# Ward Profile – Birstall and Birkenshaw

## Childcare Sufficiency

## November 2026

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# Overview

This profile provides and overview of childcare provision at ward level, including information on childcare supply, population and demand for free early learning and childcare.

Ward boundary changes were implemented in May 2026 and, as a result, it is not currently possible to provide trend analysis using the new ward structures. Trend data will become available over time as additional years of data are collected.

In addition, Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework in November 2025. As not all providers have yet been inspected under the revised framework, inspection outcomes are not directly comparable with those from previous years, and meaningful trend analysis is therefore not currently possible. Consequently, Ofsted inspection outcomes have not been included within the ward profiles. However, information relating to the overall quality of early years and childcare provision across Kirklees will be included in the 2026 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

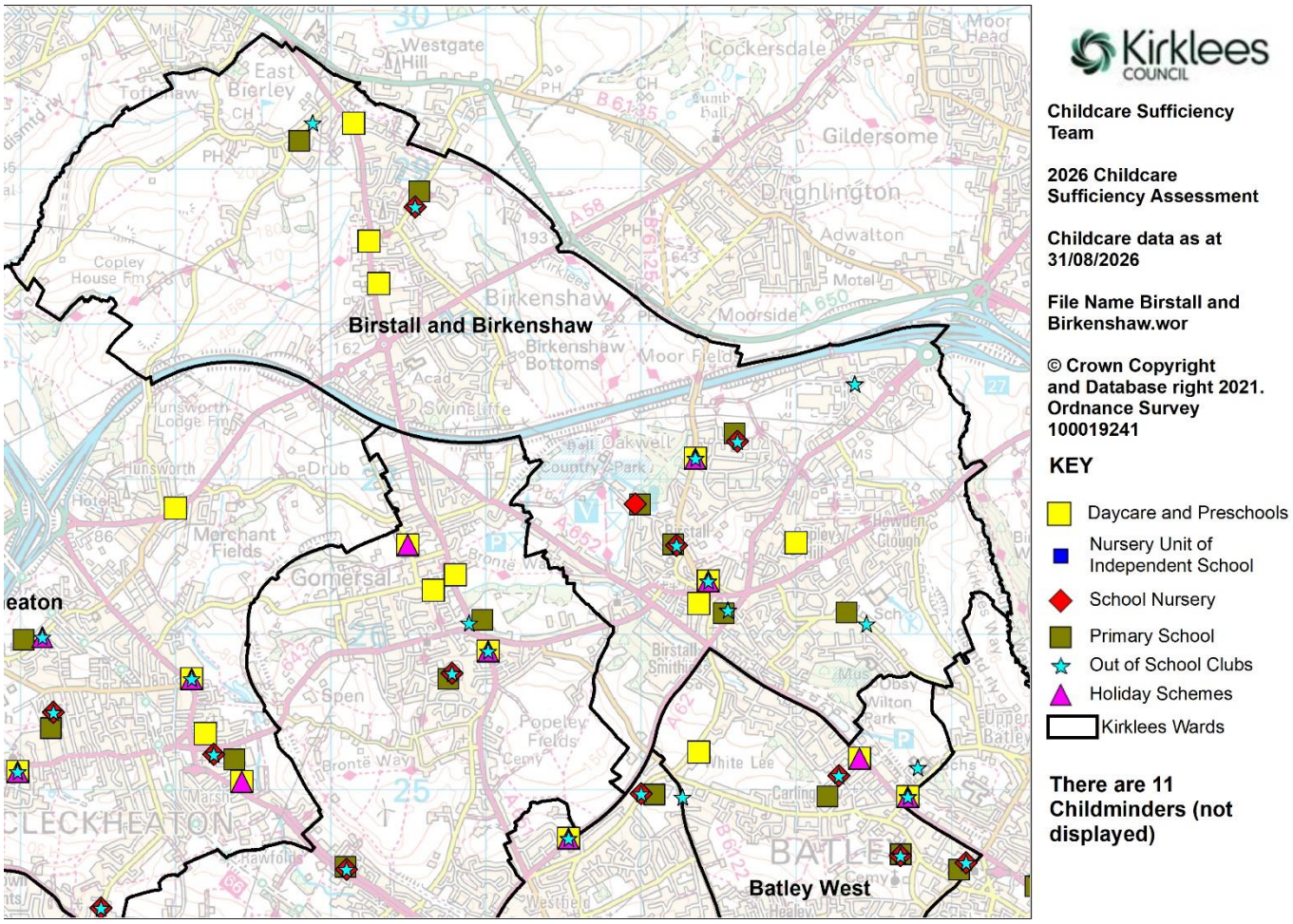
**Table 1 Ward overview**

| Ward overview | |
|---|---|
| Total number of childcare settings | 33 |
| Total number of childcare places | 858 |
| Early Years Places - number of surplus places (spare capacity and vacant places) | 23 |
| Population aged 0–4-year-olds | 956 |
| Number of children per place based on operating capacity - under 5's | 2.06 |
| Number of children per place based on the maximum Ofsted registration - over 5's | 4.45 |
| Unemployment rate | 3.20% |

Data source: Council Pupil Database, GP Registrations May 2026,Childcare Providers August 2026 and Office for National Statistics June 2026

# Map

**Figure 1 Map showing distribution of childcare providers**




Data source: Council Pupil Database August 2026

# Childcare places

## Provider capacity and vacancies for children under the age of 5

The table below shows the type and amount of childcare provision in the area, analysed as follows:

- Maximum capacity – this is the number of children that childcare providers could accommodate which is based on adequate staffing and the minimum indoor floor space requirements per child by age group as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.
- Operating capacity – this relates to the number of places providers currently offer.
- Potential spare capacity – this represents the number of places providers could utilise in addition to their operating capacity up to their maximum capacity.

- Vacant places - are childcare places that are available at the time the information is collected.

**Table 2 Places for under 5-year-olds**

| Provider type | Number of providers | Maximum capacity | Operating capacity (Summer term 2026) | Potential Spare Capacity | Vacant places (Summer term 2026) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childminder | 11 | 38 | 35 | 3 | 5 |
| Day nurseries | 7 | 339 | 332 | 7 | 102 |
| Pre-schools | NA | na | NA | NA | NA |
| Independent school nurseries | NA | NA | 0 | NA | 0 |
| Maintained school and academy nurseries | 4 | 111 | 99 | 12 | 28 |
| **Total** | **22** | **488** | **465** | **23** | **134** |

Data source: Council Pupil Database, Data collection from childcare providers, Summer term 2026

## Potential Spare Capacity

Potential spare capacity is the difference between a provider's operating capacity and their maximum capacity. Figures in table 3 show the potential spare capacity that could potentially be utilised by providers to offer additional places subject to staffing and minimum indoor floor space requirements.

Potential spare capacity may be available to all age groups catered for by a provider depending on how places are organised within their setting. For example, a setting with capacity for ten additional children may be able to offer those places to under-2-year-olds or 2-year-olds or split the places between each age group but cannot offer ten places to both age groups at the same time.

In most ward areas the number of potential spare places that could be available for 3 and 4 year olds is likely to be greater than the number of potential spare places that could be available for younger children, this is because not all providers offer places for 0-2 year olds, for example schools.

Vacancy and potential spare capacity data should be interpreted with caution. Information is collected from providers at different points during the reporting period. Consequently, the potential spare capacity reported in tables 2 and 3 could differ slightly, however, the data provides a reasonable indication of vacant places and potential capacity to expand childcare provision within the ward at a point in time.

Table 3 Potential spare capacity for under 5-year-olds

| | Potential spare capacity |
|---|---|
| Providers that cater for 0-4 year olds | 7 |
| Providers included above plus providers that only cater for 2–4-year-olds | 7 |
| Providers included above plus providers that only cater for 3-4-year-olds. This is the maximum potential spare capacity in the ward | 23 |

Data source: Council Pupil Database, Data collection from childcare providers, Summer term 2026

Figures in the table above are cumulative.

If figures are the same in two or three rows this means that there are no providers in this ward that offer a different age range

## Provider capacity and vacancies – for children aged 5 and above

Table 4 Places for 5-year-olds and above

| Provider type | Number of providers | Maximum capacity | Vacant places (Summer term 2026) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Childminder | 11 | 38 | 7 |
| Out of school (PVI) | 3 | 36 | 13 |
| Out of school (Maintained schools and academies) | 6 | 260 | 23 |
| Holiday schemes (PVI) | 2 | 36 | Not collected |
| Holiday schemes (Maintained schools and academies) | 0 | 0 | Not collected |
| **Total** | **22** | **370** | **43** |

Data source: Council Pupil Database August 2026

## Number of children per place indicators

The number of children per place (for under 5-year-olds) is calculated by dividing the 0–4-year-old population by the operating capacity. The number of children per place (for 5-year-olds and above) is calculated by dividing the 5–11-year-old population by the maximum capacity.

Table 5 Number of children per place indicators

| Category | Number |
|---|---|
| Number of children per place based on the operating capacity – under 5 year olds | 2.06 |
| Number of children per place based on the maximum capacity – 5-11 years | 4.45 |

Data source: Council Pupil Database August 2026

# Average childcare charges (PVI only)

Table 6 Average childcare charges

| Provider type | Charge | Ward | Kirklees | Difference from Kirklees average |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Childminders | Daily | £57.50 | £50.07 | £7.43 |
| Day nurseries | Daily | £66.25 | £66.01 | £0.24 |
| Out of school (rate for a before and after school session) | Daily | £19.00 | £20.17 | -£1.17 |
| Holiday scheme | Daily | £32.25 | £38.88 | -£6.63 |

Data source: Childcare Providers Summer 2026

The Council collects information on pre-school charges, however, some providers choose not to share this information. Consequently, the data is not representative of the sector and does not support a robust or meaningful analysis. These figures have therefore been excluded from this assessment.

# Free early learning and childcare demand

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

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

| Term | Summer 2026 |
|---|---|
| Number of children accessing a place | 93 |

## 2-year-olds (early learning for 2s*)

Table 8 - 2-year-olds (early learning for 2s*)

| Term | Summer 2026 |
|---|---|
| Number of children not accessing a place | 9 |
| Number of children accessing a place | 35 |
| Percent take up | 80% |

The Kirklees average take-up rate is 86% (Summer 2026)

*Previously known as families in receipt of additional support

## 2-year-olds (eligible working parents)

Table 9 - 2-year-olds (eligible working parents)

| Term | Summer 2026 |
|---|---|
| Number of children accessing a place | 83 |

## 3- & 4-year-olds – Universal entitlement

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

| Term | Summer 2026 |
|---|---|
| Number of children not accessing a place | 13 |
| Number of children accessing a place | 339 |
| Percent take-up | 96% |

The Kirklees average take-up rate is 92% (Summer 2026)

## 3- & 4-year-olds – Extended entitlement (eligible working parents)

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

| Term | Summer 2026 |
|---|---|
| Number of children accessing a place | 182 |

Data source: Tables 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Early Learning and Childcare Funding Claims Summer 2026

# Population – estimated number of children aged 1 to 4 years old

The tables below use the population from GP registrations recorded in May 2026 to estimate the number of children up to a period of six terms. The tables show 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 2026, 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 2027 | Summer 2027 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of children | 165 | 169 |
| Change by term from previous year | -18 | -10 |
| Percentage change by term from previous year | -9.8% | -5.6% |

## Children aged 2 years

Table 13 Estimated number of children aged 2 years

| Term | Spring 2027 | Summer 2027 | Autumn 2027 | Spring 2028 | Summer 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of children | 183 | 179 | 156 | 165 | 169 |
| Change by term from previous year | -12 | -10 | -42 | -18 | -10 |
| Percentage change by term from previous year | -6.2% | -5% | -21% | -10% | -6% |

## Children aged 3- & 4-years

Table 14 Estimated number of children aged 3 & 4 years

| Term | Spring 2027 | Summer 2027 | Autumn 2027 | Spring 2028 | Summer 2028 | Autumn 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of children | 259 | 306 | 198 | 257 | 300 | 156 |
| Change by term from previous year | -40 | -46 | 13 | -2 | -6 | -42 |
| Percentage change by term from previous year | -13% | -13% | 7% | -1% | -2% | -21% |

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.

Data source: Tables 12, 13 & 14 GP registration data May 2026

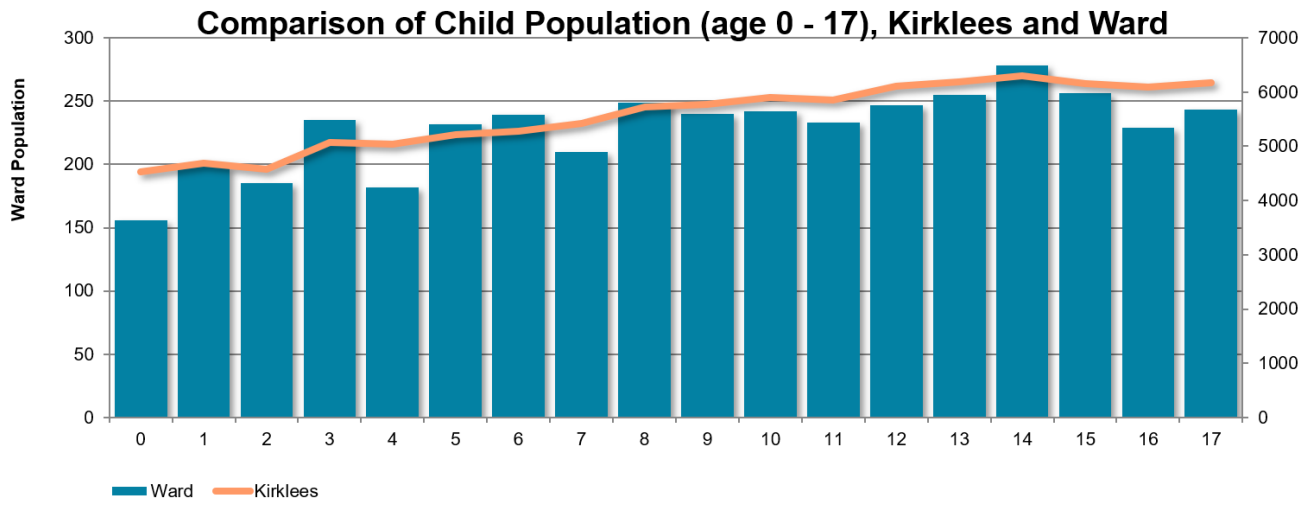
# Population 0-17 years

Table 15 Resident child population

| Age | Ward | Kirklees |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | 156 | 4532 |
| 1 | 198 | 4685 |
| 2 | 185 | 4582 |
| 3 | 235 | 5077 |
| 4 | 182 | 5040 |
| 5 | 232 | 5208 |
| 6 | 239 | 5285 |
| 7 | 210 | 5422 |
| 8 | 249 | 5721 |
| 9 | 240 | 5773 |
| 10 | 242 | 5907 |
| 11 | 233 | 5856 |
| 12 | 247 | 6112 |
| 13 | 255 | 6190 |
| 14 | 278 | 6304 |
| 15 | 256 | 6156 |
| 16 | 229 | 6097 |
| 17 | 243 | 6177 |

Data source: GP registration data May 2026

Figure 2 Comparison of child population




Data source: GP Registration data May 2026

# Ethnicity profile

Table 16 Ethnicity of pupils Reception to Year 11

| Ethnicity | Ward | Kirklees |
|---|---|---|
| Asian | 4% | 28% |
| Black | 1% | 4% |
| Other | 3% | 3% |
| Mixed | 7% | 8% |
| White | 85% | 57% |

Data source: School Census January 2026

# Children at risk of lower outcomes

Table 17 Number of children at risk of lower outcomes

| Category | Number of children in ward | % of Kirklees total | Kirklees |
|---|---|---|---|
| Looked After Children (LAC) at home (0-18 years)* | 18 | 3.2% | 571 |
| Looked After Children (LAC) in placement (0-18 years)* | 18 | 4.9% | 364 |
| Children with Child Protection Plan (0-18 years)* | 16 | 3.9% | 412 |
| Children in Need without Disability (0-24 years)* | 68 | 3.7% | 1831 |
| Children in Need with Disability (0-24 years)* | 2 | 1.0% | 195 |
| Children with a Statement of SEN or EHCP (4-16 years)* | 96 | 3.1% | 3144 |
| Children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) (8-18 year olds)* | 417 | 2.8% | 14857 |
| Children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) (0–4-year-olds)** | 120 | 4.4% | 2720 |
| Children in receipt of Disability Access Fund (DAF) (0–4-year-olds)** | 6 | 3.5% | 171 |
| Children in receipt of Special Education Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund (SENDIF) (0–4-year-olds)** | 28 | 4.6% | 603 |
| EHCP (0-4 year olds)** | 2 | 5.6% | 36 |

Data source: School Census January 2026, Early Learning and Childcare Funding Claims Summer 2026

*School census January 2026
**Funding claims Summer Term 2026

# Unemployment claimant rates

Table 18 Unemployment claimant rates

| Area | 2026 |
|---|---|
| Ward | 3.2% |
| Kirklees | 4.7% |

Data source: Office for National Statistics June 2026

# Glossary

**Childcare charges** – Where no figures are shown, the information was not provided
**Data sources used** – Council Pupil Database (Access Synergy), Ofsted, School Census January 2026, Early Years Census Summer 2026, Early Learning and Childcare Funding Claims and Sufficiency Data Summer Term 2026, GP Registration data May 2026, Office for National Statistics
**Day nurseries** – Providing all year-round childcare to children aged 0 to 4 years. Usually open for 10 or more hours per day.
**EHCP** – Education, Health and Care Plan.
**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

**FTE** – Full Time Equivalent. The number of places shown in all tables are FTE places.
**Holiday schemes** – Operated during school holidays, usually for children aged 3 to 11 years.
**Independent school nurseries** – Private schools with a nursery class providing term-time care to children aged 2 to 4 years. Some offer places to children under 2 years.
**Maximum capacity** – The maximum number of children a provider can cater for, usually stated on their Ofsted registration certificate (full-time places). This figure may be adjusted to reflect local knowledge where settings can increase the number of children they care for while remaining within Ofsted space requirement guidelines.
**One full-time place** – Equal to 30 hours or more.
**One full-time vacancy** – Equal to 30 hours or more.
**Operating capacity** – The number of places offered in the Summer Term 2026.
**Out of school** – Before- and after-school clubs operating within private, voluntary, maintained school and academy settings.
**Over 5s children per place** – Calculated using the 5 to 11-year-old GP population data, May 2026.
**PVI** – Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare providers.

**Pre-schools** – Extended pre-schools and playgroups providing term-time care to children aged 2 to 4 years. Some offer places to children under 2 years and most operate for around 6 hours per day.
**Spare capacity** – Shown as FTE places.
**Three- and four-year-old take-up** – Adjusted to account for four-year-olds moving to Reception classes in the autumn term.
**Two-year-old take-up (Early Learning for 2s)** – Previously known as families in receipt of additional support. The overall Kirklees take-up percentage has been adjusted to include all eligible two-year-old children accessing funded childcare in Kirklees, including those that are eligible under both criteria i.e. working parent and Early Learning for 2s.
**Under 5s children per place** – Calculated using the 0 to 4-year-old GP population data, May 2026.
**Unemployment claimant rates** – source Office for National Statistics (June 2026)
**Vacancies** – Shown as FTE places from the Summer Term 2026.

# 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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November 2026