

## Warwickshire County Council - Maintained Nursery Schools

### Position Statement – December 2025

#### **Overview**

Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) are a key partner of our early years education system. They offer high-quality, inclusive provision led by qualified teachers with each school being led by a headteacher, often serving children in areas of high deprivation and with complex needs. Despite their proven impact, our schools continue to face ongoing financial challenges that remains under review at National Government level.

Warwickshire County Council maintains its ongoing commitment to its 6 nursery schools that are located in: -

- Atherstone, North Warwickshire District
- Bedworth Heath, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
- Kenilworth, Warwick District
- Stockingford, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
- Warwick, Warwick District
- Whitnash, Warwick District

#### **Local Authority Position**

Warwickshire is committed to supporting strongly the continued operation and strategic development of Maintained Nursery Schools within our local area. Their contribution to early years outcomes, inclusion, and workforce development is unparalleled and should be protected.

#### **Key Points**

- **Educational Excellence:** our nursery schools consistently achieve high quality Ofsted ratings and deliver exceptional outcomes for children, particularly those with SEND and from family backgrounds requiring additional financial support.
- **Inclusive Practice:** our nursery schools are leaders in inclusive education, often supporting children with complex needs.



- **Community Impact:** our schools provide additional resource for early help, family support, and multi-agency working, aiding wider services and link strongly to on site or local Children and Family Centres.
- **Workforce Development:** Our schools play a key role in training and mentoring early years practitioners across the sector.
- **Financial Pressures:** Despite supplementary funding for universal funded 3 and 4 year old hours our schools continue to face financial deficits due to structural underfunding and rising costs.

## System leadership

Warwickshire's six maintained nursery schools play a pivotal role in system leadership across the county. They actively contribute to workforce development by delivering high-quality training and providing targeted support to early years providers in partnership with the Early Years Quality Inclusion SEND and Safeguarding Team. This includes facilitating practice-based visits and implementing actions that promote continuous self-improvement and excellence in provision.

## **Published Admission Numbers**

Warwickshire utilises its 6 schools as key delivery partners for places for children from 2 to 5 years. All schools provide key services to support universal places, support families in receipt of additional financial support and working families within their direct communities. This is alongside the value of offering term time provision, which in the current climate in many localities is declining in place numbers.

Some sites, in addition, have created further services utilising 'Section 27 Community Facilities Powers' and offer provision for children of under 2 years of age via a separate and standalone early years Ofsted registered provision.

Each site continues to work with a flexible PAN for its ages to ensure it can achieve efficient usage of places, maximise use of overall space and increase financial options available to it.

Warwickshire delegates flexible management of PANs to assist with in year termly increases to place needs e.g during the Summer Term where numbers are larger prior to children



moving to school. The school can directly offer up to 10% more places, in Spring and Summer terms, over the stated PAN\*, where required to meet need. This is to assist with continuity of care and consistency of offer for children and families accessing the schools while reducing management and administrative burdens. This delegation must not create any permanent overall PAN increases nor create any financial implications to the school.

\*PANs are as stated below from the academic year 2025 / 26 onwards and supersede any other historical information held.

School	2 year olds – PAN (places at any one time)	3 years + - PAN (places at any one time)	Additional Provision (None PAN)
Atherstone	20	60	0
Bedworth Heath	12	55	0
Kenilworth	25	55	6 – Under 2's
Stockingford	16	50	0
Warwick	20	48	0
Whitnash	15	60	0

## Conclusion

Warwickshire County Council continues its commitment to its maintained nursery schools. The schools are each an integral part to delivering statutory entitlements, raising standards, and ensuring local children benefit from accessible, high-quality early education. They are centres of excellence, inclusion and community support and provide system leadership in partnership with WCC Early Years services.

This statement has been put in place to confirm Warwickshire County Council's current position with its Maintained Nursery Schools delivery, and it will supersede any previous historical data or information.

The local authority will continue to work alongside the schools to identify solutions to the wider nationally created funding pressures and liaise directly with the Department for Education, as required, to maintain the ongoing profile of this situation.

