

Warwickshire County Council Education Services



Annual Education
Sufficiency Update
Ages 0-25

January 2026





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1 Executive Summary

In Summer 2024, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) published a new Education Sufficiency Strategy setting out WCC's duties and approach to securing education provision across the county for the period 2024-2029.

This annual sufficiency statement provides data and information about the early years, childcare and education provision for Warwickshire children and young people aged 0-25. The five constituent Districts and Boroughs of Warwickshire are addressed individually, with a summary across the county provided in this Executive Summary.



1.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

The sufficiency of early years and childcare places across the county has seen substantial change in the last year. This change has been driven by central government developments to funded early education places. The entitlement to free places for working families for children from 9 months + and 2 years olds has been expanded to 30 hours per week and now aligns with the existing working parent entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds.

Data and Current Position

Provision continues to be a mix of childminders, nurseries, and out of school clubs and holiday clubs delivered by private, voluntary, independent and school offer delivery partners.

Childcare services in the county typically have 18% of their total places still available. However, there must be awareness that at this level of occupation some of the capacity may be unusable due to part time place take up leaving available hours that are not practical for families to access e.g. 3 hours at the end of a day or hours either side of a school day model.

There are childcare services offering funded places for under 2's, 2-year-olds, and for 3 and 4-year-olds in every area in the county. Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, around 84% are currently occupied.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 55% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision, 76% are typically occupied.

57% of the county's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 68% are typically occupied.

97% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of Special Educational Need / Disability (SEND).

Of the county's childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 97% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

The county has fourteen Children & Family Centres, with at least one in every district/ borough. These offer flexible support for families with young people aged 0-19yrs (or 25yrs for young people with additional needs).

There are continued ongoing staff recruitment and retention pressures which are impacting settings' ability to offer all places, which remains reflective of a national challenge for the early years sector.

Future Forecast

Statistically there remains capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. However, as the expansion to the entitlements increases, new housing becomes occupied, and delivery patterns change, we expect to see the previous overall consistent offers change and shift.

Place sufficiency will require close monitoring over the coming 12-month period and beyond as the current market adjusts and changes to meet the growth for more funded places for working places. This may change local availability.

Central government capital allocations, including the school-based nurseries programme, are being used to target key areas of the county that are expected to see increase in demand based on Department for Education data. These sites are key in rural areas where standalone provision may not be viable.

Positive natural development of new places is being seen with larger private chain settings acquiring premises and opening large full day care provisions. Closures of provision is not a pattern being seen.

New schools that are developed by Warwickshire now include nursery provision within them, including, where needed Full Day Care, all year-round services for children from birth to school age.



1110+ new early years and childcare places have been created to date to meet the growth in demand. Ongoing place creation continues for the foreseeable future.

Place needs will be adjusted as local areas develop, and new place take up patterns become more established.

Development Actions

Strong partnership links with providers of all delivery models across Warwickshire are used to facilitate ongoing place management and creation, where required by:

- New School Developments – include premises for early years provision in new primary schools – ongoing planning to include this
- Proactive use of Department for Education allocated place expansion capital
- Collaboration with schools to support development of direct delivered early years and childcare places along with expansion of existing services to increase places including support for direct school applications to the Department for Education for School Based Nursery Expansion Grants
- Use of developer funding to support place expansion where available for identified areas.
- Proactive recruitment campaign to encourage new childminder registrations, including the consideration of a Warwickshire specific start up grant
- Business support and advice to all sectors to assist with delivery model adjustment and signposting to gap areas.

Additional Considerations

Bespoke support continues to be offered to families that require it to find places. This is provided by the Family Information Service who work with Early Years teams to monitor localised place pressures where identified. For children with SEND families are supported by the SEND Childcare Co-ordinators.

Warwickshire meets place needs for early years children with SEND via all delivery partners, including via those accredited as WinCKs settings as part of the county accreditation process. WinCKs is the Warwickshire Inclusion Kitemarking Scheme. It recognises the need for flexible inclusive Early Years provision and the award recognises and celebrates those settings who go even further. Across the county pressure for Early Years places for children with SEND is increasing and is a focus under the WCC SEND and Inclusion Change Programme.

Warwickshire Early Years Teams continue to work with refugee, migrant and asylum seeker families who are supported to find places to meet their needs where possible. There are a small number of locations, where due to rurality and access to transport, this can be challenging to achieve for all children. We continue to try to identify local solutions for these where individual pressures arise.

The recent launch by the Department for Education of its Best Start in Life Strategy will underpin and inform all elements of this work going forwards.

[Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/strategies/best-start-in-life)



1.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Current Position

Warwickshire has experienced a period of significant growth, with large scale housing development across the county contributing to an additional 12,000 primary and secondary pupil spaces over the last 10 years.

Future Forecast

Moving forward, growth in the County will largely be driven by strategic housing, with a further 6,000 additional primary and secondary pupils currently anticipated over the next 10 years, assuming all strategic housing currently proposed is delivered.

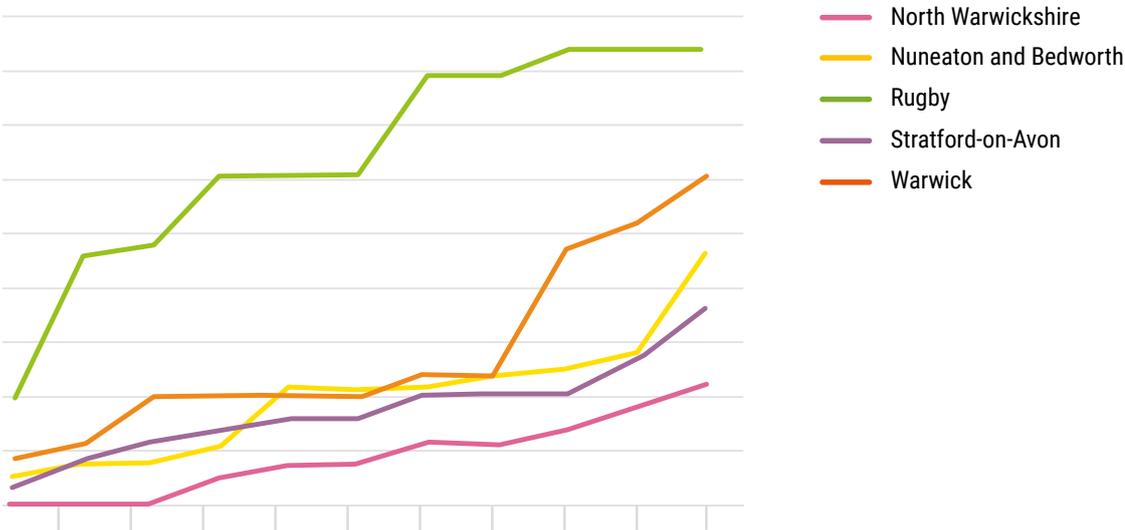
However, this growth will not be uniform.

Localised housing growth in some areas of the county will mean new provision is required, whilst changing populations in other areas of the county will mean a reduction in pupil numbers for some settings. The challenge is therefore to help maintain sufficient provision to meet current need and maintain the right level of surplus for future needs at a local level whilst remaining conscious of the financial viability of the education provision.

How we are addressing

To accommodate this growth, as well as numerous school expansions across the county, 14 new schools have opened in Warwickshire since 2015, comprising seven primary, three secondary, one all-through (4-16yrs) and three special schools.

In the last 10 years, WCC has delivered over 12,000 new permanent school places through these new schools and expansions:



Of these new places, 54% are primary, 39% secondary and 7% at specialist settings.

During the next five-year period we currently expect to deliver another four new schools, as well as several expansion projects for both mainstream and specialist settings. In the longer term and if all proposed housing development across the county builds out as suggested, up to a further additional 18 new

schools may be required to meet the need for school places that the new housing will bring.

In areas with higher levels of surplus places, we will work proactively with schools to undertake PAN reductions where appropriate and to facilitate the implementation or expansion of early years provision or specialist resourced provision (SRP) where surplus capacity is available.



Primary

Current Position

Nine primary planning areas are operating with significant (>15%) surplus places, and most are forecast for this to continue. As Government funding for schools is based on the number of pupils on roll this typically causes financial strain for schools in those areas. A number of these schools are government designated rural schools and/or in receipt of sparsity funding and are limited in the organisational options to respond to the reduction in local populations.

Warwickshire shares a boundary with nine other local authorities and there is significant cross-border movement of pupils to attend schools. At primary phase, approximately the same number of Warwickshire pupils attend schools out of the county as “out of county” pupils access Warwickshire schools. Approximately 1800 Warwickshire children are exported compared to approximately 1700 out of county children imported.

Future Forecast

Warwickshire as a whole is forecast to have a 1.2% increase in total primary pupils between 2025 and 2029, when only currently approved housing is taken into account. Should further housing be approved this could rise.

An underlying reduction in population of Reception age as shown by NHS data (of around -10%) is likely to be offset to a certain extent in areas impacted by new housing development. Net migration, fertility levels and house building rates will all impact on the level to which the birth cohort reduction is offset.

This growth is not universal across the county, with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough forecasting high growth (4.4%) and other areas forecasting lower growth or declining numbers over the forecast period.

How we are addressing

The Council will continue to support schools looking to reduce their Pupil Admission Number (PAN) or alter their class organisation in response to changes in numbers on roll.

Warwickshire has recently welcomed children and young people as part of Government initiatives to support asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants from countries including Afghanistan, Ukraine, Hong Kong and Syria. All school-age children are offered school places under the same process as existing Warwickshire residents and there is a legal duty to provide such places. These additional pupils are not specifically planned for due to the nature of such initiatives being sporadic but this has increased pupil numbers during the school year in certain areas of the county.



Secondary

Current Position

All areas of the county are experiencing pressure on secondary school places in some year groups, as a combined result of larger resident cohorts moving through these year groups and new housing development in the county bringing new families during the school year.

Warwickshire shares a boundary with nine other local authorities and there is significant cross-border movement of pupils to attend schools. At secondary phase in 2024/25, approximately 1,800 more “out of county” pupils were accessing Warwickshire schools than Warwickshire pupils attending schools over the border which numbers approximately 1750. Stratford-on-Avon District and North Warwickshire Borough accommodate the most ‘out of county’ pupils, with approximately 2,000 and 1000 of the pupils in schools in these areas respectively travelling from a different local authority.

This ‘out of county’ cohort constitutes around 5% of Warwickshire’s secondary school places and are predominantly allocated places as part of the Year 7 allocation process, which subsequently increases the pressure on secondary school places particularly when new families move into Warwickshire later during the school year.

Children living outside of Warwickshire can apply to attend a Warwickshire school because admission authorities must treat all applications equally, regardless of a child’s home local authority. This principle is set out in paragraph 2.8 of the School Admissions Code. With the exception of designated grammar schools, all maintained schools and academies, including designated faith schools, that have enough places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition of the use of any oversubscription criteria. The Greenwich Judgement (1990) reinforces

this by ruling it unlawful for local authorities to give priority solely based on residency within their administrative boundaries. Therefore, although schools can prioritise children living within a particular area (called a catchment or priority area), anyone living outside of this defined area must be treated equally, whether living within or outside of the Warwickshire administrative boundary.

Future Forecast

Warwickshire as a whole is forecast to have a 0.8% increase in total secondary pupils between 2025 and 2031, when only currently approved housing is taken into account. An underlying reduction in population as taken from NHS data (of around -9%) is more than offset by the impact of new housing across the county. This forecasted growth is not universal across the county, with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough forecasting 5.8% growth and other areas forecasting very low growth or a small decline in numbers in the forecast period.

Longer-term, beyond the current forecast period of seven years to 2031, the reducing birth numbers that are now being experienced at early primary phase could result in a reduction in secondary cohorts in areas where this is not offset by the impact of housing.

How we are addressing

In addition to new schools opening and permanent expansion of existing schools as detailed later in this document, to meet the increasing need to accommodate applications during the school year secondary schools in some areas will be required to take a small number of pupils over capacity in some year groups during 2025/26.

The local authority is working with secondary schools to support with the introduction of additional places and Fair Access Protocol will continue to be used where necessary.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Current Position

In January 2025 there were 4,757 children and young people of compulsory school age with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) resident in Warwickshire, this is around 4.7% of the total population of that age, which is similar to the national average.

Around 43% with an EHCP attended state funded mainstream schools with 4% attending Resourced Provision within a mainstream setting, and 31% attending LA maintained/academy special schools. A small minority (11%) attend Independent Provision.

In January 2025, Warwickshire had 1447 specialist places in state-maintained special schools for years Reception to Year 11 (1776 places when including 16-19 provision), this is with a small net import of pupils. There are 279 Resourced Provision places.

Warwickshire is a 'net importer' of SEND pupils. Approximately 70 pupils resident in Warwickshire access specialist provision outside the county, and approximately 180 pupils from outside of Warwickshire access specialist places located in Warwickshire.

Future Forecast

The trend in Warwickshire is for increased demand for specialist education provision. The number of EHCPs in Warwickshire has increased annually by 9% for the past 5 years, which is in line with national growth.

Warwickshire was part of the Delivering Better Value Programme, commissioned by the DfE, which looked at all parts of the

local SEND system including sufficiency. As a result of this programme, the Council has prioritised the use of capital funding for the establishment of resourced provision across phases and all areas of the County - setting an ambition of 529 places by 2028, with at least two resourced provisions in each primary consortia and three in each secondary area network. The Council will also explore any opportunities to expand existing specialist settings where they arise, in line with population growth and the needs of children and young people. As of September 2025, Warwickshire currently has 40 Resourced Provisions (34 primary and six secondary), with five in North Warwickshire, ten in Nuneaton and Bedworth, eight in Rugby, ten in the Warwick area, and seven in the Stratford on Avon area.

How we are addressing

There is currently insufficient capacity in Warwickshire state-maintained specialist provision to accommodate demand. Independent Special Schools and settings outside of Warwickshire are also used to provide pupils with appropriate schooling.

Secondary provision is a priority area, and all areas of the county would benefit from additional specialist provision. North Rugby, Stratford and Warwick are a priority for additional secondary specialist provision. The Council is working to expand resourced provision in these areas. Provision in special schools is being expanded in line with population growth and increasing complex needs in the Warwick and Nuneaton areas.



1.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

Current Position

The Post 16 sector within the county comprises three Further Education (FE) Colleges and one Sixth Form College, along with 34 school Sixth Forms (including in special schools). There are also a number of independent training providers (who mainly deliver apprenticeships) based within Warwickshire. These providers all enrol students from across and outside the county. Often students will choose to travel outside of their district/borough to attend settings.

The FE colleges offer more vocational and technical programmes (including T Levels) at a variety of levels (entry level onwards), whereas the majority of school sixth forms and the sixth form college offer mainly Level 3 A Level programmes.

Post 16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Colleges can support students that have an EHCP up to the age of 25.

It should be noted that students do enrol at Stratford Upon Avon College (part of Solihull College & University Centre). However, even though this campus is situated within the boundaries of Warwickshire, the duty of sufficiency lies with Solihull Local Authority. It is anticipated a number of Warwickshire students will enrol there each year. The DfE funded Post 16 places do not include Stratford Upon Avon College.

In 2025/26 there is a total of 14,558 Department for Education (DfE) funded Post 16 places in Warwickshire. These are placements at the organisation, meaning that students from other LA areas may wish to travel to FE settings in Warwickshire to learn. There has been an increase in the number of Post 16 funded placements compared to 2024/25 (increase of 557 places). The majority of this increase (397 places) are within the FE Colleges, which account for 48.9% of the funded places in 2025/26. It should be noted that students may not always choose to attend their local setting. They may choose to travel outside of their area to study.

Future Forecast

Based on current forecasts for the Post 16 cohort in 2026/27 and 2027/28, there are sufficient DfE funded places available to meet demand, when comparing the projected student numbers with the existing DfE funded Post 16 placements.

However, forecasts suggest a peak in the number of Post 16 students in Warwickshire between 2028 and 2030. From 2031 onward, student numbers are expected to return to levels similar to those seen in 2025. The projected increase during the peak years is likely to exceed the current number of DfE funded placements, assuming no further growth in provision beyond the 2025/26 level of 14,558 places.

It is worth noting that the number of DfE funded Post 16 placements has already increased by 2.6% (369 places) in 2024/25 and by a further 3.8% (557 places) in 2025/26 compared to the previous years.



How we are addressing

Warwickshire County Council will continue to monitor DfE funded placements against the Post 16 student increase.

The funding of new post-16 places rests with the DfE (the previous body responsible for this was Education Skills Funding Agency which was merged into the DfE in April 2025). Where there is a gap in provision, the DfE will either consider requests from existing providers that are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted or will seek new provision from independent learning providers (ILPs). The DfE applies standard criteria to ensure that gaps are well evidenced prior to securing additional places and will only seek to fund new provision where it adds value and is a high-quality addition to the existing offer for young people.

As academies, the King Edward Sixth Form College and school sixth forms are required to submit a business case to the DfE, via the Regional Schools Commissioner, if their numbers are to grow by 50 or more students.

Warwickshire County Council will continue to work alongside schools, colleges and partners to ensure that the future forecast demand is met.



1.4 Alternative Provision

WCC is responsible for arranging suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons cannot attend their school. WCC arranges such education either through its own teaching services or through commissioning Alternative Provision through independent providers.

Providers currently commissioned by the Local Authority are listed [here](#).

Schools can also commission Alternative Provision to provide off-site direction for pupils at risk of exclusion.

WCC has a duty to ensure sufficient Alternative Provision places are available in the local area for pupils who have been excluded from school or require offsite direction. In 2024-25 school year there were:

- 36 permanent exclusions of pupils up to Year 6, a decrease of 27% from the previous year
- 125 permanent exclusions or pupils in Years 7 to 11, a decrease of 11% from the previous year

All these pupils require Alternative Provision while a new school placement is arranged.

WCC is developing proposals to ensure sufficient places are available across the County in registered Alternative Provision for pupils who are otherwise not on a school roll. This includes plans for a new Alternative Provision School in Warwick, and satellite registered Alternative Provision Hubs in locality areas across the County.



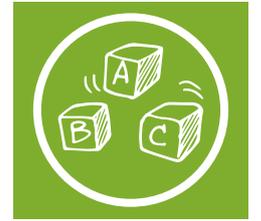
2 Introduction and explanatory notes

This annual sufficiency update is published to provide the current context for the delivery of the Warwickshire Education Sufficiency Strategy 2024 – 2029 (Sufficiency Strategy).

The Sufficiency Strategy is published online here:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolandlearningstrategies

and provides further details regarding the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities, pupil forecast methodology, key strategic priorities, and funding arrangements. This update also supports the [Warwickshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#).



2.1 Age 0-4 - Early Years and Childcare (0-18)

Local authorities are required by legislation under the Childcare Act 2006 to:

- a. secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)
- b. secure sufficient free early years provision for eligible young children
- c. assess the sufficiency of the childcare in their area and report annually (amended by The Children and Families Act 2014).

As part of the evaluation of Early Years and Childcare sufficiency in the county, characteristics are monitored at county, district and borough and "Early Years and School Age Education and Childcare" Planning Areas ESEC Planning area level.

The evaluation is primarily based on data collected in the Warwickshire Early Years and Childcare survey. This survey is completed annually during the Summer Term by the county's childcare providers.

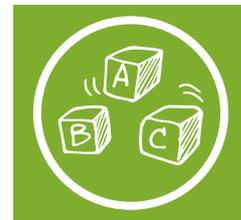
A forecast of the demand for places in forthcoming years in each Planning Area is presented in the appendices. The forecast is based on the current occupancy of places (as reported by Warwickshire's childminders, Early Years settings, and out of school and holiday clubs, in the Early Years and Childcare survey) and the future change in the numbers of children aged 0-14yrs and 15-18yrs with SEND in the corresponding district/borough (as projected by the Office for National Statistics).

A directory of registered childcare providers in Warwickshire is available online here: <https://admissions.warwickshire.gov.uk/synergy/childcareprovidersearch.aspx>

Since April 2024, the Department for Education has funded Local Authorities to increase Wraparound Childcare provision to support working parents. Wraparound Childcare is the term used by the Government to describe childcare provided outside standard school hours, before and after school, during term time. As a childcare service, it is different from out of school activities, or school clubs, which are less frequent and can be one-off activities.

The programme aim is to ensure that by March 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children, from Reception to Year Six, in England will be able to access childcare in their local area during term time from 8am to 6pm (or 10hr equivalent), so that parents can access employment or look at potentially changes working hours.

At the end of the 2024/25 academic year, WCC has supported 31 primary schools to expand their wraparound care using programme funding. A further 20 schools have recently had successful funding bids to enable enhancements to the wraparound programme from September 2025. This has led to 1,325 new childcare places being available.



2.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

WCC produces forecasts of school pupil numbers on an annual basis, using the latest available data.

WCC's forecasts (along with all local authorities) are assessed for accuracy by the DfE annually. For 2024/25 forecasts were within the DfE's acceptable margins of error at up to +1.9% for primary and up to +5.8% for secondary. This slight overestimation allows for a conservative margin of error in planning for required school places.

For the purposes of forecasting and planning school places, the county is divided into 'planning areas'. Planning areas are geographical areas that contain at least one school, but typically several schools that can reasonably be considered to be options for the children that live in the planning area to attend based on historical attendance trends. Maps of all Warwickshire's planning areas and schools are provided as an Appendix.

The latest pupil forecasts are also provided as an Appendix. Forecasts include the expected impact of new housing as well as typical patterns of pupils attending schools from different areas including outside Warwickshire. WCC Education Sufficiency Team works collaboratively with the five District and Borough planning authorities and the progress of proposed and approved housing development across the county is continually monitored.

Primary schools admit new pupils annually at Reception (Year R) (except for Junior Schools which admit pupils at Year 3) and secondary schools at Year 7. Admissions outside the annual intake rounds for Year R, Year 3 and Year 7 are referred to as "in-year" applications.

Particular attention is paid to Reception forecasts, as legislation does not allow class sizes to exceed 30 pupils in Years R to 2 ('Key Stage 1' or 'Infant'), unless in excepted circumstances. Similar guidelines do not apply to older pupil cohorts, so although secondary schools generally organise for class sizes of 30, they have greater flexibility to admit pupils above this number where required. In the same way, there is the potential for primary year groups from Year 3 and up ('Key Stage 2', or 'Junior') to take a small number of additional pupils over the assumed 30 class size if necessary.

Additional school places are usually provided by expansions or new schools, in multiples of 30. This is so that schools can operate and staff full classes, allowing financial sustainability. A class of 30 is referred to as a 'Form of Entry' (FE) and schools can be referred to by their size in forms of entry, e.g. The Griffin School opened in 2023 as 1FE, it had an intake of 30 at Reception and will have a total final capacity of 210 filled in 2029.

Pupil forecasts include capacity from future new school places to be provided (from 2025 onwards) through approved expansions of existing schools or the opening of new schools.

The day to day organisation of classes within each school is the responsibility of that school's leadership and while academies are also responsible for setting the admission number for their school (PAN), we expect all schools to be mindful of the expected and current school place pressures and work collaboratively with WCC Education Services to meet the need for places in their local area.



2.3 Age 16-25 Post-16 Education

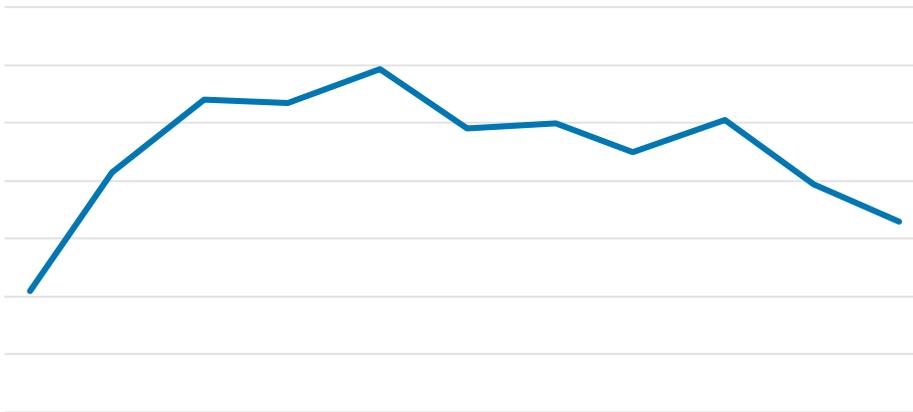
WCC has a duty to ensure sufficiency of Post 16 provision across the County. This includes securing sufficient suitable education and training provision for 16- to 18-year-olds, and for young people aged 19 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities for whom an EHCP is maintained.

DfE funded places are allocated to Post 16 settings and can be taken up by learners from

outside of the county. Many Post 16 settings have campuses beyond county boundaries, meaning their place funding is allocated at the whole setting level, rather than broken down by Local Authority. This must be considered in Post 16 forecasting. Warwickshire County Council will continue to work alongside schools, colleges and partners to ensure that the future forecast demand is met.

The number of pupils forecast to be in Year 11 over the coming years provides some insight into how post-16 numbers could change:

Forecast of pupils in Year 11

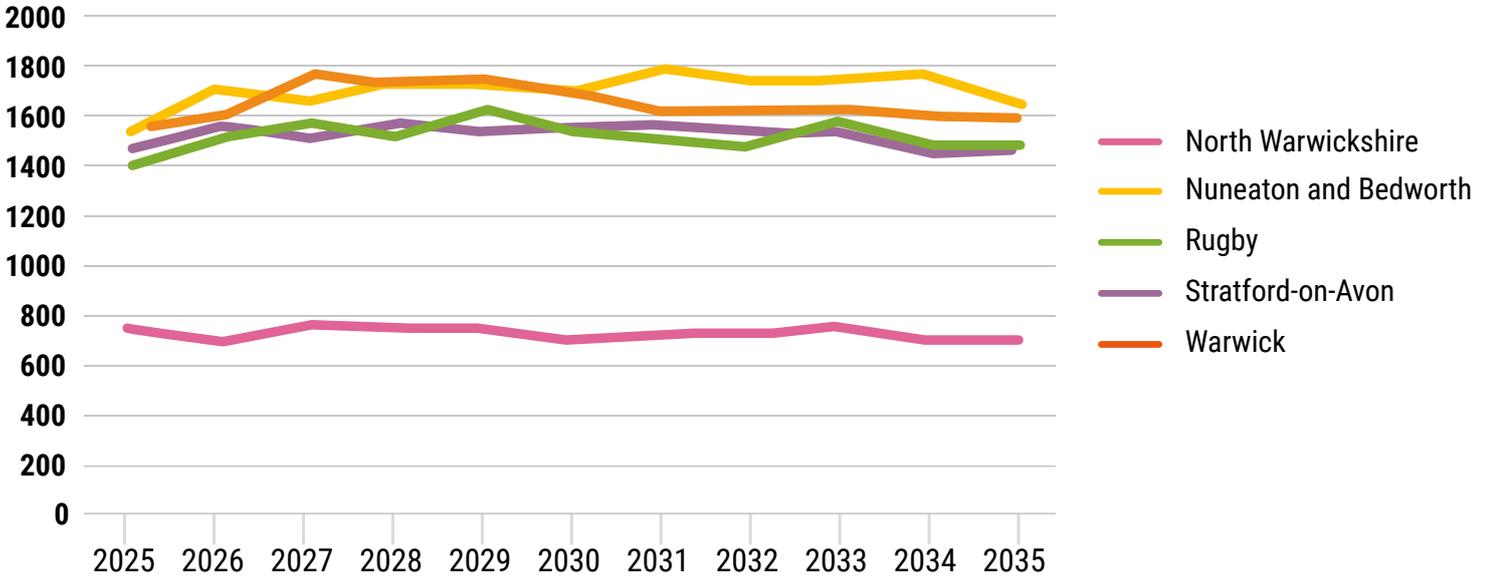


2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
6482	6729	7110	7328	7322	7406	7222	7236	7163	7260	7056	6950

Forecasts indicate that there will be a peak in the number of Post 16 students in Warwickshire between 2028 and 2030. The number of Post 16 students in Warwickshire then drops back in line with current trends from 2031.



Forecast of pupils in Year 11 - district of attendance



Forecast of pupils in Year 11 (with variance), by District and Borough (2025 – 2035)

Year	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton and Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
2025	744	1549	1427	1450	1560	6729
2026	711 (33)	1707 (158)	1523 (96)	1559 (109)	1610 (50)	7110 (381)
2027	767 (56)	1674 (-33)	1573 (50)	1539 (-20)	1774 (164)	7328 (218)
2028	765 (-2)	1731 (57)	1528 (-45)	1567 (28)	1730 (-44)	7322 (-6)
2029	755 (-10)	1733 (2)	1619 (91)	1551 (-16)	1749 (19)	7406 (84)
2030	722 (-33)	1706 (-27)	1547 (-72)	1551 (0)	1696 (-53)	7222 (-184)
2031	729 (7)	1789 (83)	1518 (-29)	1566 (15)	1634 (-62)	7236 (14)
2032	728 (1)	1754 (-35)	1496 (-22)	1545 (-21)	1639 (5)	7163 (-73)
2033	740 (12)	1754 (0)	1587 (91)	1545 (0)	1635 (-4)	7260 (97)
2034	709 (-31)	1764 (10)	1505 (-82)	1462 (-83)	1616 (-19)	7056 (-204)
2035	710 (-1)	1668 (-96)	1486 (19)	1485 (23)	1602 (-14)	6950 (-106)

The table above shows projected Year 11 forecasts across Warwickshire Districts and Boroughs from 2025 – 2035, with year-on-year changes highlighted in brackets. The overall projection shows that the numbers will start rising from 2027 but will gradually decline from 2030 onwards. The growth is driven

primarily by significant increases in Warwick (+164), Nuneaton and Bedworth (+158) and Stratford on Avon (+109). The data indicates a short-term pressure on Post 16 capacity between 2026 and 2029, particularly in Warwick and Nuneaton & Bedworth.



2.4 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (Age 0-25)

WCC's responsibility for education includes specialist provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). While the majority of pupils with SEND are most appropriately educated in mainstream settings, where this is not the case education can be provided in Special Schools, or Specialist Resource Provisions and Specialist Partnerships attached to mainstream schools.

Warwickshire Education Strategy 2024 – 2029 outlines the response to the challenge of specialist provision and includes for:

- Increased support for mainstream schools to enable inclusion of more pupils with EHCPs
- Expansion of existing special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions where appropriate
- Establishment of more Specialist Resourced Provisions.

Details of all Warwickshire's specialist settings is available online here:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/send-admissions-specialist-settings



3 North Warwickshire

3.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

In North Warwickshire, there is a reported statistical sufficiency in capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. However, this must be monitored closely as the expanded entitlements and take up grow.

Childcare services in North Warwickshire district typically have 15% of their total places still available. The Atherstone and Mancetter Planning Areas have the least surplus capacity, with 13% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, 83% are currently occupied.

Capital projects are being considered in this area with four existing providers to support localised growth and demand by expanding existing settings in local areas of need. A key area of focus is Atherstone, and the outlying areas linked to large employment sites and projected housing growth.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 17% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision in North Warwickshire, 78% are typically occupied.

62% of North Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 73% are typically occupied.

99% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of SEND.

Of North Warwickshire's childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 94% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

North Warwickshire district has one Children & Family Centre and one Maintained Nursery School.

The number of children aged 0-14yrs (or 0-18yrs with SEND) in North Warwickshire is projected to increase by 0.3% over the next five years.

3.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

North Warwickshire - Primary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Apart from low-level pressure in Baddesley Grendon and Arley, there is no significant pressure forecast for primary school places across North Warwickshire planning areas.

Warton Nethersole CofE Primary School is in the process of being expanded by 56 places to one form entry to meet localised need from housing development in the village.

Several planning areas in North Warwickshire including Kingsbury, Coleshill and Atherstone are operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically present a financial challenge for schools.

Both Kingsbury and Coleshill Planning Areas contain schools that are a designated rural school under The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order for 2024 (for which there is a DfE presumption against closure). Both areas also include schools that are in receipt of government 'sparsity funding' which allocates funding to schools that are remote, measured by sparsity distances, and are small, based on average year group size.

Schools in Kingsbury applied to the DfE for approval to reduce their admission capacities from 2024.



North Warwickshire - Secondary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Atherstone planning area is forecasting slight pressure in all year groups. While schools in the area are at capacity, there is not forecast to be a significant deficit of places. The Queen Elizabeth Academy is currently undergoing capital works to expand to 5FE (150 places per year group) which should be complete by summer 2026. Options for possible further future expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Academy to accommodate demand from strategic housing are being explored.

The Polesworth School currently admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 25%) from over the county border with Staffordshire. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase. Discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities.

The Coleshill School admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 43%, 438 children) from over the county border with Solihull (approx. 167 resident pupils conversely attend schools in Solihull).

Kingsbury School admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 31%) from over the county border with Staffordshire. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase.

Working with all secondary schools in the area, options for the future provision of additional places in all year groups through permanent and temporary expansion are being considered.

North Warwickshire – Specialist Places

North Warwickshire contains one special school and six Specialist Resourced Provisions (primary), as well as two independent special schools. These are generally sufficient to meet the needs of the area when taken as a whole, however, many places are used to meet demand from elsewhere in and outside of the County.

The Coleshill School has a partnership with Woodlands School (a special school), that provides specialist places for secondary pupils with an EHCP. At Woodlands there have been a further nine places created for September 2025.

Atherstone has a higher incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 3.6% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.4%.

Four new primary Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened in 2025, Birchwood Primary School (C&I) 8 places, Nursery Hill Primary (C&I) 10 places, The Nethersole Academy (C&I) 8 places and Woodside C of E Academy (C&I) 8 places.



3.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

North Warwickshire contains two secondary schools with sixth forms.

	Capacity 2024/25	Pupils 2024/25
The Coleshill School	190	141
The Polesworth School	300	208

Post-16 students from North Warwickshire access places at colleges and schools across (and outside) the county. Details of Warwickshire’s colleges are provided as an Appendix.

Due to the nature of students travelling across county it is not possible to break down further the funded student numbers by Districts and Boroughs.

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. North Warwickshire contains Woodlands, a special school that accommodates pupils to the age of 19.



4 Nuneaton & Bedworth

4.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

In Nuneaton & Bedworth, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it.

Childcare services in Nuneaton & Bedworth typically have 12% of their total places still available. The Abbey and Bulkington Planning Areas have the least surplus capacity, with 2% and 4% of places still available respectively.

Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, 83% are currently occupied.

The local authority is currently supporting two capital projects in this area to create new nursery places alongside the development of a new nursery provision which is planned to open by January 2027 on the site of the new Callendar Farm School. Two additional existing schools are introducing new nursery places onto site alongside this.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 38% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 83% are typically occupied.

62% of Nuneaton & Bedworth's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 79% are typically occupied.

98% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of SEND.

Of Nuneaton & Bedworth's childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 97% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough has four Children & Family Centres and two Maintained Nursery Schools.

The number of children aged 0-14yrs (or 0-18yrs with SEND) in Nuneaton & Bedworth is projected to decrease by 2% over the next five years.

4.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age Nuneaton & Bedworth - Primary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Nuneaton North East and Nuneaton South East are both forecasting a deficit of places across all year groups due to new housing development. Additional capacity is due to be provided in both areas through the delivery of new school provision and the expansion of existing schools.

Lower Farm Academy opened as a new free school in 2018 with a final capacity of 420, the school is opening classes gradually and in September 2025 has an operating capacity of 390. Further new primary provision, including up to three additional new schools, will be delivered in Nuneaton in future years to align with new housing development being delivered. This includes a new 2FE primary school on the Callendar Farm development in the Nuneaton North East planning area due to open September 2026 with 30 reception places.

There is a higher level of surplus in Nuneaton South West planning area with corresponding PAN reductions in response to the lower pupil numbers.

Wolvey & Bulkington planning area is also forecasting pressure in some year groups from 2027 onwards.

Bedworth South West planning area is operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically present a financial challenge for schools. In addition to this, there are 503 primary age pupils in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough attend schools over the border in Coventry.



Nuneaton & Bedworth – Secondary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Bedworth is forecast to operate with sufficient capacity for several years. This includes accommodating a small number of pupils that attend from outside the county.

Within Nuneaton, Higham Lane North Academy has opened as a new free school in September 2025 with a final capacity of 900, and an initial intake of 150 at Year 7 only. This will increase year by year and relieves the pressure reported in previous forecasts for both Nuneaton and across other areas such as Hartshill in North Warwickshire.

Nuneaton & Bedworth – Specialist Places

Nuneaton & Bedworth contains five special schools and nine Specialist Resourced Provisions. Forecasts indicate a need for additional secondary specialist places in coming years. Options for additional specialist resourced provision in the area are being explored.

Nuneaton & Bedworth has a higher incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 3% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.1%.

Special school projects are underway to increase the number of places at Oak Wood Primary School and Oak Wood Secondary School. Exhall Grange School has expanded from 2023 by an additional 15 places.

Three new Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened in 2025, Glendale Infants (C&I) 8 places, Queens C of E Academy (C&I) 8 places, Higham Lane North Academy (C&I) 20 places in Nuneaton. Nicholas Chamberlaine School (C&I) in Bedworth expanded by 12 places.



4.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC) is a large general further education college. The college operates over six campuses based within Warwickshire and Leicestershire, one of which is in Nuneaton.

King Edward VI Sixth Form College (KE6) is also based in Nuneaton.

Students enrolled at these colleges will often be from across the county. The campus that

a student attends will not always be the one that is in their resident district/borough. There may be students attending from all five Districts and Boroughs across Warwickshire.

The total numbers of students accommodated at NWSLC and KE6, including those with SEND, are detailed as an Appendix.

Due to the nature of students travelling across county it is not possible to break down further the funded student numbers by Districts and Boroughs.

School Sixth forms:

School Sixth Forms	Capacity 2024/25	Pupils 2024/25
Nicholas Chamberlaine School	93	114
Etone College	250	213
Higham Lane School	200	232
St. Thomas More Catholic School and Sixth Form College	250	253
Ash Green School*	200	79

**Consulting to close sixth form provision from September 2026*

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Nuneaton &

Bedworth contains three special schools that accommodates pupils to the age of 19:

- Oak Wood Secondary School
- Exhall Grange Specialist School
- Discovery Academy
- The Warwickshire Academy



5 Rugby/East Warwickshire

5.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

In Rugby/East Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it.

Childcare services in Rugby/East Warwickshire typically have 17% of their total places still available. The Claremont, Dunchurch and Hillmorton Planning Areas have the least surplus capacity, with 10% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, around 86% are currently occupied.

Due to this area seeing ongoing high housing growth, the creation of additional early years places is ongoing. There are currently three capital projects in creation which will see increases to local places meeting area needs.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 60% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total

number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision in Rugby/East Warwickshire, 70% are typically occupied.

51% of Rugby/East Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 70% are typically occupied.

96% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of SEND.

Of Rugby/East Warwickshire's childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 96% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

Rugby borough has three Children & Family Centres.

The number of children aged 0-14yrs (or 0-18yrs with SEND) in Rugby/East Warwickshire is projected to decrease by 0.2% over the next five years.



5.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Rugby/East Warwickshire – Primary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Reception cohort numbers in Rugby Borough as a whole are forecast to reduce by circa 8% between September 2025 and September 2028. More medium-term forecasts indicate an upturn in Reception numbers from September 2029 as a result of the build out of strategic housing.

In year movement into the town will continue to put some pressure on Key Stage 2 places, particularly as a result of families moving into new housing developments. Additional temporary Key Stage 2 classes have been introduced in primary schools in Rugby for September 2025 to ensure sufficient capacity to meet demand in certain year groups.

The Rugby North Central planning area includes the Mast Site (Houlton) housing development of 6000 new homes and will eventually include two new primary schools. The first of these, St Gabriel's C of E Academy, opened in 2018 and is now operating with a capacity of 420. To continue to meet the demand for primary school places on this development, it is proposed to extend the age range of Houlton School to introduce a primary phase consisting of 420 places from September 2026. The primary phase would open from reception with 30 places.

The Griffin Primary School opened from 2023 with a final capacity of 210 to meet demand as a result of significant new housing in the Rugby North planning area. The school is opening classes gradually and in 2025 will have an operating capacity of 90.

Rugby/East Warwickshire – Secondary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

There was a pressure on places in some year groups for 2024 and 2025. From 2025 pressure continues to increase.

Rugby North planning area is currently expecting an ongoing deficit for year 7 entry of circa 30 places per year. To mitigate this shortfall, feasibility work is being undertaken towards the permanent expansion of The Avon Valley School.

Rugby South is forecasting fluctuating pressure on places for year 7 entry along with continued pressure across all year groups due to the potential impact of new families moving into the area as housing developments build out. From September 2026, Rugby High School will be increasing its PAN from 120 to 150. This increase will increase the supply of places in year 7 across Rugby Borough.

Of the eight secondary schools in Rugby District, two are grammar schools and a third operates a selective class. As such, the places at these schools are not necessarily available to all local pupils and attract pupils from outside of the area. WCC is working with those schools to increase the accessibility of grammar schools to local pupils where possible.

Longer term a new secondary school, providing a minimum of 900 additional places, is proposed as part of the South West Rugby Strategic housing development. This new school is expected to meet the long-term need for secondary school places in Rugby and will be required to open towards the end of the current forecast period should all proposed strategic housing build out as proposed.



Rugby/East Warwickshire – Specialist Places

Rugby/East Warwickshire contains two special schools, five Specialist Resourced Provisions (primary), one Specialist Resourced Provision (secondary) as well as two independent special schools.

These are generally sufficient to meet the needs of the area at primary phase when taken as a whole, however, many places are used to meet demand from elsewhere in and outside of the County. There is a need for additional specialist provision at secondary phase in Rugby, particularly in the North of the Borough – options are being explored.

Rugby has a higher incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 4.7% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.1%.

At Brooke Special School, a further eight places were created for September 2025 and further options for increasing places at the school are currently being explored.

Two new primary Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened in 2025, Cawston Grange (C&I) 8 places and Boughton Leigh Infants (C&I) 8 places. Boughton Leigh Juniors (C&I) in Bedworth expanded by 8 places.

5.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

Warwickshire College Group (WCG) is a large general further education college. WCG operates from five sites across Warwickshire and Worcestershire, one of which is in Rugby. Students enrolled will often be from across the county. The campus in which a student attends will not always be the one that is in their resident District or Borough. There may be students attending from all five Districts and Boroughs across Warwickshire.

The total numbers of students accommodated, including those with SEND, are detailed as an Appendix.

Due to the nature of students travelling across county it is not possible to break down further the funded student numbers by Districts and Boroughs.

School Sixth forms:

School Sixth Forms	Capacity 2024/25	Pupils 2024/25
Rugby Free Secondary School	250	214
Bilton School	200	97
Ashlawn School	400	278
Lawrence Sheriff School*	400	450
Rugby High School*	300	331

*grammar schools, selective entry

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings

across the county. Rugby contains two special schools that accommodates pupils to the age of 19:

- Brooke School
- Quest Academy



6 Warwick/Central Warwickshire

6.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

In Warwick/Central Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it.

Childcare services in Warwick/Central Warwickshire typically have 22% of their total places still available. The Sydenham and Whitnash Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with 9% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, around 83% are currently occupied.

Key areas of housing growth are focused at the edge of the Warwick Town / Leamington edges and Kenilworth. Four capital projects are being supported in addition to nursery settings opening at Oakley School in September 2024 and Myton Gardens School in September 2025. Growth by way of external nursery provision has also been seen with an additional large full daycare setting opening in the Leamington area.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 75% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision in Warwick/Central Warwickshire, 73% are typically occupied.

59% of Warwick/Central Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 66% are typically occupied.

98% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of SEND.

Of Warwick/Central Warwickshire childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 99% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

Warwick district has three Children & Family Centres and three Maintained Nursery Schools.

The number of children aged 0-14yrs (or 0-18yrs with SEND) in Warwick/Central Warwickshire is projected to decrease by 3% over the next five years.



6.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Primary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

There is pressure on places in the South of Leamington planning area due to significant new housing, currently relieved by the opening of three new schools and two temporary classes – as well as capacity in neighbouring planning areas:

- Heathcote Primary School opened in 2017, opening its classes gradually and as of 2025 is at a final capacity of 420
- Oakley School opened its primary phase in 2024 with a final capacity of 420, and an initial intake of 30 at Reception only.
- Myton Gardens opened in 2025 with a final capacity of 420, and an initial intake of 30 at Reception only. To meet forecasted need, the school will be offering an additional form of entry as a bulge class for 2026.
- A fourth new 2FE primary school is proposed as part of The Asps housing development, to open as needed in response to increased demand from the new housing.

- Temporary classes of 30 pupils at Reception opened at both Bishops Tachbrook Primary School and Briar Hill Infant School in 2023, moving through subsequent year groups each year.

Kenilworth planning area has experienced some in year pressure with three additional in year classes currently operating in the town. Expansion of an existing school, St John's Primary School, in Kenilworth by 1FE is proposed to mitigate pressure in the town as a result of the build out of strategic housing allocations. New primary provision is planned as part of the large-scale housing in Kenilworth, however, the trigger point for this new provision is likely to be towards the end of the forecast period.

Napton and Radford Semele are also experiencing some pressure for places, which will be mitigated by surplus capacity in neighbouring planning areas as required.

Warwick Rural planning area is operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically presents a financial challenge for schools.



Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Secondary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas..

Kenilworth planning area is forecasting a small deficit of places in all year groups as a result of in-year pressure.

Kenilworth School expanded onto a new school site from 2023 by an additional 150 places. The school has increased their PAN to 330 from September 2024.

Southam is forecasting slight pressure on places for several years, which include pupils from outside the county. These continue to be low numbers of pupils during the forecast period and will be monitored. It is expected that the low level of pressure for places will be accommodated at existing schools. Options to expand Southam College will be explored if future forecasts justify.

Southam College admits around 5% of pupils from over the county border with West Northamptonshire. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase.

The new Oakley School in Warwick opened its secondary phase in 2023 with an initial intake of 180 at Year 7 only and as of September 2025 has a capacity of 540 in Years 7 to 9. The new school will open an additional year group each academic year and will mitigate the need for additional secondary school places in the area due to new housing. Pressure on places in higher year groups in the short-term will be mitigated by existing schools.

Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Specialist Places

Warwick/Central Warwickshire contains one special school, six Specialist Resourced Provisions (primary), one infant and two Specialist Resourced Provision (secondary), as well as three independent special schools.

These are generally sufficient to meet the needs of the area at primary phase when taken as a whole, however, many places are used to meet demand from elsewhere in and outside of the County. There is a need for additional specialist provision at secondary phase across Warwick/Central Warwickshire – including Kenilworth and Southam.

Options for additional specialist resourced provision in the area are being explored.

Warwick/Central Warwickshire has a lower incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 1% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.1%.

Four new Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened in 2025, Myton Gardens Primary School (C&I) 14 places in Warwick, St John's Primary School (SEMH) 8 places in Kenilworth and Oakley Primary (SEMH) 8 places in Leamington.



6.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

Warwickshire College Group (WCG) is a large general further education college. WCG operates from five sites across Warwickshire and Worcestershire, of which one is in Leamington Spa and another in Warwick. Students enrolled will often be from across the county. The campus that a student attends will not always be the one that is in their resident district/borough. There may be students attending from all five Districts and Boroughs across Warwickshire.

WCG, Royal Leamington Spa campus has a specialist resource provision called The Cube which is designed for learners with

an EHCP, particularly those that may find mainstream education challenging. This provision is The Cube commissioned and funded by Warwickshire County Council. While not formally registered as a Specialist Resource Provision, The Cube functions in a similar capacity, delivering tailored support for neurodiverse learners, including those with Autism, ADHD, and social, emotional, and mental health needs.

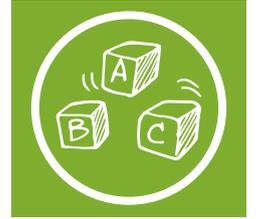
The total numbers of students accommodated, including those with SEND at WCG, are detailed as an Appendix. Due to the nature of students travelling across county it is not possible to break down further the funded student numbers by Districts and Boroughs.

School Sixth Forms:

School Sixth Forms	Capacity 2024/25	Pupils 2024/25
Southam College	300	282
Aylesford School and Sixth Form College	250	71
Campion School	200	201
Kenilworth School and Sixth Form	490	488
North Leamington School	300	278
Trinity Catholic School	120	39
Myton School	395	382

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Warwick District contains a special

school that accommodates pupils to the age of 19, Evergreen School, as well as a Specialist Resourced Provision operating at Trinity Catholic School.



7 Stratford/South Warwickshire

7.1 Age 0-4 – Early Years and Childcare (0-14yrs & 0-18yrs with SEND)

In Stratford/South Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it.

Childcare services in Stratford/South Warwickshire typically have 21% of their total places still available. The Clopton Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 13% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded Early Years places offered, around 86% are currently occupied.

Some significant housing expansion is being seen across this area with some substantial developments on the edge of Stratford upon Avon Town and some of the outlying communities. Three capital projects are being supported with an additional five school sites seeing creation or expansion of nursery places on them. In addition to this a large private nursery site development is due to become available on the outskirts of Stratford upon Avon town during the Autumn.

Of the school-age childcare services operating on school sites, 61% offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at all types of term-time out of school provision in Stratford/South Warwickshire, 76% are typically occupied.

53% of Stratford/South Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Of the total number of places offered at known holiday schemes, 63% are typically occupied.

97% of childcare services can cater for the needs of at least one category of SEND.

Of Stratford/South Warwickshire's childcare services that have undergone a full Early Years inspection from Ofsted, 98% received either "Good" or "Outstanding" judgements at their most recent inspection.

Stratford district has three Children & Family Centres.

The number of children aged 0-14yrs (or 0-18yrs with SEND) in Stratford/South Warwickshire is projected to increase by 3.5% over the next five years.



7.2 Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age Stratford/South Warwickshire – Primary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas..

There is some pressure on in-year places in the Kineton primary planning area due to significant new housing. Expansion and relocation of Lighthorne Heath Primary school is planned for delivery in line with new housing development. This will involve increasing to two forms of entry (420 places) from Autumn 2027 to allow growth in line with build out and occupation of houses from the Upper Lighthorne housing development.

There is some pressure on in-year places in the Quinton primary planning area due to new housing, currently relieved by capacity in neighbouring planning areas. Tudor Grange Academy Meon Vale opened as a new school in 2019 with a final capacity of 420 to meet demand as a result of significant new housing in the planning area. The school is opening classes gradually and in September 2025 has an operating capacity of 270, becoming 2FE from Reception 2024 cohort.

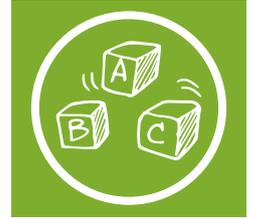
This will relieve the pressure on places as the school increases to full capacity.

The Compton and Brailes planning area is forecasting some pressure, this will be mitigated by neighbouring planning areas as required.

Several planning areas in the more rural areas of Stratford district are operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically present a financial challenge for schools:

- Stratford Rural
- The Dassett
- Henley
- Tysoe.

Stratford Rural and The Dassett are 'designated rural school areas' (for which there is a DfE presumption against closure). Some schools within these areas are also in receipt of government 'sparsity funding' which recognises the limit of organisational options to respond to the reduction in local populations.



Stratford/South Warwickshire – Secondary

See the appendices for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Kineton is forecasting an increasing pressure on places over the forecast period as a result of the build out of strategic housing the area. Initial feasibility work is underway to explore options to increase capacity at the school.

There are plans for new secondary provision as part of large-scale development within this planning area, beyond the timeframe of these forecasts.

Stratford is forecasting pressure on places for several years. Stratford upon Avon School has completed an expansion providing an additional 350 places. Due to this expansion, pressure is at low numbers of pupils during the forecast period and will continue to be monitored.

Alcester and Studley is forecast to be at capacity in some year groups. Studley High School and St Benedict's Catholic High School admit a significant proportion of pupils from over the county border with Worcestershire. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase. Worcestershire has opened a new secondary school in the vicinity in 2025 which may free up some demand in the planning area to Warwickshire resident pupils.

Shipston High School is expanding by an additional 150 places, providing increased capacity for the area.

Henley is forecast to be at capacity for several years. This includes around 25% pupils that attend from outside the county border, in Worcestershire and Solihull. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase.

Of the 10 secondary schools in the Stratford area, three are grammar schools. As such, the places at these schools are not necessarily available to all local pupils and attract pupils from outside of the area. WCC will work with schools to improve the accessibility of grammar schools to local pupils where possible.

Stratford/South Warwickshire – Specialist Places

Stratford/South Warwickshire contains two special schools and four Specialist Resourced Provisions (primary), as well as one independent special school.

There is a need for additional specialist provision at primary and secondary phases across Stratford/South Warwickshire. Options for this will be explored.

Stratford/South Warwickshire has a lower incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 1.3% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.1%.

Welcombe Hills Special School created an additional three places for September 2025. WCC is currently exploring further capital works with the school to add a further 20 places.

Three new Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened in 2025, Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (C&I) 8 places in Stratford, Dunnington Primary School (SEMH) in Alcester and Studley St Mary's Academy (Junior) (C&I) 8 places in Studley.



7.3 Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

Stratford Upon Avon College (part of Solihull College & University Centre) is situated in Stratford. However, the duty of sufficiency lies with Solihull Local Authority. The DfE funded Post 16 places (Appendix) does not include Stratford Upon Avon College.

Warwickshire College Group (WCG) is a large general further education college. WCG operates from five sites across Warwickshire and Worcestershire, of which one is in

Moreton Morrell. Students enrolled will often be from across the county. The campus that a student attends will not always be the one that is in their resident District or Borough. There may be students attending from all five Districts and Boroughs across Warwickshire.

The total numbers of students accommodated, including those with SEND at WCG, are detailed as an Appendix. Due to the nature of students travelling across county it is not possible to break down further the funded student numbers by Districts and Boroughs.

School Sixth Forms:

School Sixth Forms	Capacity 2024/25	Pupils 2024/25
Stratford Girls Grammar School*	250	231
Kineton High School	190	148
Stratford-upon-Avon School	300	268
King Edward VI School*	390	419
St Benedict's Catholic High School	200	56
Alcester Grammar School	540	528

**grammar schools, selective entry*

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Stratford District contains Welcombe Hills School that accommodates pupils to the age of 19.

