

### 3 City-wide demographic context

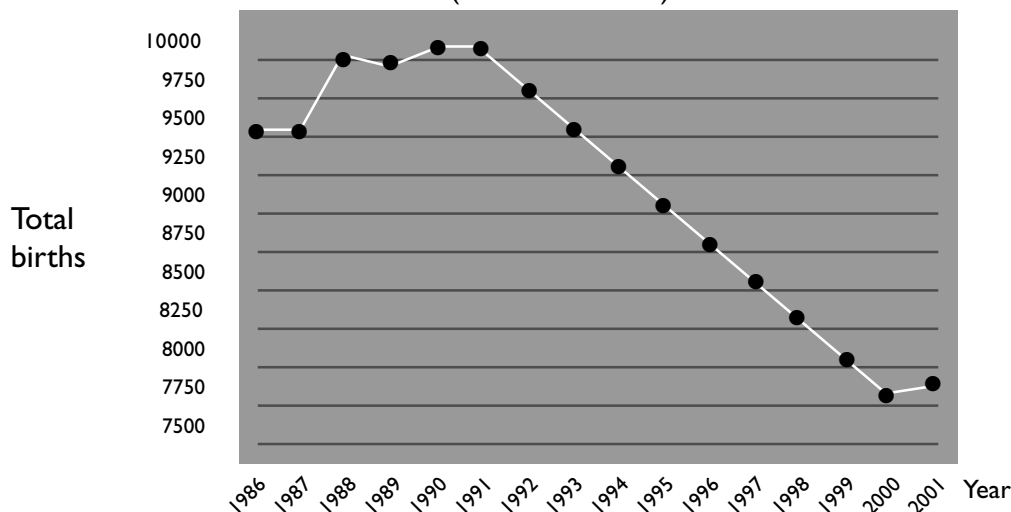
The following section provides an overview of demographic trends across the city and the factors affecting pupil numbers.

#### Births and the Primary Population

In the early 1990s there were nearly 10,000 children born per year in Leeds. Since then there has been a steady year on year decline so that by 2001 there were only around 7,500 births in the city (graph 1). Only in the most recent year's birth data has there been any suggestion of a change to this downward trend.

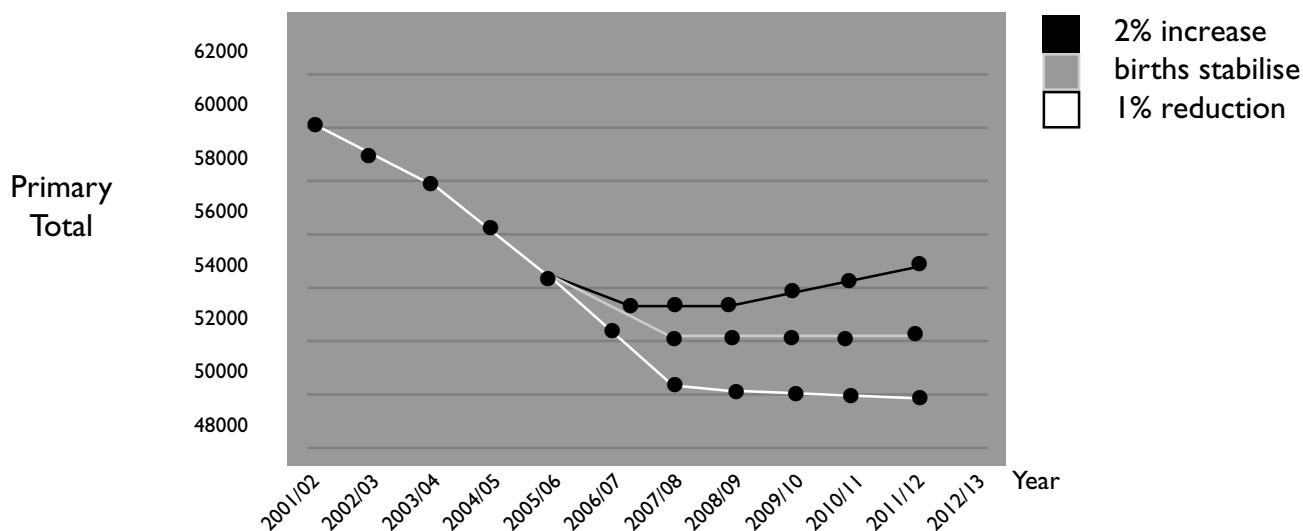
Admissions into primary schools peaked in 1995. In that year there were 9,388 children in reception classes in Leeds schools. The following year there was a peak total of 63,118 children in the primary sector. However, numbers have fallen each year since and will continue to fall until at least 2005. In January 2003 there were just over 7,900 pupils in reception classes and a primary sector total of around 58,150. By projecting forward the current pre-school population, we expect that in 2006 there will be around 7,350 children in reception classes, and the primary sector total will have fallen to around 53,500.

Graph 1 - Births in Leeds LEA by year of birth  
(ONS live births)



What happens to the birth rate beyond 2006 is conjecture but graph 2 below illustrates three different scenarios. It shows the effect on the primary population over time if the birth rate continues to fall at 1% per year, if it stabilises at its current level, and if it were to increase at 2% per year.

Graph 2 - 10 year Projections of Primary NOR



Even on the highly unlikely assumption that birth rates were to start to increase at 2% per year, the primary population as a whole would continue to fall until 2010, to a level of around 52,000 pupils. If the birth rate stabilises at current levels the primary population would be nearer 51,000 at that time. If the current rate of decline is maintained, then the primary population will be nearer 50,000 and still falling by 2010.

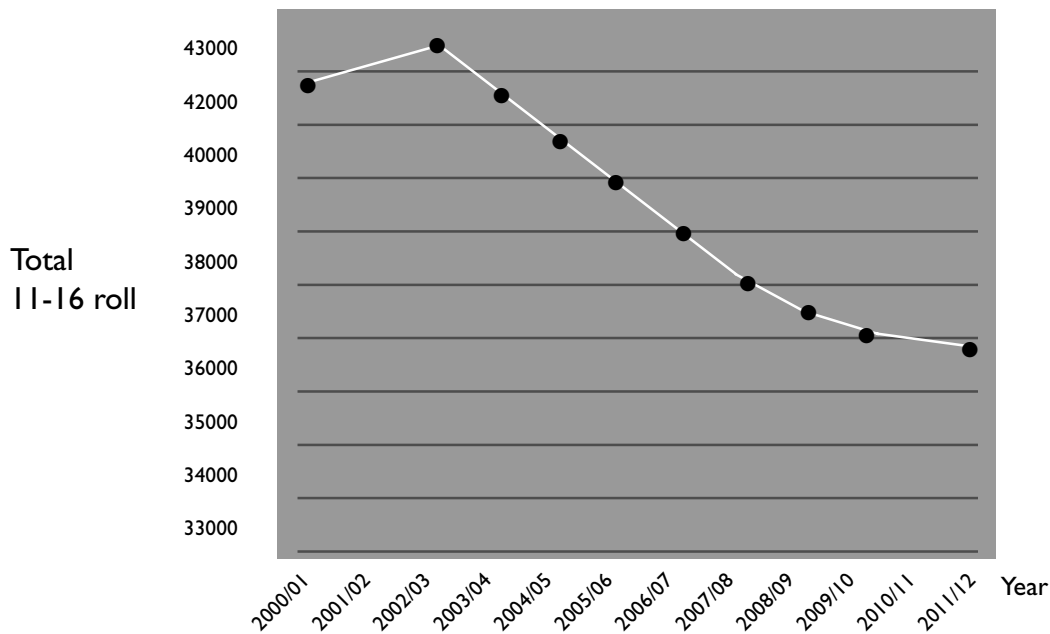
**Primary capacity**

At present there are just under 66,000 primary school places available in Leeds, compared to a primary population of just over 58,000. There are presently, therefore, just under 8,000 unfilled places which, given the declining population, would rise to nearer 13,000 in five years time - if no action is taken.

**The Secondary population**

The high numbers of children born in the early 1990's are now starting their secondary education. Both 2002 and 2003 will see high levels of admissions into secondary schools. There were around 8,700 Year 7 children in Leeds schools in January 2003 with an 11-16 population of about 42,400. Similar numbers are expected in September 2003, but from then onwards numbers will steadily decline. Based on the numbers of children who are already in Leeds primary schools the Year 7 intake in seven years time will be 7,400 with an 11-16 population of around 38,000. Graph 3 illustrates the projected secondary population.

Graph 3 - Projected Secondary 11-16 roll



**Post-16 provision**

In January 2003 there were 5,372 pupils in school sixth forms, a figure comparable to previous years. Future numbers are difficult to project with any confidence because staying-on rates at school are volatile and are affected by many factors, including changes in the courses on offer. The average school staying-on rate rose from 36.4% in 2001 to 37.6% in 2002, but is still below the 2000 figure of 38.6%. Overall, continuation in education and training should be considered alongside the take-up of places across the further education and training sectors. This rose from 44% in 2001 to 47% in 2002.

**Secondary/post-16 capacity**

At present there are just over 50,000 places in secondary schools across Leeds compared to an 11-18 population of just under 48,000. There are therefore only around 2,000 unfilled places across the secondary sector. There is, however, a significant amount of surplus concentrated into a few schools, and some pressure on accommodation at others.

As the current peak in the population passes through secondary schools and their pupil populations start to decline, with smaller cohorts of pupils entering Year 7, then the number of surplus places will rise.

**New housing and total population**

The net effect of most new housing development is to redistribute the existing population around the city. Typically, people move into new housing from elsewhere in the same community, or from other parts of the city. Families with school age children who move into the city are matched by a similar number who leave each year. Clearly, large housing developments add to the populations in which they are sited, but new residents tend to be drawn from elsewhere in the city.

The average household size across the city is decreasing, from 2.57 in 1981 to 2.35 in 2000.

**Changes in the number of dwellings in Leeds compared to total population**

Year	Total dwellings	% change	Total population	% change	Household size
1981	279,400		717,600		2.57
1997	303,000	+8.5%	727,500	+1.4%	2.4
2000	309,200	+2.0%	726,100	-0.1%	2.35

The table above shows that the increase in the total housing stock over the past two decades has not been matched by an increase in the total population. Whilst the total number of dwellings increased by 8.5% between 1981 and 1987, the total population increased by a 1.4% over the same period. Between 1997 and 2000 the total number of dwellings increased by a further 2% whilst the total population actually fell by 0.1%.

## Other factors

Whilst future pupil numbers are predominantly influenced by demography, there are other factors which need to be taken into account.

### Cross-border movement

This affects certain parts of the City, with children resident in neighbouring areas (especially Bradford and Kirklees) attending Leeds schools and some children resident in Leeds attending schools in other LEAs (especially North Yorkshire).

### Migration rates

The population moving in to and out from Leeds is affected by the local and national economy as well as social trends.

### Movement between the state and independent sector

The extent of pupil movement between state and public schools is closely linked to the health of the economy as a whole, and can in particular affect the transfer rates between primary and secondary schools.

### Movement within the Leeds district

Within Leeds there is continual movement of groups within the population around the City, for example, there has been a trend for much of the inner city area to lose family population.

Leeds schools 1st April 2003			
Primary		Secondary and Special	
Community Infant	14	Community High	36
CE Infant*	1	CE High*	2
Community Junior	12	Catholic High	5
CE Junior*	1	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>
Community Primary	147	Special	10
CE Primary*	36	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>10</b>
Catholic Primary	29		
Jewish Primary	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>Total number of schools</b>	<b>294</b>
Pupils numbers by phase (January 2003)		Pupils registered at Primary, Secondary and Special schools by age (age as of 31.08.02)	
		Primary	Secondary
Nursery Classes (mainstream)	7240	4+ 7927	11+ 8834
Primary Schools (4-11)	58111	5+ 8058	12+ 8629
Secondary (11-16)	42442	6+ 8288	13+ 8656
Sixth Form (16-18)	5340	7+ 8250	14+ 8588
Special Schools (inc.nursery)	956	8+ 8426	15+ 8250
Pupil Referral Service	164	9+ 8484	16+ 3145
<b>Total</b>	<b>114253</b>	10+ 8950	17+ 2144
			18+ 217
Pupils in public care	960		

\*CE = Church of England