

Appendix F: Annual Sufficiency Assessment (September 2025)

Summary Overview

The sufficiency review aims to assess and ensure adequate provision for early years and childcare, primary, and secondary education across Buckinghamshire. This involves evaluating the current state of facilities, forecasting future demands, and planning for necessary expansions or adjustments to meet the needs of children, including those with SEND.

Early years and childcare sufficiency

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare for children aged 0–14 (up to 18 for those with disabilities) to support parents in work and those in education or training. From April 2024 the LA must ensure there is sufficient wraparound care (8am–6pm) for all school-age children. Going forward there will be more duties to develop fee paying holiday care for children of working parents in conjunction with the government funded Holiday Entitlement Programme (HAF) which supports parents of vulnerable children or those who have SEND.

The Local Authority has a duty to provide sufficient, flexible, early education places for young children across all providers within the early years sector. This includes day nurseries, voluntary managed preschools, childminders, and schools. From September 2025, this includes provision for funding for up to 30 hours per week for children aged 9 months to school age.

Current Provision

As at March 2024, 17,475 places were available across Buckinghamshire for Under 5s, compared to a population of 31,256 children in this age group.

Providers and Places - under 5's

Childcare type	Number of providers (March 2023)	Maximum places (March 2023)	Number of providers (March 2024)	Maximum places (March 2024)	Providers (Net Comparison)	Places (Net Comparison)
Childminder	376	2333	341	2199	-35	-134
Day Nursery	112	6825	118	7073	6	248
Maintained Nursery School	3	446	3	446	0	0
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	14	704	15	704	1	0
Pre-School or Nursery School	120	3786	106	3363	-14	-423
School Governor Led Pre-School	28	855	27	820	-1	-35
School/Academy with Nursery Class	61	2734	65	2870	4	136
Total	714	17683	675	17475	-39	-208

Providers and Places - out of school 5 years +

Childcare type	Number of providers (March 2023)	Maximum places (March 2023)	Number of providers (March 2024)	Maximum places (March 2024)	Providers (Net Comparison)	Places (Net Comparison)
After School Club	136	4454	131	4513	-5	59
Holiday Club	80	2416	102	2656	22	240
Breakfast Club	44	1850	44	1909	0	59
Total	260	8720	277	9078	17	358

In Spring Term 2024, 79% of the places are within the private, voluntary, and independent sector.

Whilst there was a small gap of places for under-2s last year, in September 2025 there are sufficient places available across Buckinghamshire as a whole. Parents may however need to be prepared to travel a reasonable distance (for example 2-3 miles). Many parents prefer to travel to access childcare, for example linked to work, for a preferred provider or to be near other relatives such as grandparents.

In terms of wraparound care from 8am-6pm, 89% of schools meet the Government's requirement for this provision. A further 7% of schools have a wraparound offer opening for fewer hours but currently meeting parents' needs. 4% of schools do not have wraparound provision available – of those 3 are special schools.

Demand

There are high levels of take-up in Buckinghamshire. In Spring Term 2024, take-up was 78% for the 2-year-old offer and 97% for 3–4-year-olds. However, we have lower take-up in Opportunity Bucks wards (84% for 3–4s, 72% for 2s) which is an area of focus. The area analysis is included at [Appendix B](#).

Developments in 2020-2025

Recent trends have included:

- **Under 5s:** Increase in independent day nursery places; decline in childminders and preschools.
- **Over 5s:** Growth in holiday clubs; significant increase in after-school clubs and breakfasts clubs.
- **SEND:** Increase in specialist SEND holiday provision and inclusive childcare.
- Concerns around **provider sustainability**, linked to rising costs and recruitment and retention of staff, resulting in a constant fluctuation of providers and places are a risk to this supply of places.

- Between 2024 and 2025 due to a fluctuating market landscape and changes in parents demands for places, 34 providers overall have closed; the majority of those being childminders, however across the same period we have gained 39 childcare places.

Priorities in Early Years and Childcare Planning:

- Sustainability of providers, particularly for those providing 0–3-year-old places for 52 weeks of the year.
- Flexibility of the childcare offer, ensuring that development of places can meet parental needs.
- Expansion of nursery places offering 52 weeks a year provision from 8am – 6:30pm and wraparound care in primary schools from 8am – 6pm for children of statutory school age.
- Future development of childcare places in areas where gaps have been identified –currently (Sept 2025) in the following wards:
 - Aston Clinton and Berton
 - Stone and Waddesdon
 - Buckingham
 - Booker, Cressex and Castlefield
 - West Wycombe
 - Denham
 - Chesham
 - Downley
 - Little Chalfont and Amersham Common
 - Totteridge and Bowerdean

Primary School Sufficiency – Mainstream

Current Provision and Demand

For the purpose of primary school place planning, the county is divided into 20 planning areas. The boundaries are shown on the map below.



Demand for places reflects both birth rates and patterns of migration and housing growth. The number of births across Buckinghamshire has changed as follows over the last five years:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total	5706	5580	5775	5659	5576

Overall, the number of places is broadly in balance with demand, with a 7% surplus. 99% of primary school applicants received an offer of one of their preference schools. However, this disguises differences at a more local level. [Appendix C](#) includes a detailed assessment of the places and plans in each of the planning areas. In summary, the Buckinghamshire wide picture is as follows:

 School Capacity Summary - Primary Buckinghamshire Summary							
	Capacity	Current			Projected		
		Sept23 Pupils	Sept23 Surplus Places	Sept23 % Surplus Places	Sept28 Pupils	Sept28 Surplus Places	Sept28 % Surplus Places
Total Buckinghamshire	47,694	44,431	3,263	7%	44,770	2,924	6%

Planning Area	Capacity	Current			Projected		
		Sept23 Pupils	Sept23 Surplus Places	Sept23 % Surplus Places	Sept28 Pupils	Sept28 Surplus Places	Sept28 % Surplus Places
Amersham	2,195	2,066	129	6%	1,802	393	18%
Aylesbury Town	9,324	9,353	-29	-0%	10,467	-1,143	-12%
Beaconsfield	1,050	981	69	7%	870	180	17%
Bourne End	1,785	1,657	128	7%	1,705	80	4%
Buckingham	1,919	1,781	138	7%	1,702	217	11%
Burnham	1,131	1,073	58	5%	1,134	-3	-0%
Chesham	1,905	1,738	167	9%	1,656	249	13%
Farnham & Stoke Poges	1,275	1,132	143	11%	1,123	152	12%
Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts	2,852	2,652	200	7%	2,726	126	4%
Great Missenden	1,262	1,041	221	18%	818	444	35%
Haddenham	1,723	1,668	55	3%	1,842	-119	-7%
High Wycombe	9,227	8,795	432	5%	8,768	459	5%
Ivers	818	738	80	10%	641	177	22%
Marlow	2,099	1,913	186	9%	1,665	434	21%
Princes Risborough	992	888	104	10%	976	16	2%
Waddesdon	1,152	965	187	16%	924	228	20%
Wendover	1,666	1,425	241	14%	1,392	274	16%
Wing and Ivinghoe	2,174	1,884	290	13%	1,758	416	19%
Winslow	1,535	1,276	259	17%	1,401	134	9%
Wvcombe West	1,610	1,405	205	13%	1,400	210	13%

Whilst the total number of pupils of primary age across the county is not expected to change significantly, the forecasts for 2027 indicate potential increased pressure in Aylesbury Town and Haddenham while other areas are expected to see an increase in surplus places. It is anticipated that it may be possible to absorb the additional demand in some areas through the potential expansion of existing schools. Aylesbury Town however is a focus for significant expansion at primary level, reflecting the large movement of families into the area both into the new developments and existing housing stock. Wing and Ivinghoe is also an area for future expansion, linked to the planned Salden Park development.

As identified in the Early Years section, the expansion of pre-school and wraparound care is a key priority for the council and this is a focus for discussion with primary schools. Similarly, the provision of Additional Resourced Provision for children with special educational needs is an area for focus. 15 of the 184 schools in the primary sector currently have some form of additional resourced provision. The current provision of ARPS and SEN Units in the primary sector is as follows:

 School Capacity Summary - Primary Buckinghamshire ARPs and SEN Units						
DfE	School Name	Status	Type	Planning Area	Resourced Provision Type (GIAS)	SEN Needs (GIAS)
2250	Aston Clinton School	Maintained	Combined	Wendover	Resourced provision	SLCN
2225	Bearbrook Combined School	Academy	Combined	Aylesbury Town	SEN unit	ASD
2176	Carrington Infant School	Maintained	Infant	Bourne End	SEN unit	ASD
2157	Carrington Junior School	Maintained	Junior	Bourne End	SEN unit	ASD
2235	Claytons Primary School	Maintained	Combined	Bourne End	Resourced provision	ASD
2213	Elmtree Infant and Nursery School	Academy	Infant	Chesham	Resourced provision	SLCN
2352	Highworth Combined School and Nursery	Maintained	Combined	High Wycombe	Resourced provision	HI
2345	Holtspur School & Pre-School	Maintained	Combined	Beaconsfield	Resourced provision	SLCN
2199	Juniper Hill School	Maintained	Combined	Bourne End	SEN unit	SEMH
3377	Kings Wood School and Nursery	Maintained	Combined	High Wycombe	Resourced provision	SLCN
2001	Oak Green School	Maintained	Combined	Aylesbury Town	SEN unit	ASD
2024	Princes Risborough Primary School	Academy	Combined	Princes Risborough	SEN unit	ASD
2108	Stoke Mandeville Combined School	Maintained	Combined	Aylesbury Town	Resourced provision	HI
2000	The Disraeli School	Maintained	Combined	High Wycombe	Resourced provision and SEN unit	ASD
2288	William Harding School	Maintained	Combined	Aylesbury Town	Resourced provision	SLCN, PD

There is a need to further expand ARP provision at primary level, particularly in the North of Buckinghamshire.

Developments in 2020-2025

Over this period, Buckinghamshire Council has added a total of c.900 places as follows:

- New 2FE primary school - Kingsbrook View Primary Academy (480 places)
- Expansion of Chalfont Valley School (30 places)
- Expansion of Maids Moreton (30 places)
- Bulge class at Denham Green Primary Academy (30 places)
- Bulge class at Haydon Abbey School (30 places)
- Expansion of Green Ridge (1FE) (210 primary places) and (30 nursery places)
- Bulge class at Turnfurlong (30 places)
- Bulge classes at Haddenham Schools (30 places)

During this period, The Mary Towerton School closed in the West Wycombe area and Westcott CE School closed in the Waddesdon area due to significant surplus capacity.

Planned Developments 2025-2030

The Council will continue to monitor numbers closely, particularly in relation to the impact of housing developments and pupil migration patterns. The current plans for the next five years are to establish c.2,000 new places as follows:

- Long Crendon bulge classes – additional 60 places. Works anticipated to complete in August 2026.
- Orchard View Primary Academy – new 2 form entry 420 place school with 60 place nursery and 12 place SEND Unit. Works anticipated to complete in September 2026.
- Hampden Fields Primary School 1 – new 3 form entry 630 place school with 90 place nursery and 18 place SEND Unit. Works anticipated to complete in September 2028.
- Salden Park Primary School – new 3 form entry 630 place school with 90 place nursery. Works anticipated to complete in September 2028.

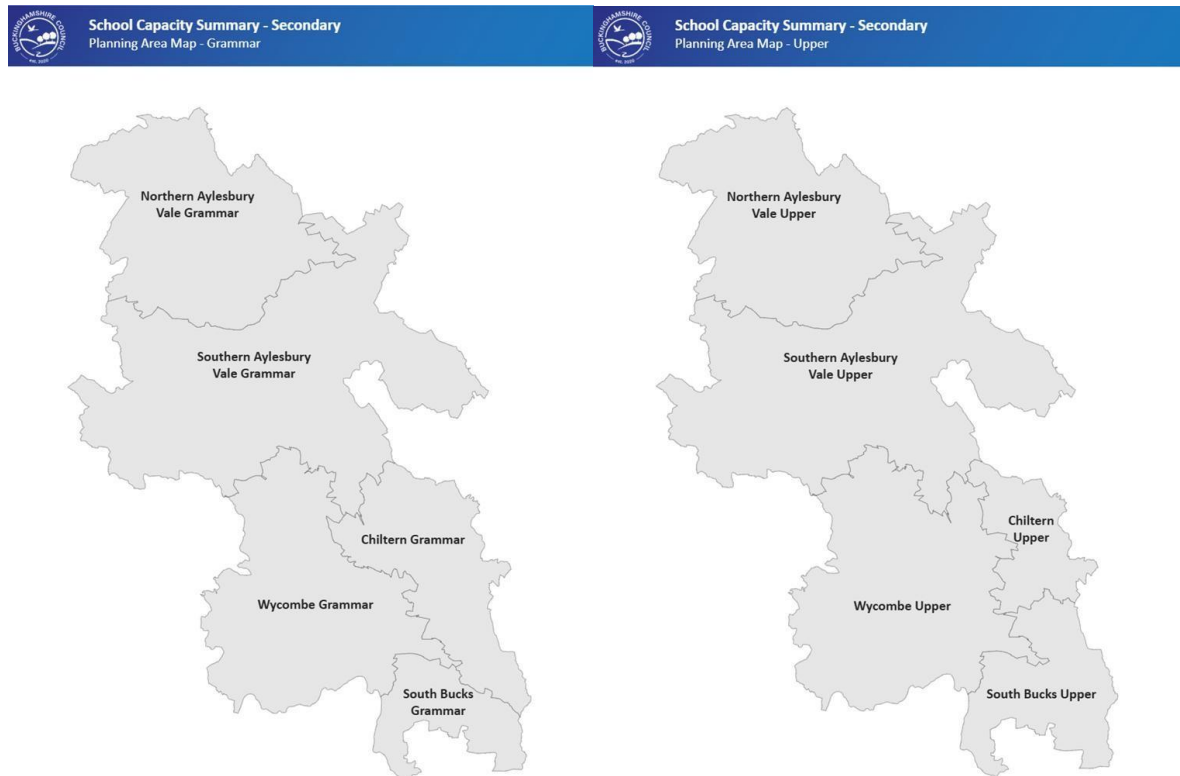
Priorities in Primary Planning:

- Supply of additional school places in response to housing growth
- Explore alternative uses of surplus capacity
- ARP provision – particularly in the North of the county
- Wraparound care
- Nursery provision
- School holiday care for working parents and government funded holiday care for vulnerable families.

Secondary School Sufficiency – Mainstream

Current Provision and Demand

For the purpose of secondary school place planning, the county is divided into 5 planning areas (with grammar and upper schools considered separately). The boundaries are shown on the maps below.



[Appendix D](#) includes a detailed assessment of the places and plans in each of the planning areas. In summary, the Buckinghamshire wide picture is as follows:



School Capacity Summary - Secondary

Buckinghamshire Summary

	Capacity	Current			Projected		
		Sept23 Pupils	Sept23 Surplus Places	Sept23 % Surplus Places	Sept30 Pupils	Sept30 Surplus Places	Sept30 % Surplus Places
Total Buckinghamshire	43,276	40,812	2,464	6%	43,306	-30	-0%

Planning Area	Capacity	Current			Projected		
		Sept23 Pupils	Sept23 Surplus Places	Sept23 % Surplus Places	Sept30 Pupils	Sept30 Surplus Places	Sept30 % Surplus Places
Grammar Schools in Chiltern Secondary	3,851	4,002	-151	-4%	4,017	-166	-4%
Grammar Schools in North Aylesbury Vale Secondary	1,270	1,312	-42	-3%	1,291	-21	-2%
Grammar Schools in South Aylesbury Vale Secondary	3,960	4,025	-65	-2%	4,049	-89	-2%
Grammar Schools in South Bucks excluding Beaconsfield Secondary	1,260	1,267	-7	-1%	1,255	5	0%
Grammar Schools in Wycombe including Beaconsfield Secondary	6,299	6,437	-138	-2%	6,381	-82	-1%
Upper Schools in Chiltern excluding Holmer Green Secondary	2,431	2,127	304	13%	2,096	335	14%
Upper Schools in North Aylesbury Vale Secondary	1,831	1,761	70	4%	1,944	-113	-6%
Upper Schools in South Aylesbury Vale Secondary	8,621	8,202	419	5%	9,787	-1,166	-14%
Upper Schools in South Bucks excluding Beaconsfield Secondary	2,251	1,267	984	44%	1,603	648	29%
Upper Schools in Wycombe including Holmer Green and Beaconsfield Secondary	10,902	10,257	645	6%	10,676	226	2%
UTCs in Buckinghamshire Secondary	600	155	445	74%	207	393	66%

94% of secondary school applicants were made an offer of any of their ranked preference schools, which is in line with regional comparisons.

Some 3,300 secondary aged children attend schools outside Buckinghamshire, and a slightly larger (c.3,600) number of non-Buckinghamshire children come into the county for secondary schooling. The increasing pressure on neighbouring authorities such as Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Central Bedfordshire will potentially impact on demand for non-grammar places in Buckinghamshire.

Demand for grammar school places remains high. Grammar schools generally fill to capacity with demand from out of county children, with c.400 out of county children coming in every year, although this number has been falling as the Buckinghamshire population has risen. We are not forecasting any oversubscription issues with the grammar schools from Buckinghamshire pupils, although will need to keep this under review in the future, particularly in the Aylesbury Vale area given the high levels of housing growth planned.

In terms of Upper Schools, areas of focus for expansion are North Aylesbury, South Aylesbury and Wycombe.

The provision of Additional Resourced Provision for children with special educational needs is an area for focus. 7 of the 37 secondary schools in the county currently have an ARP as follows:

 School Capacity Summary - Secondary Buckinghamshire ARPs and SEN Units						
DfE	School Name	Status	Type	Planning Area	Resourced Provision Type (GIAS)	SEN Needs (GIAS)
4013	Bourne End Academy	Academy	Upper	Wycombe Upper Schools	Resourced provision	SLCN, ASD
4070	Holmer Green Senior School	Academy	Upper	Wycombe Upper Schools	Resourced provision	SLCN
4012	Princes Risborough School	Academy	Upper	Wycombe Upper Schools	Resourced provision and SEN unit	ASD
4017	Sir William Ramsay School	Academy	Upper	Wycombe Upper Schools	Resourced provision	HI, PD
5403	The Chalfonts Community College	Academy	Upper	South Bucks Upper Schools	Resourced provision	SpLD, VI, OTH, HI, SLCN, ASD, SEMH, MSI, PD, MLD
4014	The Kingsbrook School	Academy	Upper	Southern Aylebury Vale Upper Schools	SEN unit	SEMH
4042	The Misbourne School	Academy	Upper	Wycombe Upper Schools	Resourced provision	ASD

Developments in 2020-2025

Over this period, Buckinghamshire has added a total of c.2,700 places as follows:

- Mandeville expansion (60 places)
- Buckingham School expansion (180 places)
- Holmer Green expansion (360 places)
- Amersham School expansion including bulge class (220 places)
- Chiltern Hills Academy expansion (365 places)
- The Kingsbrook 6FE Secondary School (1,080 places)
- Amersham bulge class (30 places)
- The Grange bulge class (30 places)
- John Colet bulge classes x3 (90 places)
- Princes Risborough expansion (130 places)
- Cottesloe School expansion and bulge class (150 places)

Planned Developments 2025-2030

The current plans for the next five years are to establish c.350 new places as follows:

- The Kingsbrook School – 2fe (forms of entry = fe) expansion (360 places). Works anticipated to complete by September 2027.

Priorities in Secondary Planning:

- Supply of additional Upper school places in North Aylesbury, South Aylesbury and Wycombe in response to housing growth
- Explore alternative uses of surplus capacity
- ARP provision – particularly for pupils with autism or SEMH who need a strong academic environment.

Special Educational Needs and Disability – Specialist Provision

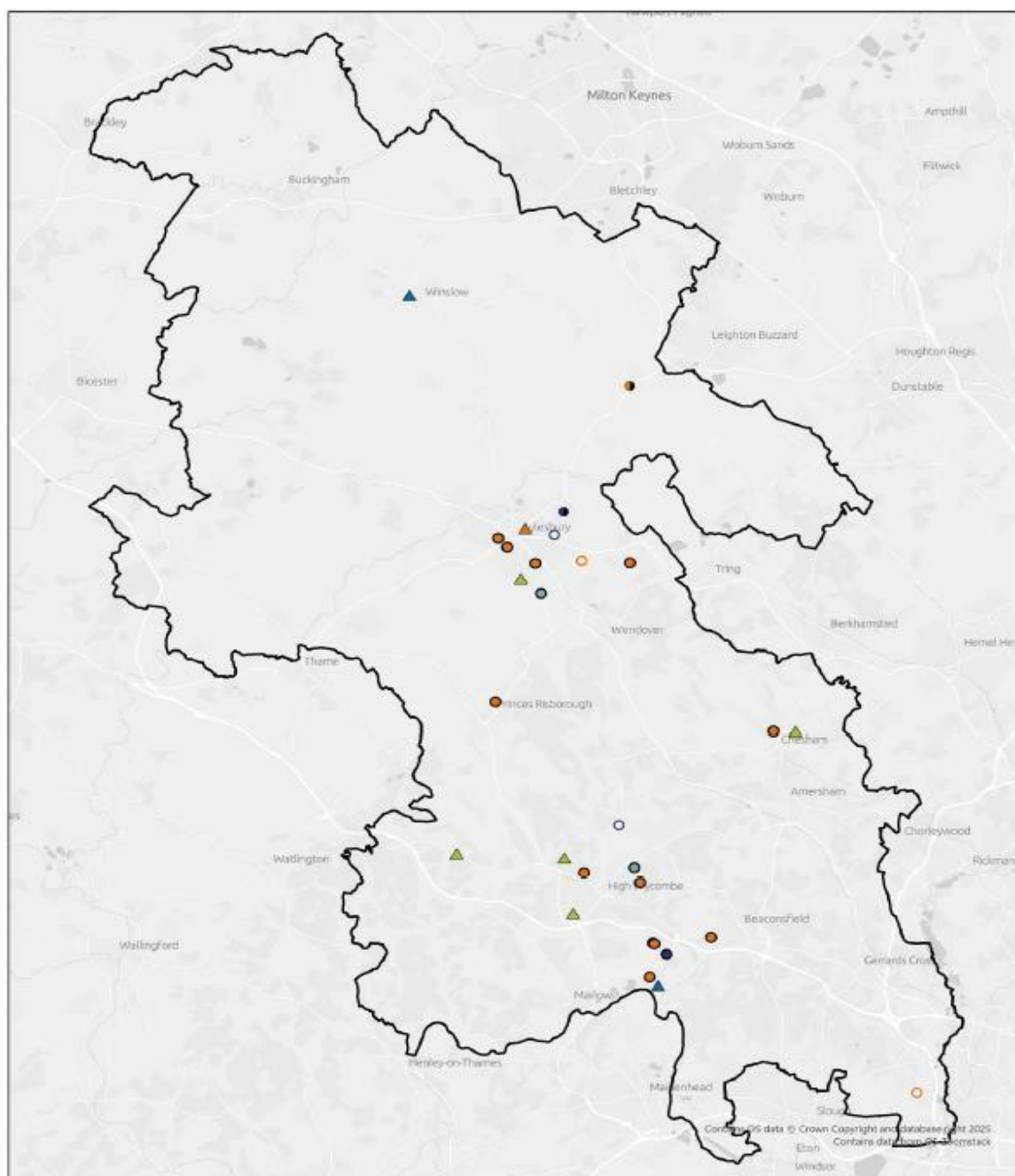
A range of education provision is available in Buckinghamshire, within both mainstream and special schools, to provide the best education to support individual pupil needs. Buckinghamshire has 10 special schools and 22 mainstream schools with dedicated Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) and Units which are specially designed to support pupils with specific special educational needs alongside a mainstream education.

Current Arrangements

The following maps sets out the provision currently in place for primary and secondary SEND provision (MAP 1 & MAP 2 below); provision that is due to open; and options that are currently in development. See [Annex 1](#) for list of current settings.

In 2024/25 academic year, 35% of children and young people with an EHCP maintained by Buckinghamshire were eligible for Council-funded home to school travel assistance. 74% of those eligible pupils were attending a school more than 3 miles from their home. The total cost of Council-arranged SEND travel assistance in 2024/25 academic year was circa £26.8m.

MAP 1: Primary Provision



Primary Specialist Places in Buckinghamshire 2025

- ▲ Special School, open
- ▲ Special School, due to open
- ▲ Special School, in development
- ARS, open
- ARS, due to open
- ARS, in development

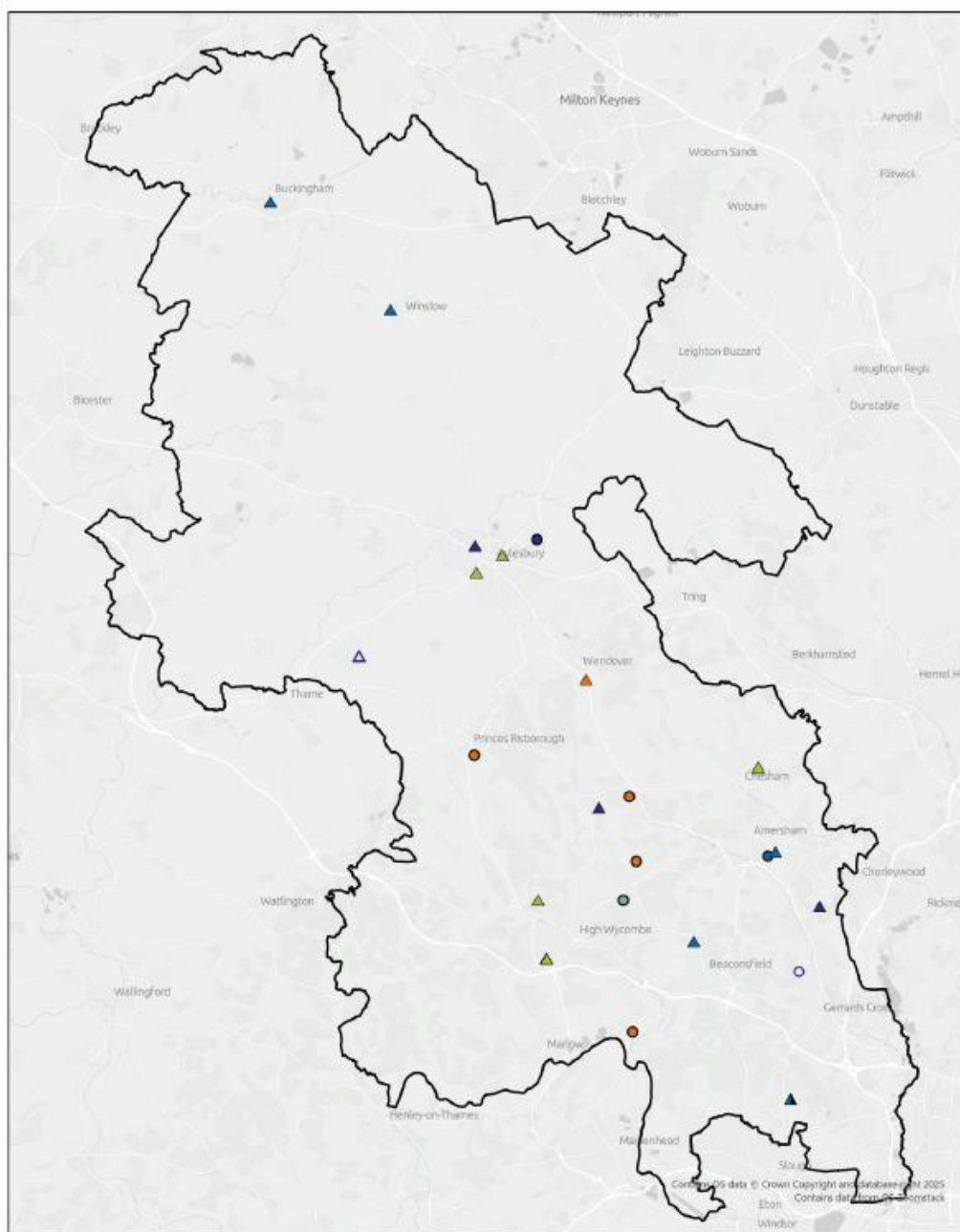
- Communication & Interaction
- Complex Needs/MILD
- SEMH
- Sensory & Physical
- PMLD/Complex Needs



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MAP 2: Secondary Provision



Secondary Specialist Places in Buckinghamshire 2025

- ▲ Special School, open
- ▲ Special School, due to open
- ▲ Special School, in development
- ARR, open
- ARR, due to open
- ARR, in development
- Communication & Interaction
- Complex Needs/MILD
- SEMH
- Sensory & Physical
- PMLD/Complex Needs



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Demand

The growth in demand for EHCP to date:

Need Type	Year				
	Actuals				
	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23	Jan-24	Jan-25
Sensory & Physical	519	552	544	559	608
SEMH	712	790	872	1098	1337
Communication & Interaction	2541	2861	3222	3641	3838
Cognition & Learning	1138	1212	1233	1333	1324
Total	4910	5415	5871	6631	7107

In 2024/25, 45.8% of children and young people in Buckinghamshire were educated in mainstream settings, this compares with 43.6% nationally.

As of February 2025, the three largest primary need groups for EHCPs are: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Most schools report that children's needs are becoming more complex. High levels of complex need more often require more physical space for equipment, or breakout areas and quiet rooms, smaller class sizes and staff with additional specialist expertise and experience.

Forecasting the future need for specialist provision is challenging. [Appendix A](#) sets out different scenarios for modelling future numbers. As set out in [Scenario 2](#), the Council is planning on the following growth forecasts:

	Primary			Secondary			Total		
	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase
ARP	116	139	23	84	128	44	200	266	66
Special School	520	616	96	1005	1575	570	1525	2191	666
Independent	51	62	11	205	329	124	256	391	135

This represents a shortfall of 600 places across all phases against current plans by 2032.

Some children and young people in Buckinghamshire attend **independent schools** because their needs are very specific and cannot be met in local schools. For a small number, this is the most suitable option. However, many others are placed in independent provision simply because there aren't enough places available locally. In 2025/26, 386 children were placed in independent settings with a further 33 placed in independent specialist colleges. 219 children and young people were accessing Education Other Than At School provision (EOTAS). This strategy aims to reduce that reliance by improving and expanding local SEND services.

Developments 2020-2025

Buckinghamshire's first **SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy 2022 - 2027** set out an ambitious plan to deliver 530 places by Sept 2027 (these figures included a new 152 place Free School being funded and delivered by the Government, which was subsequently withdrawn in May 2026). To date we have made good progress against this target and have created 262 places. Key projects have included opening new specialist units (ARPs), expanding Stocklake Park School, and creating satellite sites for Chiltern Wood and Furze Down Schools.

Table 1: Places delivered since 2022

SEND PLACES CREATED 2022-25									
SEND Project	Designation	Area	Cost	Start on Site	Completed	No. Places Created	Places Open	Places to come on line 2025/26	Places to come on line Sept 26
Stocklake Park School, Aylesbury: Expansion	PMLD	Aylesbury	£ 420,500	2022	2022	19	19		
The Kingsbrook School SEND Unit (costs part of main school budget)	SEMH	Aylesbury		2021	2022	32	32		
Princes Risborough School - ARP Expansion	ASC	Wycombe	£ 22,000	2022	2022	5	5		
Holmer Green Senior School ARP Expansion	SLCN	Chiltern	£ 22,000	2022	2022	3	3		
Westfield School, Bourne End: Minor expansion	SLCN/ASC	Wycombe	£ 50,000	2022	2022	9	9		
Aspire Shortenills	SEMH	Chiltern	66000	2022	2023	28	28		
Furze Down School, Winslow: Expansion	ASC	Aylesbury	£ 1,205,313	2022	2023	15	15		
Chiltern Way Academy, Wendover: Expansion	SEMH	Aylesbury	£ 300,000	2023	2023	24	24		
Bearbrook School, Aylesbury: SEND Unit	ASC	Aylesbury	£ 678,791	2023	2024	14	6	8	
Aspire, The Abbey Centre, Aylesbury	SEMH	Aylesbury	£ 480,000	2024	2024	24	24		
Furze Down School Sixth Form Centre Buckingham	ASC	Aylesbury	£ 750,000	2024	2024	24	24		
Chiltern Wood School Satellite: Mary Towerton Site, Studley Green	ASC	Wycombe	£ 600,000	2024		32	16	8	8
Juniper Hill School, Flackwell Heath: SEND Unit	SEMH	Wycombe	£ 1,500,000	2024	2024	12	6	6	
Stony Dean School, Amersham: Additional Classrooms	MLD	Chiltern	£ 300,000	2024	2024	5	5		
Pebble Brook School, Aylesbury: Additional Modular Classrooms	MLD	Aylesbury	£ 300,000	2024	2024	16	16		
TOTAL			£ 6,694,604			262	232	22	8

Wherever possible the Council is looking to re-purpose existing buildings to provide additional places. For example, following the closure of The Mary Towerton School, Studley Green in 2023 the building has been used as a satellite site to Chiltern Wood Special School, providing an additional 32 places.

The Council has also supported over 50 adaptation projects over the past five years through the Schools Access Initiative to make mainstream schools more accessible for children with disabilities. This programme has included installing ramps, specialist toilets, hoists, and other changes.

Planned Developments

To meet the growing demand for SEND places, Buckinghamshire Council is currently working on **15 approved projects**. These will create around **300 new places** for children and young people with special educational needs by 2027, exceeding the target set in the 2022 strategy.

Table 2: Projects approved and in development

SEND PROJECTS SUMMARY					
SEND Project	Number of Projects	No. Places Created/ to be Created	Places Open	Places to come on line 2025/26	Places to come on line Sept 26 onwards
SEND Projects Approved and Progressing for delivery 2025/26 onwards	15	300		100	200
TOTAL	15	300	0	100	200

SEND Project	Designation	Stage	Area	Start on Site	Est. Completion Date	No. Places to be Created	Places to come on line 2025/26	Places to come on line beyond Sept 26
Expansion of special school in south of the County	ASC	All Through	Wycombe	2026	2027	56		56
Chiltern Way Academy Trust Satellite site at Sefton Park, Stoke Poges	MLD/EBSNA	Secondary	South Bucks	2025	2026	70	40	30
Chiltern Way Academy - Sixth Form Satellite at Harding House and expansion on Prestwood/Wendover sites	SEMH	Secondary	Chiltern/Aylesbury	2025	2026	30	16	14
Orchard View Primary Academy SEND Unit	SEMH	Primary	Aylesbury	2025	2026	12		12
Expansion of special school in south of the County	SEMH	Secondary	Wycombe	2025	2025	6	2	4
Expansion of special school in north of the County	ASC	All Through	Aylesbury	2026	2027	16	8	8
Overstone School SEND Unit	ASC	Primary	Aylesbury	2025	2025	12	6	6
Pebble Brook School conversion of former caretaker's House	MLD	Secondary	Aylesbury	2025	2025	4	4	
Expansion of special school in north of the County	PMLD	Secondary	Aylesbury	2025	2026	16	8	8
A new SEND Unit at a primary school in Aylesbury	SEMH	Primary	Aylesbury	2026	2027	16		16
The Chalfonts Community College	EBSNA	Secondary	Chiltern	2025	2027	18	8	10
Iver Village Junior School SEND Unit	ASC	Primary	South Bucks	2025	2025	8	4	4
A new SEND Unit at a primary school in Chiltern	EBSNA	Primary	Wycombe	2026	2027	10		10
A new SEND Unit at a school in the north of the county	ASC	Secondary	Aylesbury	2026	2026	8	4	4
Hampden Fields Primary School SEND Unit	ASC	Primary	Aylesbury	2027	2028	18		18
TOTAL						300	100	200

A further 4 projects are currently in development which will deliver 50 new places. In addition, feasibility studies have been undertaken or are planned at over 30 schools to develop a pipeline of projects that can be delivered to meet localised need.

Future Priorities

Even with these new places, the Council will still need to find space for **another 600 pupils** to meet the growth forecasts. This assumes a continued use of c.250 independent places.

To meet the needs of children and reduce reliance on expensive independent and one-to-one education, we need a balanced mix of provision. This includes more specialist units (ARPs), which relieve pressure on special schools, as well as expanding existing special schools and building new ones.

A review of current provision has shown that there are **gaps in SEND services** in both the **north and south** of the county, which will need to be addressed in future planning.

Table 3: Current Specialist Provision by Age/Area

Need	Phase	Places by Area	
		North	South
Communication & Interaction	Primary	94	107
	Secondary	176	78
SEMH	Primary	54	20
	Secondary	208	135
Sensory & Physical	Primary	10	12
	Secondary	0	16
Complex Needs/MLD	Primary	55	85
	Secondary	349	469
PMLD/Complex Needs	Primary	234	200
	Secondary	108	184

To meet future demand and address gaps, priorities for development will include:

- Creating more SEND units/ARPs, especially secondary provision in the south and both primary and secondary provision in the north.
- Developing capacity, including ARPs, in mainstream schools, especially for children with autism or SEMH who need a strong academic environment.
- Expanding existing special schools, particularly in the north.
- New schools or satellite schools, ideally in central locations to serve both Aylesbury and Wycombe and improve accessibility across the county.

The transformation of SEND provision will not only involve investment in new facilities and infrastructure, but also in staff development and recruitment, support for integration of pupils, a culture change to foster inclusivity, and the engagement of parents, educators, health professionals and the wider community to create a strong support network.

During 2025/26, the Council will work closely with schools, families, transport services, therapy services, and the wider health and social care providers to develop a sustainable plan for the future organisation of SEND services across the county. Meeting the level of forecast demand will depend on securing funding from the Government and finding suitable sites for new provision. Transport and funding impacts—

particularly on the High Needs Block and home-to-school transport budgets—will also need to be carefully considered.

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Post-16 Provision

The Education and Skills Act 2008 established the minimum age at which a person in England can leave education or training as 18 years old. Opportunities for young people to participate in learning post-16 can be within the following:

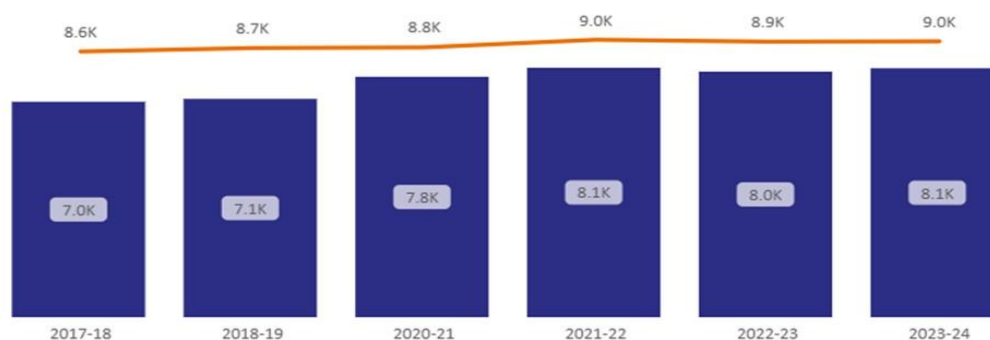
- Full-time education, such as school, college, or home education
- Apprenticeships, work-based learning
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for at least 20 hours a week.

After completing Year 11, students have several options for continuing their education or training in Buckinghamshire. They can choose to attend further education colleges or sixth forms or opt for work/study programs and apprenticeships. Volunteering is also encouraged as it offers benefits such as gaining confidence, learning new skills, and meeting new people.

For young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), there are specific post-16 options available in Buckinghamshire. At age 18, individuals have further choices, including employment, volunteering, further study, or taking a gap year. Additionally, there is advice and information on job searching and career opportunities to help young people navigate their future paths.

School Sixth Form Numbers on Roll and Reported Places

● number on roll ● reported places



School Sixth Form Numbers on Roll and Reported Places, 2023-24

Secondary Planning Area	Number on Roll	Reported Places	Surplus places	% Surplus Places
Grammar Schools in Chiltern Secondary	1242	1150	-92	-8.0%
Grammar Schools in North Aylesbury Vale Secondary	445	400	-45	-11.3%
Grammar Schools in South Aylesbury Vale Secondary	1249	1206	-43	-3.6%
Grammar Schools in South Bucks excluding Beaconsfield Secondary	365	360	-5	-1.4%
Grammar Schools in Wycombe including Beaconsfield Secondary	1929	1906	-23	-1.2%
Upper Schools in Chiltern excluding Holmer Green Secondary	287	400	113	28.3%
Upper Schools in North Aylesbury Vale Secondary	143	180	37	20.6%
Upper Schools in South Aylesbury Vale Secondary	839	1180	341	28.9%
Upper Schools in South Bucks excluding Beaconsfield Secondary	178	300	122	40.7%
Upper Schools in Wycombe including Holmer Green and Beaconsfield Secondary	1372	1510	138	9.1%
UTCs in Buckinghamshire Secondary	27	360	333	92.5%
Total	8076	8952	876	9.8%

Post 16 cohorts with EHC plans grew by 13.53% between 2023/24 and 2024/25 and by a further 19.98% between 2024/25 and present. This is across areas of need and therefore a range of provision is required locally if we are to support young people in their own communities and avoid high-cost independent placements.

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

The Local Authority commissions the Buckinghamshire Primary PRU and Aspire (secondary phase) to provide places for permanently excluded pupils to ensure we meet the statutory duty. We have 12 commissioned places at the Primary PRU and 78 commissioned at Aspire.

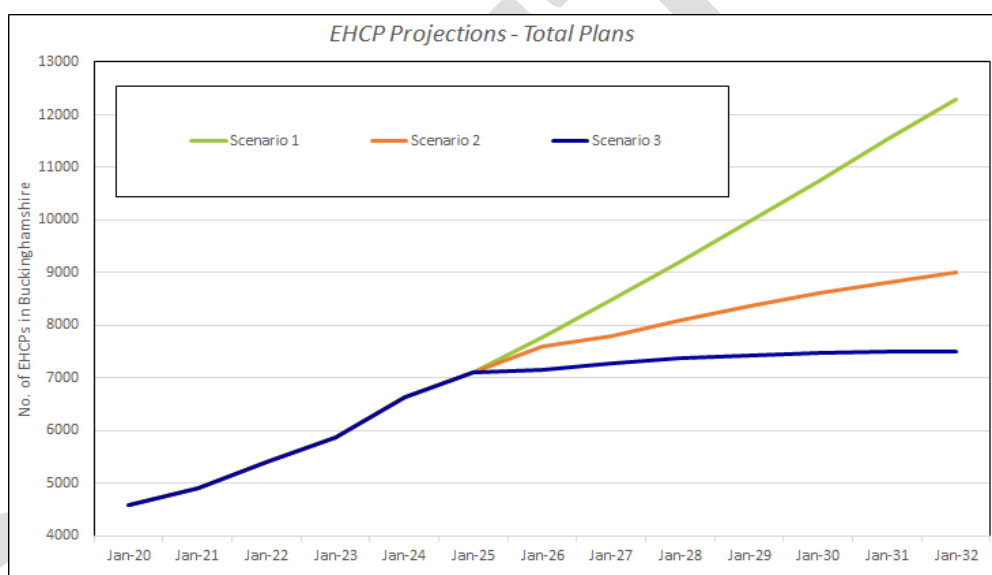
The fluctuating number of pupils entering and leaving PRUs throughout the year complicates capacity analysis. However, the number of placements at the Primary PRU during the last three academic years has remained stable with sufficient capacity to meet need. In addition, we see a much smaller number of permanent exclusions of primary aged pupils hence the smaller overall number of commissioned places.

In 2023/24 academic year, the Local Authority reduced the number of commissioned places with Aspire from 93 to 78, due to a surplus of unused places. There has been a subsequent increase in permanent exclusions, which will need to be closely monitored going forward. However, the revised number of commissioned places is expected to meet demand over the next 5-year period.

Appendix A – Pupil Forecast Methodology

Buckinghamshire Council has looked at three different ways to predict how many children and young people will need Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in the future. These projections help plan how many specialist school places will be needed. see Chart 1 below:

Chart 1: EHCP Projections – Total Plans



Scenario 1: Cohort Survival Model

This model assumes EHCP numbers will keep growing at the same rate as they have over the past four years. If this trend continues, the number of EHCPs could go over **12,000** in the next seven years. This would mean needing:

- **1,759** more special school places
- **197** more places in specialist units (ARPs)
- **348** more places in independent schools

	Primary			Secondary			Total		
	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase
ARP	116	193	77	84	204	120	200	397	197
Special School	520	861	341	1005	2423	1418	1525	3284	1759
Independent	51	98	47	205	506	301	256	604	348



However, this model assumes growth won't slow down, even though it might eventually level off.

Scenario 2: Absolute Growth Model

This model assumes a fixed number of new EHCPs are added each year, regardless of cohort size. Under this scenario, EHCPs would reach around **9,000**, requiring:

- **668** more special school places
- **69** more ARP places
- **135** more independent school places

	Primary			Secondary			Total		
	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase
ARP	116	139	23	84	128	44	200	266	66
Special School	520	616	96	1005	1575	570	1525	2191	666
Independent	51	62	11	205	329	124	256	391	135

This is the model the Council is currently planning around, as it's more realistic and financially achievable.

Scenario 3: Population-Based Model

This model assumes EHCP numbers will follow general population trends, meaning growth would slow down. EHCPs would reach around **7,500**, needing:

- **270** more special school places
- **27** more ARP places
- **51** more independent school places

	Primary			Secondary			Total		
	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase	Pupils Jan-25	Forecast Jan-32	Increase
ARP	116	127	11	84	100	16	200	227	27
Special School	520	567	47	1005	1228	223	1525	1795	270
Independent	51	56	5	205	251	46	256	307	51

What This Means

It's hard to predict exactly how demand will change, and future Government decisions could affect these numbers. The Council is keeping all scenarios under review. This includes monitoring how new housing developments might affect the demand for SEND places. If Scenario 1 were to happen, it would require over **£200 million** in funding—making it very challenging to deliver. That's why the Council is focusing on Scenario 2, which is more manageable and aligns with current financial planning.

Appendix B – Childcare Sufficiency by Area

[Appendix B - Childcare Sufficiency.pdf](#)

Pattern of childcare providers for under-fives (March 2024)

PPA	Day Nursery	Pre-School	Maintained Nursery School	School Nursery Class	School-Managed Pre-School	Childminder	Nursery Units Independent Schools	Overall
Amersham	7	6	1	4	1	14	1	34
Aylesbury Town	15	12	0	13	3	73	0	116
Beaconsfield	7	2	0	0	1	4	1	15
Bourne End	6	5	0	2	1	32	0	46
Buckingham	4	2	0	2	1	9	1	19
Burnham	5	2	0	2	0	8	0	17
Chesham	5	3	0	5	0	20	1	34
Farnham and Stoke Poges	2	6	0	2	0	13	1	24
Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts	5	8	0	3	0	33	3	52
Great Missenden	1	2	0	0	4	10	1	18
Haddenham	4	8	0	0	1	16	1	30
High Wycombe	16	19	2	14	4	56	2	113
Ivers	3	3	0	1	1	4	0	12
Marlow	7	7	0	1	1	12	0	28
Princes Risborough	3	6	0	1	0	9	1	20
Waddesdon	1	5	0	1	1	12	0	20
Wendover	7	5	0	1	2	14	0	29
Wing and Ivinghoe	4	10	0	1	3	16	0	34
Winslow	3	6	0	3	3	11	1	27
Wycombe West	7	3	0	5	1	10	0	26
Buckinghamshire overall	112	120	3	61	28	376	14	714

Pattern of childcare providers for over fives (March 2024)

PPA	Out of school club	Breakfast club	Holiday club
Amersham	10	2	5

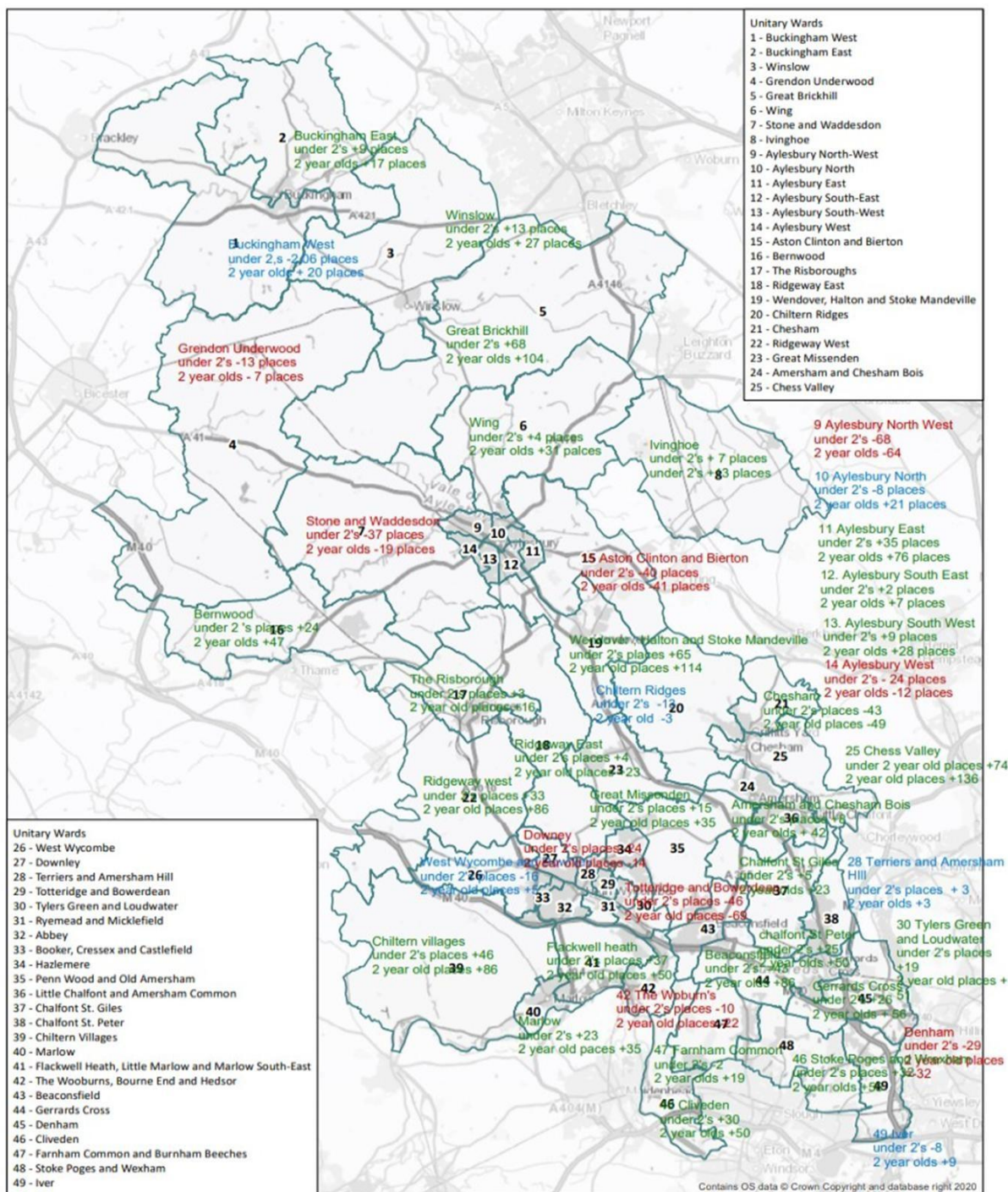
Aylesbury Town	17	9	10
Beaconsfield	6	3	2
Bourne End	4	2	0
Buckingham	7	2	7
Burnham	1	1	4
Chesham	6	0	5
Farnham and Stoke Poges	1	0	3
Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts	12	4	4
Great Missenden	3	1	2
Haddenham	6	4	9
High Wycombe	20	9	21
Ivers	1	0	1
Marlow	7	2	4
Princes Risborough	4	0	2
Waddesdon	5	0	3
Wendover	5	2	7
Wing and Ivinghoe	5	2	5
Winslow	4	0	7
Wycombe West	7	1	0
Buckinghamshire overall	131	44	101

Opportunity Bucks Wards take up of funded entitlements (March 2024)

<u>3&4 Year Olds</u>	% of Children taking funding	<u>2 Year Olds (disadvantaged)</u>	% of Children taking funding
Abbey	85.04%	Abbey	63.89%
Aylesbury North	76.92%	Aylesbury North	71.74%
Aylesbury North-West	88.37%	Aylesbury North-West	101.75%
Aylesbury South-West	89.76%	Aylesbury South-West	73.17%
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	77.74%	Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	94.44%
Chesham	78.72%	Chesham	87.50%
Ryemead and Micklefield	87.85%	Ryemead and Micklefield	74.36%
Terriers and Amersham Hill	88.78%	Terriers and Amersham Hill	100.00%
Totteridge and Bowerdean	90.69%	Totteridge and Bowerdean	84.38%
West Wycombe	90.23%	West Wycombe	96.43%

Analysis of childcare provision by Ward (September 2025)

Ward Name	Gap Places under 2 year olds	Gap Places 2 year olds
Abbey	17.471253	59.258134
Amersham and Chesham Bois	7.9969372	42.242291
Aston Clinton and Bierton	-40.6	-41.1
Aylesbury East	35.020055	76.569942
Aylesbury North	-8.973105	21.759787
Aylesbury North West	-68.17491	-64.49165
Aylesbury South East	1.6022688	6.3177226
Aylesbury South West	8.9459098	28.344006
Beaconsfield	46.529704	81.789858
Bernwood	24.054659	47.445561
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	-44.34928	-32.92785
Buckingham East	8.3744906	17.328884
Buckingham West	-2.602584	20.283634
Chalfont St Giles	4.8265692	23.358687
Chalfont St Peter	25.77569	50.970614
Chesham	-43.99404	-49.14095
Chess Valley	74.691648	136.62889
Chiltern Ridges	-13.41214	-3.37083
Chiltern Villages	46.324935	80.847856
Cliveden	30.170268	53.126397
Denham	-29.69418	-32.93197
Downley	-24.47164	-14.28992
Farnham Common and Burnham Beeches	-1.215109	19.899053
Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow and Marlow South East	37.877396	60.979867
Gerrards Cross	26.813511	52.481597
Great Brickhill	68.601721	104.1349
Great Missenden	14.545863	35.167827
Grendon Underwood	-13.43493	-7.359661
Hazlemere	12.468062	25.664118
Iver	-8.134199	9.2332029
Ivinghoe	6.7789474	13.438946
Little Chalfont and Amersham Common	-30.92504	-42.02043
Marlow	21.81173	35.216996
Penn Wood and Old Amersham	106.28474	165.05357
Ridgeway East	4.1038761	23.012214
Ridgeway West	33.606561	86.257836
Ryemead and Micklefield	-31.09164	-24.41874
Stoke Poges and Wexham	32.029664	55.755355
Stone and Waddesdon	-37.2169	-19.10658
Terriers and Amersham Hill	2.4607957	3.1626937
The Risboroughs	2.6371282	16.04534
The Wooburns, Bourne End and Hedsor	-10.83174	-22.12548
Totteridge and Bowerdean	-46.33054	-69.43428
Tylers Green and Loudwater	19.35534	51.235782
Wendover, Halton and Stoke Mandeville	65.708768	114.32224
West Wycombe	-16.61923	5.2425143
Wing	4.1553145	31.036643
Winslow	13.138841	26.446758
Total	332.09144	1257.3414



Unitary Wards in Buckinghamshire



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Produced by School Management Support Team
Business Intelligence and Insight, February 2022

Aylesbury

Ward name	under 2's	2-3 year olds
Aylesbury East	35	76.6
Aylesbury North	-9	21.8
Aylesbury North West	-68.2	-64.5
Aylesbury South East	1.6	6.3
Aylesbury South West	8.9	28.3
Aylesbury South West	-40.6	-41.1
Aston Clinton and Bierton	65.7	114.3
Wendover, Halton and Stoke Mandeville		
Total	-6.6	141.7

High Wycombe

Ward name	under 2's	2-3 year olds
Abbey	17.5	59.3
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield	-44.3	-32.9
Downley	-24.5	-14.3
Downley	-31.1	-24.4
Ryemead and Micklefield	2.5	3.2
Terriers and Amersham Hill	-46.3	-69.4
Totteridge and Bowerdean	-16.6	5.2
West Wycombe		
Total	-142.8	-73.3

Chesham

Ward name	under 2's	2-3 year olds
Little Chalfonts Amersham Common	-31	-42
Chesham	-44	-49.1
Chess Valley	74.7	136.6
Total	-0.3	45.5

Appendix C – Primary Sufficiency by Planning Area

[Appendix C - Primary Sufficiency.pdf](#)

Appendix D – Secondary Sufficiency by Planning Area

[Appendix D - Secondary Sufficiency.pdf](#)

Appendix E – Specialist Provision

[Appendix E - Specialist Provision.pdf](#)

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Glossary

Primary needs

ASC/ASD - autism spectrum condition/disorder/autism

SEMH - social, emotional, and mental health

HI - hearing impairment

MLD - moderate learning difficulties

MSI - multi-sensory difficulties

PD - physical difficulties

PMLD - profound and multiple learning difficulties

SeLD/SLD - severe learning difficulties

SpLD - specific learning difficulties

SLCN - speech, language, and communication needs

VI - visual impairment

Broad categories of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

1. Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH):

These children may struggle with emotions or behaviour. They might be withdrawn, anxious, depressed, or show challenging behaviour. Some may have conditions like ADHD or attachment disorders.

2. Sensory and/or Physical Needs:

These children may have disabilities that make it hard to use standard school facilities. This includes those with visual or hearing impairments, or physical disabilities. They often need specialist support or equipment.

3. Cognition and Learning:

This includes a wide range of learning difficulties:

- **Moderate to severe learning difficulties (MLD/SLD)** may affect all areas of learning and mobility.
- **Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)** involve very complex needs.
- **Specific learning difficulties (SpLD)** include dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dyspraxia.

4. Communication and Interaction:

These children may have trouble speaking, understanding language, or interacting socially. This includes children with autism, who may struggle with communication and relating to others.

Other terms or acronyms

- **Academy:** A school funded directly by the Government, not the local council. Includes free schools, special academies, and UTCs.
- **Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP):** Special places within mainstream schools for children with specific needs, with access to specialist support.
- **Alternative Provision:** Education outside of mainstream schools, usually temporary, for children who need a different setting. Can be part-time and delivered alongside other education provision.
- **Mainstream School:** School provision other than special schools, hospital schools, alternative provision, i.e. mainstream community schools, voluntary-aided, trust, foundation, or grammar schools.
- **Maintained School:** A school funded by the local authority.
- **Pupil Referral Unit (PRU):** A type of alternative provision for children who can't attend mainstream school, often due to exclusion or health issues.
- **SEN Support:** The basic level of help all schools must provide for children with SEND, following a cycle of assess, plan, do, and review.
- **Special School:** A school specifically designed for children with SEND.