



**School
Place Planning
Study**

September 2020

**School places
Swindon**

2020 - 2026

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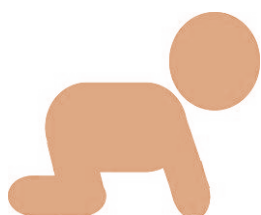
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2 Introduction and the purpose of this plan

Swindon Borough Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough school places in the Town to meet demand. The Council must therefore plan, organise and commission places for all state-funded schools in Swindon so that high standards are maintained, diverse school communities created and fluctuating pupil numbers are managed efficiently.

Education in Swindon can be divided into three overlapping, age-determined phases:



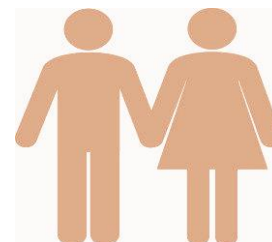
EARLY YEARS

A range of private, voluntary, independent (PVI) and maintained providers (including nurseries and children's centres) provide the free entitlement for 2 - 4 year olds.



5 - 16 YEAR OLDS

This is compulsory school age, during which schools are the main providers.



14 - 25 YEAR OLDS

Both colleges and schools offer substantial provision, with colleges as the sole provider for young people aged 19-25.

The purpose of this document is to understand the projected need and demand for future school places for 5 - 16 year olds in Swindon. Information relating to the statutory provision of

The demand for school places changes over time - this document is considered to be 'live' and, as such, will require regular updates. It sets out where the council currently thinks there will be a need to provide more school places and if there may be a need to provide fewer places over the next ten years. Increases in demand can lead to the creation of a new school or the expansion of schools, whereas decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in school provision; which needs to be managed very carefully.

Predicting school demand is a complex task because where children go to school involves a range of different and often conflicting factors and, as a result, planning for school places is based on probabilities, not certainties. This means that while projections may be made from robust calculations, they do not offer any guarantees.

It is important for us to be as open and transparent as possible when considering school organisation decisions. We strive to communicate effectively with schools and school communities about the school place pressures in their area. However, the council must also endeavour to manage expectations regarding school organisation proposals that are less certain. This document does not seek to definitively set out all the actions the council intends to take in the future, but rather is intended to provide an overview of issues that may arise in Swindon. Generally speaking, the council will only name particular schools in

this document when there is sufficient assurance that a proposal will be implemented or where this has already taken place.

3 Government Regulations, Guidance and Policies

3.1 Duties to provide for students aged 5-16

The law requires that a child is in receipt of an education and that provision is made for that education from the first term they begin as a five year old to the end of the academic year in which their sixteenth birthday falls, either at a school or otherwise. Some parents will choose to educate their children independently, either at independent schools, via parental provision or otherwise, whereas others will send their children to maintained schools inside or outside of the Borough of Swindon. Some children are educated in special schools or in a setting other than a school because of their special educational needs. Swindon Borough Council offers a school place to any resident applicant between 5 and 16 years old, whether they end up accepting the school place or not.

3.2 Duties to provide for students aged 14-19

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 places Local Authorities as the lead strategic commissioners of 14-19 education and training. Swindon Borough Council therefore has a duty to ensure that sufficient and appropriate education and training opportunities are accessible to this age group.

3.3 Legislation

The main legislation governing school organisational changes is found in sections 7 - 32 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011. In addition, the Schools Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision makers, dated January 2014 and issued by the Department for Education (DfE), accompanies new School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013, which came into force on 28 January 2014. The Academies Act 2010 is also relevant, with further guidance (Making significant changes to an open academy) issued in March 2016.

In changing or increasing provision, the council is required in certain circumstances to seek and consider bids from external providers including trusts and other educational organisations. Government legislation dictates that any new schools must be either an Academy or a Free School, so the borough council welcomes approaches from appropriate bodies proposing sponsorship arrangements for new or reorganised schools or academies. The council values diversity in its school provision and, within our guidelines, individual cases will always be judged on their merits.

Under Swindon Borough Council's scheme of delegation, decisions relating to school organisation within the remit of the council are delegated to Councillor Russell Holland, except in the case of opening or closing schools, where the Leader of the Council makes the final decision.

3.4 The Process of School Commissioning

3.4.1 Primary Planning

Provision for children aged 4 – 11 at primary, infant and junior schools

In considering changes to provision or the creation of new provision in the primary sector, the council will plan on the following principles:

- Published Admissions Numbers (PANs) for primary schools will not normally be less than 30 or greater than 120, and will normally be multiples of 30.
- The council will avoid arrangements that involve large admission intakes outside the common admission points at Reception and Year 3.
- The council prefers to provide all through primary schools, rather than separate infant and junior schools, to provide continuity between Key Stages 1 and 2.
- However, the council will have to regard existing local arrangements where these are clearly beneficial to education, such as to maintain a feeder link between an infant and a junior school, or reducing transport needs in rural areas.
- The council will seek to strengthen existing links between feeder schools if the opportunity arises.
- At present, all primary school provision is co-educational, and the council anticipates that future arrangements will conform to this pattern.
- The council will seek to maintain smaller schools where the quality of provision is high and where the school offers value for money.

3.4.2 Secondary Planning

Provision for children aged 11 – 16 at secondary schools

In considering changes to provision or the creation of new provision in the secondary phase, the council will plan on the following principles:

- PANs for secondary schools will not normally be less than 150 or greater than 310, and will normally be multiples of 30.
- All Swindon secondary provision is co-educational and the council expects any new provision to conform to this pattern. This is because the creation of a single sex school in isolation gives rise to gender inequalities in the provision of school places.
- Before commissioning additional provision, it will be considered whether demand could be met through use of latent and vacant capacity in neighbouring planning areas, where these are within a reasonable distance.

3.5 What factors do we consider in making school organisational changes?

A variety of factors may lead to the council making proposals for changes in school provision (these would apply to nursery and college provision too). As the list below indicates, the supply and demand of school places is only one of the factors that the council will consider, other factors include:

- Changes in the population and/or the continuing demand for places in an area
- Opportunities to make positive educational developments
- Opportunities to regularise local arrangements to accord with general Swindon arrangements
- The quality of education provided by the school according to recent performance data and Ofsted inspections
- The objective results and data for the institution in question in relation to public examinations or national tests
- The comparison of these results to those of other local and/or other similar schools
- The value that the school can be shown to be adding to the educational achievement of pupils
- The popularity of the school with local residents and wider user groups
- Parental preference for the school
- The prospects for the school of remaining or becoming viable in terms of admission numbers
- Indicators that the institution has a good understanding of the challenges it faces and the ability and determination to tackle these challenges
- Indicators as to whether the institution is able to make a sound educational offer within its allocated budget
- The feasibility of physical capacity of the school site
- Compliance with planning regulations
- Financial feasibility
- Maintaining or enhancing the diversity of provision.

Proposals to change nursery, school or college organisation will be designed to ensure that the interests of existing pupils, students and service-users are protected and advanced. The council will not, however, refuse to take action necessary to the long-term interests of Swindon residents because this causes short-term difficulties or disruption.

Schools operate most efficiently and effectively when full or nearly full. To this end, the council seeks to keep the number of vacant places (those that are surplus to requirements) to a minimum. The National Audit Commission recommends that there should be approximately a 5% surplus of places in an area to allow flexibility in responding to parental preference and to account for unexpected changes in pupil numbers (such as pupils moving into the area). Where the surplus is higher than this, normally the council will seek to take action to lower this number, but there may be certain circumstances where a higher number of surplus places are accepted.

3.6 Working with schools and other local authorities

The council wishes to work closely with all schools in Swindon, irrespective of their school status. This includes maintained, voluntary aided/controlled, foundation, free schools and academies. The council has built and maintains a strong professional relationship with all current Swindon free schools and academies, and places at these schools are taken into account within strategic planning to ensure a sufficiency of school places.

In planning the provision of school places, the council will take account of demands from residents of other local authority areas and vice versa. This information is shared with other local authorities and will increase or decrease the estimates of demand within the borough according to where these pressures occur geographically.

3.7 How do we forecast the demand for school places?

The council works with schools and governing bodies to address supply and demand issues in the shorter and longer term.

In order to carry out pupil forecasts effectively, the borough must be split up into different 'planning areas'. Any decisions on changes to school provision (such as the expansion or contraction of schools) are taken within the context of these planning areas. In Swindon, there are both primary and secondary planning areas.

We forecast our demand for school places based on planning areas. Please see Page 31 for [School Planning Areas](#).

Birth data underpins all forecasts. Birth data is collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by electoral ward. Alongside birth data, the council also collects data on pupil movement trends from the School Census and examines pupil movement between schools; in and out of the borough, and between educational stages i.e. transferring from primary to secondary school. These trends are combined with birth and housing data in specialist demographic forecasting inhouse, which creates pupil projections or forecasts. These pupil projections allow the council to commission adequate educational provision to ensure that every Swindon child who requires a school place is offered one.

Although school place demand is based on planning areas, there is no direct link between the number of children living in a particular planning area and the number of school places located there. This is because, when it comes to applying for a school place, parents/carers are under no obligation to apply for their nearest maintained school, and could instead express a preference for a school outside of their town, borough/district or county, or choose independent schooling for their child. The council strives to meet parental preference where possible, and analysing historic pupil movement trends enables the planning of school places to take preference patterns in an area into consideration. Swindon Borough Council's planning is effective in this regard and for September 2020, the council was able to offer a place at the 1st preference school to 95% and 99% to 1-3 preferences allocated of reception applicants 99% of junior applicants allocated their first preference overall 100% were allocated a preference of their choice 95% of 1st preference allocated and 99% to 1-3 preferences allocated of secondary applicants. Pupil movement trends also allows the council to understand whether there is a significant export or import in the area.

This document largely focuses on the 'intake' years – Reception year for infant and primary schools; Year 3 for junior schools and Year 7 for secondary schools. These are the most recently admitted year groups, and so the first that will show the effects of a change in birth rate and the best reflection of current parental attitudes to schools. Therefore, pupil projections or forecasts are based on how many children are predicted to require a school place in these 'intake' year groups in a given area. This number is then evaluated against the number of school places in the relevant year group in that planning area and action is then required if the demand significantly outstrips the supply (or vice versa).

3.8 Surplus places

This report recommends that, despite the financial challenges associated with accommodating growth, around 5% surplus places be maintained at secondary school level and 5% at primary school level. The key reasons are as follows:

- Scale of growth – Flexibility is needed within the school infrastructure as the large scale of the housing growth creates a high degree of uncertainty in predicting long-term pupil place need. This, in particular, is necessary in terms of predicting the peak number of pupils at any point. The numbers and ages of the pupils from a housing development will depend on the building rate and the 'type' of housing being built. The latter is tied to the general economic climate with developers choosing not to build if the houses will not be occupied.
- The Swindon Peak – Surplus places will be extremely important in managing any possible temporary peak in school place demand associated with growth in the town. If any peak in demand is not managed the Borough may have to provide even more school places that could then become surplus in the future.

3.9 Methodology

The current pupil forecasting method used by Children's Services at Swindon Borough Council is the cohort survival method. To predict the number of school places that will be needed the cohort survival method incorporates and assesses the following information for each primary school based area:

- The number of children born based on post code related statistics provided by the Primary Health Care Trust.
- The proportion expected to enter school based on past experience.
- The "survival" of that cohort as it moves through school taking account of net migration which occurs in relation to schools' popularity.
- The effects of housing development in their area.
- Those who may need education in other establishments such as special schools.
- The likely transfer to each secondary school.
- And, for each secondary school, a similar "survival" method, particularly taking account of transfer rates to the sixth form if there is one.

Using this method, forecasts are produced for:

- Primary and secondary pupil numbers available by school, by area and year group up to 2026.
- Secondary pupil numbers available by school (total number on roll - NOR) to 2026.
- Area level projections including new housing. These are assessed using simple multipliers of 0.37 for primary and 0.14 for secondary aged children per new dwelling.
- Housing and demographic growth areas up to 2026.

A robust calculation methodology with a high degree of accuracy. An internal annual review and comparison of actual numbers in schools against those that were forecast shows the forecasts to be within 2% accuracy

Primary Needs

No. of houses	X	Primary pupil yield (0.37)	/	No. of primary year groups (7)	=	No. of primary pupils	/ 30	=	No of Forms of Entry (FE)
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Secondary Needs

No. of houses	X	Secondary pupil yield (0.14)	/	No. of secondary year groups (5)	=	No. of secondary pupils	/ 30	=	No of Forms of Entry (FE)
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Potential primary school and secondary school sites have been provisionally assessed within an Education Land Availability Assessment (ELAA) using the following headings:

- Accessibility eg. Potential routes to school, access to public transport and impact on the existing transport network.
- Site Conditions eg. Flood risk, availability.
- School Place Demand.
- Links to other strategies eg. One Swindon, Leisure strategy.

This report identifies possible site changes and options for change i.e. a new build or expansion. Any proposals remain subject to a detailed options appraisal, feasibility studies, funding and building planning permission. As part of the community, consultation over further developments detailed discussions will be held with Headteachers and Governing Bodies.

4 Vision for Swindon

In September 2015 the Council approved a Vision for Swindon where by 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies; a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well managed housing growth which supports and improves new and existing communities.

Swindon will be physically transformed with existing heritage and landmarks complemented by new ones that people who live, work and visit here will recognise and admire. It will remain, at heart, a place of fairness and opportunity where people can aspire to and achieve prosperity, supported by strong civic and community leadership.

As part of the Vision the Council set out a priority to “offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places”.

A good education is fundamental to supporting Swindon's children and young people to reach their potential. We will support and challenge our schools so that every pupil is given the opportunity to learn and achieve. Our initial target is to reach the average level of performance at both GCSE and A level, but we are ambitious for our children and young people and will not stop there. We are striving to be one of the highest performing areas in England. Skills are both the means to, and the end product, of a highly productive economy. We will work to improve access to higher education in Swindon as part of a wider focus on skills development.

To achieve this, the Council has pledges to deliver the following:

- In addition to the two new Free secondary schools, build one secondary and 12 primary schools to meet the needs of our increasing population.
- Improve the reputation and image of Swindon to attract inward investment.
- Improve educational attainment, in particular at ages 16-19 so we are above the average in England within five years.
- Increase the number of businesses employing young people as an apprentice from 15% to 20% (an additional 280).
- Secure a range of options to access Higher Education in Swindon.

This success will be measured by:

- Measuring levels of attainment in Swindon schools.
- Measuring numbers of apprentices and the take up of employment by care leavers and adults with learning disabilities.
- Reporting monthly on the delivery of our projects.

5 The current position in Swindon

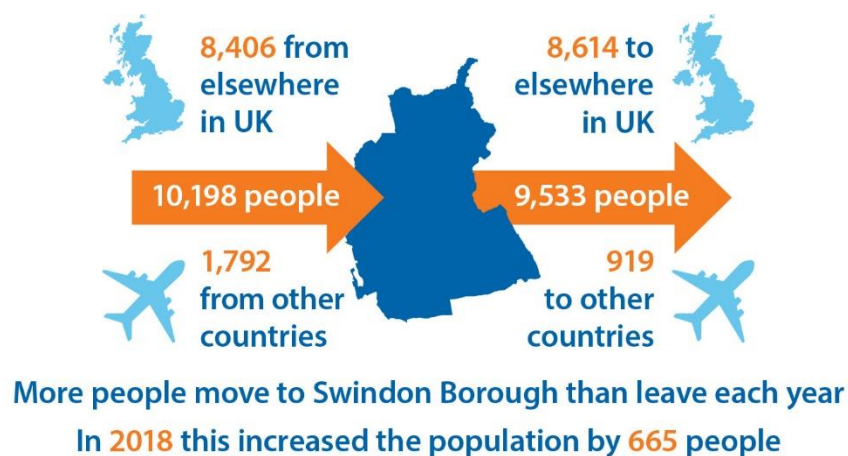
5.1 Swindon's population

Swindon is a densely populated town in England. The population density is 966 per km², compared with a South West average of 236 per km² and a UK average of 275 per km².

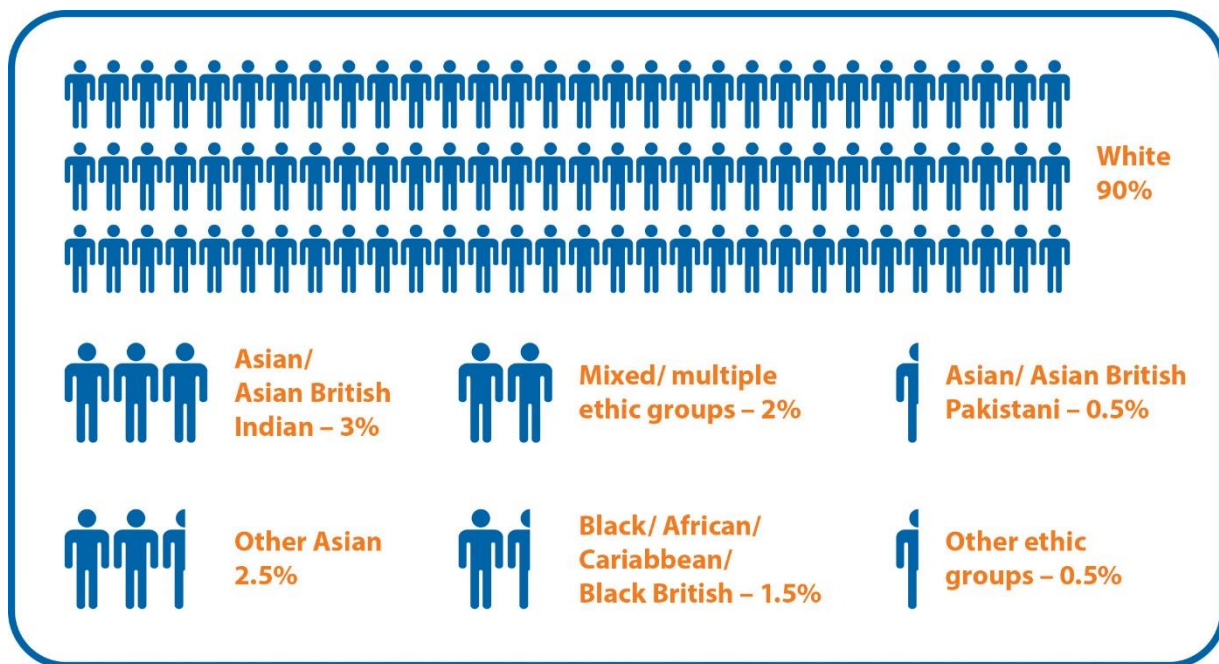
Swindon's population has increased every year since 1987. Based on the most recent mid-year population estimates, in 2019 there were 222,193 people living in Swindon borough, an increase of 8.7% over the last 10 years.



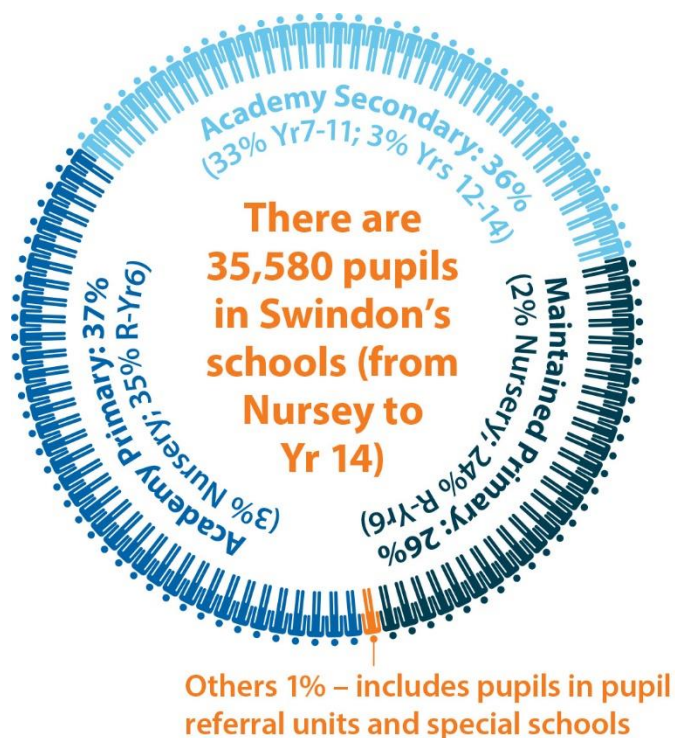
This upward trend can largely be explained by the birth rate and net inward migration, as Swindon is a net importer of people.



Swindon is made up of diverse rural and urban communities, including minority ethnic communities. Data from the 2011 census indicates that 90% of Swindon's population identify themselves as being White. The remaining 10% is made up of people from minority ethnic communities as follows:



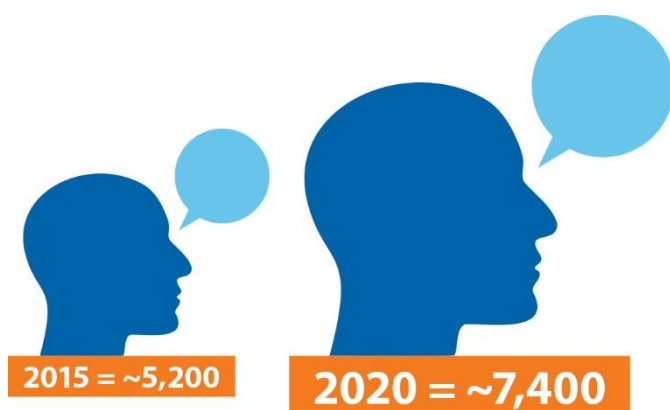
5.2 Swindon's school population – January 2020



In January 2020, 5 out of 20 pupils in Swindon's Schools identified themselves as being from a non-white ethnic group.



In total, 142 languages other than English are spoken by children and young people in the borough's schools as per the school census from January 2020. Approximately 20% of Swindon's school population speak a language other/in addition to English.

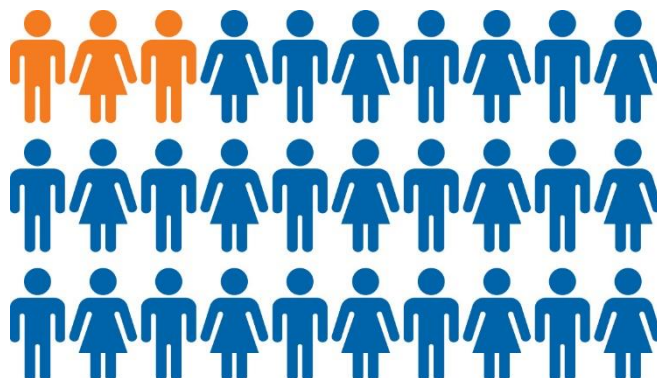


In Swindon's schools in 2020 the number of pupils² whose first language is other than English is one and a half times that in 2015

2 Includes pupils from nursery to Yr14, excludes unclassified pupils for whom the information was refused or not obtained.

The majority of pupils in Swindon attend a school that has no religious character. However, there are 12 schools in Swindon which profess to have a religious character, either Church of England or Roman Catholic. These schools with a religious character are made up of Voluntary Aided Schools or Academy Trusts.

In January 2020, in Swindon, 3 out of 30 children attended a school with a religious character.



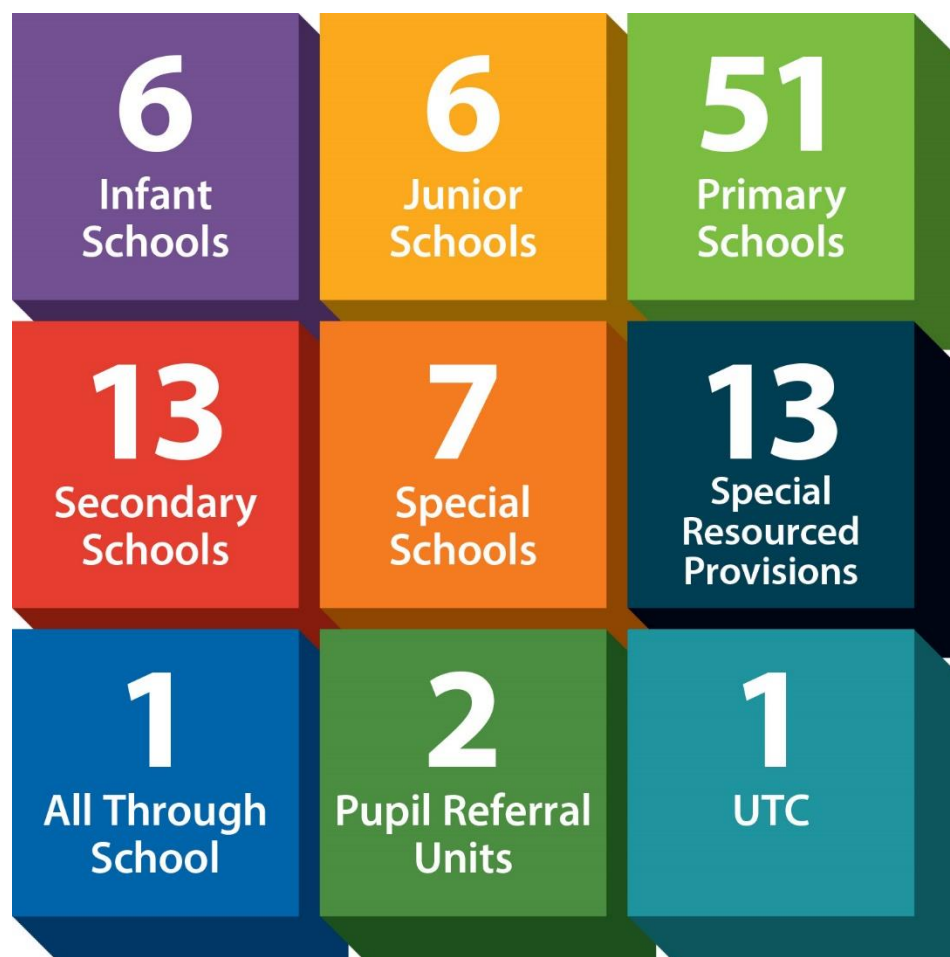
In July 2020, the Swindon schools included the following school types.

5.3 Swindon School Types



Swindon schools are broadly grouped into phases, usually by the age range of children that they teach, or the type of education that they provide e.g. those providing a specialist education for pupils with special educational needs or alternative learning requirements.

5.4 Swindon Schools as at 1 October 2019



There are also 11 sixth forms in schools and 3 further education colleges.

5.5 Swindon Births

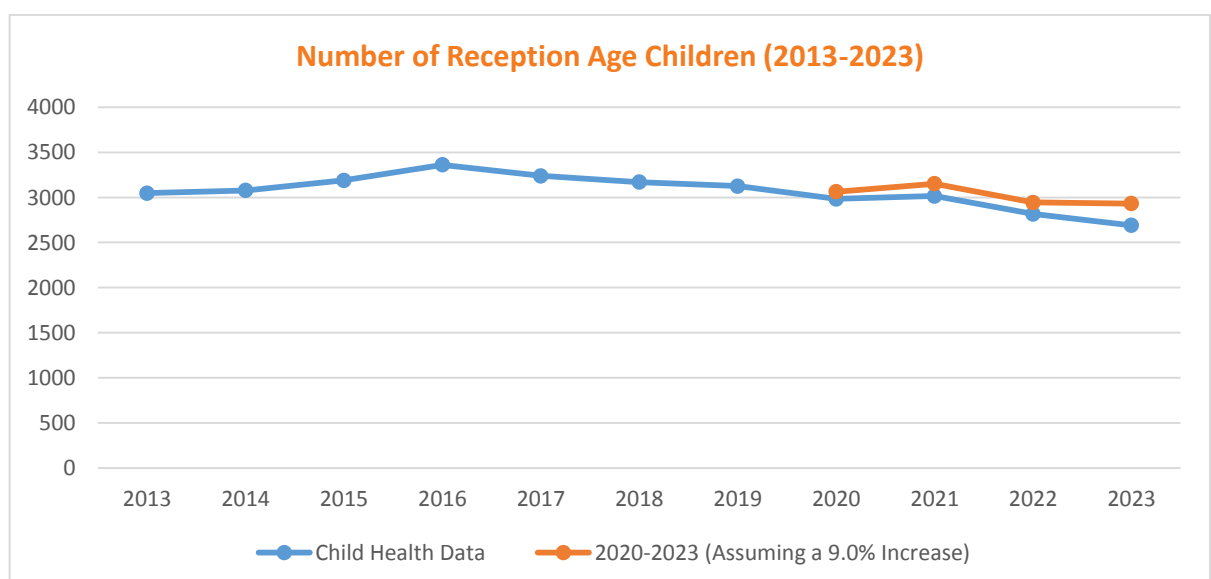
The key factors likely to have the greatest influence on managing school places across Swindon over the next 5 years include the birth rate, housing developments and migration.

The following data forecasts birth data in Swindon up to 2023.

5.6 Primary Care Trust data (PCT)

The demographic trend in the primary school age population is largely driven by the birth rate and subsequently influenced by housing developments and migration bringing in additional children to the area. The number of children for a given year of birth is captured through the data sent by the Primary Care Trust (PCT). The PCT data takes into account the number of births, as well as those who have subsequently moved into the Borough. As a consequence, the number of children recorded in the area has a tendency to increase from the year of birth to the year the Children enter Reception. Analysis of recent datasets suggests that over 5 years' worth of PCT data the number of children increases by ~9.0%.

Year of Birth	2008 /09	2009 /10	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2016 /17	2017 /18	2018 /19
Reception Admission	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Child Health Data	3048	3078	3189	3362	3239	3170	3125	2984	3016	2816	2690
Predicted Number of Children at Reception Age (9.0% increase)								3063	3152	2945	2932

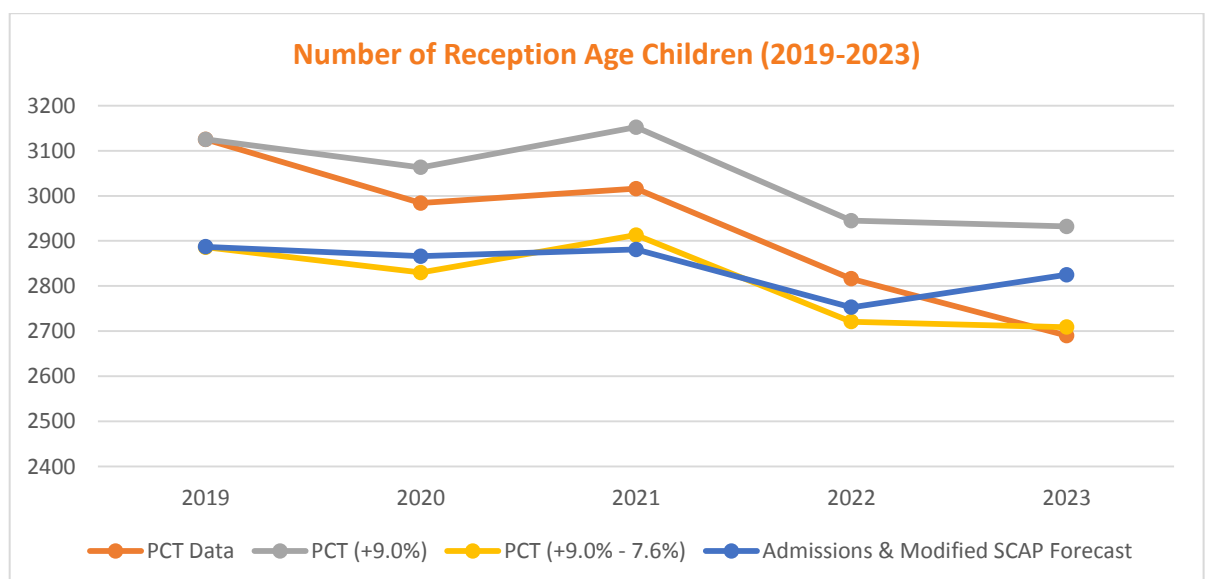


The number of children reaching Reception age in Swindon increased between 2013 and 2016 from 3048 to 3362. After 2016 the numbers have declined steadily to 3125 in 2019. The PCT data indicates this trend will continue, apart from a small spike in 2021 of ~3150, with ~2930 Reception age children expected in Swindon in 2023 (assuming the numbers increase in line with expectations).

5.7 PCT data vs. admissions

It should be noted that the number of Reception age children in the Borough indicated by the PCT data does not match the admissions. The reasons for this are not fully understood, but is likely to be related to children attending schools outside the Borough. In 2019 the PCT data suggested there were 3125 children of Reception age, but only 2887 admissions – a reduction of 7.6%. Applying this modifier to the already modified PCT data indicates that the number of Reception age children in Swindon will decrease from ~2900 in 2019 to ~2700 in 2023, with a small spike in 2021 of ~2900. This is broadly in line with the SCAP Reception forecast, which shows a similar trend between 2020 and 2022. However, the 2023 forecast figure does not match as this is calculated using the long term trend ignoring any recent fluctuations and is not based on PCT data as this was not available when the forecasts were generated. The 2023 forecast has subsequently been reviewed and partly modified based on the latest PCT data to change the Reception forecast for some schools – although this only reduces the discrepancy.

Reception Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PCT Data	3125	2984	3016	2816	2690
PCT (+9.0%)	3125	3063	3152	2945	2932
PCT (+9.0% - 7.6%)	2886	2830	2913	2721	2709
Admissions & Modified SCAP Forecast	2887	2866	2881	2753	2825



It is recommended that the best guide for the potential number of Reception age children is to use the PCT data that has been modified to account for the increase in the years leading up to Reception and the discrepancy between the number of children and Reception admissions. These modifiers will need to be reviewed annually when the new PCT data file is received.

In the short term in Swindon, the birth rate will mean the number of children requiring school places is likely to have peaked in 2016/17, mirroring the peak in birth rate. After that time, increases in demand will largely be as a result of inward migration and housing, although there still could be some localised demand pressures.

The below table shows which year a child starts in each of the three cohorts, based on the academic year in which they were born:

Academic	2004/0	2005/0	2006/0	2007/0	2008/0	2009/1	2010/1	2011/1	2012/1	2013/1
year of birth	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4
Reception in	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Year 3 in	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Year 7 in	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025

Academic	2014/1	2015/1	2016/1	2017/1	2018/1	2019/2	2020/2	2021/2	2022/2	2023/2
Year of birth	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4
Reception in	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Year 3 in	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Year 7 in	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035

5.8 The population in Swindon

The resident population in Swindon is estimated to have increased by 6% between the 2011 Census and 2019, to 222,193. The population is forecast to increase by a further 5% to 233,288 by 2026. The child population (0-15 years) is estimated to decrease by 2% in the same time period. Despite this decrease, fuelled by a decrease in the birth rate, there is projected to be a 10% increase in the 11-15 year old population which is forecast to increase from 13,310 in 2019 to 14,813 by 2026.

There are ambitious new housing developments planned across the borough in existing communities (Swindon's Central area), in new communities (Wichelstowe) and New Eastern Villages including Rowborough and South Marston Village expansion) and in rural settlements (Highworth, Wroughton and South Marston).

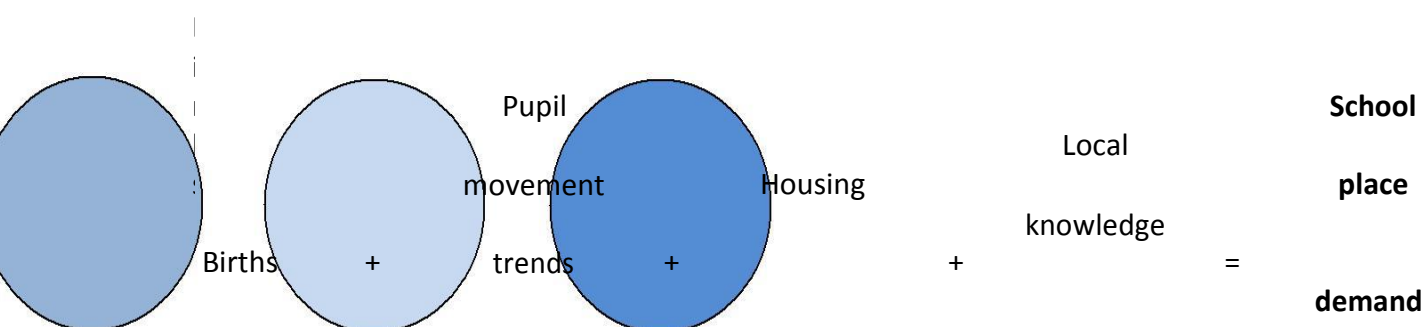
6 The Local plan

The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 is the main planning policy document for Swindon Borough, providing the planning policy framework to deliver sustainable growth up to the year 2026 and beyond. It sets out how much development the Borough needs and identifies where, when, and how development will take place in Swindon Borough.

The Swindon Borough Local Plan was adopted in March 2015, and set a target of 22,000 additional homes between 2011 and 2026. The Local Plan identifies to meet the long-term primary and secondary school place needs there should be 11 new primary schools (24 new forms of entry in total), 3 new secondary schools, expansion of existing schools and the use of projected surplus places (35 forms of entry in total) and additional temporary primary and secondary school accommodation to manage the temporary demographic peak in pupils. The Plan also acknowledges the need to meet the long-term early years needs by enabling the provision of nursery facilities at all new primary schools and the provision of facilities by the private and voluntary sector.

Swindon Borough Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan and is referred to as the 'emerging plan' which takes account of revised household forecasts and updated housing delivery rates. The emerging Local Plan is at Regulation 19 stage of the process and as set out in the latest Local Development Scheme, the emerging Plan is scheduled to be adopted in Q1 2021. In the emerging Plan there are ambitious new housing developments planned across the borough in existing communities and in new communities (Wichelstowe) and the New Eastern Villages including Rowborough and South Marston Village expansion and in rural settlements (Highworth and Wroughton). The Local Plan sets targets for sustainable development that delivers at least 20,450, on average, 1,363 new dwellings 2018-2036.

7 Understanding the forecasts for school places in your area



By using information on births, pupil movement trends, housing and local knowledge it is possible to forecast the need for school places in Swindon in the future. However, forecasts are not certainties - they are estimates, and the information in this plan is subject to change and update. As a result, we cannot offer any guarantees.

Demand patterns are not uniform, and overall numbers sometimes mask the school place needs of individual areas. Projected spare capacity in an area does not mean that all the schools will be able to meet demand in the area – there may be a surplus of places at Year 4 for example, but there may be a deficit of places in the Reception year. In this case, additional provision will still be needed to ensure that there are enough places for children starting school. Furthermore, if there is an oversupply in one area but an under supply in another (the north vs. the south, for example) additional provision may still be required in one area even though numbers for the borough as a whole indicate that there is adequate capacity.

The following sections of this document describe the current pupil numbers and school place numbers in each of the five planning areas in Swindon. They also set out forecasts for how it is thought pupil numbers will change alongside the general changes in school

organisation and the PANs that will be needed to meet the changing pupil population. Further information about schools in Swindon, parental preferences and the allocation of school places for the last four years can be found on the Swindon website at www.swindon.gov.uk/admissions.

When looking at the projections in each of the subsequent chapters it is important to understand that these forecasts are not statements of fact. It is also important to note that whilst the council will seek to meet parental preferences, projections are primarily concerned with the number of available school places in a given area. It may be the case that there are some schools in an area that are consistently oversubscribed against parental preferences, giving the impression that there is a shortage of school places in this area when this is not the case overall as other schools have capacity. The principal factor is the number of school places in an area compared to the number of children that are seeking to start school and it is this which the council seeks to predict and to respond.

7.1 How accurate are Swindon's forecasts overall?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year-on-year. A robust calculation methodology is in place in Swindon with a high degree of accuracy. An internal annual review and comparison of actual numbers in schools against those that were forecast shows the forecasts to be within 2% accuracy.

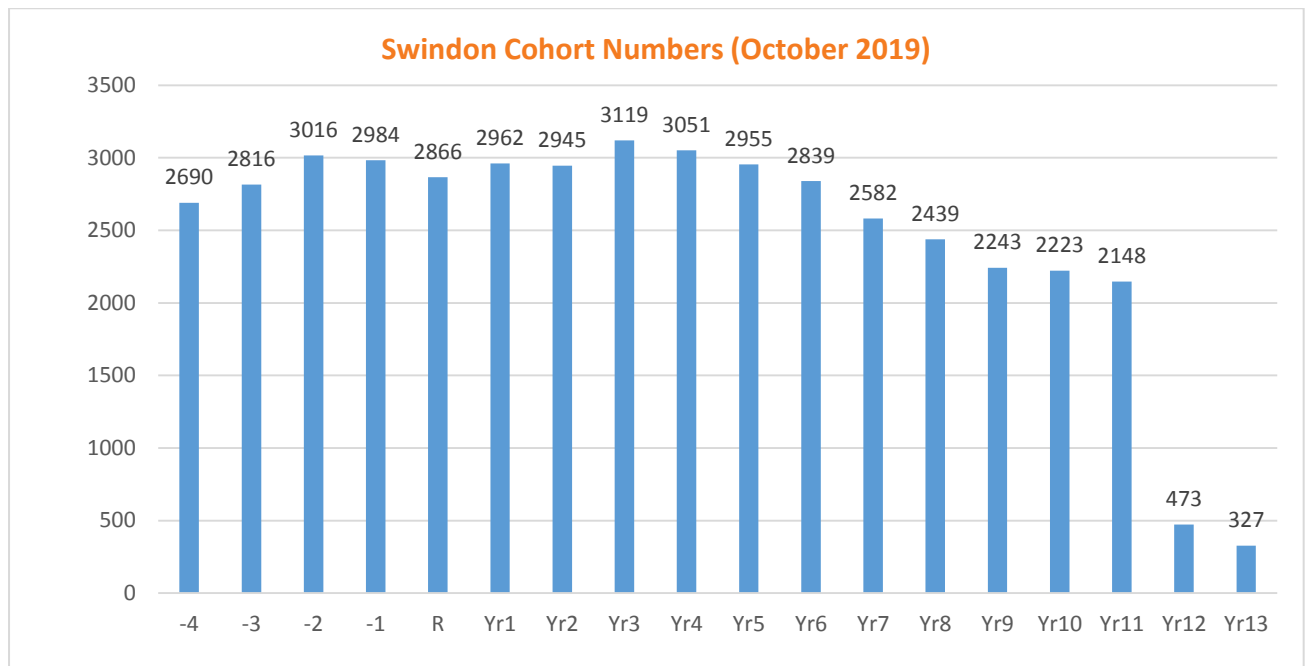
7.2 Overall School Place Needs

The purpose of this section is to update the School Place Planning Study to identify the overall number of school places needed to accommodate Swindon's growth. It will also identify, broadly, how the places will be distributed. The update also aims to calculate and incorporate the existing pressures into the overall need and distribution of school places.

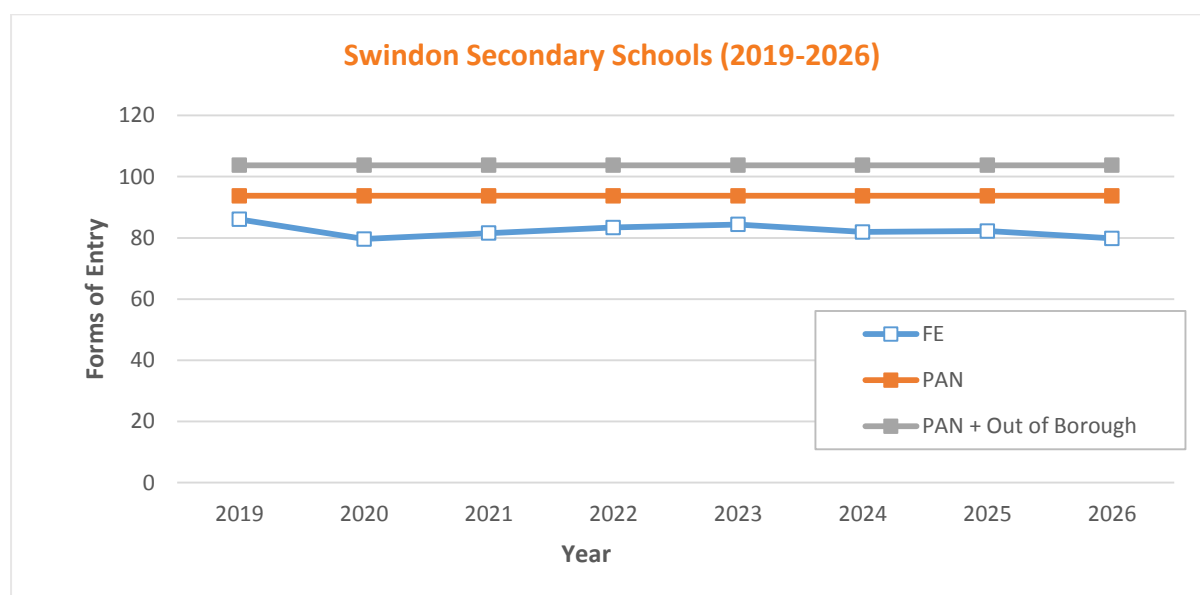
7.3 Existing Pressure

The existing pressure is derived from two sets of data. The first is the known numbers of pupils present in the schools as of October 2019 and the second is the known births that have been recorded in the Borough and supplied by the Child Health Team. The number of under 5s is reviewed each year and this gives an overall increase from the number recorded at birth. It seems likely that this increase is due to the migration of young families into the Borough.

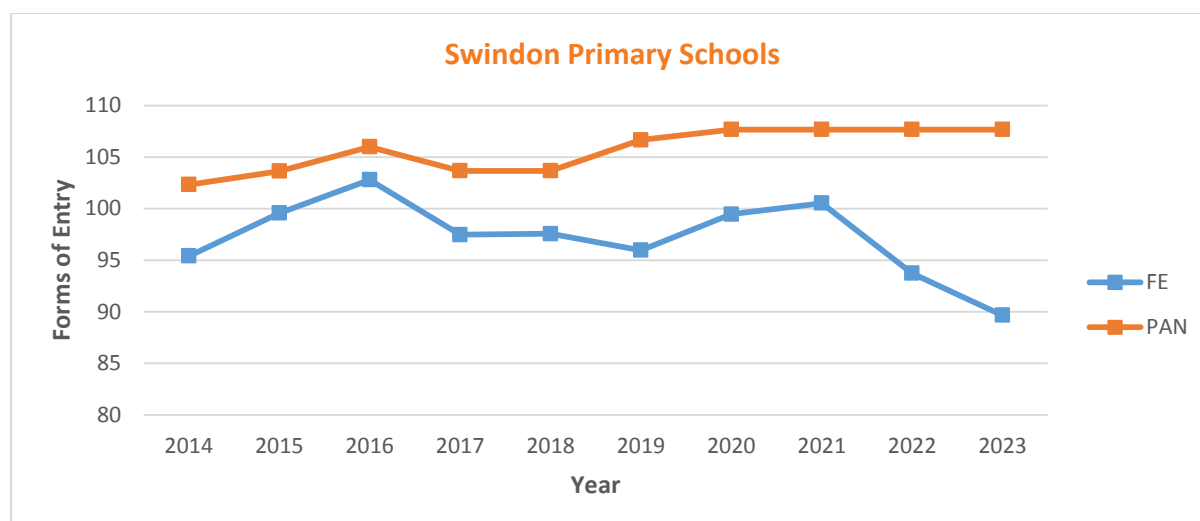
a. Bar graph of overall cohort size by year group



b. Borough-wide Secondary School Pressures as per last report



c. Borough-wide Primary School Pressures as per last report



7.4 Growth due to housing proposals

There will be an increase to the present numbers of young people in the Town due to the proposed building programme as outlined in The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026. The primary and secondary school places requirement from the proposed development strategy below are based on 0.37 and 0.14 primary and secondary aged children per dwelling. FE is a form of entry and generally means a class of 30 pupils. Fuller explanation of the background to this can be found in Chapters 3-5 of the School Place Planning Study (2009).

7.5 Primary and Secondary School Needs from new development table:

Location	Housing Nos	School Place Needs Forms of Entry (FE) <u>Primary</u>	Methodology Primary	Methodology Secondary	School Place Needs Forms of Entry (FE) <u>Secondary</u>
Swindon Urban Area	376	0.66	$(376 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(376 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.35
Highworth	516	0.91	$(516 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(516 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.48
Wroughton	608	1.07	$(608 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(608 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.57
Other Villages	152	0.27	$(152 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(152 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.14
Sites with Planning Permission (non-strategic)	2533	4.46	$(2533 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(2533 \times 0.14)/5/30$	2.36
Neighbourhood Plans (non-permissioned)	42	0.07	$(42 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(42 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.04
Wichelstowe Remainder	2821	4.97	$(2821 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(2821 \times 0.14)/5/30$	2.63
Commonhead/Badbury Park Remainder	427	0.75	$(427 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(427 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.40
Tadpole Garden Village Remainder	629	1.11	$(629 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(629 \times 0.14)/5/30$	0.59
New Eastern Villages	8,936	15.74	$(8936 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(8936 \times 0.14)/5/30$	8.34
Kingsdown	1,650	2.91	$(1650 \times 0.37)/7/30$	$(1650 \times 0.14)/5/30$	1.54
Total Swindon Borough	18,690	32.92 FE			17.44 FE

The total forms-of-entry (FE) requirement from new housing developments is 32.92 FE for Primary and 17.44 FE for Secondary.

The School Place Planning Study (2009) discounted the pupil yield from development in Swindon's urban area, anticipating a significant proportion of flats, without children, particularly in Swindon town centre. The economic downturn has impacted on the housing market in Swindon and the message is clear from the housing development industry that flats do not represent a viable product on a significant scale in the current market or in the foreseeable future.

Flexibility for delivering school places within new development areas is crucial. A report to the Infrastructure Development Board in October 2007 provided feedback on a "lessons learned" exercise on the Northern Development Area (10,000 homes in north Swindon). Participants commented that development was not appropriately phased and therefore

houses were provided before schools and retail facilities were in place, which put pressure on existing facilities and were beyond walking distance, increasing reliance on use of the car.

A school development in the early phases has significant advantages such as:

- Meeting the aims of the Education Place Planning Study.
- Providing the new community with essential facilities.
- Reducing the fluctuation in pupil numbers at surrounding schools.
- Enable the new school to grow on a phased basis, linked to the occupation of new housing.
- Act as a catalyst for house sales.

Therefore, the Council, in negotiation with housing developers, will be requesting early access of school sites to provide the potential for early occupation.

7.6 Borough-wide Secondary School Pressures

As new development areas have been built out at Swindon, the relatively lower cost of new homes has been attractive to young families. As a result, a higher than average proportion of young children start school together. Often a family will stay in the house that they have occupied and so these children will age together putting school place pressure on, firstly, primary schools and then on secondary schools.

This peak pressure, however, does not persist and when they leave school it tends to have a converse effect. As the children grow into young adults and leave home, there becomes a higher than average number of middle-aged adults in an ageing development area without children. This causes a trough in school place demand before stabilising in the future.

The Northern Development Area 'Lessons Learned' exercise looked at the perceptions of residents of the Northern Development Area of their community. One of the key conclusions of the report was that not enough school places had been provided early enough and that they were therefore not in the right place or at the right time. Whilst the criticism on phasing has validity, the cause of this school place pressure has been, and continues to be, a temporary peak as a development is built out, which will then subside in the longer term.

Secondary school places are more difficult to predict and manage. The uncertainty associated with secondary school place pressures is exacerbated by parental choice and the fact that older pupils of secondary age are prepared to travel further to their school of choice. Whereas with the larger housing developments over a certain size a new secondary school is feasible, expansion of 'nearby' schools and the retention of surplus places will be essential in managing the temporary pressure.

Looking at forecast figures for secondary in Swindon there is estimated to be a decrease in numbers in the longer term, with a slight rise the primary peaks move through and up to Secondary. In 2016 there was peak in Reception numbers where the Council implemented a number of bulge classes across the Borough, and it is this peak that we will see in 2023 as these children reach Secondary school age, before the secondary numbers are forecast to decline slightly by 2026.

The number of pupils going out of borough is estimated to remain broadly static at ~350. However, this will depend on whether there is a further decline in the numbers going to out of area schools close to the Swindon boarder such as Bradon Forest in Purton, Wiltshire. In addition, the effect of the opening of The Deanery in September 2019 on the number of pupils, especially from west Swindon, going to Royal Wootton Bassett Academy is yet to be felt.

7.7 Transport of pupils

To manage some of the pressure identified within an education planning area it may be necessary for the Local Authority to provide transport. Transport to school is a statutory requirement based on the overall distance a pupil travels to school. Transport is usually only applicable to rural areas. Within the urban area of Swindon most schools are within the statutory limit, therefore transport is unlikely to be required.

The impact of legislation relating to Academies and Free Schools could result in an increased level of transport provided by individual schools rather than the Local Authority. As education providers become more independent this could lead to increased competition for pupils across the Borough.

8 Re-organisation of schools

8.1 Primary schools

The preferred size for new primary schools is within the range of 420 places to 630 places (2FE to 3FE) and Swindon Borough Council will only seek to open new primary schools of full or half forms of entry.

The LA has preferred site sizes for Primary Secondary schools, depending on the number of FE that is required. These are:

- 2 FE Primary school – 2.2 Ha
- 3 FE Primary School – 3.3 Ha

Where a new primary phase school is required this will be built as an all through primary school, rather than separate infant or junior schools. Swindon Borough Council will continue to seek opportunities to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools where the combined numbers are less than 420 and the sites lend themselves to a single institution.

8.2 Secondary schools

The optimum size for an 11 to 16 secondary school is 750 (5FE) to 1,500 (10FE) pupils. Swindon Borough Council however recognises that provision in some communities may fall outside the ideal size of secondary school and demand for additional places could be met either by expanding existing schools, if there is sufficient capacity on the site, or by new provision located within a new housing community.

The LA has preferred site sizes for Primary Secondary schools, depending on the number of FE that is required. These are:

- 10 FE – 10.2 Ha

8.3 Academy Free Schools

An academy is a public funded independent school; (not maintained by a LA) accountable to the Department for Education (DfE) and funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Academies directly employ staff and have freedoms to set their own pay and conditions of service, are free to deliver the curriculum as they see fit and can vary the length of school terms and the length of the school day. Academies must follow the same admissions guidance, exclusion processes and meet the statutory processes for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) however they may set their own admissions criteria. Academies are inspected by OFSTED using the same framework as other state funded schools.

The council works closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure all new school proposals including bids for new Free Schools are supported by approved academy trusts that understand the needs and aspirations of the community.

9 Capital investment

It is recognised that pupils benefit from high quality learning environments and equipment. Capital investment priorities are based on requirements to:

- Provide sufficient places to meet the needs of local communities.
- Provide healthy and safe environments.
- Meet curricular and organisational needs.
- Enhance physical access to buildings.
- Replace temporary accommodation with permanent where possible.
- Implement key strategic initiatives.

Swindon Borough Council uses condition surveys alongside net capacity assessments to determine investment priorities. Government grant, council resources and developer contributions are used to fund the necessary capital investment alongside any centrally acquired monies through a national bidding process. Capital resources are however becoming increasingly stretched.

At present, there are two main funding streams allocated by DfE for school building projects - one which is solely for maintenance (Condition funding) and the other is for the provision of additional pupil places (Basic Need).

In 2017 the DfE released an additional sum of funding to Local Authorities called the special provision capital fund. This was to enable local authorities to invest in improving the quality and range of provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities aged 0-25, re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

10 Accessibility of school buildings - Inclusivity

Improving access to education and securing educational achievement for pupils with a disability is essential to ensure equality of opportunity, full participation in society, access to employment opportunities and inclusion within mainstream schools. Swindon's inclusion vision is that every disabled child and young person in the borough should achieve their potential educationally, socially and in their personal life. The Accessibility Strategy is a core component in realising this vision. Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing the

accessibility of schools, wherever possible and where reasonable adaptations can be made, to wheelchair users and pupils with sensory impairment.

An audit of all schools established a baseline from which progress can be measured. The audit concentrates on the physical access to communal facilities and teaching accommodation as well as the provision of any specialist facilities such as toilets, changing tables etc.

11 Admissions policy

The Admissions Team administers Swindon Borough Council's co-ordinated admissions scheme. This includes admissions to all schools including academies as well as 'In Year' admissions.

There is a wide range of admissions authorities as each academy or voluntary aided school has its own Admission Policy. The in year coordinated scheme is in place for all schools in Swindon and is ran under the 'equal preference scheme'. The knowledge, understanding and data that the team holds contributes to successful school organisation and place planning. Admissions statistics, which are produced annually, are used to support the school place planning process, ensuring that sufficient places are provided to meet parental preference where possible.

Admissions authorities, including the LA, must have regard to the School Admissions Code in determining their admission arrangements, which includes expansions and contractions of school capacities. Up to date details of the Swindon schools' admissions processes can be found on the Swindon Borough Council website via the following link:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions

12 School Planning Areas

The planning of school places in Swindon is based on the geographical areas defined by the secondary school catchments and feeder school aligned to them. These are the same demographic planning areas that the council is required to report on annually to the Department for Education (DfE) to inform future capital basic need allocations.

Place planning can be influenced by parental preference in terms of selecting a school. Applications for school places are considered in line with the relevant Admission Authority Admission Policy and over-subscription criteria.

These School Planning Areas are not catchment areas. They are a helpful way of assessing the broad distribution of need in a more flexible and integrated way. They relate to anticipated areas of pressure rather than existing distribution of schools. The areas have been assessed based on:

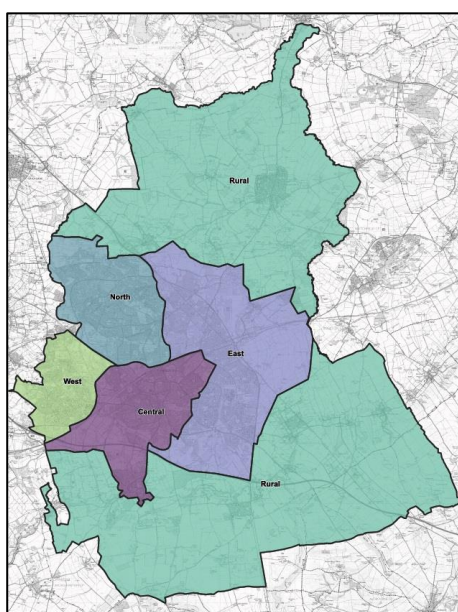
- Existing school capacity and number on roll.
- Existing pressure on school places.
- Forecast short term pressure based on registered births.
- Long term pressures associated with identified areas of housing development.
- Temporary peaks in pupil numbers.

Within each School Planning Area demand for primary and secondary school places has been forecast. Where there is a shortfall in school places recommendations have been set out to meet the demand. It is particularly important that primary school places are provided to meet demand where they are needed to avoid transporting young children.

Secondary schools should also be positioned in close proximity to demand. However, there is traditionally a higher degree of flexibility often due to parental choice. The options for secondary school place provision seek to balance local demand against the number of secondary school places available across Swindon.

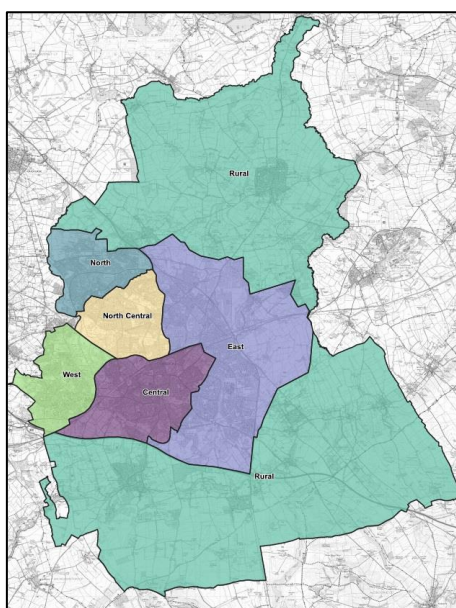
Our secondary planning areas differ slightly to our Primary.

The School Planning Areas for **secondary** are:



- North Swindon (N)
- Central
- East Swindon (E)
- West Swindon and Wiltshire (W)
- Rural

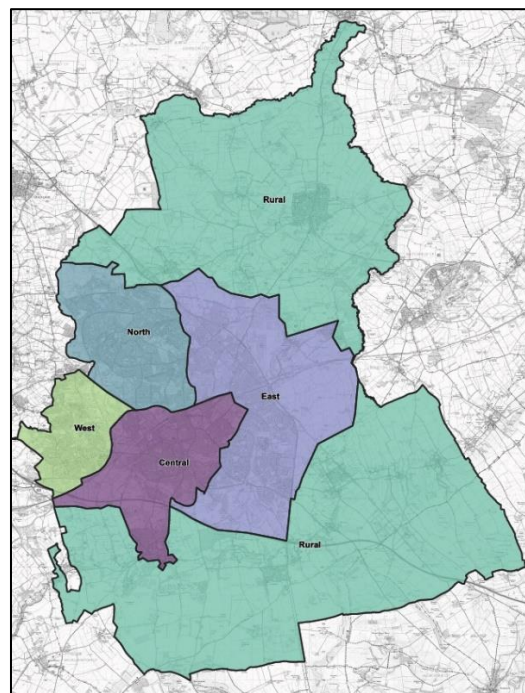
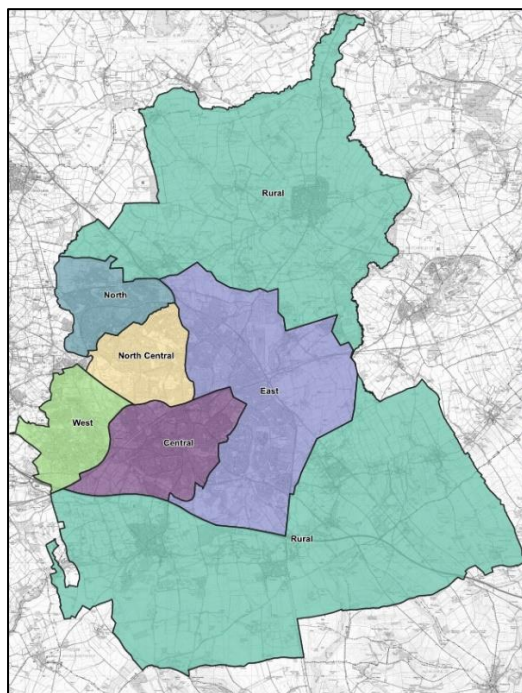
The School Planning Areas for **primary** are:



- North Swindon (N)
- North Central Swindon (NC)
- Central
- East Swindon (E)
- West Swindon and Wiltshire (W)
- Rural

New legislation in the form of the Academies Act (2010), popularity of schools and patterns of parental preference all have a bearing on the level of surplus places and the extent to which the Borough can manage school place pressures. Therefore, the recommendations set out in this document will need to be kept under review in the coming years to take account of the various trends in school provision and places. This will allow the Borough to update the Capital Programme for new builds and consider any revenue implications arising from increased transportation costs.

It is important to note that any decision has not been made regarding the strategy or site options outlined in this report. Where this report identifies site options they remain subject to detailed options appraisal, feasibility studies including discussions with Headteachers and Governors, funding and planning.



Primary Planning Area	Schools
North	Abbey Meads, Bridlewood, Catherine Wayte, Haydonleigh, Oakhurst, Orchid Vale, Red Oaks, St. Francis, Tadpole Farm, William Morris
North Central	Ferndale, Greenmeadow, Gorse Hill, Haydon Wick, Moredon, Rodbourne Cheney, Sevenfields, St. Mary's, Swindon Academy (Penhill & Pinehurst)
Central	Commonweal Secondary Catchment: Croft, East Wichel, Even Swindon, King William Street, Lethbridge, Robert Le Kyng, Lawn, Oaktree Lawn Manor Secondary Catchment: Drove, Holy Cross, Holy Rood, Lainesmead, Mountford Manor
East	Dorcan Secondary Catchment: Covingham Park, Eldene, Goddard Park, Holy Family, Liden, Nythe Kingsdown Secondary Catchment: Beechcroft Infants, Colebrook Infants, Colebrook Junior, Grange Infants, Grange Junior, Ruskin Junior, South Marston, St. Catherine's Ridgeway Secondary Catchment: Badbury Park
West	Brook Field, Hazelwood, Millbrook, Oliver Tomkins Infants, Oliver Tomkins Junior, Peatmoor, Shaw Ridge, Tregoze, Westlea
Rural	Highworth Warneford Secondary Catchment: Eastrop Infants, Southfield Junior, St. Leonard's, Westrop Ridgeway Secondary Catchment: Bishopstone, Chiseldon, Wanborough, Wroughton Infants, Wroughton Juniors

Secondary Planning Area	Schools
North	Abbey Park, GWA, Nova Hreod & Swindon Academy
Central	Commonweal, The Deanery, Lawn Manor & St. Josephs and UTC
East	Dorcan & Kingsdown
West	Lydiard Park
Rural	Ridgeway & Warneford

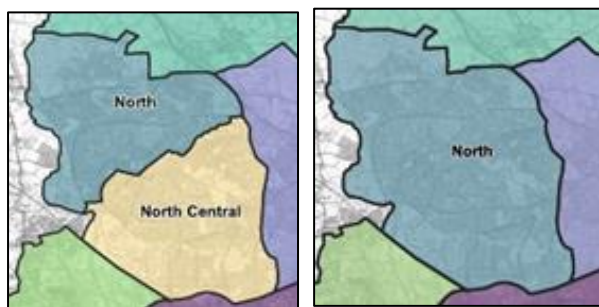
13 North Swindon

13.1 Schools in North Swindon

North Swindon encompasses a single secondary planning area, but has been split into two primary planning areas – North and North Central (see maps below). There are 10 primary phase schools in North Swindon (Abbey Meads, Bridlewood, Catherine Wayte, Haydonleigh, Oakhurst, Orchid Vale, Red Oaks, St. Francis, Tadpole Farm and William Morris).

In the North Central Area there are 9 Primary School (1 of which is an all through school). These are Ferndale, Greenmeadow, Gorse Hill, Haydon Wick, Moredon, Rodbourne Cheney, Sevenfields, St. Mary's, Swindon Academy (Beech Avenue & Alton Close sites) schools.

There are four secondary academies (Abbey Park, GWA, Nova Hreod & Swindon Academy). Swindon Academy is an all-through school offering both primary and secondary places, eventually up to sixth form.



The principle issues for the North area concern the existing pressures within the Northern Development Area (NDA) that will arise from the remaining homes to be completed at Tadpole Farm, Abbey Farm and Blunsdon Stadium. Tadpole Farm is currently in the Highworth Warneford catchment area,

however it is directly adjacent to Abbey Park School and Great Western Academy and therefore has been considered alongside the existing area of North.

13.2 North Swindon Primary Schools

Primary School	Forms of Entry
Abbey Meads Primary School	2
Bridlewood Primary School	1
Catherine Wayte Primary School	2
Haydonleigh Primary School	3
Oakhurst Primary School	2
Orchid Vale Primary School	2
Red Oaks Primary School	2
St Francis CE Primary School	2
Tadpole Farm CE Primary School	2
William Morris Primary School	2
Total Existing Capacity	20

13.3 North Central Primary Schools

Primary School	Forms of Entry
Ferndale Primary School	2
Greenmeadow Primary School	1.33
Gorsehill Primary School	2
Haydon Wick Primary School	1.33
Moredon Primary School	2
Rodbourne Cheney Primary School	1
Sevenfields Primary School	1.73
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	1.66
Swindon Academy	4
Total Existing Capacity	17.1

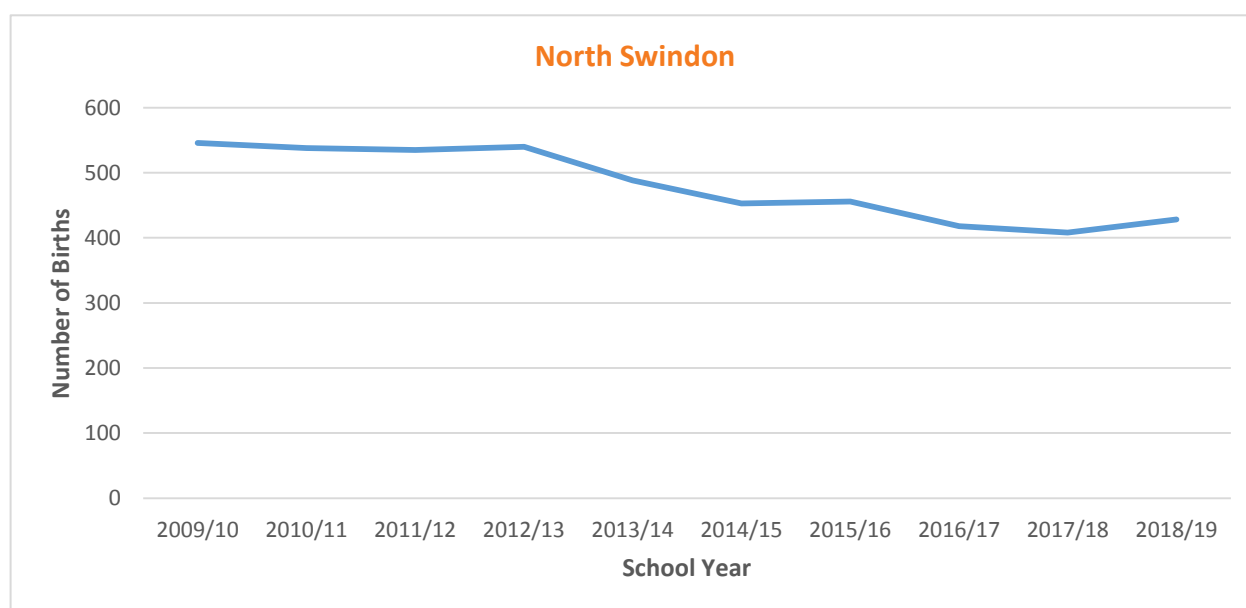
13.4 North and North Central Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Abbey Park	8
Great Western Academy	5
Nova Hreod	7.6
Swindon Academy	6
Total Existing Capacity	26.7

13.5 Primary (Split by North and Central North Planning areas)

13.6 Births in North Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in North Swindon primary planning area each year.



Data provided by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that the number of births in the North Swindon planning area was stable between 2009/10 and 2012/13 (~540 births per year), but has steadily decreased since to a low of 408 in 2017/18. In 2018/19 the number of births increased slightly to 428.

13.7 How accurate were our primary numbers?

In 2019/20, it was forecast that there would be 557 reception-aged pupils on roll in North Swindon primary schools. The October 2019 school census showed that there were actually 536 children in reception, an over-estimation of ~4%. In previous years the demand for reception places in the North Swindon primary planning area has fluctuated between over- and under-estimation.

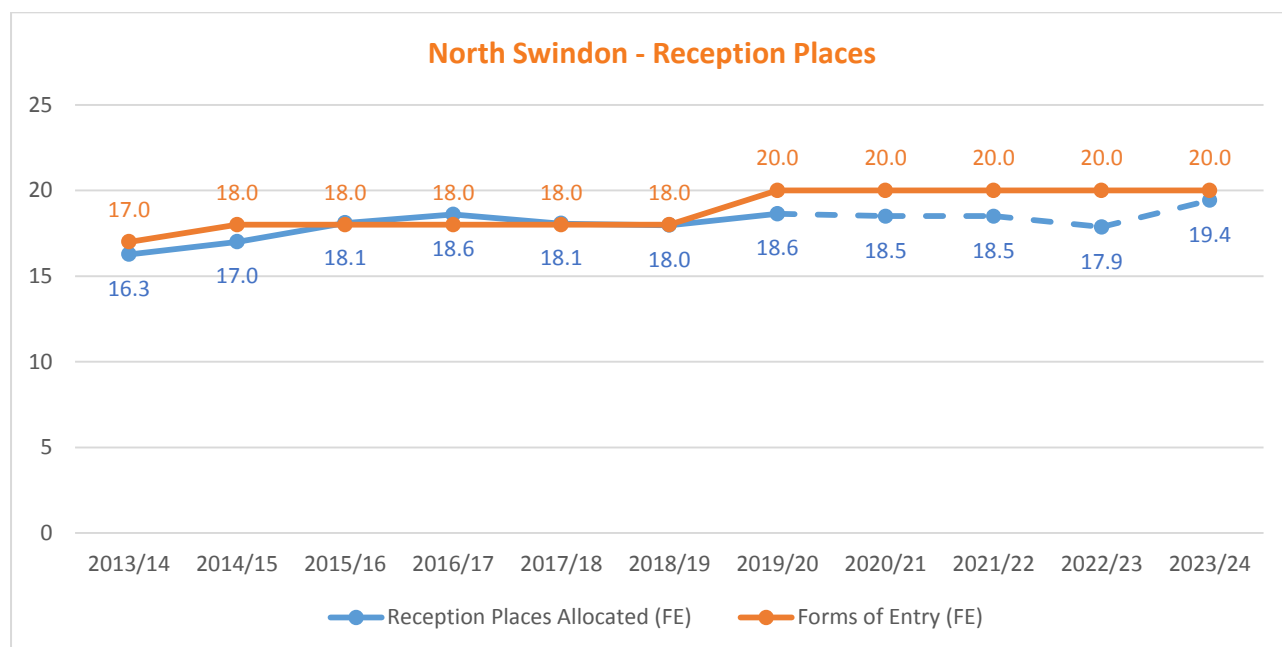
13.8 Existing North Area Primary School Pressure

The need for primary school places largely depends on the local child population and, to a much less extent, on pupils coming into the borough from adjacent areas. Extensive housing developments in North Swindon (e.g. Tadpole Garden Village) led to rising demand for school places between 2013/14 and 2016/17. However, the demand for Reception places has now plateaued and this situation is forecast to continue until 2023/24 when there is forecast to be a rise in demand. This is due to a combination of a rise in the birth rate and continued housing developments attracting children of Reception age to the North Swindon area.

The present net capacity of the North Swindon Primary Schools is 20FE (as at September 2020).

Overall, the number of pupils requiring a Reception place is forecast to remain below the overall PAN for the planning area, but as demand is not uniform there are still some schools in North Swindon that are likely to experience more pressure for places than others.

The graph shows the number of pupils that started school in North Swindon in the academic years 2013/14 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a Reception place in a primary school in North Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24.



13.9 What have we done previously?

The Borough has created places for the temporary bulge years as the Tadpole Farm development has been built out. There are extra classes in some year groups at Bridlewood, Red Oaks, Greenmeadow and Rodbourne schools that will, in time, work their way through the schools to Year 6. The schools will then resume their original capacity.

The Borough also permanently expanded Orchid Vale Primary School from a 1FE school to 2FE in Sept 2012, and Haydonleigh Primary School from a 2FE school to 3FE in Sept 2012. and Tadpole Farm CE Primary School opened as a 2FE school Sept 2014. An additional 2 FE Primary School, William Morris, also opened in September 2019.

13.10 Growth from housing development and peak demand

The Blundson Stadium development is circa 750 homes and this equates to 1.32 FE for Primary and will require additional school provision to be provided.

The housing development programme is not complete and there are about a further 629 houses to be built at Tadpole Farm. The pupil product from these houses will equate to a further 1.11FE

The Abbey Farm development of 370 houses (0.65 FE for Primary) is underway and nearly completed.

13.11 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the North area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places (pressure + new housing)	Total Demand for places
Primary	20 FE	-1.4 FE	1.32 +1.11 + 0.65 FE = 3.08	1.68 FE	21.68FE

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

13.12 What are we doing?

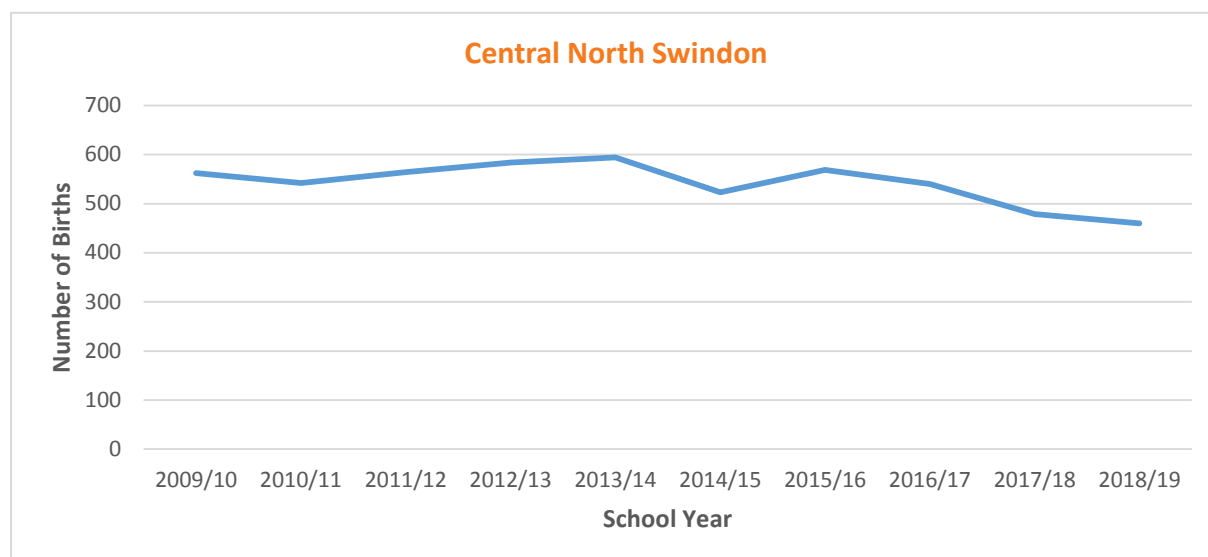
An additional 2FE school will be required at Abbey Farm to meet the demand generated from smaller infill developments in North Swindon, especially around Blunsdon Stadium. Abbey Farm Primary School is planned to open in 2022. This will give the North Swindon area a total of 22FE for Primary School space.

A further small risk to be identified is that the strategy for the provision of school places does not accommodate any change in provision in Wiltshire. Increased pressure on Swindon primary school places may result from additional housing in Wiltshire and has the potential to add to pressures in the North Swindon planning area.

13.13 Primary Central North Planning Area

13.14 Births in Central North Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in Central North Swindon primary planning area each year.



Data provided by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that the number of births in the Central North Swindon planning area steadily increased from 542 births in 2010/11 to a peak of 594 in 2013/14. There was a sharp drop in the number of births in 2014/15, but since 2015/16 the number of births have declined from 569 to 460 births in 2018/19.

13.15 How accurate were our primary numbers?

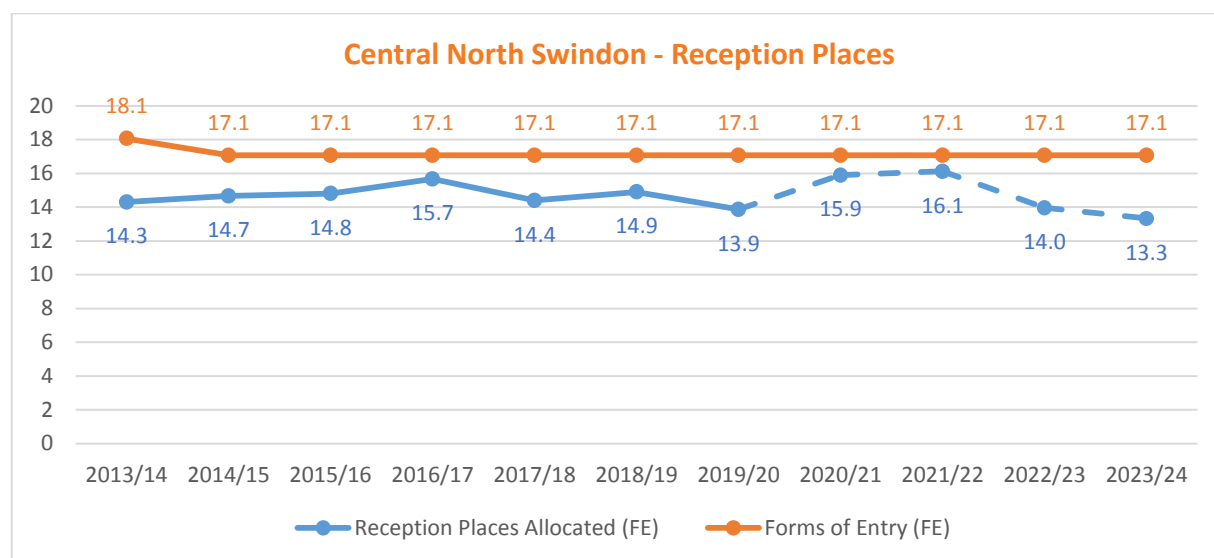
In 2019/20, it was forecast that there would be 476 reception-aged pupils on roll in Central North Swindon primary schools. The October 2019 school census showed that there were actually 439 children in reception, an over-estimation of ~8%. In previous years the demand for reception places in the Central North Swindon primary planning area has been continually overestimated by ~8 to 17%.

13.16 Existing North Central Area Primary School Pressure

The need for primary school places largely depends on the local child population. As Central North Swindon is an established urban area, with limited housing developments, the number of children requiring primary school places does not fluctuate excessively. Therefore, as the number of births has remained at similar levels, the demand for Reception places has been static. This state of affairs is forecast to more-or-less continue for as far as we forecast demand for Reception places for (2023/24), although there is expected to be a very slight decline in demand that reflects a slight decrease in the number of births. The demand for Reception places in Central North Swindon is expected to remain below overall PAN in the planning area.

The present net capacity of the North Central Swindon Primary Schools is 17.1FE (as at September 2020).

The graph shows the number of pupils that started school in Central North Swindon in the academic years 2013/14 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a Reception place in a primary school in Central North Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24 to be at circa 13.3FE.



13.17 What have we done previously?

In order to meet a bulge in the birth rate previously, there are extra classes in some year groups at Bridlewood, Red Oaks, Greenmeadow and Rodbourne schools that will, in time, work their way through the schools to Year 6. The schools will then resume their original capacity.

13.18 Growth from housing development

There is 250 houses to be built at the old North Star site and a further 60 at Cheney manor. This equates to 0.55 FE for Primary.

This can be met from the existing capacity in the area.

13.19 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the North Central area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places (Existing pressure and new)	Demand for places
Primary	17.1FE	-0.95	0.55	-0.4	16.7 FE

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

13.20 What are we doing?

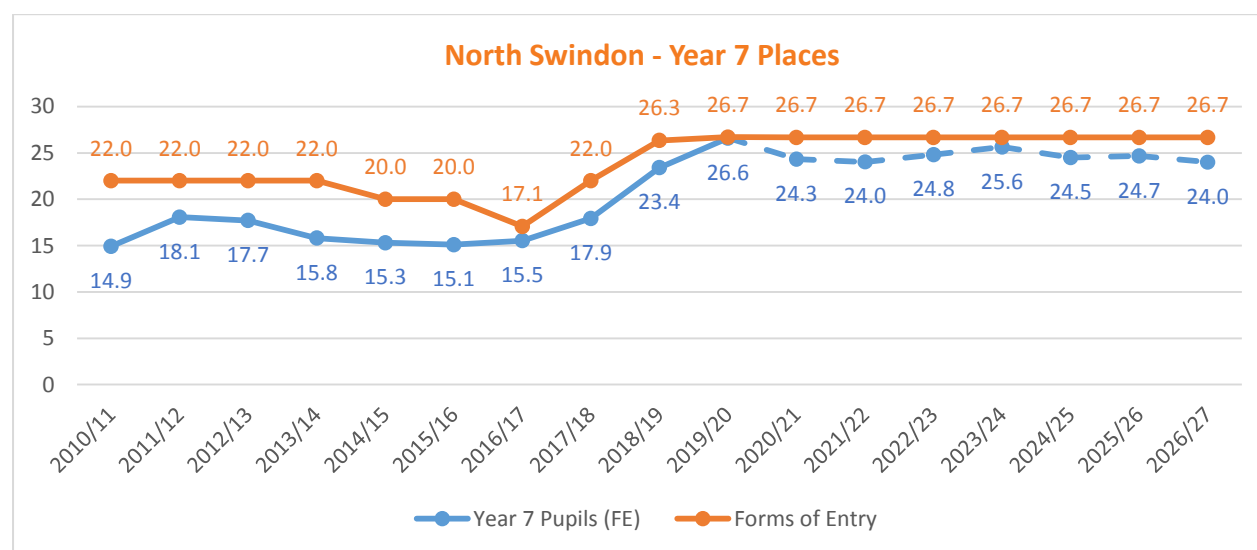
As there is forecast to be surplus places in the area from 2022 onwards, the LA is working with schools to identify alternative uses of provision, or to lower the PAN.

13.21 Secondary in North Swindon

13.22 Existing Secondary North Swindon School Pressure

The need for secondary school places is based on the number of pupils coming up to year 6 and estimated shares from feeder primary schools (based on historical data). In addition, a modifier accounting for new pupils to the areas (i.e. moved into new houses) is taken into account.

The present net capacity of the North Swindon Secondary Schools is 26.6 FE (as at September 2020).



The graph shows the number of year 7 pupils that started school in North Swindon in the academic years 2010/11 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a year 7 place in a secondary school in North Swindon between 2020/21 and 2026/27.

The number of children requiring Year 7 places in North Swindon has been significantly increasing since 2015/16 to reach a peak in 2019/20. This increase is due to the completion of extensive North Swindon development area which created a surge in demand.

This is expected to decrease over the next year and, barring a slight increase between 21/22 and 23/24, demand is predicted to be fairly stable for the foreseeable future. This is because of continued development in North Swindon such as Tadpole Garden Village and Abbey Farm.

13.23 How accurate were our secondary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 812 children on roll at North Swindon secondary schools in Year 7. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 798 children on roll, giving an over-estimation of 1.8%. Over the past 3 years, forecasting has been with +/- 2% of actual pupil numbers.

13.24 What have we done previously?

The Great Western Academy, a 5 FE (150 places per year group) Free School, opened in September 2018.

13.25 Growth from housing development

The Abbey Farm development of 370 houses (0.34 FE for Secondary) is underway and nearly completed, and the Blundson Stadium development is circa 750 homes and this equates to 0.7 FE for Secondary. There is also 250 houses to be built at the old North Star site and a further 60 at Cheney manor, which equates to 0.29 FE for Secondary.

13.26 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the North area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, growth and then peak.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Secondary	26.7 FE	-1.1	$0.29 + 0.7 = 0.99$	-0.11FE	26.59 FE

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

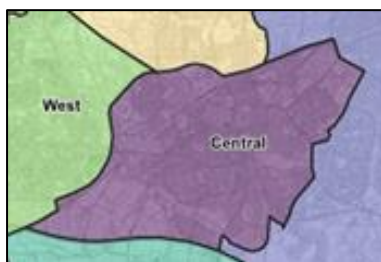
13.27 What are we doing?

From the known pressures and those from new housing, there is enough capacity in North Swindon secondary schools to meet these needs. It must also be noted that at the moment around 1.27FE from the North Swindon attend Highworth Warneford, which is in the Rural planning area, which if this continues would add more capacity to North Swindon secondary schools.

There is potential that the rising trend for parents in North Swindon to choose to send their children to schools in Wiltshire, as is happening in West Swindon, will continue to increase. This could help to reduce the pressure in the North Area. Whilst this would provide relief for secondary school places, reliance on such a strategy carries a high degree of risk, particularly as approximately 3.3 FE of children from North Swindon are currently educated in Purton, or Wootton Bassett.

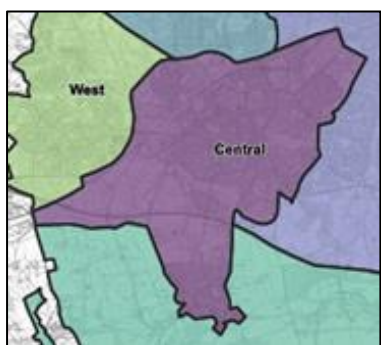
14 Central Swindon

14.1 Schools in Central Swindon



Central Swindon encompasses a single secondary planning area (see maps). There are 13 primary phase schools in Central Swindon (Croft, East Wichel, Even Swindon, King William Street, Lethbridge, Robert Le Kyng, Lawn, Oaktree, Drove, Holy Cross, Holy Rood, Lainesmead, Mountford Manor).

There are four secondary academies (Commonweal, The Deanery, Lawn Manor & St. Josephs).



The Swindon UTC is sited in this area but the students attending the school come from a much larger Swindon and North Wiltshire catchment area. The numbers of students attending Years 10 and 11 from are not used in the assessment of places for this study.

14.2 Central Primary Schools

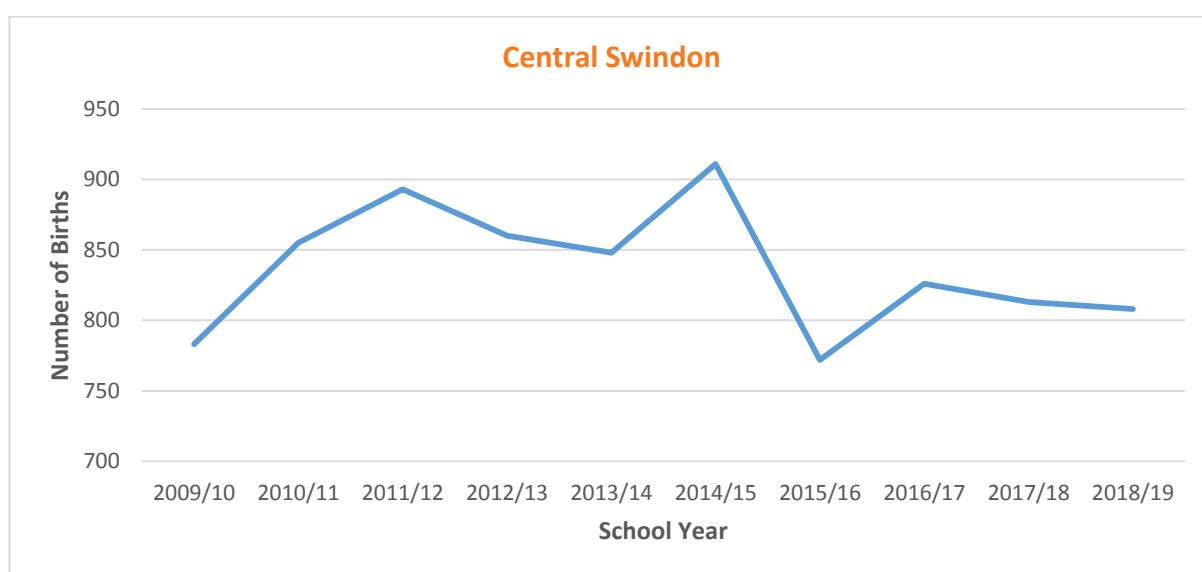
Primary School	Forms of Entry
Croft Primary School	2
East Wichel Primary School	2
Even Swindon Primary School	3
King William Street Primary School	1
Lethbridge Primary School	2.33
Robert Le Kyng Primary School	2
Lawn Primary School	2
Oaktree Primary School	1.83
Drove Primary School	3
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2
Holy Rood Catholic Primary School	2
Lainesmead Primary School	2
Mountford Manor Primary School	1
Total Existing Capacity	26.2

14.3 Central Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Commonweal	7.2
The Deanery	7
Lawn Manor	6.6
St Josephs Catholic College	9
UTC	
Total Existing Capacity	29.9

14.4 Births in Central Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in Central Swindon each year:



Data provided by Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that births in Central Swindon reached a peak in 2014/15 before a sharp reduction the following year. An increase of 54 births followed in 2016/17, since this Central Swindon has seen a steady decline.

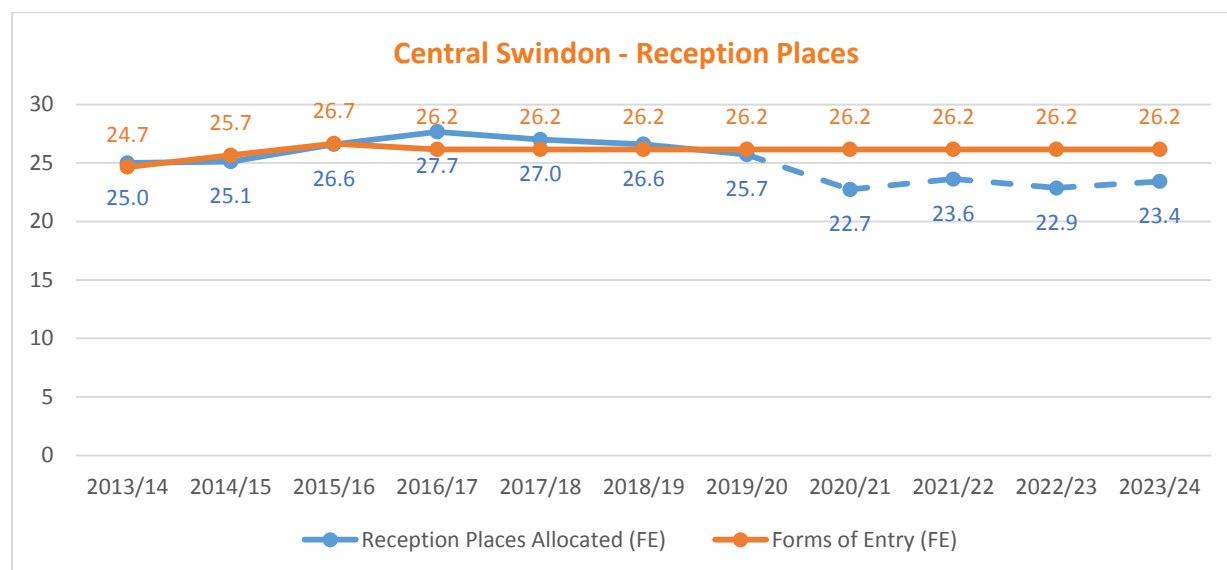
14.5 How accurate were our primary numbers?

In 2019/20, it was forecast that there would be 736 reception-aged pupils on roll in Central Swindon primary schools. The October 2019 school census showed that there were actually 772 children in reception, an under-estimation of 4.7%. Over the previous 5 years the demand for reception places in the Central Swindon primary planning area has been consistently under-estimated by 6% or lower.

14.6 Existing Central Area Primary School Pressure

The need for primary school places largely depends on the local child population and, to a much less extent, on pupils coming into the borough from adjacent areas. The pressure on school places in this area is due to the major housing development at Wichelstowe and the continuing urban housing development in central Swindon. There are already existing pressures on primary schools in Old Town and the Town Centre.

The graph shows the number of pupils that started school in Central Swindon in the academic years 2013/14 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a Reception place in a primary school in North Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24.



The demand for reception places in Central Swindon steadily declined between 2016/17 and 2019/20, a result of a falling rate of births. This decrease is predicted to accelerate to reach a low point in 2020/21.

Following the low point in 2020/21, demand is predicted to be fairly consistent for the next few years.

The graph shows that numbers are forecast to be 23.4FE in terms of demand against a capacity of 26.2 FE, therefore it is predicted that there will be surplus capacity in this area. Those schools that are forecast to have large amounts of surplus places have been contacted and are looking at available options to reduce their published admissions number (PAN). Any reductions in PAN will be carefully monitored and reviewed.

14.7 What have we done previously?

The Central area has seen extensive expansion in terms of schools in the past, including:

- 2FE primary school at Croft in Old Town in 2012.
- Even Primary school was expanded from 2FE to 3FE in 2012.
- The Holy Cross and Holy Rood Catholic Infant and Junior schools were re-designated as Primary schools and expanded, adding a total of an additional 2FE for Catholic provision.

14.8 Growth from housing development

In terms of planned housing growth in the central area, 2533 houses are planned for the Central area which equates to 4.46 FE. There is also 376 planned for the urban area which equates to 0.66 FE.

At the Wichelstowe development, there is also 2821 houses to be built, which equates to 4.97 FE.

14.9 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the North area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, growth and then peak.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Primary	26.2	-2.56	4.46 +0.66 +4.97 = 10.09	7.53 FE	33.73 FE

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

14.10 What are we doing?

There will be a need of an additional 8FE to be provided in the Central area for Primary provision.

The Wichelstowe development will provide 2 schools that will provide 4 FE of this provision:

- Kingfisher Primary School is due to open in September 2021. This will add 2FE to the area by 2023 as it phases its opening.
- West Wichel School will add a further 2 FE.

The timing of the new Primary Schools at Wichelstowe will be dependent on the build out rate of the new housing. One school should be built soon after commencement of the site as there will be little capacity for pupils to access schools nearby.

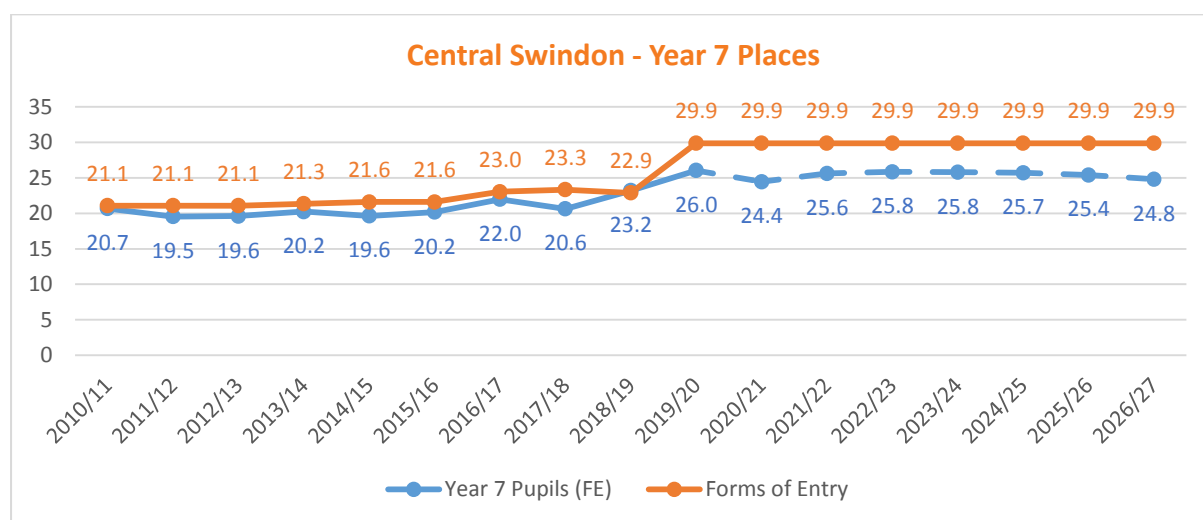
A further 4 FE will need to be provided in the Central area for Primary provision. Options for this will need to be examined but could involve the expansion of existing schools in the area such as Lawn Primary School, Lainesmead Primary School, Mountford Manor Primary School and Robert Le Kyng Primary School.

14.11 Secondary in Central Swindon

14.12 Existing Central Area Secondary School Pressure

The need for secondary school places is based on the number of pupils coming up to year 6 and estimated shares from feeder primary schools (based on historical data). In addition, a modifier accounting for new pupils to the areas (i.e. moved into new houses) is taken into account.

The graph below estimates the number of pupils who will require a secondary school place in Central Swindon from 2020/21 to 2026/27.



Initial demand for year 7 places in central Swindon was fairly consistent up to 2017/18. Since 2017/18 demand for year 7 places has been sharply increasing, reaching its highest level in 2019/20.

Demand is predicted to stay fairly consistent from 2020/21 onwards circa 26FE, against a capacity of 29.9FE in the area.

It must also be noted that there is trend in the Central area for children to attend the Ridgeway School. This has steadily rose over the last 5 years from 2FE in 2015 to 3 FE in 2019.

14.13 How accurate were our secondary numbers?

In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 777 children on roll in Central Swindon secondary schools in Year 7. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 781 children on roll, giving an under-estimation of 0.5%.

14.14 What have we done previously?

The Deanery opened in 2019 and this added an additional 7FE to the area. The School is opening on a phased basis.

14.15 Growth from housing development

The Wichelstowe development is still underway with a remainder of 2821 houses to be built which will equate to 2.63FE for Secondary.

In terms of planned housing growth in the central area, 2533 houses are planned for the Central area which equates to 2.36 FE. There is also 376 planned for the urban area which equates to 0.35 FE.

14.16 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the Central area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Secondary	29.8	-3.9	$2.36 + 0.35 + 2.63 = 5.34$	1.44	31.24

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

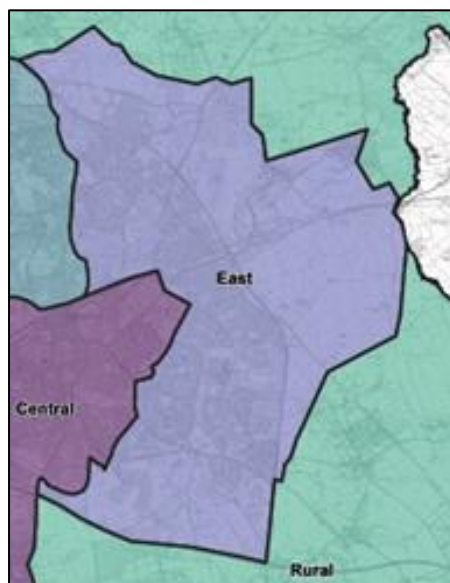
14.17 What are we doing?

Based on the planned housing growth in the Central area there is a need for an additional 1.44 FE. However, it must be noted that The Ridgeway School has, over the last 5 years, been popular as a choice from the Central area for parents. This has increased from 2FE in 2015 to 3FE of pupils from the Central area attending The Ridgeway in 2019.

However, if additional capacity was needed within the secondary schools in the Central Area, the existing schools would be best placed to expand and have the capacity to do so.

15 East Swindon

15.1 Schools in East Swindon



East Swindon encompasses a single secondary planning area (see maps). There are 9 Primary Schools (Badbury Park, Covingham Park, Goddard Park, Eldene Primary, Holy Family, Liden, Nythe, South Marston and St Catherines), 3 Infants and Juniors Schools (Colebrook, Grange and Beechcroft and Ruskin).

There are two secondary academies in the East (Dorcan Academy and Kingsdown School).

15.2 East Primary Schools

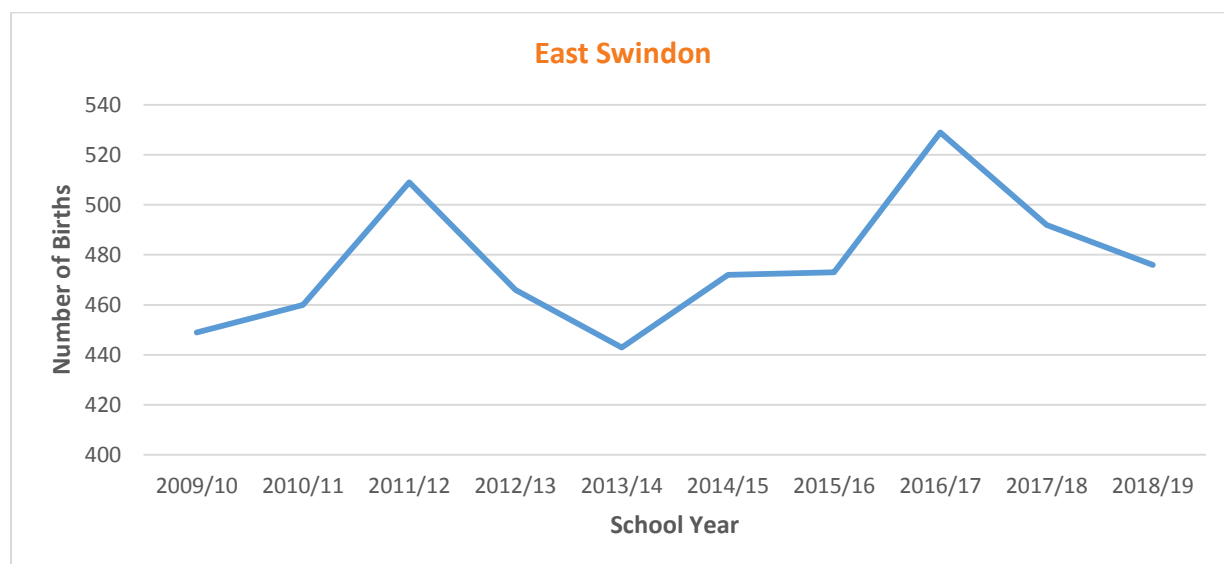
Primary School	Forms of Entry
Badbury Park Primary School	2
Covingham Park Primary School	2
Eldene Primary School	2
Goddard Park Primary School	3
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	1.5
Liden Primary School	2
Nythe Primary School	1
Beechcroft Infants School / Ruskin Junior School	3
Colebrook Infants School / Colebrook Junior School	1.66
Grange Infants / Grange Juniors	3
South Marston CE Primary School	0.5
St Catherines Catholic Primary School	1
Total Existing Capacity	22.7

15.3 East Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Dorcan Academy	6.33
Kingsdown School	7.73
Total Existing Capacity	14.1

15.4 Births in East Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in East Swindon each academic year:



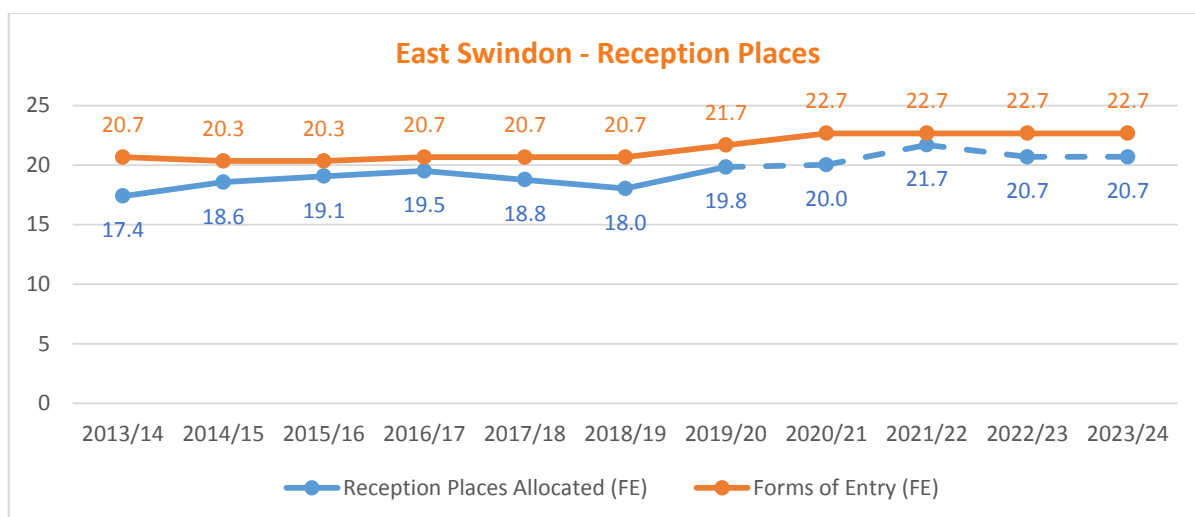
Data provided by Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that births in East Swindon have fluctuated for some years. Births in East Swindon reached a low point in 2013/14, steadily rising to a peak in 2016/17 and has declined since then. Birth rates in the coming years will be affected by the Badbury Park development.

15.5 How accurate were our primary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 613 children on roll at East Swindon primary schools in reception. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 595 children on roll, giving an over-estimation of 3%.

15.6 Existing East Primary Place Pressure

The graph below shows the number of pupils starting school in East Swindon in each of the academic years 2013/14 to 2019/20, and then estimates the number of pupils that will require a reception place in a primary school in East Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24:



Demand for reception places in East Swindon steadily increased between 2013/14 and 2016/17 before reducing slightly over the next 2 years. Demand then increased again to 2019/20 and is predicted to continue increasing up to 2021/22 before stabilising. As plans for the New Eastern Villages are delivered, an increase in demand for receptions places will be expected.

The principle issues for the East Area concern the proposed housing developments to the New Eastern Villages, at Commonhead, at Kingsdown and the South Marston brownfield sites.

15.7 What have we done previously?

Badbury Park Primary School opening in September 2019 in the East area.

15.8 Growth from housing development

The New Eastern Villages will form part of the East planning area for schools and the 8936 houses that are scheduled to be built in this development will require 15.74 FE for Primary, and 0.77 from South Marston Brownfield sites. There is also 1650 houses at Kingsdown development which equates to 2.91FE for Primary, along with the remainder of houses, 427, to be built at Badbury Park, 0.75 FE.

15.9 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the East area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Primary	22.7 FE	-1 FE	0.75 + 15.74 + 2.91 + 0.77= 20.17FE	19.17FE	41.87Fe

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

15.10 What are we doing?

In order to meet the additional 19.17FE that is required for the East area, the following are planned for the New Eastern Villages area and Kingsdown:

- 7 new primary schools will be provided in the New Easter Villages, 5 x 2FE and 2 x 3FE.
- South Marston primary school will be expanded by 1FE.
- A new 3FE primary school will be provided at the Kingsdown housing development.

The proposed primary school building programme is needed and justified as the housing developments are geographically dispersed with major road infrastructure dividing communities. The major roads form natural barriers to the movement of children. The Borough has a 'local children to local schools' policy and will therefore build primary schools at the centre of the new communities.

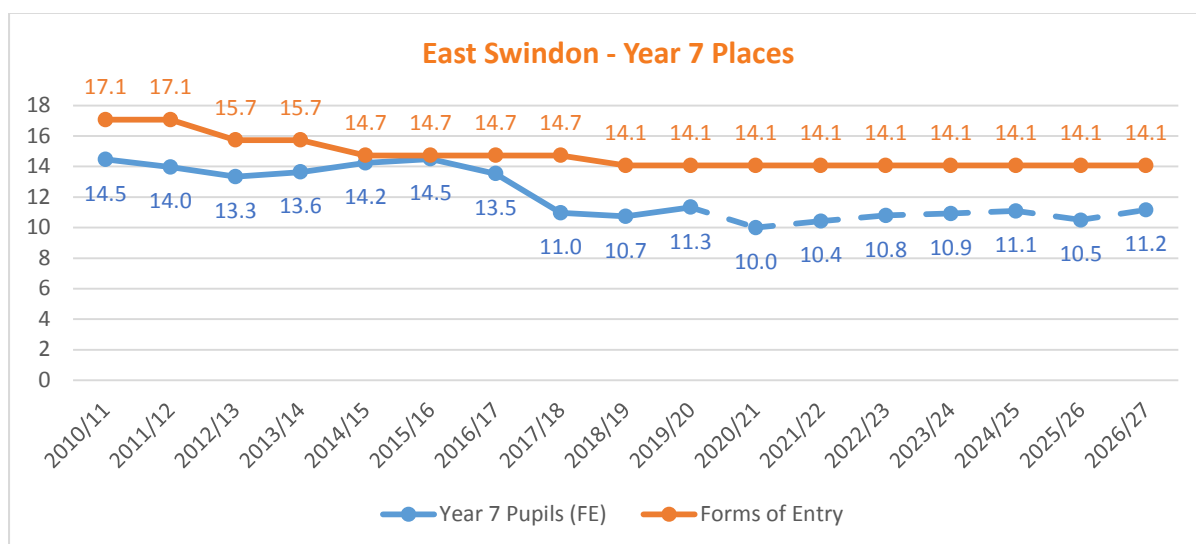
There are some surplus places to the west of the A419 road. It would be difficult to use the existing surplus places in the East to meet some of the need for new places generated by the new developments at the New Eastern Villages, the Commonhead and Kingsdown developments as they are the other side of the A419 and Marlborough Road.

The dates for building the additional schools need to be carefully managed and planned to be in alignment with the house building programme in each of the major housing developments. There are no easily accessed primary schools to temporarily expand whilst the houses are built. Both Commonhead and East of Swindon developments are geographically separate from the rest of the urban area.

15.11 Secondary in East Swindon

The need for secondary school places is based on the number of pupils coming up to year 6 and estimated shares from feeder primary schools (based on historical data). In addition, a modifier accounting for new pupils to the areas (i.e. moved into new houses) is taken into account.

The graph below shows the number of pupils starting secondary school in East Swindon in each of the academic years 2010/11 to 2019/20, and then estimates the number of pupils that will require a Year 7 place in a secondary school in East Swindon between 2020/21 and 2026/27.



The number of students requiring a year 7 place in East Swindon has declined overall since 2010/11.

There was a marginal increase in student demand for places between 2012/13 and 2015/16. Following this demand then dropped sharply over the following 2 years. Barring a predicted decrease in demand in 2020/21, the number of students requiring year 7 places is predicted to remain fairly consistent for the foreseeable future.

15.12 How accurate were our secondary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 356 children on roll in East Swindon secondary schools in Year 7. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 340 children on roll, giving an over-estimation of 4.7%.

15.13 Growth from housing development

The New Eastern Villages will form part of the East planning area for schools and the 8936 houses that are scheduled to be built in this development will require 8.34 FE Secondary, and 0.15FE from South Marston Brownfield sites. There is also 1650 houses at Kingsdown development which equates to 1.54FE for Primary, along with the remainder of houses, 427, to be built at Badbury Park, 0.40 FE.

15.14 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the East area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Secondary	14.1 FE	-2.8	8.34 +0.15 +1.54 +0.40 = 10.43	7.63	21.73

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

15.15 What are we doing?

In order to meet the demand in the New Eastern Villages a 10FE Secondary School is required.

A new school in the east of Swindon associated with development would deliver a learning campus in the heart of the community, with all the advantages that brings. The school would, with planning, be capable of managing the area school place pressures as well as temporary expansion as a result of the peak onsite

Dorcan has some surplus capacity at present and an element of the strategy for managing pressure in the east in the short term could involve transportation of pupils to Dorcan to taking up that surplus

16 West Swindon

16.1 Schools in West Swindon



West Swindon encompasses a single secondary planning area (see maps). There are 8 primary phase schools in West Swindon (Brookfield, Oliver Tomkins Infants and Junior School, Westlea, Shaw, Hazelwood, Peatmoor Tregoze and Millbrook).

There is one secondary academy in West Swindon, Lydiard Park Academy.

16.2 West Primary Schools

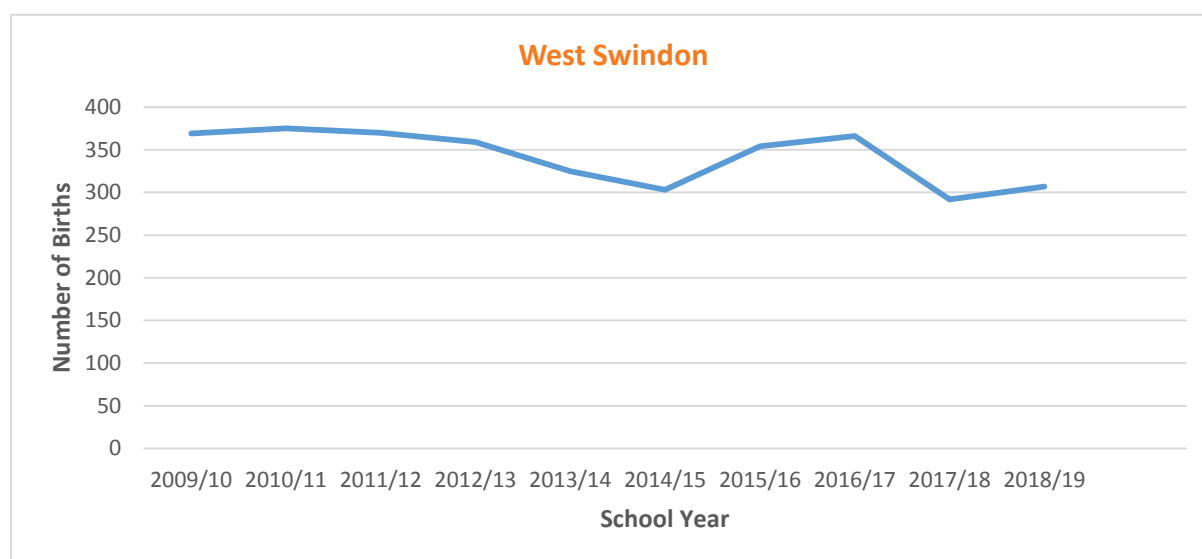
Primary School	Forms of Entry
Brookfield Primary School	2
Millbrook Primary School	1.5
Oliver Tomkins	2
Peatmoor Primary School	1
Shaw Ridge Primary School	2
Hazelwood Primary School	1
Tregoze Primary School	1
Westlea Primary School	1.5
Total Existing Capacity	12 FE

16.3 Central Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Lydiard Park Academy	7.4
Bradon Forest (in Wiltshire)	0.4FE
Wootton Bassett (in Wiltshire)	1.6FE
Total Existing Capacity	9.4 FE

16.4 Births in West Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in West Swindon each academic year:



Data provided by Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that births in West Swindon steadily declined between 2010/11 and 2014/14. The number of births increased for the following 2 years before reaching a low point in 2017/18. There was a slight increase in the birth rate for 2018/19.

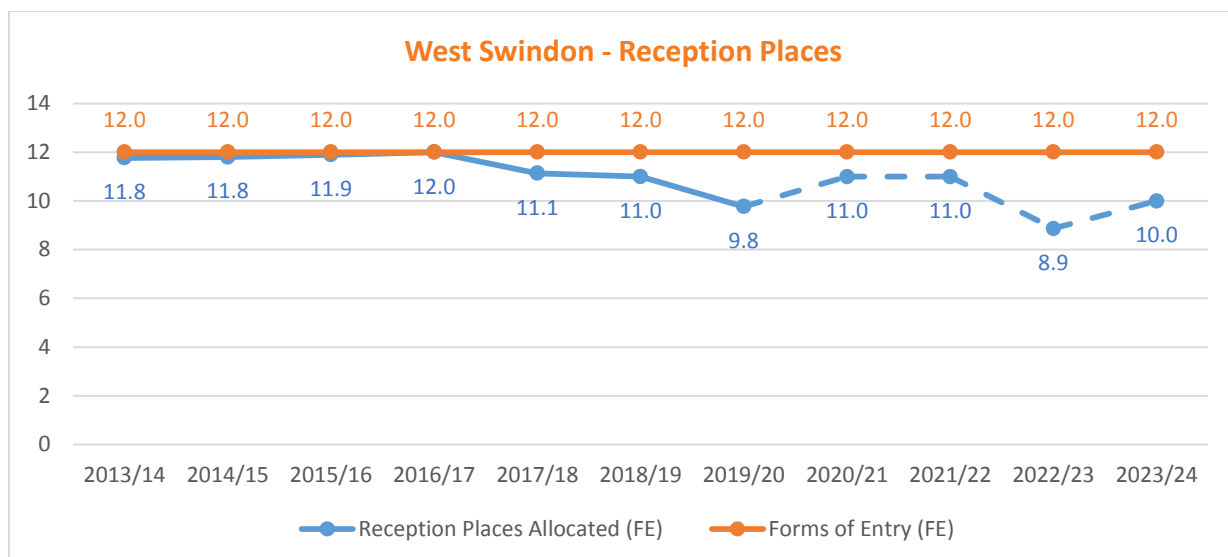
16.5 How accurate were our primary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 304 children on roll at West Swindon schools in Reception year. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 293 children on roll, giving an over-estimation of 3.8%.

16.6 Existing West Primary Pressure

The need for primary school places largely depends on the local child population and, to a much less extent, on pupils coming into the borough from adjacent areas.

The graph shows the number of pupils that started school in West Swindon in the academic years 2013/14 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a Reception place in a primary school in North Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24.



The number of reception places required in West Swindon has initially been consistent but 2016/17 to 2019/20 has seen a significant decline. This decline in demand can be attributed to a downward trend in the birth rate.

A short recovery of the birth rate is forecast to increase demand for reception places over the following 2 years.

After this increase in demand, the year 2022/23 is predicted to see a sharp drop in required reception places in West Swindon, again a result of the falling birth rate.

16.7 Growth from housing development

There is little housing to be built in West Swindon. However there is some small infill with 35 houses are due to be built at the Windmill Hill site, which equates 0.062 FE for primary.

16.8 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the West area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Primary	12 FE	-1 FE	0.06	-0.94	11.91

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

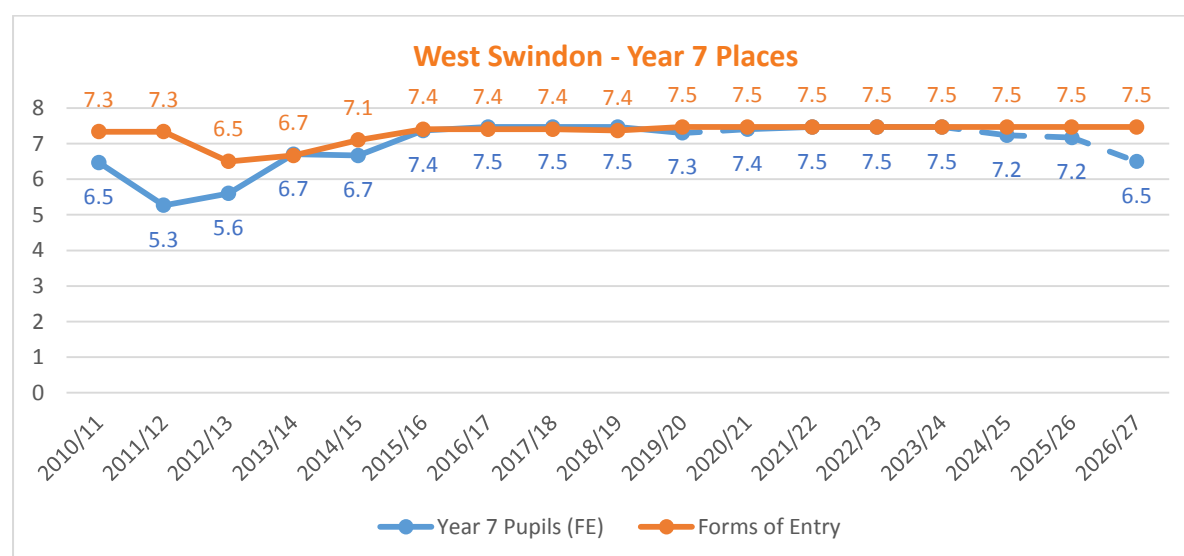
16.9 What are we doing?

There is enough capacity in West Swindon for children living in the area and there is little impact from any planned housing growth. From 2022 there is predicted to be a decline in the birth rate in the area, and as such the LA has engaged in discussions with those schools affected in the area to discuss the their PAN to manage the forecast decline.

16.10 Secondary in West Swindon

The need for secondary school places is based on the number of pupils coming up to year 6 and estimated shares from feeder primary schools (based on historical data). In addition, a modifier accounting for new pupils to the areas (i.e. moved into new houses) is taken into account.

The graph shows the number of year 7 pupils that started school in West Swindon in the academic years 2010/11 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a year 7 place in a secondary school in West Swindon between 2020/21 and 2026/27.



In West Swindon, the number of students requiring a year 7 place has seen a large increase between the academic years 2011/12 and 2015/16.

The demand has been consistent since 2015/16 and is predicted to remain so until 2025/26 when it is expected to decline at a faster rate.

Historically, West Swindon has had connections with Wiltshire secondary schools due to parental and pupil preference for alternative schools. The pupils have traditionally chosen Bradon Forest in Purton and Wootton Bassett. Over time at least 0.4FE have accessed Bradon Forest and 1.6FE has gone to Wootton Bassett. Whilst these schools are not formally part of Swindon's school place infrastructure, they play an important role, which must be reflected in this plan.

The major pressure on school places in this area relates to the knock-on impact of housing developments elsewhere. There is potential movement of pupils into Lydiard Park from the North as well as the Central. Additionally, housing development west of Swindon in Wiltshire has the potential to increase the number of pupils seeking places at Bradon Forest and Wootton Bassett and restricting the number of places available to, and currently taken by, Swindon pupils.

16.11 How accurate were our secondary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, the number of Year 7 pupils forecast to require a school place in the borough was 224, whereas the number on roll at West Swindon secondary schools in October 2019 was 219. This shows an over-estimation of 2.3%.

16.12 Growth from housing development

There is little housing to be built in West Swindon. However there is some small infill with 35 houses are due to be built at the Windmill Hill site, which equates 0.033 FE for Secondary.

16.13 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the West area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Secondary	9.4 FE (including 2 FE to Wiltshire schools)	- 2 FE	0.03	- 1.97	7.43

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

16.14 What are we doing?

Due to the historic links with Wiltshire providing school places for Swindon pupils (2FE in 2020) there is no surplus capacity for pupils from the West area at the present.

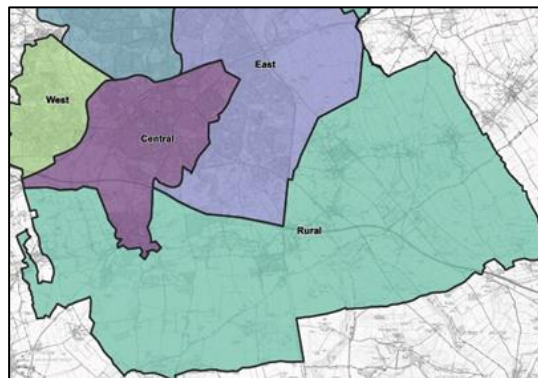
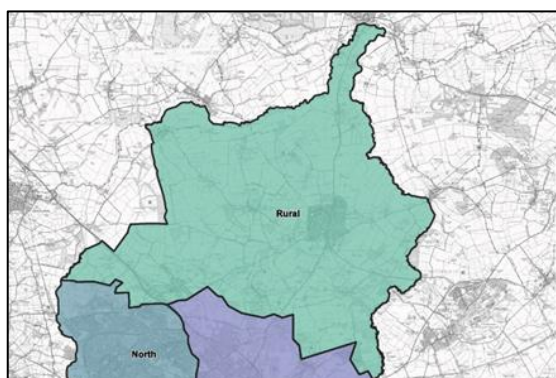
17 Rural Swindon

17.1 Schools in Rural Swindon

The Rural area consists of the two distinct areas of the Ridgeway Cluster, and Highworth. In the Highworth cluster there are 4 Primary / Infant / Junior schools; Eastrop Infants, Southfield Junior, St. Leonard's, and Westrop. In the Ridgeway cluster there are 5 Primary / Infant / Junior schools; Bishopstone, Chiseldon, Wanborough, Wroughton Infants, and Wroughton Juniors.

There are two secondary academies for the Rural area (The Ridgeway and Highworth Warneford).

Please note that although Badbury Park sits in the Ridgeway catchment area, it is not included in the Ridgeway cluster as it closest proximity is to the East of Swindon.



Rural Primary Schools

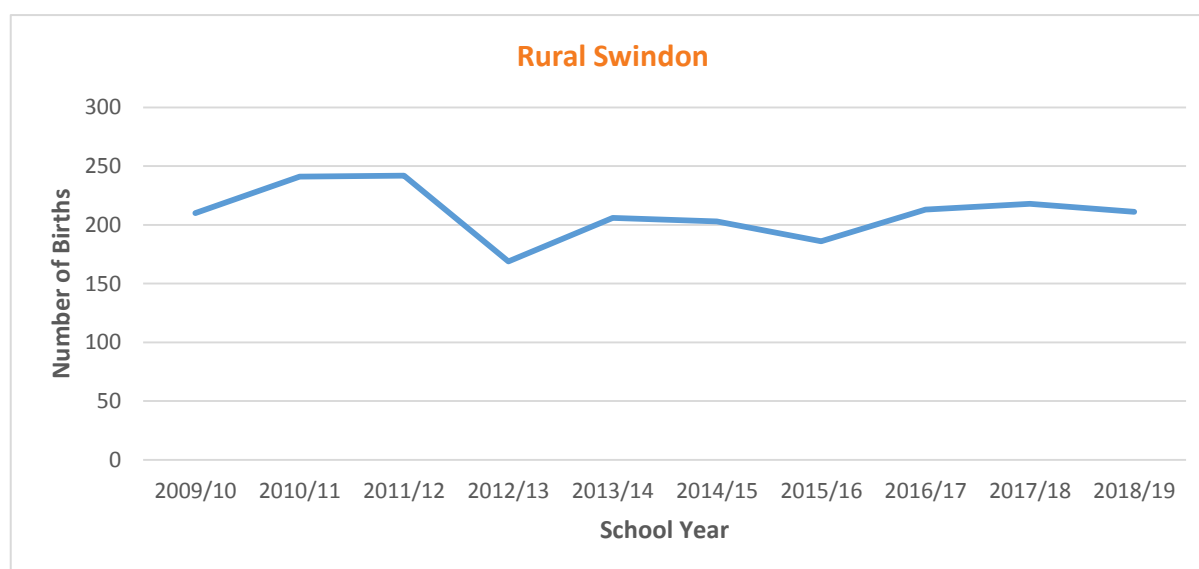
Primary School	Forms of Entry
Highworth Cluster	
Eastrop Infants / Southfield Junior School	2
Westrop Primary School	1.5
St Leonard CE Primary School	1
Total	4.5
Ridgeway Cluster	
Bishopstone Primary School	0.3
Chiseldon Primary School	1
Wanborough Primary School	1
Wroughton Infants / Wroughton Juniors	3
Total	5.3
Total Existing Capacity	9.8

17.2 Rural Secondary Schools

Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Ridgeway School	9
Highworth Warneford School	6
Total Existing Capacity	15 FE

17.3 Births in Rural Swindon

The graph below shows the number of births in Rural Swindon primary planning area each academic year.



Data provided by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that the number of births in the North Swindon planning area has remained fairly consistent since a low point in 2012/13 which saw a dip of 73 births from the previous year before rising again in 2013/14.

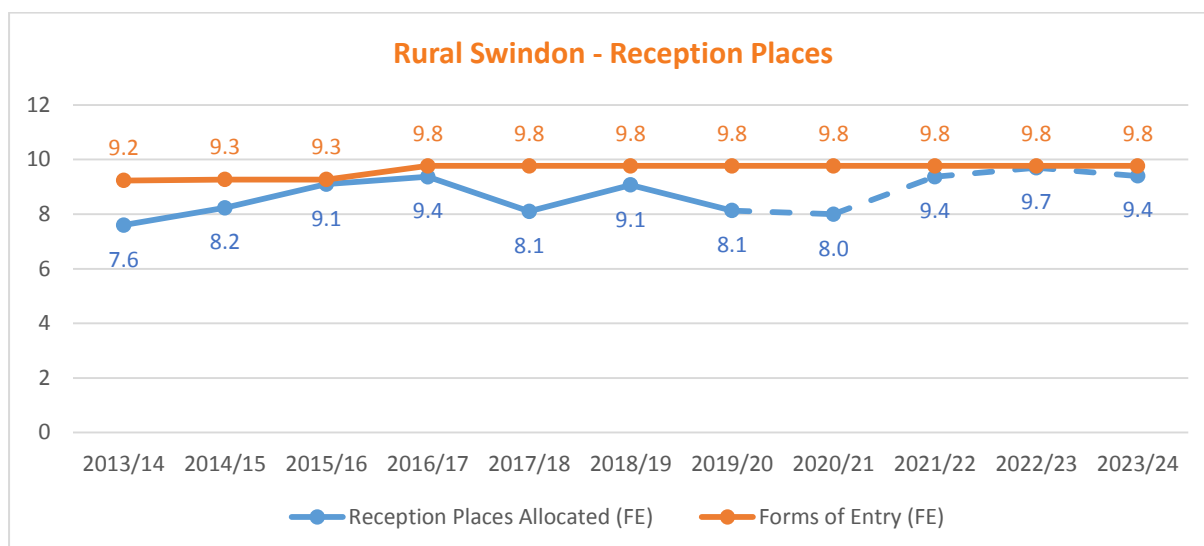
17.4 How accurate were our primary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, it was forecast that there would be 262 children on roll at schools in Rural Swindon in Reception year. The school census from October 2019 showed that there were actually 244 children on roll, giving an over-estimation of 7.4%.

17.5 Existing Rural Primary Place Pressure

The need for primary school places largely depends on the local child population.

The graph shows the number of pupils that started school in Rural Swindon in the academic years 2013/14 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a Reception place in a primary school in Rural Swindon between 2020/21 and 2023/24.



Demand for reception places in rural Swindon consistently rose between the academic years 2013/14 and 2016/17 due to an increase in the number of births. A short lived decrease in the birth rate saw a dip in demand for reception places in 2017/18.

Following this dip, demand returned to pre 2017/18 levels before falling again in 2019/20 and a further predicted decrease up to 2020/21, again a result of a fall in the number of births.

Following this decline, as a result of an increase in the birth rate, forecasts see a gradual increase in demand between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

17.6 Growth from housing development

There is housing that is planned to be built in both the Ridgeway and Highworth clusters. In Highworth there is 558 houses to be built, which equates to 0.98 FE for Primary. In The Ridgeway cluster there is 608 houses planned in Wroughton which equates to 1.1FE, and then 152 in the clusters villages, which equates to 0.3 FE.

17.7 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the Rural area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Primary Highworth	4.5	- 1 FE	0.98	-0.02	4.5
Primary Ridgeway	5.3	- 1 FE	1.1 + 0.3 = 1.4	0.4	5.7
Total					

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

17.8 What are we doing?

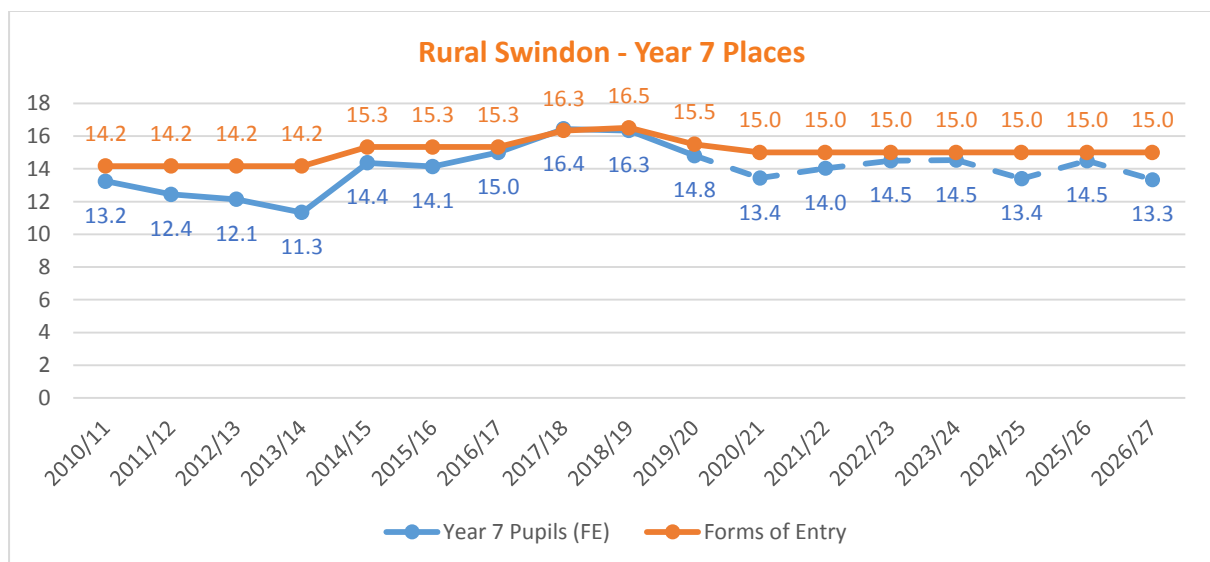
The predicted housing in Highworth brings the required FE to the capacity in the area, or just over, and due to this the LA will investigate schools in the area with regards to going over their PAN, to put in place bulge classes when they are necessary, or to re-opening Northview if necessary. These options will need to be thoroughly examined and the timing of the house building will need to be taken into account as not all the houses will be built at once, and when they are built the birth rate may be lower allowing for the 0.98FE the houses will generate, negating the need to add capacity.

The housing growth in the Ridgeway cluster shows that there could be a need for an additional 0.4 FE in the area. In order to meet this the LA would have individual discussions with schools in the cluster to meet that demand by adjusting the PANs of schools.

17.9 Secondary in Rural Swindon

The need for secondary school places is based on the number of pupils coming up to year 6 and estimated shares from feeder primary schools (based on historical data). In addition, a modifier accounting for new pupils to the areas (i.e. moved into new houses) is taken into account.

The graph shows the number of year 7 pupils that started school in Rural Swindon in the academic years 2010/11 – 2019/20. It then forecasts the number of pupils that will require a year 7 place in a secondary school in Rural between 2020/21 and 2026/27.



Except for a slight dip in demand in 2015/16, demand rose significantly over the academic years 2013/14 to 2017/18. Following this increase, the number of students requiring year 7 places in rural Swindon decreased over the following 2 years, to 2019/20 and is predicted to fall further still in the year 2020/21. Forecasts then show that demand will steadily increase up until 2023/24 before fluctuating slightly in the subsequent years.

It must be noted that The Ridgeway School has, over the last 5 years, been popular as a choice from the Central area. This has increased from 2FE in 2015 to 3FE of pupils from the Central area attending The Ridgeway in 2019.

It must also be noted that around 1FE of children from North Swindon choose to attend Warneford (September 2019). This has decreased over the last 5 years, and was at 1.6FE at its highest point.

17.10 How accurate were our secondary numbers?

It is useful to understand how accurate the forecasts are year on year. In 2019, the number of Year 7 pupils forecast to require a school place in Rural Swindon secondary schools was 452, whereas the number on roll at Rural Swindon secondary schools in October 2019 was 444. This shows an over-estimation of 1.8%.

17.11 What have we done previously?

Both The Ridgeway and Highworth Warneford Schools are Academies and as such, both varied their PAN over the previous years based on the available capacity in the school and parental choice at the time.

17.12 Growth from housing development

There is housing that is planned to be built in both the Ridgeway and Highworth clusters. In Highworth there is 558 houses to be built, which equates to 0.52 FE for Secondary. In The Ridgeway cluster there is 608 houses planned in Wroughton which equates to 0.57FE, and then 152 in the clusters villages, which equates to 0.14 FE for Secondary.

17.13 Total Demand

The table below calculates the total demand for additional school places in the Rural area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, and growth.

	Capacity	Existing Pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Total Demand for places
Secondary Highworth	6	- 0.5 FE	0.52	0.02	6.02FE
Secondary Ridgeway	9	- 0.5 FE	0.57 + 0.14 = 0.71	0.21	9.21FE

*Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

17.14 What are we doing?

From the information above, the growth from housing in the rural area means that the capacity at the secondary schools is sufficient. It is important to note that currently both secondary school admit pupils from outside of their planning area; Ridgeway draws 3FE from the Central area, and Warneford draws 1 FE from North Swindon. If there are more children within their own cluster, then this would result in both schools taking more children from their own clusters, rather than other planning areas. The net result is that there would be sufficient capacity in the rural secondary schools.

18 School Places Strategy 2021 – 2023: Implementation Plan

Area	Short Term – 1 to 2 years Academic Years 2021/22 – 2022/23	Medium Term – 3 to 5 years Academic Years 2023/24 – 2025/26	Long Term – 3 to 5 years Academic Years 2025/26 – 2030/31
East Swindon.	<u>2022</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1FE expansion at South Marston school (currently 0.5FE) to serve development in South Marston and early stages of the new eastern village expansion. <u>2022/2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 2FE Primary school at Redlands in the New Eastern Villages 	<u>2023/24</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 2FE Primary School at Rowborough in the New Eastern Villages. 	<u>2025/26</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 3FE Primary school at Lotmead A new 2FE Primary School at Upper Lotmead <u>2026/27</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 10FE secondary school with 6th Form at Great Stall East <u>2027/28</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 3FE primary school at Great Stall East in the new eastern villages <u>2029/30</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 2FE Primary school at Foxbridge in the new eastern villages. <u>2030/31</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 2FE Primary school at Lower Lotmead in the new eastern villages.
Central Swindon	<u>2021</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Kingfisher Primary School 2FE at Wichelstowe. 		
North Swindon	<u>2022/23</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 2FE Abbey Farm Primary School in Blunsdon. 		New 3FE primary school in Kingsdown. Exact timing of opening yet to be confirmed.
Central South			New 2FE primary school in West Wichel. Exact timing of opening yet to be confirmed.

