprehensive are amongst only 4 LA single sex secondary aged schools in Wales albeit there is co-educational provision at 6th form and also limited options at 14-16.

The single sex vis a vis co-educational provision will need to be considered for the future.

6th Forms v Tertiary Model

There will be a need to review post-16 provision and assess the merits of school 6th forms vis a vis tertiary education.

Governance and Federation

There will be a need to consider governance arrangements. Federation of schools will need to be considered, particularly in the context of viability (both educationally and financially) of schools.

Appendices

3 Appendices are attached as follows:

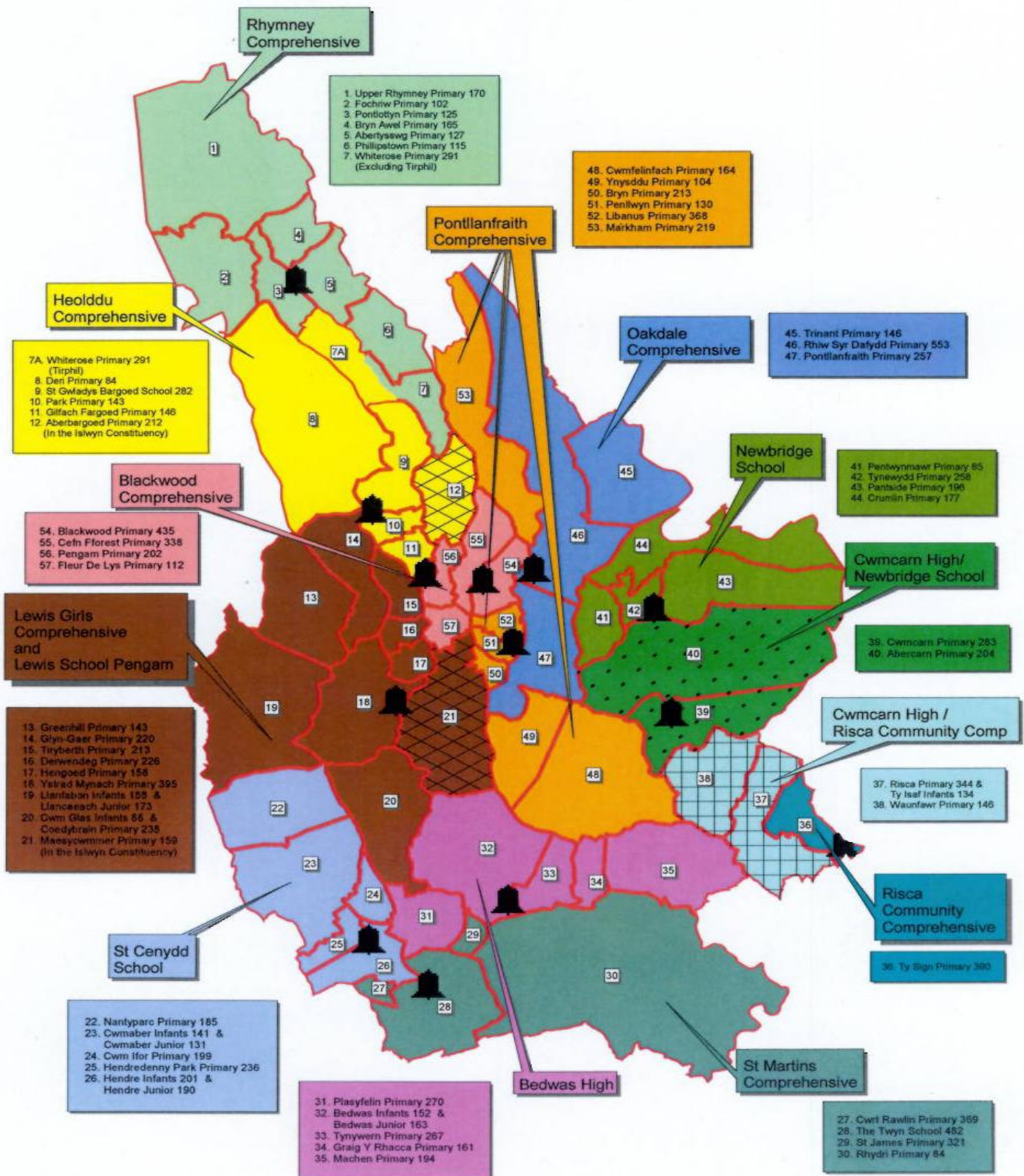
Appendix 1: English-medium Catchment Area map

Appendix 2: Welsh-medium Catchment Area map

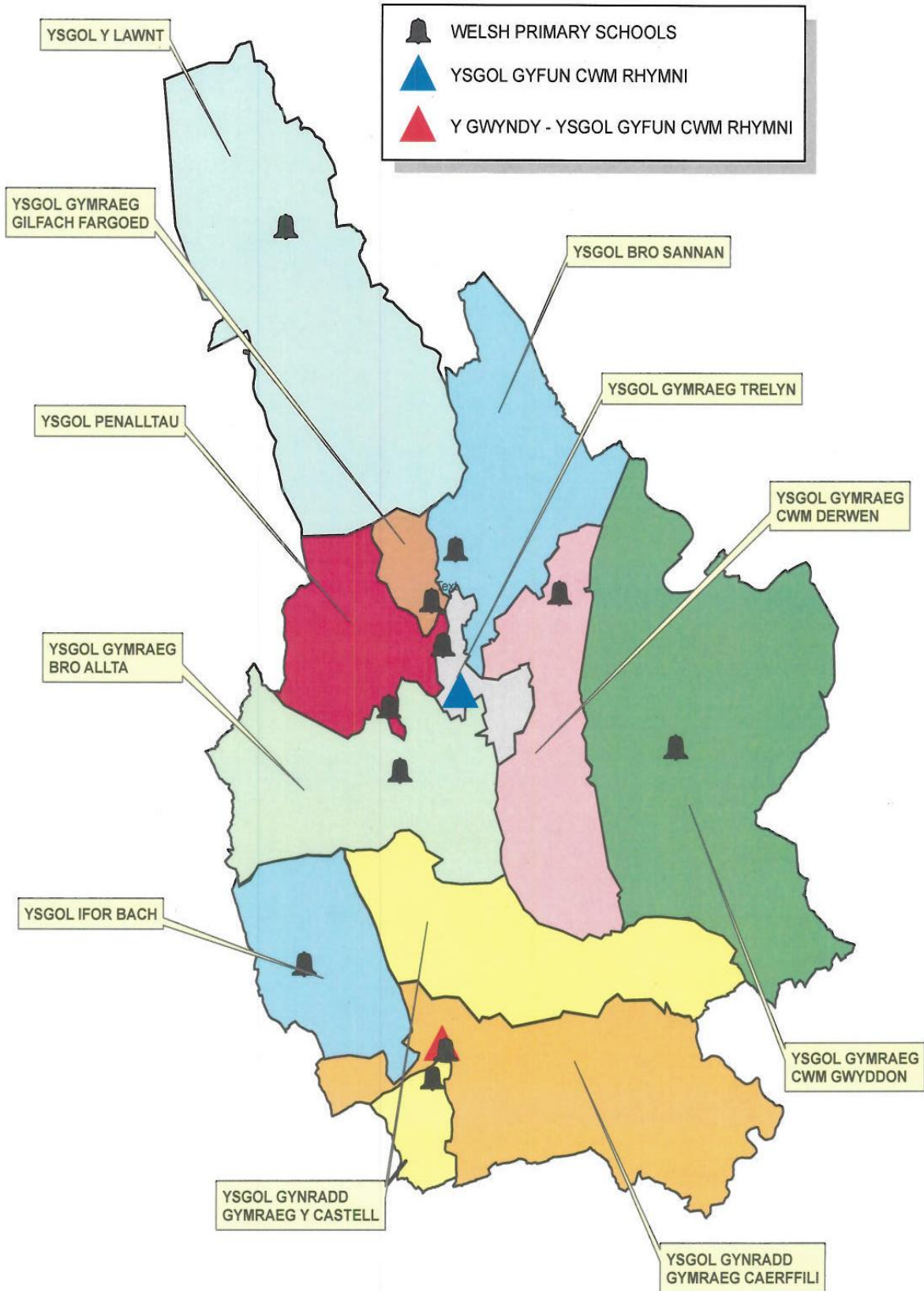
Appendix 3: School Data

- Surplus Places & Excess Pupils
- School Size Data etc.
- School Condition Data etc.

SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS WITH FEEDER SCHOOLS OUTLINED IN RED



CURRENT WELSH PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS



School Surplus Places & Excess Pupils

Description	Primary Sector			Secondary Sector				
	Total	English	Welsh	Total	English	Welsh	11-16	11-18
Surplus Places 2013								
• Less than 10%	23	19	4	5	4	1	-	-
• 10% - 25%	38	32	6	1	1	0	-	-
• More than 25%	14	13	1	8	8	0	-	-
Surplus Places 2019(PRY) 2023 (SEC)								
• Less than 10%	23	16	7	4	3	1	-	-
• 10% - 25%	38	34	4	2	2	0	-	-
• More than 25%	14	14	0	8	8	0	-	-
Excess Pupils 2013								
• Less than 10%	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	-
• 10% - 25%	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
• More than 25%	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Excess Pupils 2019(PRY) 2023 (SEC)								
• Less than 10%	7	3	4	2	1	1	-	-
• 10% - 25%	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
• More than 25%	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	-

School Size Data etc

Description	Primary Sector			Secondary Sector				
	Total	English	Welsh	Total	English	Welsh	11-16	11-18
Size of School (2013)								
• Less than 120 pupils	10	10	0	-	-	-	-	-
• 120 – 200 pupils	27	25	2	-	-	-	-	-
• 201 – 300 pupils	23	17	6	-	-	-	-	-
• More than 300 pupils	15	12	3	-	-	-	-	-
Size of School (2019)								
• Less than 120 pupils	11	11	0	-	-	-	-	-
• 120 – 200 pupils	23	21	2	-	-	-	-	-
• 201 – 300 pupils	28	21	7	-	-	-	-	-
• More than 300 pupils	13	11	2	-	-	-	-	-
Size of School (2013)								
• Less/more than 750 pupils	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/2	-
• Less/more than 900 pupils	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6/3
Size of School (2023)								
• Less/more than 750 pupils	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/1	-
• Less/more than 900 pupils	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6/3
Site Size Compliance								
• Less than 75%	25	21	4	0	0	0	-	-
• 75% - 100%	11	7	4	3	3	0	-	-
• More than 100%	39	36	3	11	10	1	-	-
Schools with SEN units	16	15	1	4	4	0	-	-
Out of catchment % (averages)	27.1%	27.4%	25.8%	21.2%	24.0%	1.9%	-	-

School Condition Data etc

Description	Primary Sector			Secondary Sector				
	Total	English	Welsh	Total	English	Welsh	11-16	11-18
25 year maintenance (excludes PFI)	83.1m	71.75m	11.35m	56.0m	56.0m	0	-	-
Condition Rating								
• A	8	6	2	1	0	1	-	-
• B	38	34	4	2	2	0	-	-
• C	29	24	5	10	10	0	-	-
• D	0	0	0	1	1	0	-	-
Suitability Rating								
• A	45	40	5	7	6	1	-	-
• B	12	10	2	4	4	0	-	-
• C	18	14	4	3	3	0	-	-
• D	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Sustainability Rating								
• A	6	4	2	0	0	0	-	-
• B	18	15	3	3	2	1	-	-
• C	45	39	6	10	10	0	-	-
• D	6	6	0	1	1	0	-	-
DDA Rating								
• A	14	11	3	0	0	0	-	-
• B	15	15	0	6	5	1	-	-
• C	27	23	4	4	4	0	-	-
• D	19	15	4	4	4	0	-	-