

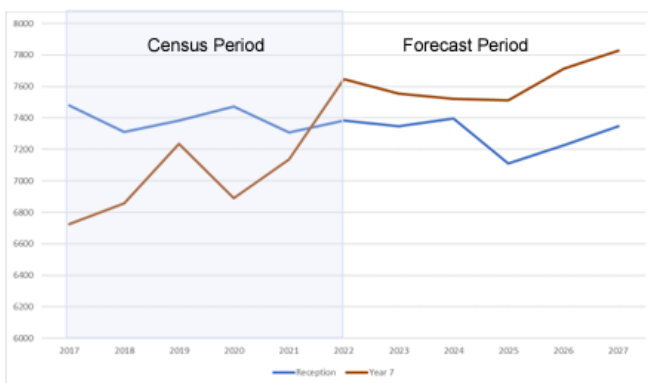


# Warborough and Shillingford Revised Neighbourhood Plan 2025

## Appendix 9.0 Education

### 1. Educational Offering - Analysis

Recent and forecast Reception and Year 7 pupils in Oxfordshire's schools



St Laurence Church of England Primary School is currently at 91.4% capacity. There are 96 children on the role and 70 of them come from outside the Parish of Warborough & Shillingford. We have children from Didcot, Cholsey, Benson, Newington, Oxford, Wallingford<sup>1</sup>. Oxfordshire Country Council are responsible for ensuring there are enough school places in the correct areas and their latest Pupil Place Plan 2023/2024-2027/2028<sup>2</sup> states the following: *Despite a forecast dip in the Reception intake in 2025, following that*

*there is an expected steady growth in pupil numbers, at both primary and secondary level.*

OCC divides the county into 23 learning communities defined by secondary schools and their feeder primary schools. Warborough & Shillingford fall into the Wallingford area.

In their detailed analysis of the Wallingford area, OCC state:

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by Ms N Cooper, Headteacher

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/our-work-schools/Pupil-Place-Plan.pdf>



Primary school capacity has been under pressure in this area for several years, requiring several school expansions. Demand for places dipped in 2021 but is forecast to grow after 2024 due to recent and proposed housing developments.

Within Wallingford town, the county council is working with the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust to relocate St Nicholas CE Infant School [3244] as part of a major housing development and extend the age ranges of both this and Fir Tree Junior School [2578] to become full primary schools, expanding overall capacity in the town. The current target completion date for the new school building is 2026. In the surrounding villages, in 2020 Cholsey Primary School [2596] expanded from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry. Benson CE Primary School [3181] expanded in 2019 from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry, for which an additional playing field has been secured from an adjoining housing development. Given the scale of housing growth in the village, further expansion may be required. Brightwell Cum-Sotwell CoE Primary School [3221] took the decision to accept 30 pupils per year group in both 2021/22 and 2022/23 but does not have physical capacity to accommodate 30 children in all year groups. The academy trust responsible for this school is reviewing accommodation options.

Recent rapid growth in local primary pupil numbers, along with significant planned/permitted housing growth, has required secondary school expansion. Wallingford School's catchment overlaps that of Icknield Community College in Watlington, which is particularly affected by growth on the Benson side of this area. Wallingford School [4140] has expanded by 2 forms of entry since 2018, to an admission number of 242 for the 2023/24 school year onwards. The school is not expected to be able to expand further, and current forecasts indicate that demand will continue to exceed the number of places available. In the first instance this will affect pupils living outside of the catchment area, but the scale of planned local housing growth may result in the school's admission number being too low to meet demand from within the catchment area in some years. The planned new secondary school in northeast Didcot may help to relieve pressure on places in this area but is not expected to be built before the end of this decade. Further housing growth (in addition to that already planned and permitted) may therefore result in the local population exceeding the ability of Wallingford School offering places to its catchment applicants.

We note this analysis will not include any modelling of the impact of the recent decision to add VAT to private school fees.

<sup>1</sup> Data provided by Ms N Cooper, Headteacher

<sup>1 1</sup> <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/our-work-schools/Pupil-Place-Plan.pdf>