

Swindon Borough Council Diversity Impact School Place Planning Study 2016

What is it about?

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.

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.

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. The report should be read alongside the School Place Planning Study (2009) and the update in 2011.

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.

Who is it for?

Primarily the report is to ensure pupils have access to education provision, which is the Council's statutory duty.

The School Place Planning Study is for a number of stakeholders including parents, teachers, governors and councillors. The study is also the evidence base to assist the Local Planning Authority to determine the future infrastructure requirements in the town.

Impact

The report will set out the education requirements for the next 10 years to enable school places to be delivered in the right place at the right time. The potential impact of not having an evidence base to support the need for new provision could leave pupils in Swindon without a school place. This would be a breach of the Council's statutory duty and lead to high reputational risk.

The proposals within the plan are universal and consider the educational places requirements for all existing and new pupils in Swindon. It is considered that the report does not discriminate, however, the consultation will test the data and recommendations across the town and in local areas to ensure that there is no potential adverse impact or discrimination against ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, marital/civil partnership status or pregnancy/maternity. The proposals do not discriminate against disability.

So what?

The School Place Planning Study will now be subject to a period of local consultation with stakeholders on the data and recommendations. The Education Authority will also commence engagement with education providers to meet the requirement for new places evidenced in the report.