

Education and Learning Sufficiency Strategy FAQs

Q. What is a sufficiency strategy?

A. The new sufficiency strategy is based on data showing projections for the period 2016-2021. It sets out the principles underpinning school place planning; the ways in which places will be delivered, the information which will be used and the way we work with people to deliver high quality, accessible schools and early years places for all learners.

Q. How will it affect my school?

A. The purpose of the strategy is to keep you informed of what demand for places will look like in your area over the next few years and how we would look to address it. There will therefore be different impacts on different schools depending on the specific circumstances in each area. Schools might want to consider whether they could expand to meet the growing demand or reorganising in some way. Others might conclude that they would do best to continue as they are for the time being.

Q. Who do I tell if I do not agree with the information in the sufficiency strategy?

A. This is a consultation and we welcome feedback/ comment. If you would like to feedback on the document please visit <http://askwarks.wordpress.com/> and search for 'sufficiency strategy'. Alternatively you can email consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk

Q. What happens if my infant/ junior school want to change to primary status and the linked infant/ junior school does not?

A. WCC encourages the move from infant/junior phase to primary education. WCC would support a proposed change to primary, however, if capital works are required there will need to be a clear justification in terms of education improvements and need for school places in the area.

Q. What is the process and timescales for change at our school?

A. For any permanent change, WCC would need permission from the County Council Cabinet/Portfolio Holder for Education in order to consult. After the consultation has taken place, the findings would need to be taken back to Cabinet for approval to go ahead with the project. Any extension/ building work is subject to normal planning processes. Timescales can vary and would be dependent on different factors; this would be discussed individually and with the school concerned.

Q. Where does the money come from to increase the capacity at our school?

A. If there is a need to increase the capacity at your school there may be some capital investment from WCC. If there are new housing developments close by, we may also be able to request S106 contributions which can help support the project.

Q. Why have other local schools been given funding and our school has not received anything?

A. Over the past two years WCC have been reacting to the demand due to rise in births, in migration and new housing developments which have all caused a significant increase to

cohorts entering primary phase education. This has meant, at times, we have had to react quickly, working with schools to increase capacity on a temporary basis.

Q. Why doesn't the council spend S106 money immediately?

A. The council looks at all potential planning applications and makes a case for those developments where we will be required to increase capacity due to the development being approved. We are not able to ask for contributions if a school has capacity to accept more pupils within its current building accommodation. The contributions are then paid in phases as the development progresses. The council are not permitted to use section 106 on projects that are not relevant to the signed commitment.

Q. What is the basis of your forecasts?

A. The forecasts are generated using data provided by the local health authorities, recent patterns of admissions to schools and the best available information around new housing developments. A range of factors are taken into account such as the proportion of pupils opting to take up places outside Warwickshire and the number coming into Warwickshire schools from outside of the county.

Q. We are aware that large numbers of new homes are planned in the longer term; what is the plan to deal with these?

A. We are working closely with the District and Borough Councils to understand how they are planning new housing developments and ensure that they consider the impact on schools. Our strategy to respond to Local Plan housing allocations is outlined within the sufficiency strategy document.

Q. There are no additional place requirements identified in my planning area. However, my school won't be able to accommodate recent local development?

A. Whilst we are using planning areas for strategic planning purposes and statutory submissions to the Department for Education, we are aware that this can mask pupil pressure in certain areas. This is a particular issue in rural planning areas and the impact of housing on village schools.