

Wokingham School Places Plan 2025 – Easy Read

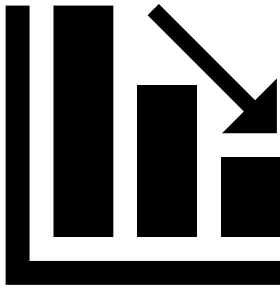
What is this about?



This plan explains how Wokingham Borough Council will make sure there are enough places for children and young people in:

- Early Years (nurseries and childcare)
- Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Post-16 education (sixth form and college)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Why do we need a plan?



- Fewer children are being born. In 2012, 1,963 children were born. In 2023, only 1,668 were born (15% fewer).
- This means fewer children will need school places in the future.
- Some areas have new housing, so more children live there.
- We need to make sure schools have the right number of places in the right areas.

Early Years (Nurseries and Childcare)



- Parents can get free childcare: 15 hours for all 3- and 4-year-olds, extra hours for working parents.
- From September 2025, working parents of children (9 months+) can get 30 hours.
- Most childcare is in day nurseries, but there are also preschools, school nurseries, and childminders.
- There are about 4,700 childcare places in Wokingham.
- We will give advice to people who want to open new nurseries and help schools add nursery places.

Primary Schools (Age 4–11)



- There are about 2,000 children in Reception now. By 2030, this will drop to about 1,800.
- There are too many school places now (about 2,350 Reception places).
- We will reduce the number of places in some schools and move schools if needed to new housing areas.

Secondary Schools (Age 11–16)



- Year 7 has about 2,300 pupils now. By 2030, this will drop to about 2,100.
- There will be too many places (about 15% extra by 2030).
- We will slowly reduce school sizes and work with schools and trusts to agree changes.

Post-16 Education (Sixth Form and College)



- About 4,000 young people need education after age 16.
- Two-thirds need A-levels or similar courses. One-third need practical courses (like vocational training).
- We will finish building Bohunt School sixth form and replace the temporary sixth form at Emmbrook School.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)



- More children need specialist help. In 2024, about 850 children were in specialist settings. By 2030, this will rise to about 1,300.
- We will add new SEND places in early years, primary, secondary, and post-16.
- We will build new specialist schools and resource bases.