

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND  
CULTURE BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2011**

**Question**

Would the Minister state the annual number of primary school children in Jersey from 2000 to date and, given demographic profiles, current births over deaths trends and associated inward migrant numbers, advise what the predicted primary school numbers are, on an annual basis, from now until 2020?

**Answer**

The annual numbers of primary school children in Jersey from 2000 to date, as measured in January each year, are as follows

January	Primary numbers
2000	7459
2001	7429
2002	7387
2003	7253
2004	7214
2005	7133
2006	7020
2007	6939
2008	7005
2009	6988
2010	6927
2011	6906

It should be noted that although the number of pupils has reduced by approximately 550 over the period 2000 to 2011, the last six years have remained relatively constant. In order to manage falling pupil numbers there has been a reduction in the number of forms of entry at Rouge Bouillon and Samarés schools. In addition, La Pouquelaye and St. Mark's schools have been closed and replaced by a two-form entry school (d'Auvergne School), resulting in a reduction in fixed costs.

Taking into account demographic profiles, current birth trends, and associated inward migrant numbers, the predictions for future years are as follows:

Year	Primary numbers
2012	6870
2013	6842
2014	6901
2015	6920
2016	6984
2017	7065
2018	7098
2019	7175
2020	7229

Student numbers are predicted to increase by approximately 360 over the period 2012-2020.

Immigrant numbers do of course contribute to the changes but the largest factor is the recent increase in the birth rate, with the number of births being in excess of 1000 per year for the last 4 years. This will result in an increased demand on places in primary schools. The Department is continuously monitoring the situation, and will respond as necessary to any changes in the forward projections for student numbers.