

Ward Profile – Heckmondwike

Childcare Sufficiency

October 2025

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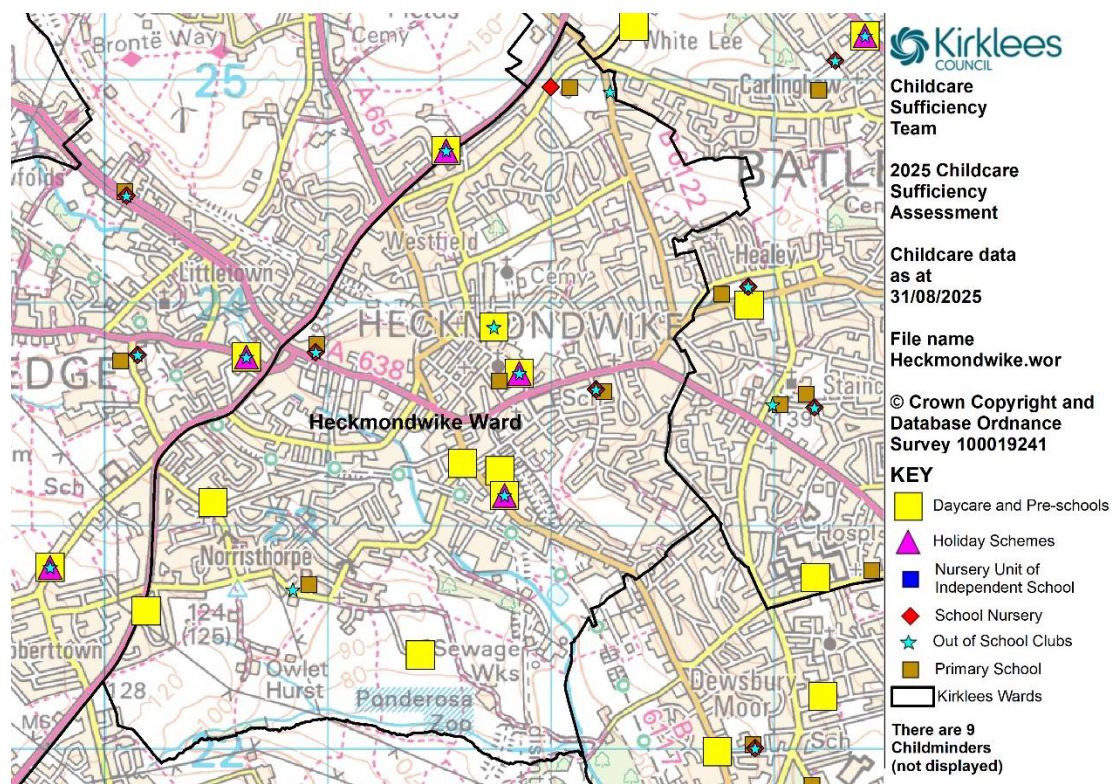
Overview

Table 1 Ward overview

Ward overview	
Total number of childcare settings	29
Total number of childcare places	896
Early Years Entitlements - net estimated spare places / gap	202
Population aged 0 - 4-year-olds	1088
Number of children per place based on operating capacity - under 5's	2.68
Number of children per place based on the maximum Ofsted registration - over 5's	6.72
Unemployment rate %	5.3%

Map

Figure 1 Distribution of childcare providers



Number of providers and childcare places

Table 2 Places for under 5-year-olds

Provider type	Number of providers	Quality good or above	Maximum capacity Ofsted registration	Operating capacity (Summer term 2025)	Vacant places (Summer term 2025)
Childminder	9	100%	33	28	6
Day nurseries	7	100%	422	285	92
Pre-schools	1	100%	80	24	2
Independent school nurseries	0	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
School nurseries	3	50%	91	69	33
Total (rounded to nearest decimal)	20		626	407	134

Table 3 Places for over 5-year-olds

Provider type	Number of providers	Maximum capacity Ofsted registration	Vacant places (Summer term 2025)
Childminder	9	33	0
Out of school (PVI)	4	130	29
Out of school (Maintained and academies)	3	60	20
Holiday schemes (PVI)	2	48	Not collected
Holiday schemes (Maintained & academies)	0	0	Not collected
Total	18	271	49

Operating capacity and spare capacity

The operating capacity relates to the actual number of places offered which may be different from the maximum number of children a setting is registered for by Ofsted.

Spare capacity is calculated by using the Ofsted registered number minus the actual number of places offered by a provider (operating capacity).

Places for under 5's

The number of children per place is calculated by dividing the 0–4-year-old population by the operating capacity.

Places for over 5's

The number of children per place is calculated by dividing the 5–11-year-old population by the maximum Ofsted registration.

Table 4 Number of children per place

Category	Number
Number of children per place based on the operating capacity – under 5's	2.68
Number of children per place based on the maximum Ofsted registration – over 5's	6.72

Expansion of the Early Years Entitlements

From September 2025, children of eligible working parents can access 30 hours of early learning and childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months old.

To assess future childcare sufficiency, current supply of places has been compared with estimated demand for the early years entitlements in the summer term 2026. The figures in columns A to D in the table below shows the estimated surplus places or gap based on providers' current operating capacity (places offered) as at summer 2025. The figure in column E is the total number of unused spare places; this is the difference between the Ofsted registered number and the actual number of places offered by providers (operating capacity). The figure in column F is the overall estimated surplus places or gap based on the assumption that all the unused spare places can be utilised.

Table 5 Estimated surplus places or gap

A	B	C	D	E	F
Estimated surplus places or gap for 1-year olds	Estimated surplus places or gap for 2-year-olds	Estimated surplus places or gap for 3&4 year olds	Total estimated surplus places or gap 0 – 4-year-olds	Total unused spare places 0 - 4-year-olds	Net estimated spare places / gap
-17	4	3	-11	213	202

Average childcare charges (PVI only)

Table 6 Average charges

Provider type	Charge	Ward	Kirklees
Day nurseries	Daily	£58.56	£62.25
Childminders	Daily	£56.00	£49.73
Out of school (rate for a before and after school session)	Daily	£25.00	£20.17
Holiday scheme	Daily	£27.50	£36.47

Data on pre-school charges is not currently collected.

Free early learning and childcare demand trends

9 months - 1-year-olds (eligible working parents)

Table 7 – 9 months to 1 year (eligible working parents)

Term	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Number of children accessing a place	77	92	97

2-year-olds (families in receipt of support criteria)

Table 8 - 2-year-olds (families in receipt of support criteria)

Term	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Number of children not taking up a place	22	19	16	27	29	28
Number of children taking up a place	55	58	54	50	56	56
Percent take up	71%	75%	77%	65%	66%	67%

The Kirklees average take-up rate is 85% (Summer 2025)

2-year-olds (working parents' criteria)

Table 9 - 2-year-olds (working parents' criteria)

Term	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Number of children accessing a place	68	79	81	80

3- & 4-year-olds – Universal entitlement

Table 10 - 3- & 4-year-olds - universal entitlement

Term	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Number of children not taking up a place	10	14	26	3	19	31
Number of children taking up a place	220	290	326	208	263	311
Percent take-up	96%	96%	93%	99%	94%	92%

The Kirklees average take-up rate is 94% (Summer 2025)

3- & 4-year-olds – Extended entitlement (working parents' criteria)

Table 11 - 3- & 4-year-olds extended entitlement

Term	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Number of children taking up a place	98	133	151	98	130	149

Estimated number of children aged 1 to 4 years old

The table below uses the population from GP registrations recorded in May 2025 to estimate the number of children over a period of six terms. The table shows the number and percentage change from the same term in the previous year. The figures are intended as a guide only, it is important to note that the data may have changed since publication in May 2025, and the accuracy of forecasts diminish the longer they are projected into the future.

Children aged 1 year

Table 12 Estimated number of children aged 1-year

Term	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
Number of children	194	194
Change by term from previous year	-23	-39
Percentage change by term from previous year	-11%	-17%

Children aged 2 years

Table 13 Estimated number of children aged 2 years

Term	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
Number of children	217	233	208	194	194
Change by term from previous year	-4	26	17	-23	-39
Percentage change by term from previous year	-2%	13%	9%	-11%	-17%

Children aged 3- & 4-years

Table 14 Estimated number of children aged 3 & 4 years

Term	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Autumn 2027
Number of children	293	333	191	277	333	208
Change by term from previous year	5	-9	-42	-16	0	17
Percentage change by term from previous year	2%	-3%	-18%	-5%	0%	9%

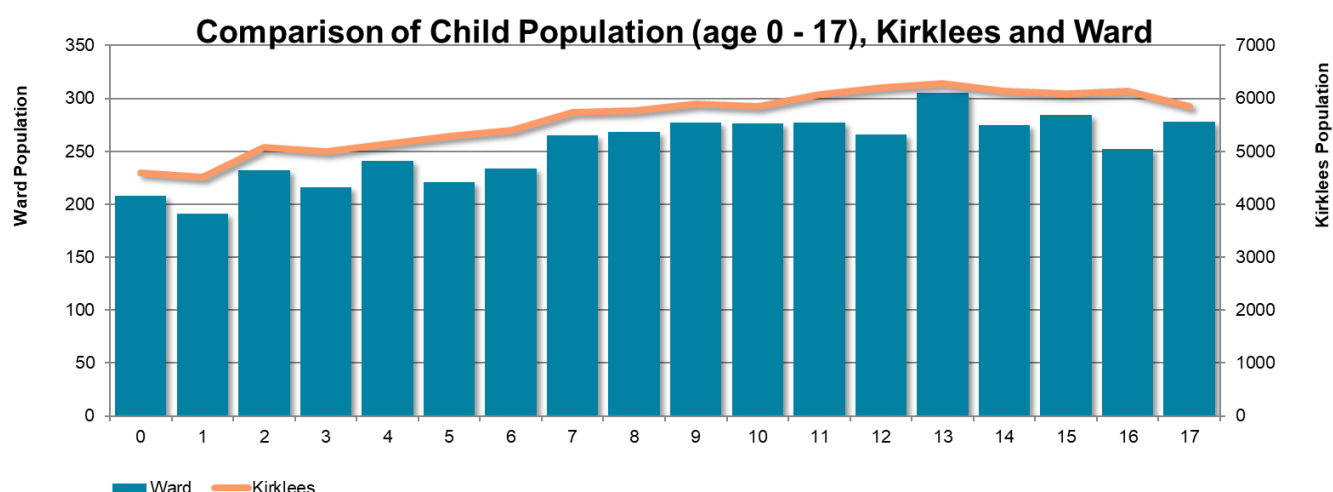
The projected number of 3 and 4-year-old children has been adjusted to exclude 4-year-olds of reception age as most 4-year-olds start in school reception in the autumn term.

Population 0-17 years

Table 15 Resident child population counts from GP registers May 2025

Age	Ward	Kirklees
0	208	4598
1	191	4515
2	232	5069
3	216	4998
4	241	5144
5	221	5287
6	234	5404
7	265	5729
8	268	5764
9	277	5889
10	276	5845
11	277	6070
12	266	6196
13	305	6290
14	275	6131
15	284	6082
16	252	6133
17	278	5843

Figure 2 Comparison of child population



Ethnicity profile

Table 16 Percentage of pupils of reception to year 11 age, resident in Kirklees, by electoral ward of residence and main ethnicity (school census January 2025)

Ethnicity	Ward	Kirklees
Asian	43%	28%
Black	2%	4%
Other	4%	4%
Mixed	5%	8%
White	46%	57%

Children at risk of lower outcomes

Table 17 Number of children at risk of lower outcomes

Category	Number of children	% of Kirklees total	Kirklees
Looked After Children (LAC) at home (0-18 years)*	23	4.2%	548
Looked After Children (LAC) in placement (0-18 years)*	16	4.5%	358
Children with Child Protection Plan (0-18 years)*	7	1.6%	426
Children in Need (0-24 years)*	82	3.8%	2157
Children with a Statement of SEN or EHCP (4-16 years)*	159	5.2%	3032

Category	Number of children	% of Kirklees total	Kirklees
Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) (8-18 year olds)*	640	4.8%	13399
Children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) (0–4-year-olds)**	111	4.0%	2775
Children in receipt of Disability Access Fund (DAF) (0–4-year-olds)**	5	3.8%	133
Children in receipt of Special Education Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund (SENDIF) (0–4-year-olds)**	31	5.2%	597

*School census January 2025

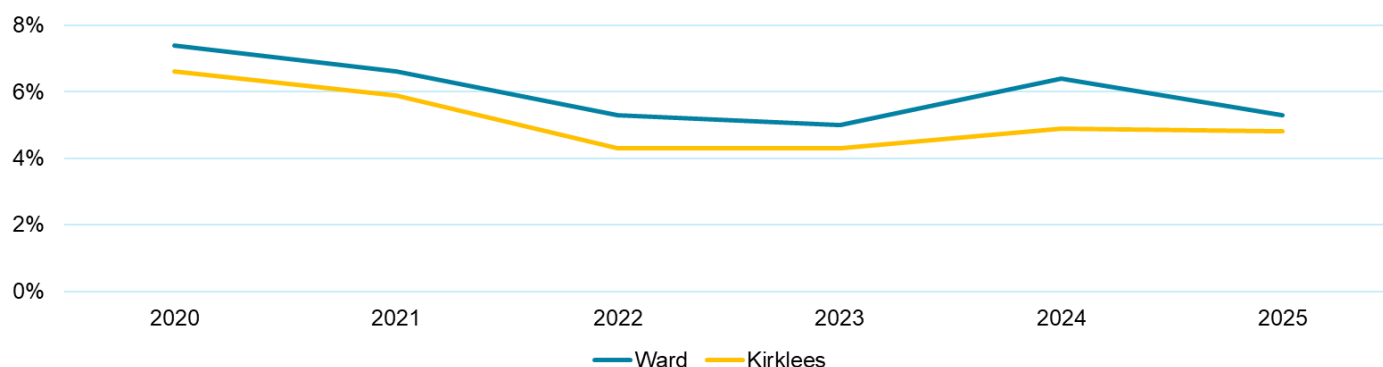
**Early Years census Summer 2025

Unemployment claimant rates

Table 18 Unemployment claimant rates

Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ward	7.4%	6.6%	5.3%	5.0%	6.4%	5.3%
Kirklees	6.6%	5.9%	4.3%	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%

Figure 3 Unemployment claimant rates 2020 to 2025



Notes

Day nurseries - in the private and voluntary sector providing all year-round childcare to children aged 0 to 4 years old. Usually open for 10+ hours per day.

Pre-schools - extended pre-schools and playgroups providing term time care to children aged 2 – 4 years old. Some offer places to under 2's and most open for 6 hours per day.

Independent school nurseries – private schools with a nursery class providing term time care to children aged 2-4 years old. Some offer places to under 2's.

Out of school – Before and after school clubs in private providers, voluntary providers, maintained schools and academies.

Holiday schemes – operated during school holidays usually for children aged 3-11 years old.

Maximum capacity Ofsted registration – the maximum number of children a provider is registered for as stated on their Ofsted registration certificate (full time places). This figure may have been adjusted to take into account local knowledge to more accurately reflect the actual number of registered places as settings can increase the number of children they care for provided they remain within Ofsted's space requirement guidelines.

Operating capacity - the number of places offered in the Summer term 2025.

FTE – Full Time Equivalent. The number of places shown in all tables are FTE places.

One full time place is equal to 30 hours or more.

One full time vacancy is equal to 30 hours or more.

Vacancies shown are from the Summer term 2025.

Quality – settings with an Ofsted grading of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate at their latest published inspection as at 31st August 2025. The overall school grading has been used to calculate the quality of school nurseries.

Out of school and holidays schemes are graded 'met' or 'not met' and are therefore not included.

Some independent school nurseries are registered and inspected with the Independent Schools Inspectorate which inspect under a different framework and therefore inspection grades are not included.

PVI refers to Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare providers.

Under 5's children per place is calculated using the 0–4-year-old GP population data, May 2025.

Over 5's children per place is calculated using the 5–11-year-old GP population data, May 2025.

Two-year-old take-up (families in receipt of support criteria) - the overall Kirklees take-up percentage has been adjusted to include all 2-year-old children who have accessed the free entitlement in Kirklees, including families eligible to both criteria (working parents and families in receipt of support).

Three- and four-year-old take up – 4-year-olds move to reception class in the Autumn term.

Childcare charges – NA indicates this information has not been provided.

Data sources used - Access Synergy database, Ofsted, School Census January 2025, Early Learning and Childcare Funding Claims and Sufficiency Data collections Autumn 2023 to Summer Term 2025, GP Registration data May 2025.

Ethnicity:

Asian = Bangladeshi, Indian, Any Other Asian Background, Pakistani, Asian British

Black = Black African, Black Caribbean, Any Other Black Background, Black British

Mixed = Any Other Mixed Background, White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean

White = White British, White Irish, Any Other white background

Other = Chinese, Any Other Ethnic Group, Traveller of Irish Heritage, Gypsy/Roma, Information not yet obtained, Refused

Disclaimer

The data used to assess the supply of and demand for early learning and childcare comes from a variety of sources, including many childcare providers, before being aggregated. Whilst care is taken to ensure accuracy, Kirklees Council will not be held liable for any inaccuracies. Data is collected at a fixed point in time therefore will change between collection and the date of publication. Data is used to indicate where there may be gaps in provision, however Kirklees Council recommends that, prior to establishing a new childcare business or expanding an existing business, thorough market research is carried out.

Useful links

- [Search for childcare in Kirklees](#)
- [Best Start in Life - Parent Hub](#)
- Tax-free childcare - [Sign up to Tax-Free Childcare if you're a childcare provider - GOV.UK](#)
- [Ofsted - GOV.UK](#)

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