

HADDENHAM INFANT SCHOOL BULGE CLASS 2026 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the arrangements for this year's bulge? Where will the children be accommodated, in new facilities or in retrofitted ones?

The plan is to build a new classroom for this September. Officers are liaising with the school and contractors to assess how quickly this can be achieved. Plans will then be progressed with regards to building permanent accommodation to enable the school to operate with a PAN of 45 and this will include re providing a library and any other spaces lost through the provision of the bulge class.

2. Will children be placed in a mixed-age class?

This is an operational decision for the school governing board. Whatever the decision, there are thousands of successful schools across the country that have mixed age group classes and operate very successfully.

The children will be taught within their own year group classes and there are no plans for mixed age classes at present. The decision will be reviewed in line with admission numbers and need for growth over the next couple of years.

3. How the money referred to in the Leader's decision last March been allocated? has been allocated?

Of the £950k approved for release by the Leader of the Council, £450k of the funding is to be used to fund the original bulge class that was put in place at Haddenham Infant School in September 2025 and the corresponding class that needs to be provided at Haddenham Junior School in 2028 (when the infant pupils move up to the Junior School).

The balance of the funding is to be used to procure consultants (this includes architects and architectural disciplines and commercial/cost consultants) to take forward the detailed design process for a one form entry expansion of both the Infant and Junior school up to the planning stage.

As a result of the decision this year to provide a further bulge class for September 2026, the design plans will be progressed with a view to implementing the expansion in phases i.e. half form entry (0.5fe) followed by expansion up to 1FE when demand necessitates.

A full business case for both the 0.5FE and 1FE expansion options will need to be taken through the Council's capital boards for approval to release full budget to the school project capital codes.

- 4. The bulge expansion in 2025 at Haddenham Infant School consisted of the library conversion. This has left the school without that vital space. Equally, there is reduced space to cater for children with SEND. Despite these pressures, the plans for future permanent expansions do not include St Mary's Infant School, where there is land available. Why?**

The Local Authority expanded St Mary's from a 1FE to a 2FE infant school in 2017. To expand it to a 3FE school would provide an imbalance across the village and would make it a very large infant school which would significantly intensify traffic at that end of the village. Expanding Haddenham Infant school by 1FE would (i) provide a better spread of places across Haddenham to ensure greater sustainability of both schools (ii) the ability to share facilities across the infant and junior school sites including parking and (iii) ensure more effective home to school travel as it is closer to the majority of new developments in North Haddenham. Enabling greater opportunity for families to walk and cycle to school.

The Haddenham Infant School site can accommodate a 1FE expansion when reviewed against government guidance for school sites.

As noted above the plans for the permanent 0.5fe expansion will include re providing a library and any other spaces lost through the provision of the bulge class.

- 5. What is the estimate for future school place demand in the planning areas Haddenham sits on (primary and secondary) in the next 5-10 years? And how is the LA responding to these forecasts?**

Projections indicate a need for additional capacity to meet demand in the Haddenham area although it is difficult to predict precisely the number of places needed due to the significant volatility in migration trends as a result of housing growth and longer terms the effects of falling births seen across the country. The projections based on current migration trends indicate that there is a need for c. 0.5FE additional places over the next four years.

See 6. below for link to published SCAP information; SCAP Projections and GP registration data for Haddenham which shows a peak in Reception demand in September 2025 but numbers falling in subsequent years:

When undertaking the feasibility studies with the Haddenham schools, we only explored the 1FE expansion option as it was believed that there was sufficient demand in the wider area or from families moving into Haddenham to fill any remaining places after catchment children allocated. However, as the projected demand in Haddenham only suggested increased demand for up to 0.5FE , the Council sought to extend the catchment area of Cuddington & Dinton CE School to include the area north of Haddenham (i.e. to provide those parents with an alternative catchment option) as the school has a small catchment population which relies on admitting out-catchment children to fill its places (i.e. this year of the 26 children admitted only 12 lived in catchment). This option would also potentially have made better use of public funding.

However, an independent adjudicator determined that this was not necessary as he considered there were sufficient alternative school places available in Thame and Long Crendon 3 and 5 miles away respectively. The adjudicator confirmed that while it may cause dissatisfaction for any child to travel further than their parent would wish, Haddenham children have access to good alternative schools within a reasonable distance such that they would not suffer any actual unfairness. It was only when Haddenham infant agreed to admit 15 pupils (as with 15 vacancies in its current Reception bulge class it would potentially result in more efficient/viable class sizes in both the infant and junior school longer term) that we were able to offer a bulge class (as aligned with longer term expansion plans, better match with need in the area, ensure more viable class sizes and due to home to school transport savings).

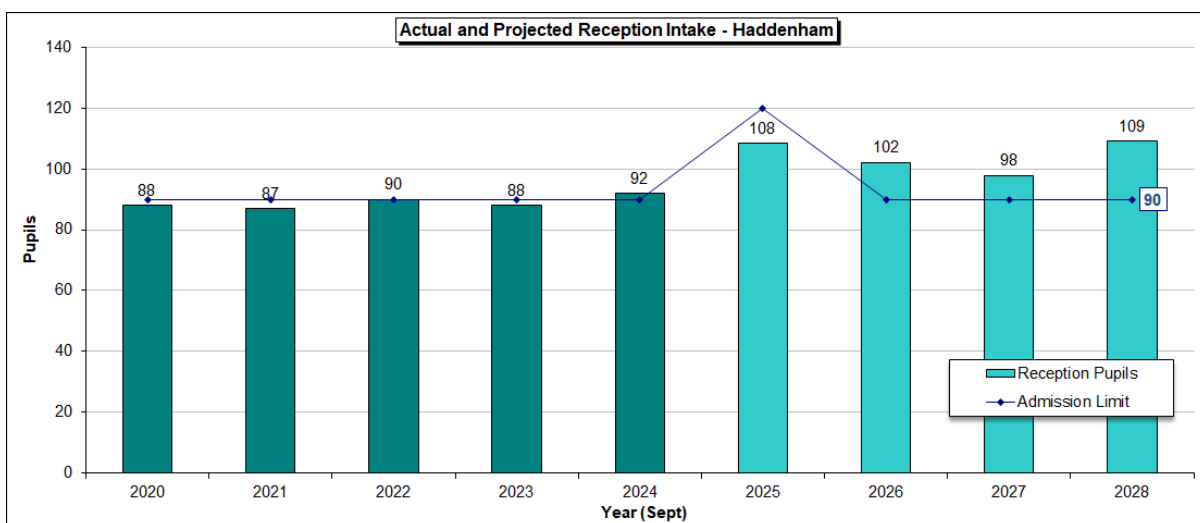
With regard to secondary school provision, while Princes Risborough School is the catchment school for Haddenham residents – the majority of pupils currently seek places at Lord Williams’s School (which is the closest school). The secondary school aged population in both school catchments is currently not projected to change significantly over the next 7 years although we cannot provide any guarantees due to volatility in parental preference/migration. Longer term, there is a risk that demand may fall (i.e. reduced migration and births) as typically on new developments you see an initial peak in demand which then falls over time as it matures.

6. Please provide details of the Councils published SCAP information and projections

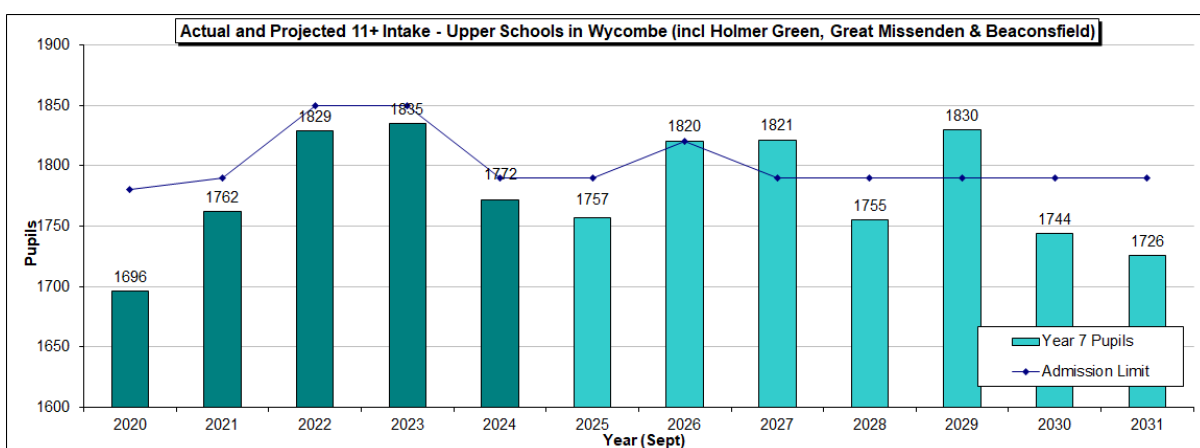
www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-capacity

SCAP Projections are shown below:

Primary Projections



Secondary Projections (Haddenham comes under the Wycombe planning area)



Please also see below GP registration data for Haddenham which shows a peak in Reception demand in September 2025 but reduced numbers in subsequent years:

	GP registrations (ages as at Sept 25)						
	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	6+
HADDENHAM	97	100	93	107	121	102	98

7. Will the Council provide more details about how the bulge class will be delivered, including the use of any temporary infrastructure and changes to toilet facilities?

The Council and the school are working quickly to provide an additional classroom for the bulge class from September 2026. We will ensure parents are kept informed and will share further details as soon as possible.

8. Has the Council reviewed the suitability of the Haddenham Infant School site for this expansion, including any site constraints and flooding issues?

For several years, the Council has been exploring how to deliver a long-term expansion of schools in Haddenham given the growing population of the village. The capacity of the Haddenham Infant School site to expand by a full 1 Form Entry has already been assessed as part of that work. The table below shows the Department for Education (DfE) space guidelines for a 1 Form Entry and 2 Form Entry infant school compared with the existing Haddenham Infant School site. The existing site meets DfE guidelines for a 1 Form Entry expansion.

	Minimum DfE BB103 Area Guidelines	HIS Existing Site Size
1fe Infant School	2,990sqm	4,479sqm
1.5fe Infant School	3,485sqm	4,479sqm
2fe Infant school	3,980sqm	4,479sqm

The accommodation requirements for the permanent 0.5 Form Entry expansion will address the current loss of space, including the library and toilet provision. Plans for the permanent expansion will be developed over the coming months, and we will share more details with parents at the earliest opportunity.

The proposals for the permanent expansion at Haddenham Infant School also include plans to expand Haddenham Junior School by 1 Form Entry, ensuring there is sufficient capacity for pupils as they transition to Year 3. It has always been the Council’s intention that any expansion would provide additional school places at both the infant and junior schools.

Plans for the expansion of the junior school will progress alongside plans to expand the infant school. The Council and the schools will keep parents informed about developments.

The expansion of both schools is a necessary investment in local school places, high quality classrooms and school facilities which will help meet the requirements of Haddenham’s growing population.

9. How will teaching vacancies and SEND provision be safeguarded?

All teaching vacancies have already been advertised and a new SENDCO will be appointed in due course.

10. Has the Council or Haddenham Infant School conducted risk assessments to demonstrate the site can accommodate additional pupils?

The school has up to date risk assessments for all areas of the school site, and those are reviewed regularly.

11. Will statutory pupil-to-space ratios, toilet provision standards and safeguarding supervision requirements be maintained?

Please see the responses to questions 8 and 9 above.

12. What discussions have been held with the Parish Council about the play area adjacent to the school?

There is no requirement for the school to acquire extra land to accommodate the bulge class. Buckinghamshire Council can engage with the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of school pupils accessing additional secure areas of green space in ways which do not reduce overall access to play areas for the local community.

13. Could you outline the plans for expansion of HCJS to a four forms intake by 2028 and confirm that permanent building works will be completed by September 2028.

The permanent accommodation for 4fe will not be in place by 2028. By 2028 there is only the requirement for one additional classroom for the first bulge class.

14. How will road safety be considered as part of the plans?

As part of the bulge class works, we are liaising with the Parish Council with regards to installing a gate from the side pathway on the Tennis Court side into the school.

15. Will there be any expansion of the Wraparound Care provision?

The demand for places at WASPS is continually reviewed and over the time I have been at the school we have increased numbers as demand has required. In the last year or so we have increased capacity by splitting the juniors and infants for part

sessions to enable to meet demand. This will be something we will review as registrations and bookings will reflect.

16. How will the additional children be accommodated in terms of lunch provision?

The children have staggered lunch currently with the children from EYFS starting lunch half an hour earlier than the KS1 pupils. This will continue with the increased numbers and there is always at least half an hour for eating and at least half an hour for outdoor play each day.

17. Can the Council provide assurances the additional expansion at will result in investment in best practice SEN areas within the school?

As noted above, the plans for permanent accommodation will take into account all facilities required including SEND.