

Horsham Local Plan Examination

West Sussex County Council Hearing Statement – Education

September 2026

This hearing statement has been prepared by officers on behalf of West Sussex County Council in its role as Education Authority.

Matter 6a: Strategic Policy HA2: Land West of Ifield

Since the Regulation 19 consultation in 2024, 2021 Census data has been released which has led to an update in the calculation of child yield from new development. As a result, our requirement at both primary and secondary education for this site have reduced since the last formal consultation on the Local Plan and a Statement of Common Ground signed between West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council and Homes England on the 20th November 2024.

At the time of the 2024 Regulation 19 consultation, 2011 Census data showed that new development generated 25 primary aged children per 100 dwellings and 19 secondary aged children per 100 dwellings. For a 3000 dwelling allocation this equated to 750 primary aged children and 570 secondary aged children, requiring 3.5 forms of entry at primary and 3.8 forms of entry at secondary. The 2021 Census now indicates 19 primary aged children per 100 dwellings at primary and 16 secondary aged children per 100 dwellings at secondary, requiring 570 primary places in 2.7 forms of entry and 480 secondary places in 3.2 forms of entry.

As a result, our requirement for this allocation and wording for criterion 2d)i) and 2d)ii) of Policy HA2 is requested as follows:

2.d)i) one 3-form entry primary school to incorporate a special support centre for special educational needs and disability (SEND).

2.d)ii. a 6-form entry expandable to 8-form entry secondary school, to incorporate a special support centre for special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The policy sets out the infrastructure mitigation requirement that the developer is responsible for funding or delivering for the proposed allocation. Department for Education (DfE) "Securing developer contributions for education" August 2023 paragraph 62 makes clear that new settlements or urban extensions large enough to require a new school should be expected to meet their full education requirement in whole forms of entry.

We would not necessarily expect the full size of the required school to be opened at the initial stage; phasing of the school is a matter for the s106 agreement

rather than to be specified through the policy itself as dependent on a number of factors including build out rate and housing mix of the site.

The matters above are consistent with our policy requirements for schools across the county and with the wording in the 2026 IDP.