

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY GAVIN ST. PIER**

Question 1

Can the Committee please detail any changes to the Pupil-Teacher Ratios ('PTR') at primary and secondary level that have taken place in the last five years, and further detail what, if any, future changes to the PTR are planned or reasonably anticipated in the next five years?

Answer 1

Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTRs) are calculated by dividing the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) pupils on a school's roll by its total number of FTE teachers.

It is important to note that no formal policy exists locally for PTRs. PTRs are generally used as a reporting measure. It is not always possible or helpful, given the differences between our education systems, to draw direct comparisons between Guernsey and England; however, Pupil-Teacher Ratio data is directly comparable and for that reason has been included below for ease of reference.

Primary

For our primary schools (not including Alderney) the current PTR is 16.86 pupils per teacher. The latest workforce data for England, June 2022¹ (reporting year 2021), shows that the PTR for primary schools was 20.6 pupils per teacher.

Secondary

For our secondary schools (not including Alderney) the current PTR is 11.51 pupils per teacher. The latest workforce data for England, June 2022² (reporting year 2021), shows that the PTR for secondary schools was 16.7 pupils per teacher.

In March 2021, the Committee agreed that specific Sixth Form PTR targets should be introduced as per the table below between 2021 to 2024. These targets were introduced to re-distribute funding, in order to provide greater equity and value for money across the education system:

Year	Pupil-Teacher Ratio
2021	11:1
2022	11.5:1
2023	12:1
2024	12.5:1

¹ [School workforce in England, Reporting Year 2021 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

² [School workforce in England, Reporting Year 2021 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

At this time, there are no other planned future targets for PTRs in the primary or secondary phase.

Question 2

Can the Committee please detail all changes to the 'tipping point' at primary and secondary level that have taken place in the last five years, and further detail what, if any, future changes to the tipping point are planned or reasonably anticipated in the next five years?

Answer 2

For clarity, the tipping point is the number of pupils that, if exceeded, causes a new class to be created, and determines the number of forms of entry at each school (i.e. the number of primary school classes and the number of secondary school tutor groups needed for each year group to accommodate all pupils on a school's roll).

There has been no change to the Primary school class size tipping point in the last five years. The Primary tipping point is 28 pupils. At La Mare de Carteret Primary School one place per class is reserved for children who might move to the School to benefit from its POD provision. (The POD is a specialist provision for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties with services in the POD delivered through Les Voies for children from the Reception Year to Year 4.)

In October 2018, the Admissions Policy for Secondary schools was amended to reflect that the default nominal form size in Secondary schools was 24 children for intake capacity calculation purposes. However, this could be increased to up to 26 children at the discretion of the Director of Education following consultation with the relevant Headteacher.

In September 2021, the Admissions Policy for Secondary schools was amended to reflect that the default nominal form size in Secondary schools is 28 pupils for intake capacity calculation purposes. This is not necessarily reflective of the number of pupils in subject classes, where some variables will dictate the number of pupils in each lesson, such as: the streaming of pupils in some subjects; and the number of pupils selecting each subject as part of their GCSE options.

It is possible under existing policy for parents/carers to be asked to enrol their child at a school other than their catchment/Primary Partner school to help balance student numbers if necessary.

Question 3

For each primary and secondary school, can the Committee please detail:

- the average class size;
- the biggest class size (indicating also how many classes of this size there are);
- the smallest class size (indicating also how many classes of this size there are);

and provide data and/or a commentary on how these trends have changed over the last five years and are reasonably anticipated to change in the next five years?

Answer 3

In order to provide comparable data, the table below uses the size of the forms of entry in each year group for every Primary school and for every 11-16 school from the November 2022 pupil census.

Name of School*,**	Average Form of Entry Size	Biggest Form of Entry Size	Number of Forms of entry of this size	Smallest Form of Entry	Number of Forms of entry of this size
Amherst Primary	22.9	25	4	20	1
Castel Primary	24.9	28	5	19	1
Forest Primary	22.1	26	1	17	1
Hautes Capelles Primary	23.8	28	2	20	2
La Houquette Primary	21.8	28	2	16	1
La Mare de Carteret Primary	22.1	29	1	17	1
Notre Dame Primary	22.5	27	2	17	2
St Anne's (Primary)	18.4	30	1	10	1
St Martin's Primary	25.9	28	9	20	2
St Mary & St Michael Primary	19.9	26	2	15	3
Vale Primary	21.3	24	4	15	1
Vauvert Primary	23.5	26	1	22	3
Grammar School	22.1	25	3	19	3
Les Beaucamps High	22.6	28	1	15	1
La Mare de Carteret High	18.3	21	2	16	3
St Sampson's High	23.7	29	1	17	1
St Anne's (Secondary)	11.3	12	1	11	3

*It is important to note that some classes in primary and secondary schools include learners from multiple year groups. La Mare de Carteret High has a vertical tutor group system, meaning one class could include a learner from every year group.

**It should also be noted that, as per the Government Work Plan, a review of the Primary phase is scheduled to commence in 2025.

Across Primary schools, the average class size has remained stable since November 2018, at between 22-23 pupils. In 2022, the average class size was 22.8 with the biggest class size being 30 pupils and the smallest being 10. In 2019 there was also one class with 30 pupils at Forest Primary School, and the largest class size in 2020 and 2021 was 29 pupils. The smallest class size in the last 5 years was 8 pupils in 2018, in the Primary phase in St Anne's School, Alderney, and remained at 8 for 2019-2020 before increasing in 2021.

Tutor group sizes in the Secondary phase have been impacted over time by changes to the secondary school model. In 2018, Years 7 - 11 at the Grammar School were selective and from 2019 onwards, the Year 7 intake has been non-selective with the intake being defined by a Primary Partner School model, meaning that all pupils from specific Primary schools transfer together to specific Secondary schools.

Across the Secondary schools, the average tutor group size in November 2022 was 21.3 and the biggest tutor group size was 29. This has increased slightly since 2018, when the average tutor group size was 19.7 and the biggest tutor group size was 27. Within the Secondary phase, from 2018 – 2021 the smallest tutor group size was at the Grammar School, with 13 pupils in one tutor group in 2019. In 2022, the smallest tutor group was at Les Beaucamps High with 15 pupils.

Over the next 5 years, in line with current primary school populations (please see previous Rule 14 response dated 10th January 2023), the secondary school population is projected to increase. There will be an even distribution of learners at St Sampson's High, Les Beaucamps High and at the Grammar School site (La Mare de Carteret High will close in the summer of 2025), with anticipated average class sizes of 25 in 2024/25, for example. Similarly, the Year 6 population is anticipated to increase over the next 5 years. Class sizes in Primary schools will vary according to the number of children living in a school's catchment area and the number of parents/carers opting not to send their child to a States-maintained school. In accordance with policy, class sizes will generally not exceed the maximum number of 28 learners per class.

Date of receipt of the Question: 03 January 2023
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