

# **Cabinet**

**Wednesday, 7 September 2016**

## **Additional Information**

Agenda Item No. 9 – School Place Planning Update 2016 – Appendix

Contact: Steve Jones (Telephone 01793 463602),  
email: [stevejones@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:stevejones@swindon.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

# Swindon School Place Planning Study Update

November 2015

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## Contents

1.	Executive Summary	3
2.	Purpose of the Update	8
3.	Recommendations	9
4.	Methodology	10
5.	Strategic Background and Context	13
6.	Overall School Place Needs	15
7.	Distribution of School Place Needs	20
8.	North Swindon	22
9.	Central and South	27
10.	East Swindon	31
11.	West Swindon and Wiltshire	35
12.	Catholic Cluster	39

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Swindon Borough Local Plan is the main planning policy document for Swindon Borough, providing the planning policy framework to deliver sustainable growth up to the year 2026. It sets out how much housing development the Borough needs and identifies where, when, and how development will take place in Swindon Borough.
- 1.2. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and to help fulfil every child's educational potential. It must also ensure there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental choice.
- 1.3. This paper brings together information from a range of sources and sets out the issues the Borough will face in meeting its statutory duties for providing school places until 2026. The strategy includes present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity and new housing.
- 1.4. The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 outlines a strategy for long-term growth including around a further 21,400 homes. Table 1, below, outlines how the growth will be distributed and sets out the predicted impact on available school places across the town in addition to existing pressures. The house building programme will generate a need for around 24 forms-of-entry at primary and secondary school level across the town. A 'Form of Entry' (FE) equates to 30 pupils and there are 12 year groups from Reception in the Primary sector to Year 11 in a Secondary school.

**Table 1 – Primary and Secondary School Place Needs from new housing development**

Location	Housing Nos	School Place Needs Forms of Entry (FE)	Estimated No. of Pupils	Methodology
Tadpole Farm (N)	1695	1.86	670	$(1695 \times 0.033)/30$
Wichelstowe (S&C)	4064	4.47	1609	$(4064 \times 0.033)/30$
Swindon Urban (S&C)	4511	4.97	1789	$(4511 \times 0.033)/30$
Kingsdown (E)	1650	1.81	652	$(1650 \times 0.033)/30$
Commonhead (E)	890	0.98	353	$(890 \times 0.033)/30$
East of Swindon (E)	8000	8.8	3168	$(8000 \times 0.033)/30$
South Marston Brownfield (E)	140	0.15	54	$(140 \times 0.033)/30$
Swindon Rural Area	450	0.49	176	$(450 \times 0.033)/30$
<b>Total Swindon Borough</b>	<b>21400</b>	<b>24 (23.53)</b>	8471	

### North Swindon

- 1.5. There are already pressures for primary and secondary school places in North Swindon caused by a rise in cohort size.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

- 1.6. The developments at Oakhurst, Redhouse and Haydon End have recently been completed and further growth at Tadpole Farm and Abbey Farm will add to existing pressure.

## (a) Primary

- 1.7. Plans have already been put into place to increase numbers to support the growth in primary places. A new primary school has been provided at Tadpole Farm. Basic Need Funding was secured to increase both Orchid Vale and Haydonleigh Schools by an additional 1FE. Temporary places have been secured at existing schools to manage the primary school pressures of bulge years.
- 1.8. A second, 2FE primary school will be needed by September 2017 to manage the pressure from the additional housing at Tadpole Farm. In addition a further 2FE school will be needed at Abbey Farm to accommodate the cumulative impact of similar infill developments from September 2019 or September 2020.

## (b) Secondary

- 1.9. Although there are surplus places within the schools of the area as of September 2015 there will be an increasing demand for further places once the larger cohorts already present in the Primary Schools feed their way through to the secondary sector.
- 1.10. Further pressure of additional secondary pupils will be apparent from the continuing house building programme at Tadpole Farm.
- 1.11. A new 5 to 7FE secondary free school is scheduled and needed for this area, The Great Western Academy. The Department for Education has approved a 5FE school to be open by 2018.
- 1.12. Traditionally there has been movement of young people to Bradon Forest School in Purton and Wootton Bassett School, both Wiltshire schools. This has occurred through pupil and parental choice and amounts to approximately 3.5FE per year. There is a further movement of 2FE per year to other out of Borough Schools. This is envisaged to continue.

## Central and South

- 1.13. There are already pressures on primary and secondary school places in Central and South Swindon caused by a rise in cohort size from demographic trends.
- 1.14. Large scale housing developments in the Central Urban area of the Borough have started and will continue. Further large scale growth at Wichelstowe will also add to existing pressure.

## (a) Primary

- 1.15. There is already pressure on primary school places in Old Town and Swindon town centre as the birth rate continues to increase in the short term. These pressures will transfer to secondary schools in due course. Development at

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

Wichelstowe and other sites in this area will significantly increase demand for places. The build out rate of new houses will have an impact on when and where the new schools will be built.

- 1.16. Croft and Holy Cross Primary Schools opened in September 2012 and 2014 respectively which has relieved some of the immediate pressure in this area.
- 1.17. Even Primary school has expanded from 2FE to 3FE in 2012.
- 1.18. A further 2 primary schools both of 2FE will need to be provided at the new Wichelstowe development.
- 1.19. Establishing at least one new school and expanding an existing primary school in the Central and South area will meet the remaining pressure

## (b) Secondary

- 1.20. A new 7FE secondary free school has been approved to open at Wichelstowe. This will significantly support the pressure for extra secondary places with any further places being met by the surplus available in Ridgeway and Churchfields schools catchment areas.
- 1.21. There are already pressures on primary and secondary school places in Central and South Swindon caused by a rise in cohort size from demographic trends.

## East Swindon

- 1.22. There are both primary and secondary surplus places in East Swindon at present. However, the housing developments at East of Swindon, Commonhead and Kingsdown will produce the numbers of young people that will be far in excess of surplus places available. Additional school provision will need to be built.

## (a) Primary

- 1.23. To meet primary school place needs there will need to be:
  - A new 1FE primary school built at the Commonhead development.
  - South Marston primary school to be expanded from 0.5FE to 1.5FE
  - 4 to 5 new primary schools, each of 2FE, for the east of Swindon development area.
  - A new 2FE primary school in the Kingsdown development area

## (b) Secondary

- 1.24. A new 8/10FE secondary school will need to be provided to serve the East of Swindon development.
- 1.25. Whilst there is currently a small surplus of places in the secondary schools, the demand for places will far outstrip the surplus once the three major developments have been built out. The timing of the building and opening of the proposed new school will depend on the build out rate of the developments.
- 1.26. In order to manage pressure in the short term and assist with any peak demand in the longer term it is proposed to use the forecast capacity at Dorcan or Kingsdown and expand the school if necessary.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## West

- 1.27. There are no primary surplus places in West Swindon at present and a complex picture of secondary aged pupils moving to Wiltshire schools.
- 1.28. There are no housing developments planned in West Swindon Education Assessment Zone.
- a) Primary
- 1.29. At the present time the correct number of places exist for primary pupils in West Swindon. However, there has been a slight rise in the birth rate and this will begin to have an impact on the lack of surplus places in the next few years. Beyond the 2017 Reception Year intake the numbers in the cohorts fall. There may be a need for some temporary solutions to any further increase in pupil numbers in the short-term.
- b) Secondary
- 1.30. A significant number of West Swindon pupils are educated in Wiltshire. Therefore this paper has included an analysis of the two Wiltshire Schools that traditionally accept Swindon pupils. This assessment has been necessary to reflect and understand the patterns and their impact in West and North Swindon.
- 1.31. The major pressure in the long term for West Swindon relates to the knock-on effects of housing developments adjacent to Swindon in Wiltshire and the potential impact if parental preference for Bradon Forest or Wootton Bassett secondary schools changes. If, for whatever reason, future pupils who would currently be educated in Wiltshire 'come back' into the Swindon network, there would not be enough places to accommodate them. Potential expansion would be needed to manage this pressure.
- 1.32. At present approximately 3.5FE of pupils are educated in Wiltshire from West Swindon. This equates to approximately 500 pupils.
- 1.33. There is a need to secure, at least, another 1 to 2FE of secondary school places in the West Assessment Zone.

## Overall

- 1.34. The table below sets out how the Borough will meet the long term Primary School place need.

Table 2 – Meeting Primary Place Needs



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

School	Number of schools	Assessment Zone	Type of Provision	Forms of Entry
Tadpole Farm 2	1	North	New build	2
Abbey Farm	1	North	New build	2
Wichelstowe	2	Central & South	New build	4
Central urban area	1	Central & South	New build	2
Central urban area	1	Central and South	Expansion	1
Commonhead	1	East	New build	1
South Marston	1	East	Expansion	1
New Eastern Villages	4/5	East	New build	8/10
Kingsdown	1	East	New build	2
			<b>Total</b>	<b>23/25</b>

- 1.35. The table below sets out the how the Borough will meet the long term secondary school place needs

Table 3 – Meeting Secondary Place Needs

School	Assessment Zone	Type of Provision	Forms of Entry
Great Western Academy	North	New School	5 - 7
Wichelstowe	Central & South	New School	7
New Eastern Villages	East	New School	10FE
		<b>Total</b>	<b>22 - 24FE</b>

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 2. Purpose of the Update

- 2.1. In both April 2009, and the revised document in 2011, the School Place Planning Study report identified the number of school places, and a range of other educational needs, required to meet Swindon's long-term educational place planning needs until 2026. The paper considered demographic projections, proposed housing development areas and the need to support attainment and opportunities for young people across the town and Borough. The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 indicating the proposed house building programme has now been published and adopted. This paper now updates and supersedes the original papers.
- 2.2. The report updates the School Place Planning Study 2011 in light of changes to the forecast housing numbers and distribution of development sites for Swindon as set out in the Local Plan.
- 2.3. The report also takes into account the most recent demographic information available as there are changes that will affect the numbers of pupils entering full time, compulsory education.
- 2.4. The report should be read alongside the School Place Planning Study (2009) and the update in 2011.
- 2.5. The report only deals with primary and secondary school needs. Matters relating to early years, post-16 and special educational needs provision are subject to separate strategic studies currently under review. The long term aim is to coordinate all elements into an overarching Education Commissioning Strategy.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Section 1 sets out the overall mainstream school place needs for Swindon in order to meet the requirements of the long term planning strategy.
- 3.2 It is important to note that no decisions have yet been made regarding the strategy or site options outlined in this report. Where this report identifies site options they remain subject to detailed Option Appraisals, feasibility studies, funding and planning.

### Surplus places

- 3.3 This report recommends that, despite the financial challenges associated with accommodating growth, around 6% surplus places be maintained at secondary school level and 8% 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.
- 3.4 For a full list of detailed recommendations to meet the long term demand of both Primary and Secondary school places are given Section 1 Executive Summary.  
Overall
  - Around 23 to 25 forms-of-entry will be required to accommodate growth and existing demand for primary school places.
  - Around 22 to 24 forms-of-entry will be required to accommodate growth for secondary school places.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1 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
- 4.2 Using this method, forecasts are produced for:
- Primary and secondary pupil numbers available by school, by area and year group up to 2023;
  - Secondary pupil numbers available by school (total number on roll - NOR) to 2023;
  - Area level projections including new housing. These are assessed using simple multipliers of 0.231 for primary and 0.165 for secondary aged children per new dwelling. This equates to a pupil yield factor of 0.033 per year group per 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

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## Overall Needs

No of houses	X	Pupil yield (0.033)	=	No. of pupils	/ 30	=	<b>No of Forms of Entry (FE)</b>
--------------	---	---------------------	---	---------------	------	---	----------------------------------

## OR

## Primary Needs

No. of houses	X	Primary pupil yield (0.231)	/	No. of primary year groups (7)	=	No. of primary pupils	/ 30	=	<b>No of Forms of Entry (FE)</b>
---------------	---	-----------------------------	---	--------------------------------	---	-----------------------	------	---	----------------------------------

## Secondary Needs

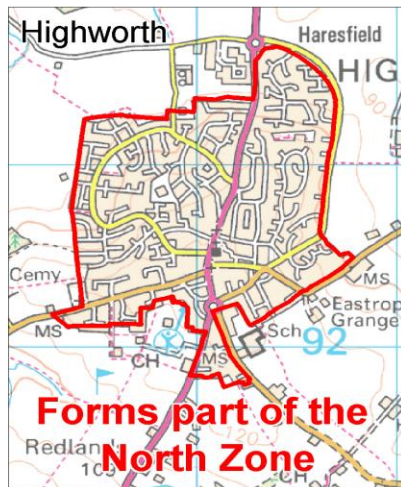
No. of houses	X	Secondary pupil yield (0.165)	/	No. of secondary year groups (5)	=	No. of secondary pupils	/ 30	=	<b>No of Forms of Entry (FE)</b>
---------------	---	-------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	---	-------------------------	------	---	----------------------------------

- 4.3 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
- 4.4 This report identifies possible site changes and options for change ie 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.
- 4.5 This update to the School Place Planning Study identifies options around:
- Total school place need to accommodate the proposed level of development
  - Existing capacity and surplus places available to accommodate development at existing schools
  - The distribution of existing schools and proposed solutions to accommodate additional pupils as part of any housing development
  - Internal displacement is not explicitly catered for.

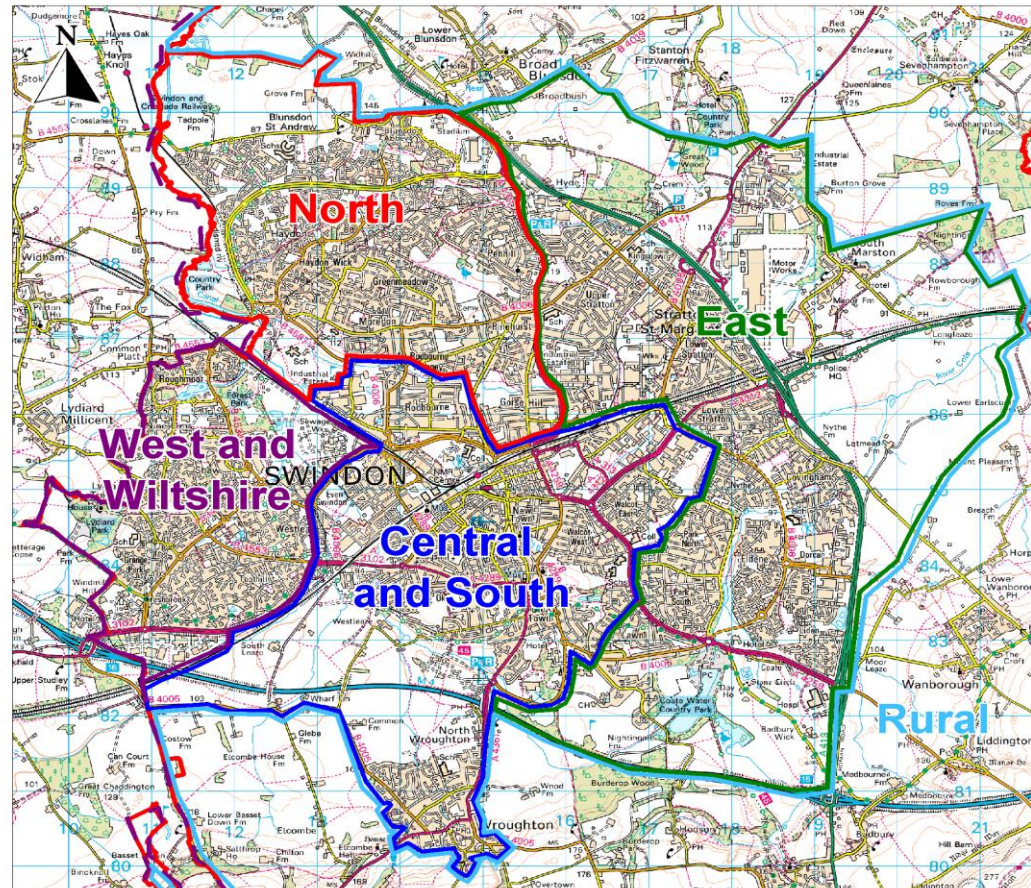
# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

Figure 1 – Map

## School Place Planning Zones



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Swindon Borough Council 100024296 2011



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 5. Background and Context

### Vision for Swindon

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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”. Linked to that priority a pledge was made that “in addition to the two new Free secondary schools, build on secondary and 12 primary schools to meet the needs of our increasing population”.

### The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 The Swindon Borough Local Plan (‘the Plan’) was formally adopted by Swindon Borough Council on 26th March 2015. The Plan provides an overarching framework to deliver sustainable economic growth up to 2026.
- 5.6 The Local Plan has been developed to be in accordance with the Swindon Economic Strategy.
- 5.7 The Swindon Economic Strategy was adopted by Full Council on the 17th January 2013. The Strategy is linked to the OneSwindon priority to ensure “we can all benefit from a growing economy and a better town centre” and Swindon Borough Council’s objective to have the “right skills, right jobs, in the right places”.
- 5.8 The Economic Strategy sets out what good economic growth looks like for Swindon, how we best pursue it, and what actions are necessary by the Council and other stakeholders in Swindon to ensure we achieve the outcomes set out in OneSwindon. It covers the drive for more jobs, the right skills and visible improvements to our Town Centre and the Swindon ‘offer’ as a place to live and work.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

- 5.9 The Local Plan has 10 strategic objectives. Local Plan Strategic Objective 5: Education states: - to meet the need for education provision arising from the anticipated growth in population and to enable an improvement in skills and qualifications, particularly through the provision and support of tertiary education opportunities. The Swindon School Place Planning Study and Strategy contributes to this objective by ensuring that the correct numbers of school places are available and in the right geographical areas of the Borough.

## The Local Plan

- 5.10 The Local Plan identifies a housing target of approximately 21,400 homes from 2015 to 2026. These will be distributed as follows and set out in figure 1 in the respective school planning areas:
- 4,100 homes at Wichelstowe (South and Central)
  - 4,500 homes within Swindon's existing urban area (South and Central)
  - 1650 at Kingsdown (East)
  - 8,000 homes to the east of Swindon (East)
  - 890 homes at Commonhead (East)
  - 140 South Marston brownfield (East)
  - 450 homes within Swindon's rural area (Wroughton and Highworth)

## Community Strategy

- 5.11 The Swindon Sustainable Community Strategy aims to promote high aspirations supported by superb education provision for all ages. The Core Strategy objectives to support this aim are to:
- Support high aspirations and skills to enable everyone to make a contribution to Swindon's economy
  - Support an approach to lifelong learning that integrates early years, primary, secondary, tertiary, special and adult learning
  - Establish schools at the heart of their communities to deliver wider social and economic benefits for all
  - Create and develop inclusive, accessible, supportive and safe learning environments
  - Provide a university to align skills with local business needs and retain Swindon's brightest young people

## Children's Services

- 5.12 Children's Services has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and to help fulfil every child's educational potential. It must also ensure there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental choice.



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

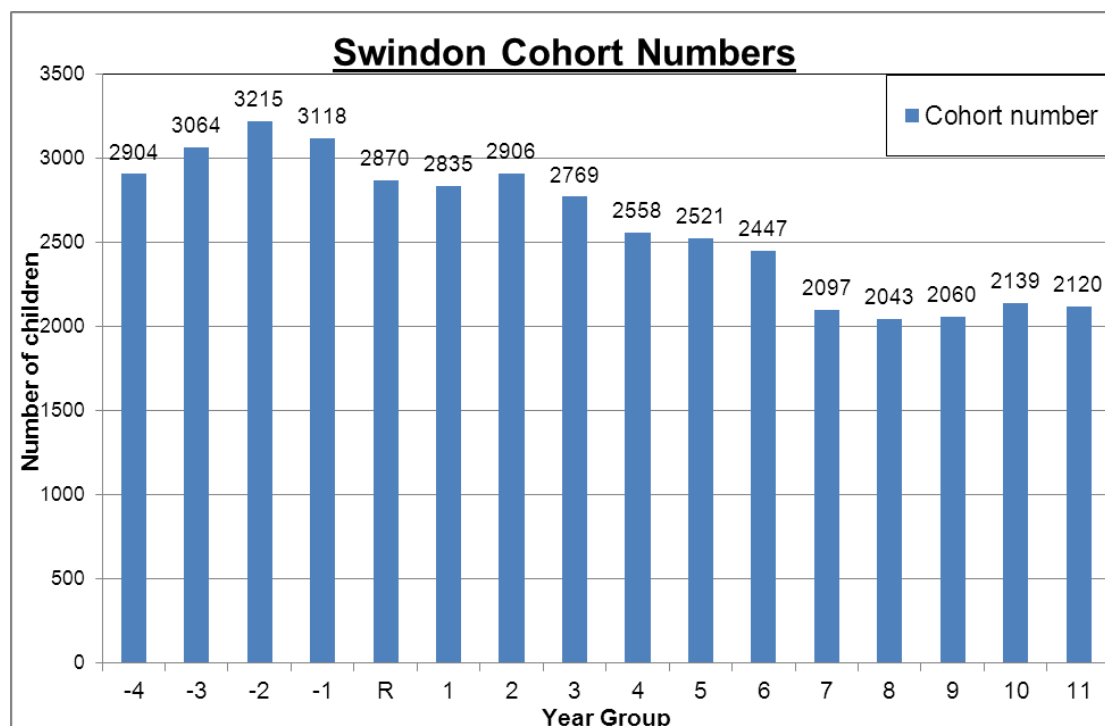
## 6 Overall School Place Needs

- 6.1 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.

### Existing Pressure

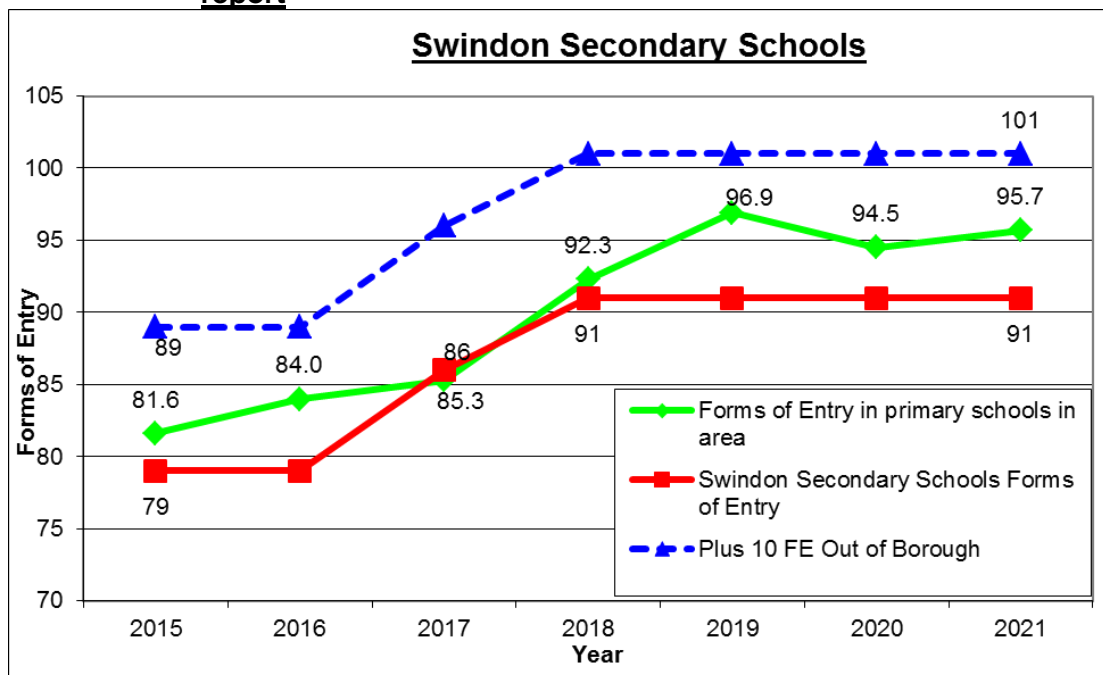
- 6.2 The existing pressure is derived from two sets of data. The first is the known numbers of pupils present in the schools as of January 2015 and the second is the known births that have been recorded in the Borough and supplied by the Child Health Team. The number of under 5s is reviewed each year and this gives an overall increase from the number recorded at birth. It seems likely that this increase is due to the immigration of young families into the Borough.

#### a. Bar graph of overall cohort size by year group

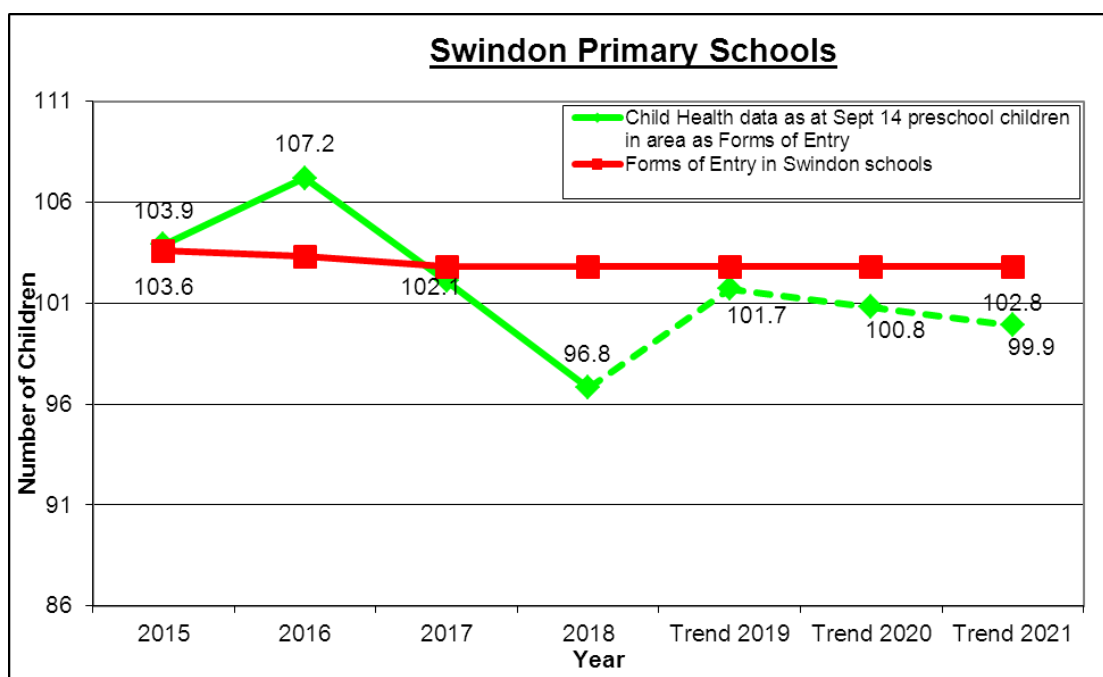


# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

**b. Figure 2a – Borough-wide Secondary School Pressure as per last report**



**c. Figure 2b – Borough-wide Primary School Pressures as per last report**



## Growth due to housing proposals

- 6.3 In addition to the present numbers of young people there will be an increase 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

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

based on 0.231 and 0.165 primary and secondary aged children per dwelling, which equates to a pupil yield of 0.033 per year 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).

**Table 2 – Primary and Secondary School Place Needs from new development**

Location	Housing No's	School Place Needs Forms of Entry (FE)	Methodology
Tadpole Farm	1695	1.86	$(1695 \times 0.033)/30$
Wichelstowe	4064	4.47	$(4064 \times 0.033)/30$
Swindon Urban Area	4511	4.96	$(4511 \times 0.033)/30$
Commonhead	890	0.98	$(890 \times 0.033)/30$
Kingsdown	1650	1.81	$(1650 \times 0.033)/30$
East of Swindon	8000	8.80	$(8000 \times 0.033)/30$
South Marston	140	0.15	$(140 \times 0.033)/30$
Swindon Rural Area	450	0.5	$(450 \times 0.033)/30$
<b>Total</b>	<b>21400</b>	<b>23.54</b>	

- 6.4 The total forms-of-entry (FE) requirement from new housing developments for both primary and secondary is 23.54 FE, approximately 7500 extra pupils across the Primary and Secondary age ranges.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Furthermore, flats in the town centre are proving to generate higher pupil figures than had been anticipated e.g. Paramount. As a consequence of these two factors, the 50% discount in the school place calculation for the urban area has been removed.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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,

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

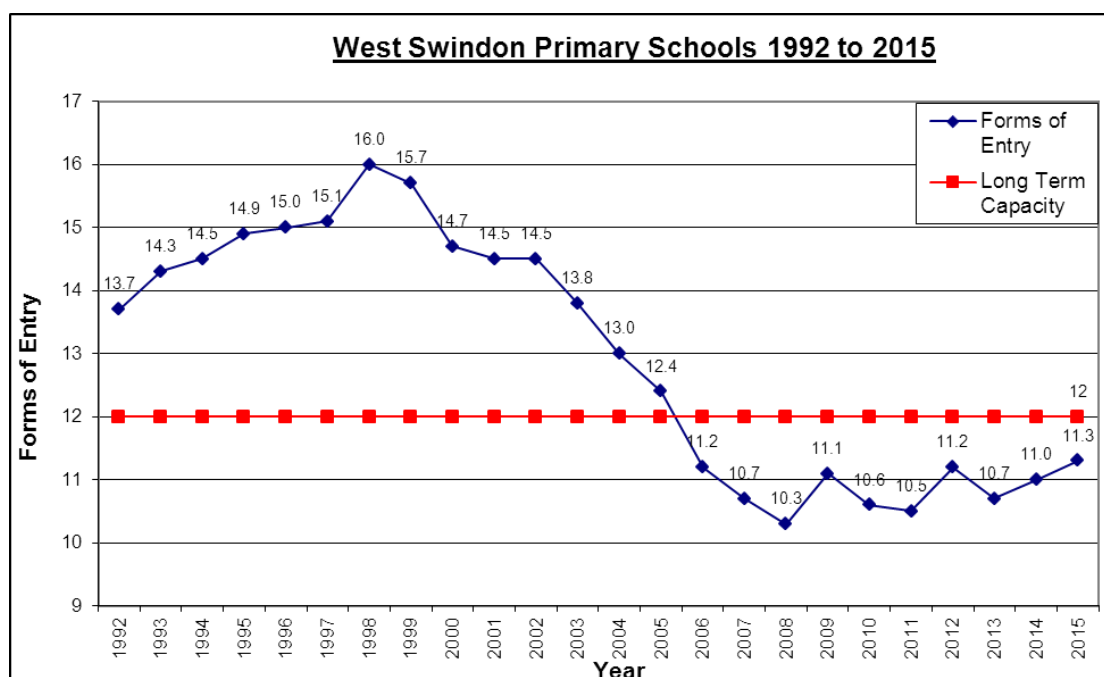
- Enable the new school to grow on a phased basis, linked to the occupation of new housing,
- Act as a catalyst for house sales.

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

## Peak numbers of pupils

6.10 Swindon has experienced rapid significant post war growth, which has seen the town expand to the east around the Eldene, Liden and Dorcan areas. There then followed an expansion to the west, north and currently the south and east are planned. This has generated a pattern of school place demand, which would not normally occur in a more organically grown settlement, referred to within this document as “the peak”. The peak for West Swindon is shown below in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 – Borough-wide Secondary School Pressures**



6.11 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.

6.12 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

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

middle-aged adults in an ageing development area without children. This causes a trough in school place demand before stabilising in the future.

- 6.13 This can cause difficulties when planning school places, especially for primary schools and the communities that they serve as they are more 'local' than the secondary schools. In the past in West Swindon this has resulted in primary school closures. Conversely and concurrently the growth in the Northern Development Area has attracted an increasing number of young families. The challenge is to be able to estimate and provide school places for the long term as the population stabilises and at the same time predict and manage the temporary short-term peak.
- 6.14 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.
- 6.15 To manage this Swindon-specific pattern in the long term, this report recommends providing temporary accommodation at primary schools where there are urban housing developments.
- 6.16 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.

## Transport of pupils

- 6.17 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.
- 6.18 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 7 Distribution of School Place Needs

- 7.1 The purpose of this section is to consider the best way to distribute school places to meet long-term demand from existing pressures and future housing growth. The overall aim of the Borough is, wherever possible, to provide additional schools, or extensions to present schools, in close proximity to existing and projected demand and to support the establishment of schools at the heart of their communities. However, it also aims to take a wider, more strategic view to ensure that local pressures are not viewed in isolation of the Swindon-wide situation.

### School Place Planning Assessment Zones

- 7.2 For the purposes of assessment, the School Place Planning Study (2009) divided Swindon into three urban areas and one rural area. In the 2011 study, whilst the rural and neighbouring authorities remain the same, the urban areas were amended to better reflect the relationship between secondary schools and the geography of Swindon. (See Figure 1). These 'new' areas are reused in this paper (2015)
- 7.3 These are:
- North Swindon (N) and adjacent Rural areas
  - Central and South Swindon (C&S) and adjacent Rural areas
  - East Swindon (E)
  - West Swindon and Wiltshire (W)
- 7.4 These assessment zones 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 zones 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
- 7.5 Within each assessment zone 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.
- 7.6 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

- 7.7 New legislation in the form of the Academies Act, 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.
- 7.8 It is important to note that no decisions have yet 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 8 North Swindon

### a) Overview of area

- 8.1 The secondary school clusters included within the Northern Assessment Zone are Isambard, Nova Hreod, Swindon Academy and Highworth Warneford. The principle issues for the Northern Assessment Zone concern the existing pressures within the Northern Development Area (NDA) that will arise from the remaining homes to be completed at Tadpole Farm. Tadpole Farm is currently in the Highworth Warneford catchment area, however it is directly adjacent to Isambard and therefore has been considered alongside the existing area of North Swindon.

**Table 3 – North Swindon Schools**

Primary School	Forms of Entry
Abbey Meads Community Primary School	2
Bridlewood Primary School	1
Catherine Wayte Primary School	2
Ferndale Primary School	2
Gorse Hill Primary School	2
Greenmeadow Primary School	1.33
Haydonleigh Primary School	3
Haydon Wick Primary School	1.33
Moredon Primary School	2
Oakhurst Community Primary School	2
Orchid Vale Primary School	2
Red Oaks Primary School	2
Rodbourne Cheney Primary School	1
Seven Fields Primary School	1.73
St Francis C of E Primary School	2
St Leonards Primary School	1
Eastrop/Southfield	2
Westrop	1
Swindon Academy	4
Tadpole Farm Primary School	2
<b>Total Existing Capacity</b>	<b>37.39</b>
Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Isambard	8
Nova Hreod	6
Swindon Academy	6
Highworth Warneford	6.3
<b>Total Existing Capacity</b>	<b>26.3</b>



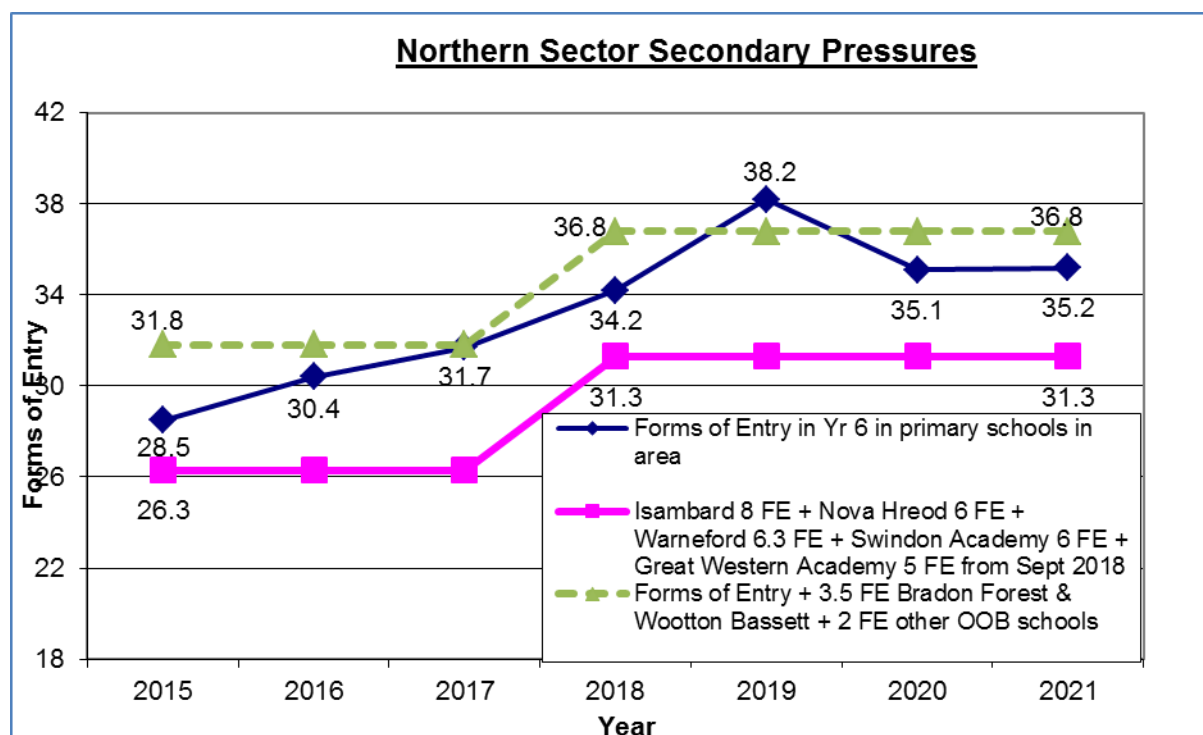
# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## North Area School Place Demand

### b) Existing North area secondary school place pressure

- 8.2 The present net capacity of the North Secondary schools is 26.3FE with some spare capacity.
- 8.3 The cohort size in the primary schools in the area, as well as the known numbers of preschool children, shows an overall increase in the number of secondary school pupils in the future.
- 8.4 The NDA housing development programme is not complete and there are about a further 1300 houses are to be built at Tadpole Farm. The pupil product from these houses will equate to a further 1.5FE, about 45 pupils per year group.
- 8.5 The number of secondary school pupils in the area is anticipated to rise from 3300 in 2014 to about 4800 pupils in 2021.
- 8.6 Forecasts anticipate up to 6 to 7FE of secondary school pupils above the capacity of Isambard, Nova Hreod, Swindon Academy and Highworth Warneford by 2019 (shown in figure 4a). This is based on pupils currently expected to transfer from local primary schools and is considered the peak in pupil numbers from the area.
- 8.7 By 2023 the overall secondary school places will include the present provision, a new 7FE school, the surplus capacity at Swindon Academy being used and 2FE of pupils from North Swindon at Bradon Forest School.

**Figure 4a – Northern Sector Secondary School Pressures including Highworth Warneford and Swindon Academy Pupils**

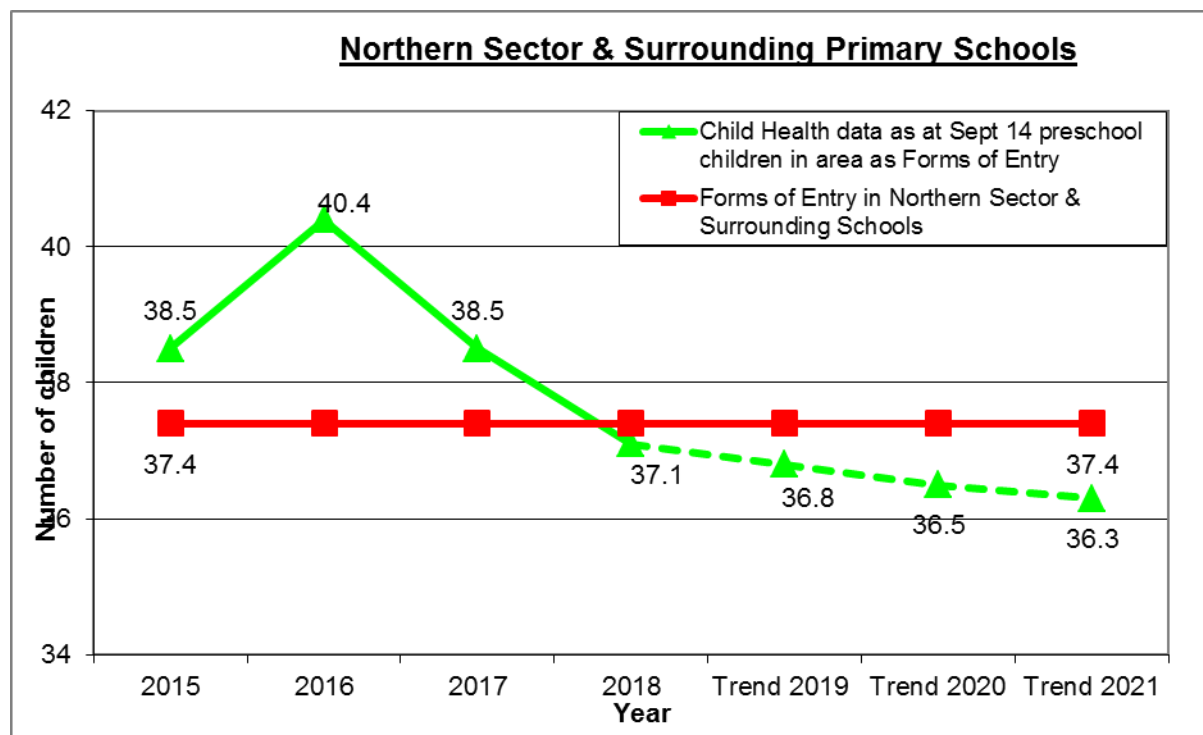


# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## c) Existing North area primary school place pressure

- 8.8 The present capacity of the Primary schools in the area is 36.39FE
- 8.9 The cohort size is rising from Year 6 to Reception and therefore there will be more pupils in the Primary Schools in the future. The pre school numbers also indicate an increasing trend. It is anticipated that there will be about 600 extra pupils due to demographic trends and house building in the area by 2023 which equates to a need for a further 3FE to 3.5FE capacity.

**Figure 5 – Northern Sector Primary School Pressures**



## d) Growth from housing development and peak demand

- 8.10 The housing development programme is not complete and there are about a further 1300 houses to be built at Tadpole Farm. The pupil product from these houses will equate to a further 1.86FE, about 45 pupils per year group. There will also be additional pupils from the completion of the Northern Development Area.

## e) Total Demand

- 8.11 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

**Table 4 – North Swindon and Surrounds School Place Demand**

	Capacity	Existing pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Peak	Demand for places including the Peak
Secondary	26.3FE	6.76FE	1.86FE	<b>8.62FE</b>	0.93FE	9.55FE
Primary	37.39FE	1.5FE	1.86FE	<b>3.36FE</b>	0.93FE	4.29FE

\* Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

## Options for expansion and provision of further places

### a) Secondary School Places

- 8.12 To meet secondary school place needs an additional 9FE will be needed.
- 8.13 A new (5 to) 7FE secondary school, The Great Western Academy, has been approved as a Free School by the Department for Education, opening in September 2018.
- 8.14 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 Assessment Area. Whilst this would provide relief for secondary school places, reliance on such a strategy carries a high degree of risk, particularly as approximately 5.5FE of children from Swindon are currently educated in Purton, Wootton Bassett or out of Borough.
- 8.15 Swindon Academy has surplus capacity of about 2FE at present. An element of the strategy for managing pressure from the north will be to involve using this spare capacity
- 8.16 Isambard is well placed to respond to any demand, including any peak demand, in the North. However, expansion of the school would rely on identifying land available to provide further school playing pitches and for development of new school building on the original site.
- 8.17 Nova Hreod has some physical space to expand, particularly on the site of the buildings that have been removed. However, it is not as well positioned geographically to respond to demand.
- 8.18 Both Isambard and Nova Hreod are Private Finance Initiative sites and not operated by the Council. Being PFI schools is a potential risk to the cost and feasibility of extending them.

### b) Primary School Places

- 8.19 An additional 4.29FE will be required at primary school level. In order to meet the projected demand a mixture of options have already been put in place.

## SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

- 8.20 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.
- 8.21 The Borough has created further planned places as below:
- Expansion of Orchid Vale Primary School from a 1FE school to 2FE in Sept 2012
  - Expansion of Haydonleigh Primary School from a 2FE school to 3FE in Sept 2012
  - Swindon Academy has opened as a 5 -16 school with a primary capacity of 4FE (840 pupils)
  - Opening of a new 2FE school at Tadpole Farm in Sept 2014.
  - A planned new 2FE school from Sept 2017 with a temporary name Tadpole Farm 2. When fully operational the school will have 420 pupils on roll.
- 8.22 A second primary school in Tadpole Farm will cover the majority of the extra places that will be needed from the large housing developments, but 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.
- 8.23 There may still be further pressure in the area. If the capacity cannot be fully met through this approach, additional school(s) may need to be extended.
- 8.24 A further risk, although it is small 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 school place planning zone.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 9 Central and South

### a) Overview of Area

- 9.1 For the purposes of the assessment, analysis and planning, the rural schools to the south of Swindon have been included in the Central and South Assessment Zone.
- 9.2 The secondary school clusters included within the Central and South Assessment Zone include Commonweal, Churchfields and Ridgeway. St Joseph's Catholic College is also located, and but not included for planning purposes, in the area as the pupils are drawn from a wider, across the Borough, geographical area. At present, the inclusion of the rural schools reflects the pattern and distribution of parental preference for schools.
- 9.3 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 that will feed through to the secondary sector by 2019.
- 9.4 It is recognised that the Ridgeway School serves a much wider primary catchment area than the rural areas surrounding the school as pupils travel from the Central and South Assessment Zone to the school.
- 9.5 The Swindon UTC will be sited in this assessment zone but the students attending the school will come from a much larger Swindon and North Wiltshire catchment area. The numbers of students attending Years 10 and 11 from September 2015 are not used in the assessment of places for this study.

**Table 6 – Central and South Schools**

Primary School	Forms of Entry
Drove Primary	3
Mountford Manor Primary School	1
Oak Tree Nursery and Primary School	1.83
The Croft Primary School	2
East Wichel Primary School & Nursery	2
Even Swindon Primary School	3
Lainesmead Primary School	2
Lawn Primary	2
Robert Le Kyng Primary School	2
Lethbridge Primary School	2.33
King William Street Church of England Primary School	1
Wroughton Infants and Juniors	3
Bishopstone Primary school	0.3
Chisledon Primary School	1
Wanborough	1
Total	27.46
Secondary School	Forms of Entry

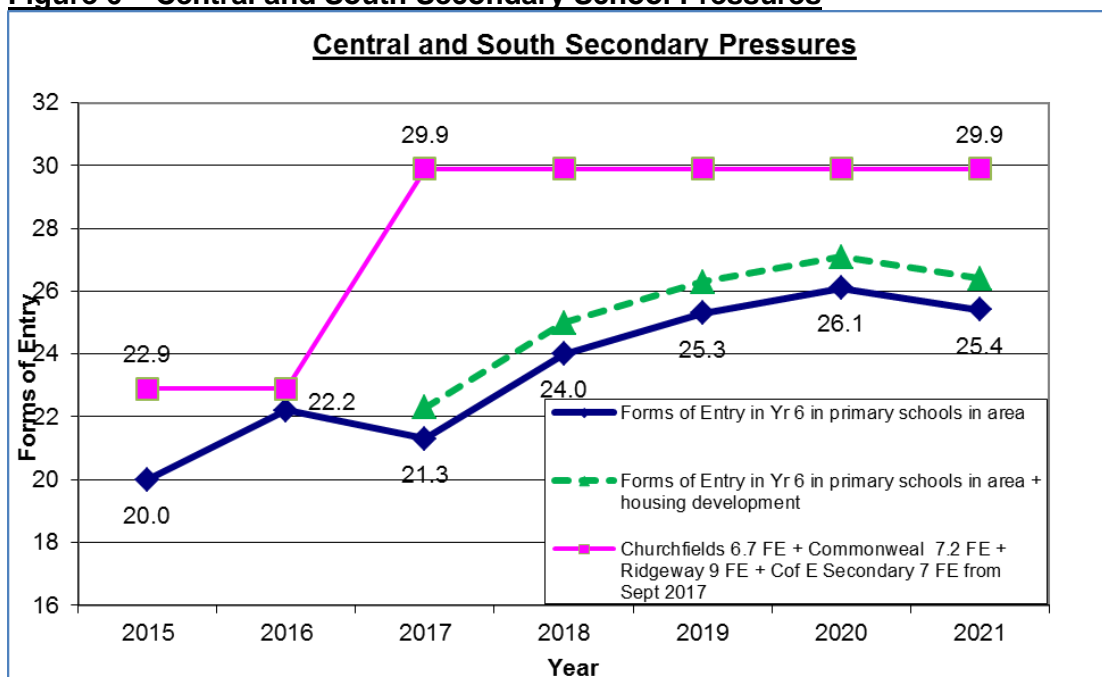
# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

Churchfields	6.67
The Commonweal School	7.2
The Ridgeway School	9
UTC Swindon	
Total	22.87

## b) Existing Central and South secondary place pressure

- 9.6 The overall capacity is 22.87FE in the 3 secondary schools. There is approximately 2.9 FE surplus capacity.
- 9.7 Overall the number of pupils leaving year 11 is higher than the numbers entering Year 7. This will create further spare capacity in the secondary schools in the short term. The dip in numbers reaches its lowest point in 2016 - 2018 in the area and then the trend is a rise of cohort size in the primary schools and a further rise in the pre school and birth data provided by the Child Health Team. Forecasts in Central and South Swindon with numbers coming through the primary schools can be covered by the capacity in the schools at present. However the secondary school capacity will need to be increased to meet the demographic demand.

**Figure 6 – Central and South Secondary School Pressures**



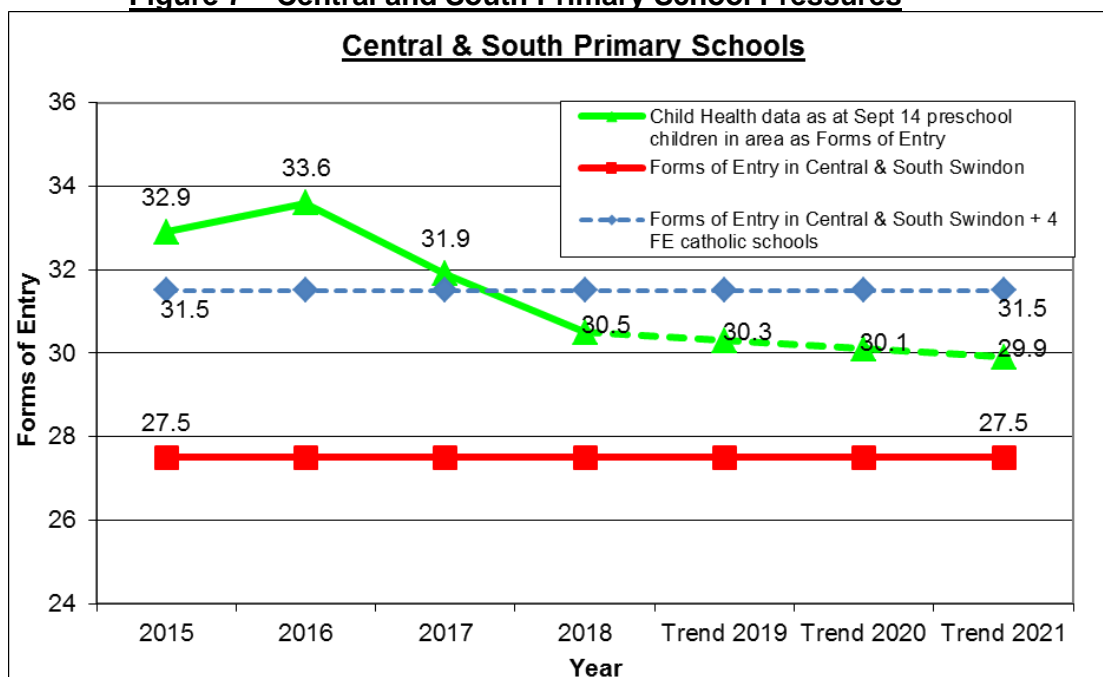
## c) Existing Central and South primary place pressure

- 9.8 The present capacity is 27.46FE of which there is close to 2FE surplus capacity.
- 9.9 The surplus capacity has been deliberately planned in as the numbers of primary children is rising. There is an expectation that there will be a deficit of places in the future. The Year 6 cohort size was 533 in 2014 and is expected to rise to 783 by 2022. There is expected to be, approximately, a further 1000 extra pupils in primary schools in the area by 2022 as a result of demographic trends. This is the equivalent of a further 2.5FE.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

- 9.10 There is expected to be surplus places within the primary schools located in the Ridgeway cluster, however these are rural schools that lie beyond a desirable threshold to transport primary school pupils from the Central and South Area.

**Figure 7 – Central and South Primary School Pressures**



d) Growth from housing development and peak demand

- 9.11 In addition to the existing pressure that is known about in the area there will be additional pressure because of the proposed house building allocation. The proposed Wichelstowe site and the remainder of the housing development within Swindon's urban area will generate 9.74FE between them (see table 1) for both primary and secondary school places.

e) Total Demand

- 9.12 The table below shows the calculated demand for additional school places in the Central and South area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places due to demographic trends, housing growth demand and then the peak demand as described.

**Table 7 – Central and South School Place Demand**

	Capacity	Existing pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Peak	Demand for places including the Peak
Secondary	22.87FE	-2.9FE	9.74FE	6.84FE	4.87FE	11.71FE
Primary	27.46FE	2.47FE	9.74FE	12.21FE	4.87FE	17.08FE

\* Above capacity (taking existing surplus into account)

Options for expansion and provision of further places

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## a) Secondary School Places

- 9.13 To meet secondary school place demand an additional 6.84FE will be needed. This will be met by;
- the building of a new 7FE secondary school on the Wichelstowe housing development site.
  - possible expansion of St Josephs Catholic School by 2FE.
  - use of the forecast spare capacity at Ridgeway School.
- 9.14 Wichelstowe peak – forecasts anticipate a further 4.87FE as a temporary peak at Wichelstowe. The removal of surplus from other Swindon schools will provide little or no capacity to respond to this pressure. Ridgeway and St Josephs have expressed support for expansion, which could deliver up to 4FE, possibly using temporary classrooms.

## b) Primary School Places

- 9.15 An additional 8FE will be required at primary school level through both demographic trends and the house building programme.
- 9.16 In order to meet the ongoing demand some capacity has already been managed into the system.
- A 2FE primary school has been provided at Croft in Old Town in 2012
  - Even Primary school has expanded from 2FE to 3FE in 2012.
  - The Holy Cross and Holy Rood Catholic Infant and Junior schools have redesignated as Primary schools and expanded, adding a total of an additional 2FE for Catholic provision
- 9.17 Further capacity will need to be planned and delivered:
- Two new schools are planned for the Wichelstowe site, each of 2FE, adding a total of 4FE.
  - A 2FE school located in Central Swindon depending on the distribution of pressure.
  - A 2 schools each of 1FE, or expansion of an existing school or schools, depending on the geographical distribution of pressure
- 9.18 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. It is recommended that one of the 2FE schools as soon as possible.
- 9.19 The cohort size is increasing quickly in Central and South Zone and it is recommended that 2FE school is provided and opened by 2018. Further work is needed to identify within the Zone the pockets of highest numbers and then match this to a potential site for a new build or expansion of a present school.



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 10 . East

### a) Overview of the Area

- 10.1 The schools included in the East Assessment Zone are Kingsdown and Dorcan secondary schools and their associated Primary school clusters. See Table 9.
- 10.2 The principle issues for the Eastern Assessment Zone concern the proposed housing developments to the New Eastern Villages, at Commonhead, at Kingsdown and the South Marston brownfield sites. There will be a total of 10,680 houses built in these developments.
- 10.3 The land at Commonhead is currently in the Ridgeway catchment area. The land at the East of Swindon development site is split between the Highworth Warneford and Ridgeway catchment areas. For the purposes of this paper they have been considered alongside the existing East Swindon Assessment Zone and will feed the new proposed secondary school.

**Table 9 – East Swindon Schools**

Primary School	Forms of Entry
Beechcroft/Ruskin	3
Colebrook	1.67
Covingham	2
Eldene	2
Goddard Park	3
Grange	3
Liden	1.67
Nythe	1
South Marston	0.5
<b>Existing Capacity</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>Forms of Entry</b>
Kingsdown	8.4
Dorcan College	6.3
<b>Total Existing Capacity</b>	<b>14.7</b>

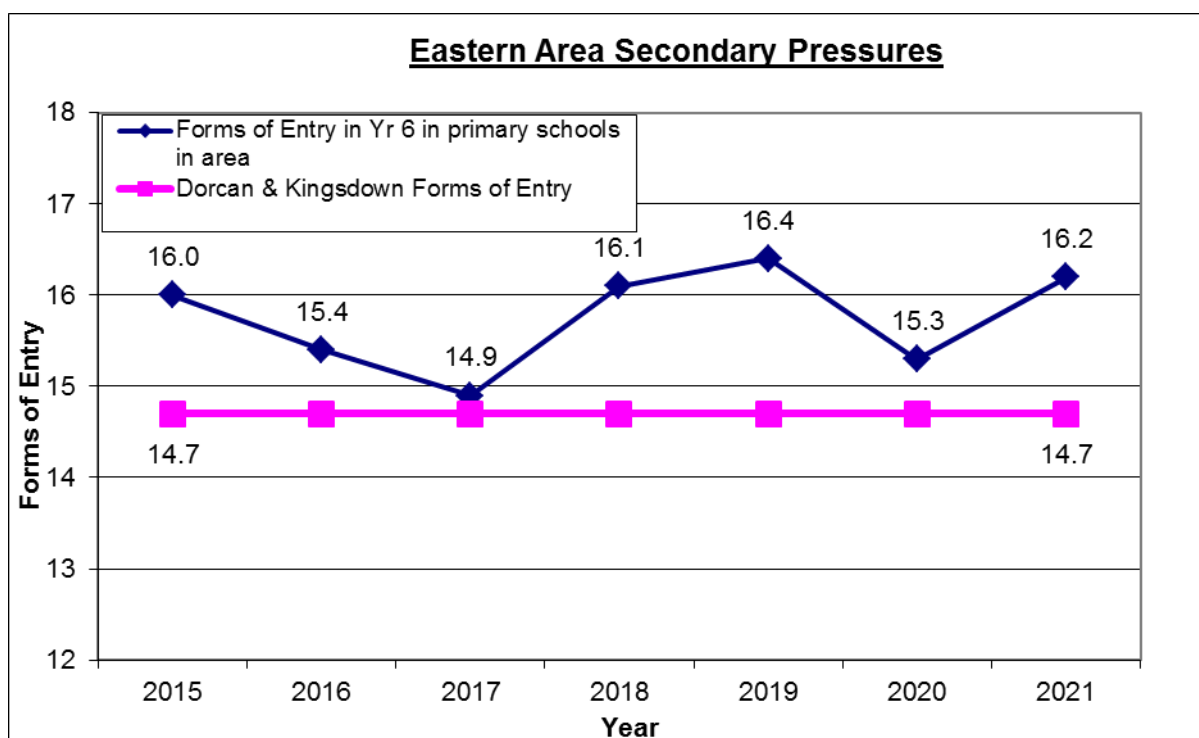
### East Area Zone School Place Demand

#### b) Existing East secondary place pressure

- 10.4 The numbers of secondary school pupils in the area has been dropping in the last few years. There is evidence that the lowest total number of secondary pupils occurs in 2015. There is a rising number of pupils in the primary schools in every cohort and therefore there will be approximately 2FE additional secondary aged pupils by 2021 across the two schools. This will then be followed by a downward trend (see below).

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

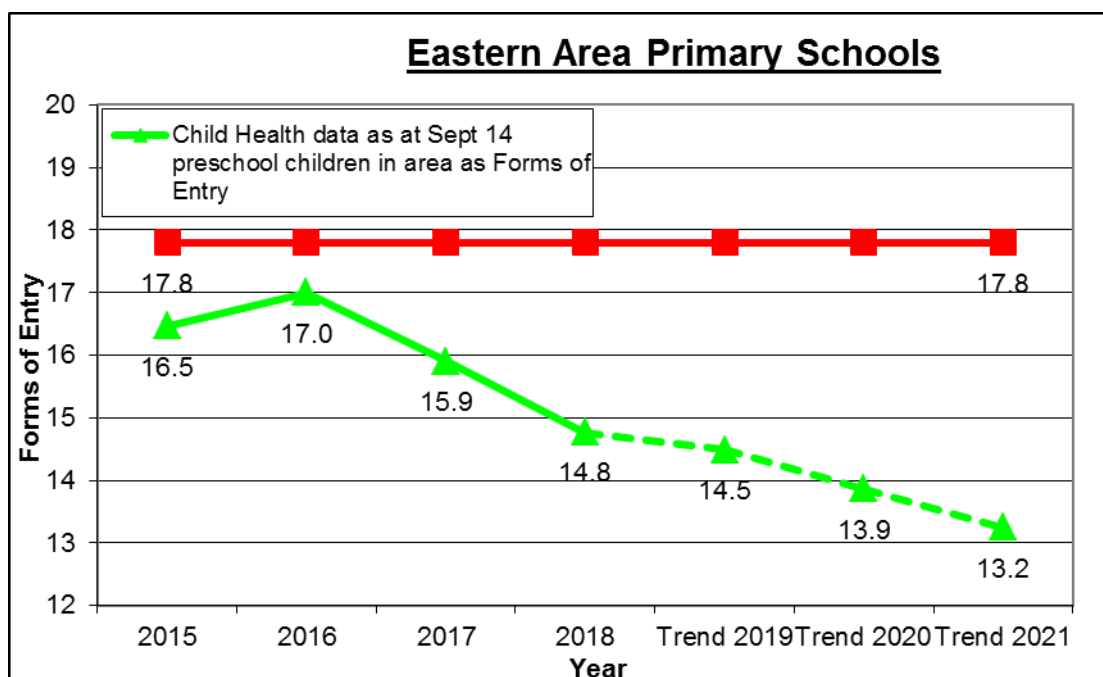
**Figure 8 – East Secondary School Demographic trends**



c) Existing East primary place pressure

- 10.5 The primary school cohort numbers show a rise then a slight downward trend that is also mirrored in the birth rate figures from the Child Health Team. Therefore the numbers of primary pupils is likely to fall by 2023, based purely on the known pupils. There is surplus capacity of up to 2.5FE across the primary schools in the Kingsdown and Dorcan area.

**Figure 9 – East Primary School Demographic trends**



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## d) Growth and Peak

- 10.6 The main pressure on school places in the area will come from the proposed housing growth. It is proposed that 10,680 houses will generate around **11.74FE** (see Table 2) for both primary and secondary school places. The anticipated pupil peak is expected to be around 5.87FE.

## e) Total Demand

- 10.7 The table below shows the calculated demand for additional school places in the Central and South area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, growth and then the peak.

**Table 10 – East School Place Demand**

	Capacity	Existing pressure	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Peak	Demand for places including the Peak
Secondary	14.7FE	1.7FE	11.74FE	<b>13.44FE</b>	6.72FE	20.16FE
Primary	17.8FE	-2.5FE	11.74FE	<b>9.04FE</b>	5.87FE	14.91FE

## Options for expansion and provision of further places

### 1) Secondary School Places

- 10.8 A new 8 to 10FE secondary school is planned for the New Eastern Villages development.
- 10.9 To meet any further secondary school place needs an additional 3FE will be needed. Options to deliver these places include:
- Expansion of Dorcan and Kingsdown
  - Transport to Highworth Warneford and Ridgeway (following expansion)

### 2) Expansion of secondary places

- 10.10 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 take up that surplus.
- 10.11 There is potential to reuse capacity or to expand Dorcan, permanently, by a further 2FE to assist in managing the longer term pressure.
- 10.12 There is also potential to transport pupils to Highworth Warneford and/or expand and transport to Ridgeway. However any surplus at Highworth is likely to be needed, and is more pressing, to support the pressure in the north. Ridgeway is likely to need to be expanded to manage pressure in central and south.
- 10.13 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 3) Primary School places

- 10.14 A minimum additional 9.04FE will be required at primary school level. In order to meet this demand the following are planned:
- 4 to 5 new primary schools each of 2FE will be provided as part of the East of Swindon housing development.
  - South Marston primary school will be expanded by 1FE
  - A new 1FE primary school will be provided at the Commonhead housing development.
  - A new 1FE primary school will be provided at the Kingsdown housing development.
- 10.15 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.
- 10.16 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 Assessment Zone 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.
- 10.17 If there is surplus capacity on the western fringes of the East Assessment Zone which could support the overcapacity in the adjacent Central zone.
- 10.18 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.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 11 West

### a) Overview of the Area

- 11.1 The only secondary school cluster in the West Assessment Zone in the Borough is Lydiard Park Academy. The west has traditionally been associated with Ridgeway School as there have been a number of pupils moving to the school from the housing in the West area. Following the decision in 2008 to remove the free school transport the flow of pupils has reduced over time. Historically, West Swindon has also 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 1.5FE have accessed Bradon Forest and 2FE 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.
- 11.2 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 Assessment Zone as well as the Central and South Assessment Zones. 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.
- 11.3 There are no further housing developments planned for the West Assessment Zone.
- 11.4 The housing developments at Moredon Bridge Bridge and Ridgeway Farm are in Wiltshire Councils administrative area, but are annexed into Swindon. Parental preference has resulted in some Primary places being offered in Swindon Schools, but a new 1FE school at Ridgeway Farm will open in September 2016 which is expected to meet the demand from the new housing.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

**Table 12 – West Schools**

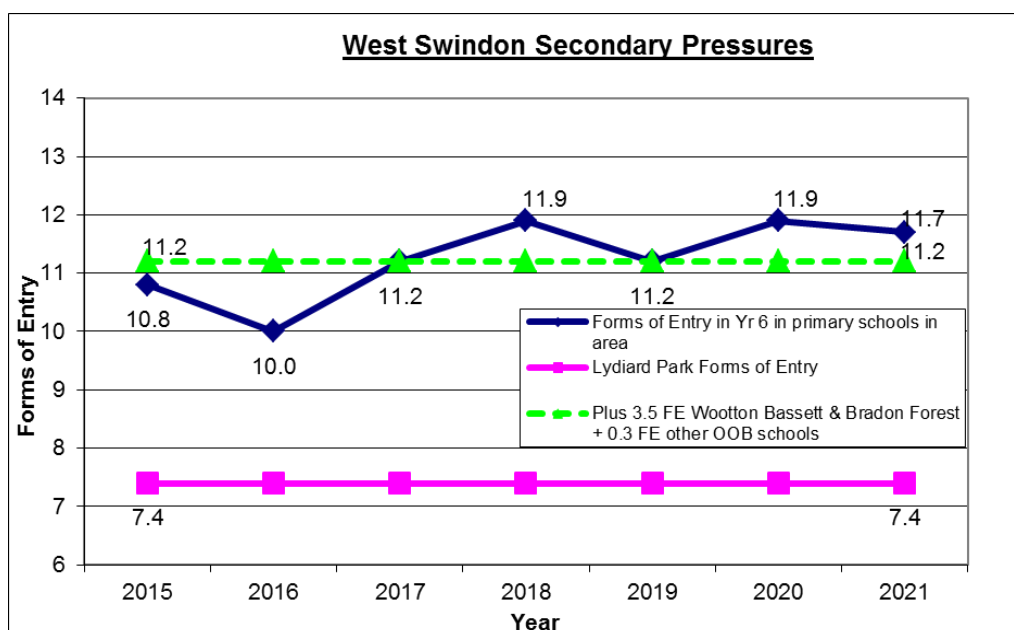
Primary School	Forms of Entry
Brook Field	2
Millbrook	1.5
Oliver Tomkins	2
Peatmoor	1
Shaw Ridge	2
Hazelwood	1
Tregoze	1
Westlea	1.5
<b>Total Existing Capacity</b>	<b>12 FE</b>
Secondary School	Forms of Entry
Lydiard Park Academy	7.4FE
Bradon Forest (in Wiltshire)	0.5FE
Wootton Bassett (in Wiltshire)	3FE
<b>Total Existing Capacity</b>	<b>10.9 FE</b>

## West Area Zone School Place Demand

### c) Existing West secondary place pressure

- 11.5 Demographic forecasts for the West Swindon Assessment Zone anticipate up to 2FE increase in numbers of secondary pupils. The capacity of Lydiard Park is 7.4FE. The timing of the increase is estimated to be in 2018 or 2019. See Figure 10.
- 11.6 If the Lydiard Park Academy does not wish to expand beyond its present capacity then there will have to be some other options developed by the Borough.

**Figure 10 – West Swindon Secondary School Pressures**

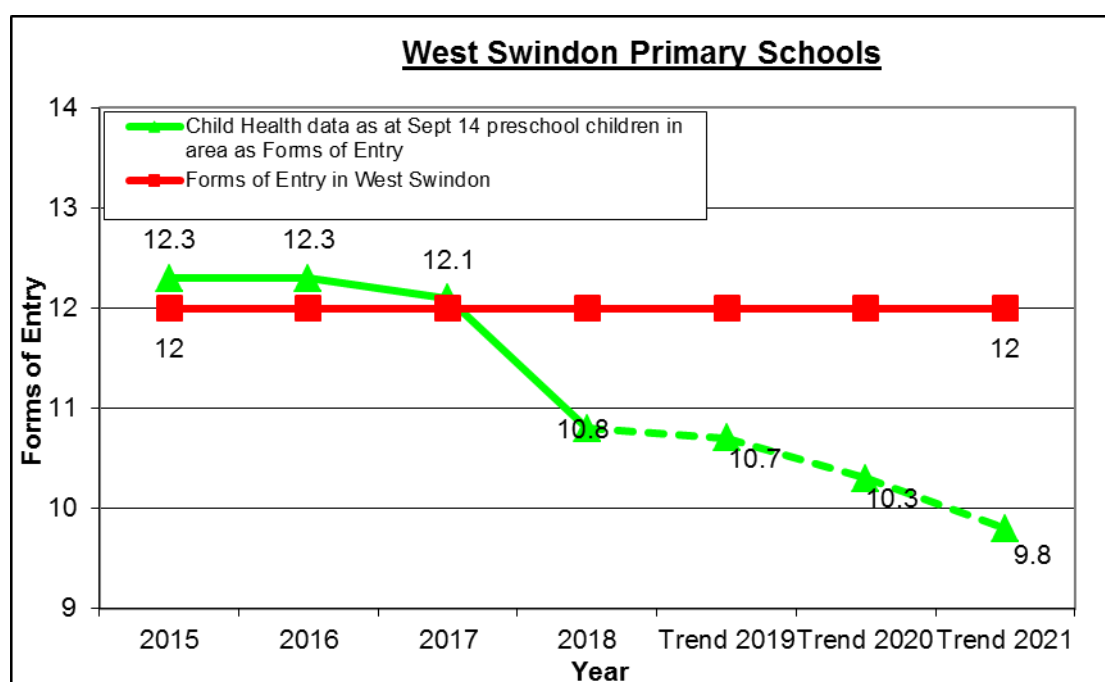


# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## d) Existing West primary place pressure

- 11.7 Based on birth rates in the area (shown in figure 11) there will be an immediate but small rise in the number of primary school pupils. The longer term shows that the number of pupils will fall to the level of 2014.
- 11.8 It is anticipated as a result of this rise that the area will be very close to the present capacity available with a need to temporarily expand some year groups in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Thereafter there will be sufficient capacity to place all pupils.

**Figure 11 – West Primary School Pressures**



## Growth and Peak

- 11.9 In addition to the existing pressure that is known about, Moredon Bridge and Ridgeway Farm housing developments will generate demand for around 1FE for both primary and secondary school places. The anticipated pupil peak is expected to be around 0.5FE. Whilst Wiltshire Council has responsibility for educating these pupils, parents could choose to send their children to a closer school in Swindon. If the Wiltshire parents choose their school place in Wiltshire that are currently occupied by Swindon children then the available space for Swindon pupils will be reduced. This could mean more young people taking up places in Swindon. Either scenario may impact on school places in Swindon.

## Total Demand

- 11.10 The table below calculated the demand for additional school places in the West area as a result of the current school capacity, existing pressure on places, growth and then peak.

# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

**Table 13a – West School Place Demand**

	Capacity	Existing pressure*	Demand from new housing growth	Demand for places	Peak	Demand for places including the Peak
Secondary	7.4FE	1FE	0FE	1FE	0FE	1FE
Primary	12FE	0.3FE	0FE	0.3FE	0FE	0.3FE

\* Above capacity with 3.8FE transferring to Wiltshire and other transfers out of Borough (taking existing surplus into account)

## **Options**

### Secondary School Places

- 11.11 To meet secondary school place needs an additional 1FE is needed in addition to the 3.8FE transferring to out of Borough schools including Wiltshire.
- 11.12 Due to the historic links with Wiltshire providing school places for Swindon pupils (3.5FE) there is no surplus capacity for pupils from the West area at the present. With the demographic trends in the primary schools of the area there will be a need to secure a further 1 to 2FE.
- 11.13 The extra capacity could be found either at Lydiard Park or in Wiltshire although the latter option may be not possible due to house building and demographic trends in Wiltshire.

### Primary School Places

- 11.14 An additional 0.3FE will be required at primary school level.
- 11.15 The numbers of pupils are all expected to be within the overall number of places available with the exception of September 2015/6 and the total to fall thereafter.



# SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING STUDY 2015

## 12 Catholic School Provision

- 12.1 There are five Catholic Primary schools and one Catholic Secondary School in the Borough.
- 12.2 The parents that are choosing a Catholic education is increasing.
- 12.3 The Borough has worked with the Catholic Diocese to increase the Primary school provision as indicated in Table 14.
- 12.4 If the provision of Catholic Education continues to grow as predicted then St Joseph's Catholic College will be under capacity by 2022. The Borough recognises this and will work with the Diocese and School to further increase the capacity at St Josephs if necessary.

**Table 14 – Catholic Primary School Places**

Assessment Area	Primary School	Forms of Entry Present	Forms of Entry 2020	Forms of Entry 2022
Central and South	Holy Rood	0	2	2
	Holy Cross	2	1	2
East	Holy Family	1.5	1.5	1.5
	St Catherines	1	1	1
North	St Marys	1.35	1.35	1.35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>6.85</b>	<b>7.85</b>
<b>Secondary School</b>				
	St Josephs	7.7	7.7	7.7

**Figure 13 – Catholic Secondary School Pressures**

