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Warwickshire County Council Education Services

Annual Education Sufficiency Update

Ages 0-25

January 2025

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1. Executive Summary

In Summer 2024, WCC published a new Education Sufficiency Strategy setting our duties and approach to securing education provision across the county.

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

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

Across the county as a whole, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. Provision is a mixture of childminders, nurseries, and out of school clubs and holiday clubs. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase due to the county seeing significant growth from housing development alongside recent Government initiatives to increase the funded entitlements from April 2024. The impact of these and other factors will continue to be monitored.

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

Almost everywhere in the county is within 3.5km of one or more childcare service. Those regions that are more than 3.5km from services are small in number and size, and are typically located in rural areas or near the county border.

There are childcare services offering funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in every area in the county. Of the total number of funded places offered, around 82% are currently occupied.

38% of the county's nursery schools, primary schools, and all through schools offer full 'wraparound care' (before and after school). Of the total number of places at all types of out of school provision, 76% are currently occupied.

56% of the county's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays.

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

79% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of Special Educational Need / Disability (SEND), with this being fairly consistent across the county.

As a whole the sector is experiencing ongoing staff recruitment and retention pressures which is impacting settings' ability to offer all places, this is reflective of a national challenge for the early years sector.

Warwickshire has worked closely over the last year to engage and work with refugee, migrant and asylum seeker families who are supported to find places to meet their needs.

Bespoke support continues to be offered to families that require support to find places by the Family Information Service who work with Early Years teams to monitor localised place pressures where identified. For children with SEND there is also the SEND Childcare Co-ordinator to support individual families.

Ongoing development of provision continues to be managed proactively by working with the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector alongside school partners. This is managed via a countywide rolling approach to place creation, supporting new developments in a number of ways:

- New School Developments – include premises for early years provision in new primary schools
- Collaboration with schools to support development of direct delivered early years and childcare places along with expansion of existing services to increase places
- Use of developer funding to support place expansion where available for identified areas
- Proactive recruitment campaign to encourage new childminder registrations, including promotion of government start up grants
- Business support and advice to all sectors and signposting to gap areas.

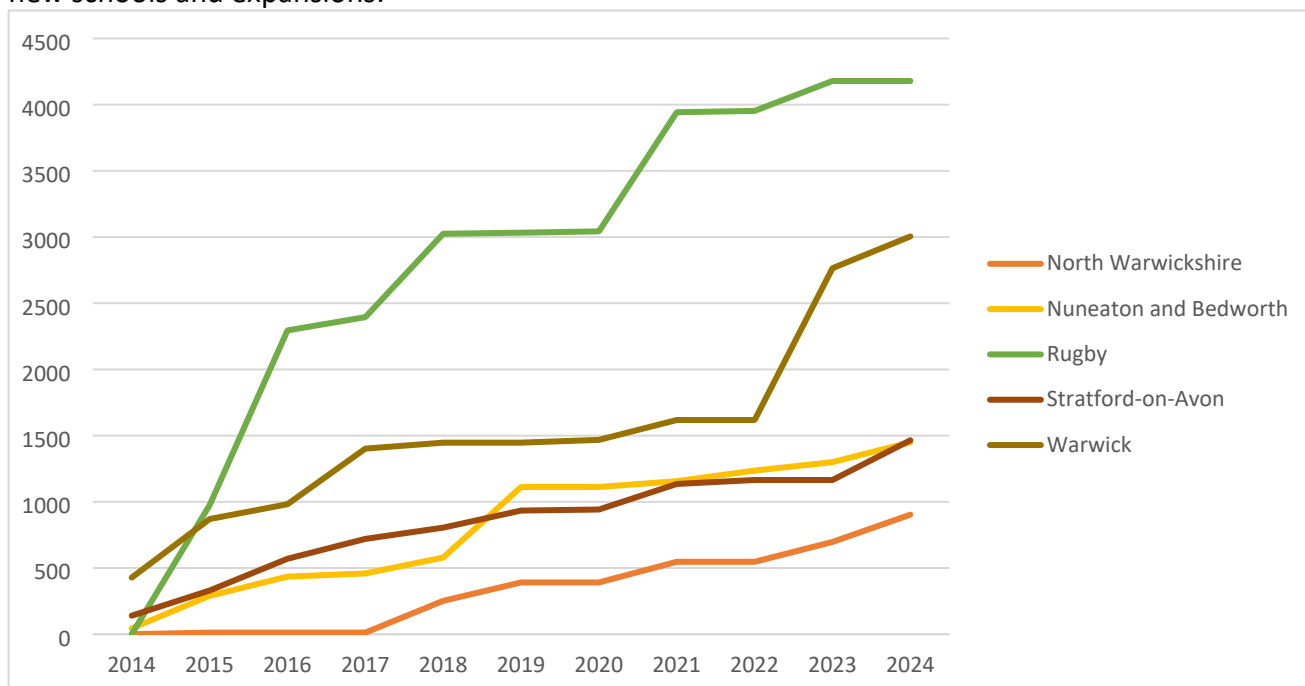
Warwickshire meets place needs for early years children with SEND via all delivery partners, with an additional allocation of those accredited as WincKs settings via the county accreditation process. However, across the county pressure for Early Years places for children with SEND is increasing and is a focus under the WCC SEND and Inclusion Change Programme.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Warwickshire is experiencing a period of significant growth, with large scale housing development across the county contributing to an additional 20,000 Primary and Secondary pupil spaces over the last 15 years with a further 10,000 additional Primary and Secondary pupils currently anticipated over the next 15 years, assuming all strategic housing is delivered.

To accommodate this growth, as well as numerous school expansions across the county, 13 new schools have opened in Warwickshire since 2010, comprising six Primary, two Secondary, one all-through (4-16yrs) and four special schools. Maps of housing development and new schools/expansions are provided as an Appendix.

In the last 10 years, **WCC has delivered over 11,000 new permanent school places** through these new schools and expansions:



Of these new places, 54% are Primary, 39% Secondary and 7% at Specialist settings.

During the next five-year period we currently expect to deliver another five new schools, as well as several expansion projects for both mainstream and specialist settings. Longer term if all proposed housing development across the county builds out as suggested, up to a further additional 18 new schools may be delivered to meet the need for school places the new housing will bring.

Primary

Warwickshire as a whole is forecast to have a **2% increase in total Primary pupils** between 2024 and 2028, when only currently approved housing is taken into account. An underlying reduction in population from NHS data (of around -10%) is offset by the impact of new housing across the county. This growth is not universal across the county, with Nuneaton and Bedworth forecasting high growth (8%) and other areas forecasting lower growth or declining numbers over the forecast period.

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

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

Warwickshire shares a boundary with nine other local authorities and there is significant cross-border movement of pupils to attend schools. At Primary phase, approximately the same number of Warwickshire pupils attend schools out of the county as “out of county” pupils access Warwickshire schools.

Secondary

Warwickshire as a whole is forecast to have a **6% increase in total Secondary pupils** between 2024 and 2030, when only currently approved housing is taken into account. An underlying reduction in population from NHS data (of around -9%) is more than offset by the impact of new housing across the county. This growth is not universal across the county, with North Warwickshire forecasting very little growth and other areas forecasting between 8% and 12% over the forecast period.

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

In addition to new schools opening and permanent expansion of existing schools as detailed later in this document, to meet the increasing need for places during the school year Secondary schools will be required to take a small number of pupils over capacity in most year groups and most areas by the end of 2024/25. The local authority is working with Secondary schools to support with the introduction of temporary expansions/additional places and Fair Access Protocol will continue to be used as appropriate.

Warwickshire shares a boundary with nine other local authorities and there is significant cross-border movement of pupils to attend schools. At Secondary phase, over 2000 more “out of county” pupils access Warwickshire schools than Warwickshire pupils attend schools over the border. This constitutes around 6% of Warwickshire’s Secondary school places and are predominantly allocated places as part of the Year 7 allocation process, which increases the pressure on Secondary schools particularly when new families move into Warwickshire later during the school year.

North Warwickshire and Stratford District are most affected by ‘out of county’ pupils, with around 1500 of the pupils in schools in each of those areas travelling from a different local authority.

Longer-term, beyond the current forecast period of seven years to 2030, the reducing birth numbers that are now being experienced at early Primary phase could result in a reduction in Secondary cohorts in areas where this is not offset by the impact of housing.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

In January 2024 there were 3667 children and young people of compulsory school age with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) resident in Warwickshire, this is approximately 4% of the total population of that age, which is the same as the national average.

Around half of pupils with an EHCP attend mainstream schools, with the majority of the rest attending LA maintained/academy special schools. A small minority (8%) attend Independent Special Schools and 3% currently attend Specialist Resourced Provision. In total, 2071 Warwickshire pupils attended a specialist (non-mainstream) setting. An additional 176 pupils from outside Warwickshire took up places at Warwickshire specialist settings.

In January 2024 Warwickshire had 1652 specialist places at state-maintained settings (R-Y11), of which 92% were at special schools. There is currently insufficient capacity in Warwickshire state-maintained specialist provision to accommodate demand. Independent Special Schools and settings outside of Warwickshire are also used to provide pupils with appropriate schooling.

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

Warwickshire is a 'net importer' of SEND pupils. Approximately 70 pupils resident in Warwickshire access specialist provision outside the county, and approximately 175 pupils from outside of Warwickshire access specialist places located in Warwickshire.

Overall, at Primary phase demand is less and Specialist Resourced Provisions in Primary schools help to meet need across the county.

Demand for specialist places is generally greater at the Secondary phase and all areas of the county would benefit from additional specialist provision. North Rugby, Stratford and Warwick districts/boroughs are a priority for additional Secondary specialist provision. The Council is working to expand resourced provision in these areas. Provision in special schools is being expanded in line with population growth in the Warwick and Nuneaton areas.

Warwickshire is currently benefiting from a DfE Delivering Better Value Programme, designed to improve services and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Warwickshire is on track to increase the number of places in SEND Resourced Provisions across the county, from 168 in early 2024 to a projected 529 places by 2028.

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

The Post 16 sector within the county comprises three Further Education (FE) Colleges and one Sixth Form College, along with 33 school Sixth Forms (including in special schools). There are also a

number of independent training providers (who mainly deliver apprenticeships) based within Warwickshire.

These providers all enrol students from across and outside the county. Often students will choose to travel outside of their district/borough to attend settings.

In 2024/25 there is a total of 14,001 funded Post 16 places in Warwickshire. This represents an increase of a total of 369 places since 2023/24. The majority of this increase (296) is in the FE Colleges which account for 48% of the funded places in 2024/25.

Based on the forecast for the Post 16 cohort for 2024/25 and 2025/26 there is a sufficient number of places for Post 16 students. Forecasts indicate that there will be an increase in the total number of Post 16 pupils in Warwickshire each year for the five years from 2024. Where the cohort forecast exceeds the current number of ESFA funded Post 16 places Warwickshire County Council will work alongside schools, colleges and partners to ensure the demand is met.

The funding of new post-16 places rests with the ESFA. Where there is a gap in provision, the EFSA will either consider requests from existing providers that are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted or will seek new provision from independent learning providers (ILPs). The EFSA applies standard criteria to ensure that gaps are well evidenced prior to securing additional places and will only seek to fund new provision where it adds value and is a high-quality addition to the existing offer for young people.

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

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

Alternative Provision

In addition to education provided at schools, nurseries and other settings as referenced in this update, WCC also supports Alternative Provision for children and young people where appropriate.

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 states that local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable and (normally) full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of a physical or mental health need, and cannot access suitable full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging suitable alternative provision.

Schools can commission Alternative Provision when a child is at risk of permanent exclusion or would benefit from support outside of the school setting.

Alternative Provision examples are:

- Educational establishments which are not mainstream, academy, special or private/independent school e.g. registered independent alternative provision schools, unregistered alternative providers
- Pupil Referral Units
- Further Education Colleges and Sixth Form Centres for alternative provision for 14 to 16-year-olds
- Specialist commissioned staff who may work within the school setting to support students to prevent exclusions.

More information about Alternative Provision in Warwickshire is available online here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/send-admissions-specialist-settings/5>

2. Introduction and explanatory notes

This annual sufficiency update is published to provide the current context for the delivery of the Warwickshire Education Sufficiency Strategy 2024 – 2029 (Sufficiency Strategy). The Sufficiency Strategy is published online here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolandlearningstrategies> and provides further details regarding the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities, pupil forecast methodology, key strategic priorities, and funding arrangements.

This update also supports the [Warwickshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#)

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1090-221>.

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

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

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

As part of the evaluation of Early Years and Childcare sufficiency in the county, characteristics are monitored at county, district/borough and ESEC Planning area level. A map showing Planning area boundaries can be viewed at <https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/esec-planning-area-boundaries/>

The evaluation is primarily based on data collected in the Childcare Sufficiency survey. This survey is completed annually by Warwickshire's childcare providers.

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

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

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

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

WCC's forecasts (along with all local authorities) are assessed for accuracy by the DfE annually. For 2023/24 forecasts were within the DfE's acceptable margins of error at up to +3.7% for Primary and up to +7% for Secondary. This slight overestimation allows for a conservative margin of error in planning for required school places.

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

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

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

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

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

Pupil forecasts include capacity from future new school places to be provided (from 2024 onwards) through approved expansions of existing schools or the opening of new schools.

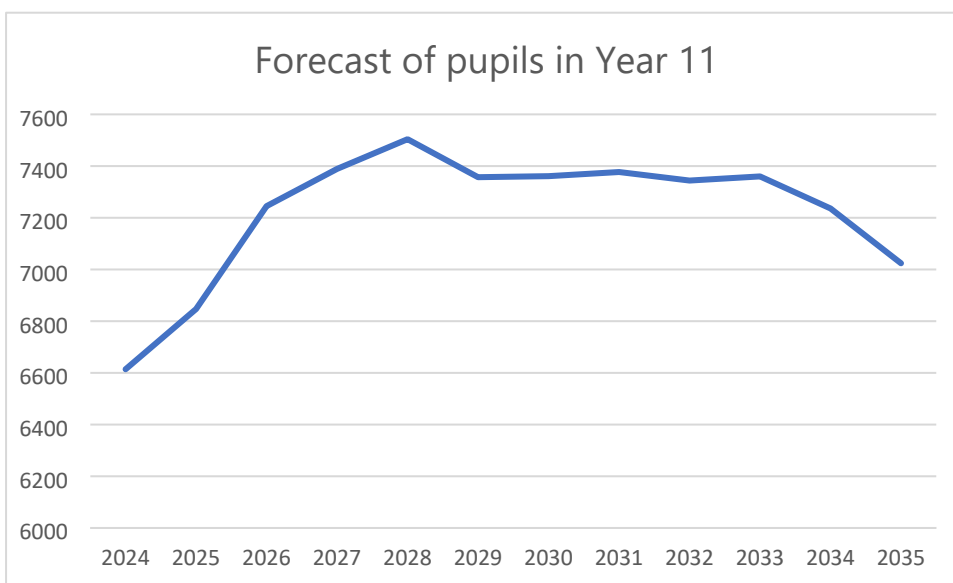
The day to day organisation of classes within each school is the responsibility of that school's leadership and while academies are also responsible for setting the admission number for their

school (PAN), we expect all schools to be mindful of the expected and current school place pressures and work collaboratively with WCC Education Services to meet the need for places in their local area.

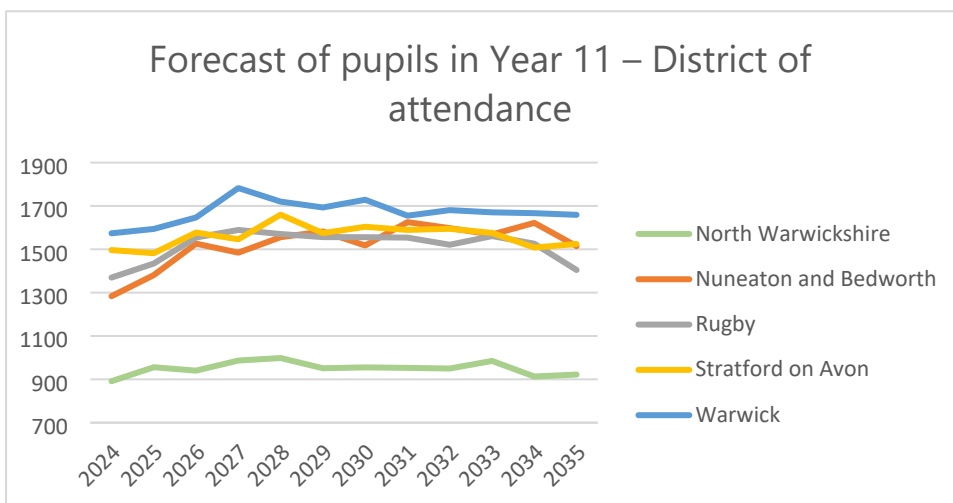
Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

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

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



2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
6614	6847	7245	7389	7504	7357	7361	7377	7344	7360	7236	7024



This sufficiency update contains an assessment of the post 16 education available in Warwickshire.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (Age 0-25)

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

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

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

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

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/send-admissions-specialist-settings>

3. North Warwickshire

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

In North Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase in coming years.

The district has one Children & Family Centre.

Childcare services in the district typically have 14% of their total places still available. The Atherstone Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 9% of places still available.

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

Of the total number of childcare places offered to school-age children (4-14) at out of school provision in the district, 76% are currently occupied.

62% of North Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Formal holiday schemes are known to run in three of the district's five Planning areas. The Planning Areas lacking holiday schemes are Kingsbury and Atherstone. Of the total number of places offered at known formal holiday schemes, 80% are usually occupied.

81% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of SEND, which is approximately consistent with the rest of the county.

Several school-delivered nursery provisions in North Warwickshire have seen remodelling of services to achieve creation of additional 30 hour places for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

North Warwickshire - Primary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

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

Several planning areas in North Warwickshire are operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically present a financial challenge for schools:

- Kingsbury
- North Polesworth

Kingsbury is a 'designated rural school area' (for which there is a DfE presumption against closure). Both include schools that are in receipt of government 'sparsity funding' which recognises the limit of organisational options to respond to the reduction in local populations.

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

North Warwickshire - Secondary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Atherstone planning area is forecasting slight pressure in all year groups. While schools in the area are at capacity, there is not forecast to be a significant deficit of places. The Queen Elizabeth Academy expanded from 2023 by an additional 150 places. Options for further future expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Academy to accommodate demand from strategic housing are being explored.

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

The Coleshill School admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 46%) from over the county border with Solihull (approx. 18% of resident pupils conversely attend schools in Solihull). Kingsbury School admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 34%) from over the county border with Staffordshire. Admissions arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase.

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

North Warwickshire – Specialist Places

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

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

The Coleshill School has a partnership with Woodlands School (a special school), that provides specialist places for secondary pupils with an EHCP.

Atherstone has a higher incidence of pupils taking up a specialist place, at 3.3% of population, than the average for Warwickshire of 2.1%.

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

North Warwickshire contains two Secondary schools with sixth forms, The Coleshill School offers 190 places (162 pupils attended in 2023/24) and The Polesworth School offers 300 places (221 pupils attended in 2023/24).

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

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

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

4. Nuneaton & Bedworth

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

In Nuneaton & Bedworth, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase slightly over coming years.

The borough has four Children & Family Centres.

Childcare services in the borough typically have 14% of their total places still available. The Camp Hill Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 6% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded places offered, 82% are currently occupied. The Bedworth Heath and Camp Hill Planning Areas are approaching full capacity. However, places remain available in adjacent areas.

Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at out of school provision in the borough, 80% are currently occupied.

63% of Nuneaton & Bedworth's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Formal holiday schemes are known to run in five of the district's 10 Planning areas. The Planning Areas lacking holiday schemes are Abbey, Bulkington, Camp Hill, Poplar & Bede and Stockingford. Of the total number of places offered at known formal holiday schemes, 37% are usually occupied.

82% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of SEND, which is approximately consistent with the rest of the county.

New nursery provision will be included within new school developments planned for the forthcoming years to assist with place expansion including at the new Callendar Farm development.

The Bulkington and Wolvey area has seen the development of new provision creating new places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds along with proposed expansion of existing provision to create additional 2 year old places.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Nuneaton & Bedworth – Primary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Nuneaton North East and Nuneaton South East are both forecasting a deficit of places across all year groups due to new housing development. This is largely offset by surplus capacity in other planning areas in the District.

Lower Farm Academy opened as a new free school in 2018 with a final capacity of 420, the school is opening classes gradually and in 2024 has an operating capacity of 330. Further new Primary provision, including up to three additional new schools, will be delivered in Nuneaton in future years to align with new housing development being delivered. This includes a new 2FE primary school on the Callendar Farm development in the Nuneaton North East planning area, with an estimated delivery date of September 2026.

Options for Key Stage 2 temporary classes will be explored with local schools to meet demand in the next two years in higher year groups.

Wolvey & Bulkington planning area is also forecasting pressure in some year groups from 2024. This is offset by surplus capacity in other planning areas in the District.

Bedworth South West a planning area is operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically present a financial challenge for schools. Pressure from elsewhere in the area will help to mitigate this surplus capacity. Approximately 18% of pupils in Bedworth South West attend schools over the border in Coventry.

Nuneaton & Bedworth – Secondary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

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

Nuneaton is forecasting some pressure on places until the new Higham Lane North Academy opens in 2025. Higham Lane North Academy will open as a new free school in 2025 with a final capacity of 900, and an initial intake of 150 at Year 7 only.

Hartshill is forecasting slight pressure in some year groups, however it is expected that the impact of the new Higham Lane North Academy may relieve pressure in this area.

Temporary classes in existing schools in the planning area will be implemented if required prior to the opening of all year groups in the new school.

Nuneaton & Bedworth – Specialist Places

Nuneaton & Bedworth contains five special schools and six Specialist Resourced Provisions, one secondary and five primary, one of which has both C&I and SEMH provision, as well as four independent special schools.

These are generally sufficient to meet the current needs of the area when taken as a whole, however, many places are used to meet demand from elsewhere in and outside of the County. Forecasts indicate a need for additional Secondary specialist places in coming years. Options for additional specialist resourced provision in the area are being explored.

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

Projects are underway to increase the number of places at Oak Wood Primary School and Oak Wood Secondary School.

Exhall Grange School has expanded from 2023 by an additional 15 places.

Two new Specialist Resourced Provisions have been opened in 2024, St Paul's CofE Primary School in Nuneaton and Nicholas Chamberlaine School in Bedworth. Specialist Resourced Provisions will be considered for all new future primary and secondary schools in Nuneaton. From September 2025, Higham Lane North Academy will also include a secondary Specialist Resourced Provision.

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

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

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

Students enrolled in these colleges will often be from across the county. The campus that a student attends will not always be the one that is in their resident district/borough. There may be students attending from all five Districts and Boroughs across Warwickshire.

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

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

School Sixth Forms:

	Capacity 2023/24	Pupils 2023/24
Nicholas Chamberlaine School	93	102
Etone College	250	164
Higham Lane School	200	182

St. Thomas More Catholic School and Sixth Form College	250	227
Ash Green School	200	108

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Nuneaton & Bedworth contains three special schools that accommodates pupils to the age of 19:

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

5. Rugby/East Warwickshire

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

In Rugby/East Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase slightly in coming years.

The borough has three Children & Family Centres.

Childcare services in the borough typically have 18% of their total places still available. The Hillmorton Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 5% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded places offered, around 77% are currently occupied. The Wolston Planning Area is approaching full capacity. However, places remain available in adjacent areas.

Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at out of school provision in the borough, 73% are currently occupied.

53% of Rugby's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Formal holiday schemes are known to run in seven of the district's nine Planning areas. The Planning Areas lacking holiday schemes are Hillmorton and Wolvey. Of the total number of places offered at known formal holiday schemes, 70% are usually occupied.

82% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of SEND, which is approximately consistent with the rest of the county.

The area has seen the recent opening of new nursery provision at The Griffin Primary School which has an offer of places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Rugby/East Warwickshire – Primary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

There is pressure on places, particularly in Key Stage 2 in the east of Rugby District, as a result of families moving into new housing developments in the Rugby North Central planning area. This planning area includes the Mast Site (Houlton) housing development of 6000 new homes and will eventually include three new Primary schools. The first of these, St Gabriel's C of E Academy, opened in 2018 with a final capacity of 420 (and the scope to increase to 630), the school is opening classes gradually and in 2024 has an operating capacity of 420.

Additional temporary Key Stage 2 classes have been introduced in primary schools in Rugby and further options for Key Stage 2 temporary classes will be explored with local schools to meet demand over the next two years.

The Griffin Primary School opened from 2023 with a final capacity of 210 to meet demand as a result of significant new housing in the Rugby North planning area. The school is opening classes gradually and in 2024 will have an operating capacity of 60.

Long Lawford planning area is operating with relatively low pupil numbers in some year groups, which typically presents a financial challenge for schools.

Rugby/East Warwickshire – Secondary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

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

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

Rugby South is forecasting fluctuating pressure on places for year 7 entry along with continued pressure across all year groups due to the potential impact of new families moving into the area as housing developments build out.

To mitigate this pressure Houlton School opened in 2021 with a current final capacity of 900, the school is opening year groups gradually and in 2024 has an operating capacity of 730. Working with all Secondary schools in the area options for the provision of additional places in all year groups through permanent and temporary expansion are being considered.

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

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

Rugby/East Warwickshire – Specialist Places

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

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

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

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

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

Rugby College has a Specialist Partnership with Brooke School, the Junction, which offers post-16 college education to pupils with an EHCP.

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

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

School Sixth forms:

	Capacity 2023/24	Pupils 2023/24
Rugby Free Secondary School	420	185
Bilton School	200	113
Ashlawn School	400	306

Lawrence Sheriff School*	280	424
Rugby High School*	300	340

*grammar schools, selective entry

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Rugby contains two special schools that accommodates pupils to the age of 19:

- Brooke School
- Quest Academy

There is also a Specialist Resourced Provision operating at Rugby Free Secondary School.

6. Warwick/Central Warwickshire

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

In Warwick District/Central Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase slightly in coming years.

The district has three Children & Family Centres.

Childcare services in the district typically have 14% of their total places still available. The Sydenham Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 7% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded places offered, around 82% are currently occupied. The Whitnash and Warwick Planning Areas are approaching full capacity. However, places remain available in adjacent areas.

Warwickshire is currently undertaking a marketing campaign and follow on support for interested parties to increase the numbers of childminders operating across the county to develop place availability including in rural areas.

Targeted use of specific allocations of developer funding is being utilised in designated areas to assist place expansion.

Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at out of school provision in the district, 84% are currently occupied.

58% of Warwick/Central Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Formal holiday schemes are known to run in eight of the district's nine planning areas. The planning area lacking holiday schemes is Whitnash. Of the total number of places offered at known formal holiday schemes, 70% are usually occupied.

78% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of SEND, which is approximately consistent with the rest of the county.

School led expansion plans are being reviewed within the Kenilworth area to expand the provision of early years places in the coming year.

New early years provision will open on the site of the new Oakley School in 2024 followed by additional nursery provision at Myton Gardens School in 2025. This sits alongside developer created provision in the area directly managed and contracted out to private sector parties.

Targeted use of developer funding has been allocated, as per specifications, to support increased place offer in the Radford Semele area with additional projects currently being work on in other outlying areas of Leamington Spa.

Relocation of a former school located nursery provision into a standalone premises in the Whitnash area has created opportunities for place development and growth as the service embeds.

New build premises being created as part of school site redevelopment in the Kingsway area will provide longevity and security of places going forwards.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Primary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Expansion of an existing school, St John's Primary School, in Kenilworth by 1FE is proposed from 2025 to mitigate pressure in the town as a result of the build out of strategic housing allocations in the town. New Primary provision is planned as part of the large scale housing in Kenilworth, however, the trigger point for this new provision is likely to be towards the end of the forecast period. St John's Primary School is accommodating two bulge classes from 2024 to mitigate in-year pressure.

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

- Heathcote Primary School opened in 2017 with a final capacity of 420, the school is opening classes gradually and in 2024 has an operating capacity of 400.
- Oakley School opened its Primary phase in 2024 with a final capacity of 420, and an initial intake of 30 at Reception only.
- Myton Gardens opened in 2024 with a final capacity of 420, and an initial intake of 30 at Reception only.
- A fourth new 2FE Primary school is proposed as part of The Asps housing development, to open as needed in response to increased demand from the new housing.
- Temporary classes of 30 pupils at Reception opened at both Bishops Tachbrook Primary School and Briar Hill Infant School in 2023, moving through subsequent year groups each year.
- Options for Key Stage 2 temporary classes will be explored with local schools to meet demand in the next two years in higher year groups.

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

Warwick Rural planning area is operating with relatively low pupil numbers, which typically presents a financial challenge for schools. Warwick Rural is a 'designated rural school area' (for which there is a DfE presumption against closure).

Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Secondary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Kenilworth planning area is forecasting a small deficit of places in some year groups as a result of in-year pressure. Kenilworth School expanded into a new school site from 2023 by an additional 150 places. The school has increased their PAN to 330 from September 2024.

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

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

The new Oakley School in Warwick opened its Secondary phase in 2023 with an initial intake of 180 at Year 7 only. The new school will open an additional year group each academic year and will mitigate the need for additional Secondary school places in the area due to new housing. Pressure on places in higher year groups in the short-term will be mitigated by existing schools, including temporary expansions as required.

Warwick/Central Warwickshire – Specialist Places

Warwick/Central Warwickshire contains one special school, three Specialist Resourced Provisions (Primary) and one Specialist Resourced Provision (Secondary), as well as three independent special schools.

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

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

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

From September 2024, two new Primary Specialist Resourced Provisions have opened at Park Hill Junior School in Kenilworth, Briar Hill Infant School in Leamington. One new secondary Specialist Resourced Provision opened in 2024 at Oakley Secondary School in Leamington.

Myton Gardens Primary School is planned to open in 2025/2026 and will offer Specialist Resourced Provision in Warwick.

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

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

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

School Sixth Forms:

	Capacity 2023/24:	Pupils 2023/24:
Southam College	300	314
Aylesford School and Sixth Form College	250	104
Campion School	100	157
Kenilworth School and Sixth Form	490	483
North Leamington School	300	258
Trinity Catholic School	120	40
Myton School	395	371

Post-16 pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are accommodated in mainstream schools and colleges as well as in specialist settings across the county. Warwick District contains a special school that accommodates pupils to the age of 19, Evergreen School, as well as a Specialist Resourced Provision operating at Trinity Catholic School.

WCC is working with WCG to explore options for enhancing specialist post 16 provision. From September 2024, Leamington College (Warwickshire College Group) has opened a new Specialist Resourced Provision for post 16 students.

7. Stratford/South Warwickshire

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

In Stratford/South Warwickshire, there is sufficient capacity to provide early years and childcare places to all that require it. The demand for early years and childcare provision is expected to increase in coming years.

The district has three Children & Family Centres.

Childcare services in the district typically have 19% of their total places still available. The Clopton Planning Area has the least surplus capacity, with only 13% of places still available.

Of the total number of funded places offered, around 83% are currently occupied. The Lighthorne Planning Area is approaching full capacity. However, places remain available in adjacent areas.

Warwickshire has recently undertaken a marketing campaign and follow on support for interested parties to increase the numbers of childminders operating across the county to develop place availability including in rural areas.

Future planning for school locations is including the needs for early years places within the developments.

Of the total number of childcare places offered to school age children (4-14) at out of school provision in the district, 71% are currently occupied.

48% of Stratford/South Warwickshire's childcare services operate all year round or during the school holidays. Formal holiday schemes are known to run in all eight of the district's nine Planning Areas. Of the total number of places offered at known formal holiday schemes, 59% are usually occupied.

75% of childcare services can fully support the needs of at least one category of SEND, which is slightly lower than the rest of the county.

Allocation of site specific developer funding allocations has been used to support place expansion on two school sites in the Stratford Upon Avon town area along with current plans for development of places via the same route in the Bidford upon Avon area.

The proposed expansion and relocation of Lighthorne Heath Primary School will see the inclusion of increased nursery provision places in response to the demand from housing which will meet need alongside any additional private developed services.

Shottery area is currently under review with potential longer term plans for increased provision once proposals have been reviewed.

Age 4-16 – Compulsory School Age

Stratford/South Warwickshire – Primary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

There is some pressure on in-year places in the Kineton Primary planning area due to significant new housing, currently relieved by capacity in neighbouring planning areas. Expansion and relocation of Lighthorne Heath Primary school is planned for delivery in line with new housing development. This will involve increase expansion to two forms of entry (420 places) from Autumn 2026 to allow growth in line with build out and occupation of houses from the Upper Lighthorne housing development.

There is some pressure on in-year places in the Quinton Primary planning area due to significant new housing, currently relieved by capacity in neighbouring planning areas. Tudor Grange Academy Meon Vale opened as a new school in 2019 with a final capacity of 420 to meet demand as a result of significant new housing in the planning area. The school is opening classes gradually and in 2024 has an operating capacity of 210. This school will expand to 2FE in future years, as demand increases.

Compton and Brailes and Welford on Avon planning areas are forecasting some pressure, this will be mitigated by neighbouring planning areas as required.

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

- Stratford Rural
- The Dassett
- Henley
- Tysoe.

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

Schools in Henley and The Dassett applied to the DfE for approval to reduce their admission capacities from 2024.

Stratford/South Warwickshire – Secondary

See Appendix 4 for Reception and Year 7 forecasts for all planning areas.

Kineton is forecasting pressure on places for several years. These are at low numbers of pupils during the forecast period and will be monitored. Kineton High School admits a significant proportion of pupils (approx. 18%) from over the county border with Oxfordshire. Admissions

arrangements are such that the number of places allocated to pupils living outside Warwickshire would reduce, should demand from Warwickshire pupils increase. Kineton High School will undergo expansion in line with housing development when required.

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

Stratford is forecasting pressure on places for several years. Stratford upon Avon School is currently undergoing expansion by an additional 300 places. Due to this expansion, pressure is at low numbers of pupils during the forecast period and will continue to be monitored.

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

Shipston High School has expanded from 2024 by an additional 150 places, providing increased capacity for the area.

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

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

Stratford/South Warwickshire – Specialist Places

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

There is a need for additional specialist provision at Primary and Secondary phases across Stratford/South Warwickshire with the exception of Stratford Town. Options for this will be explored.

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

From 2024, a new Primary Specialist Resourced Provision will be open at Shipston on Stour Primary School.

Age 16-25 – Post-16 Education

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

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

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

School Sixth Forms:

	Capacity 2023/24:	Pupils 2023/24:
Stratford Girls' Grammar School*	250	215
Kineton High School	190	111
Stratford-upon-Avon School	300	228
King Edward VI School*	390	388
St. Benedict's Catholic High School	200	77
Alcester Grammar School*	540	517

*grammar schools, selective entry

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