

Education

The Council is responsible for education planning and provision to ensure the adequacy of school places from primary to Sixth Form. Westminster's primary schools currently have a spare capacity of 23%, which is higher than the London average of 18%. This surplus is indicative of a decreasing trend in primary school enrolments in the borough. Demand for secondary education remains high in Westminster, placing pressure on existing school facilities and resources.

The Council is also responsible for ensuring sufficient early education and childcare places. In addition, they provide several adult education learner centres in collaboration with the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES). Adult education also takes place formally and informally in a range of other settings, particularly through community-based infrastructure so the importance of delivering upon this infrastructure type is emphasised here also.

Westminster is also home to several universities including the London School of Economics, Imperial College, King's College London and the University of Westminster. These elements of education and learning provision require careful planning to ensure there will be adequate provision to accommodate growth over the City Plan period and to support schools to be more inclusive for Westminster's most vulnerable young people. Expansion of university enrolment also increases the demand and pressure on infrastructure and housing within the borough, and therefore it is important to plan for this accordingly.

Planned Projects

Early Years Education

There are no proposals to expand existing childcare places or to create new provisions. Further planning is needed to address concerns about the distribution and affordability of childcare places in areas such as Westminster North to ensure there are accessible options for residents and lower-income families living in high demand areas.

Early Years Education	
Category	**Details**
Lead	Westminster City Council in collaboration with the Westminster Family Information Service and Early Years Alliance.
Current Provision	Free early education for 2-year-olds from low-income families and free early education for 3 and 4-year-olds, and support for children with SEND. The latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment notes that there are 163 childcare providers in Westminster, offering a maximum of 5,068 places.
Known Planned Provision	Although there may be sufficient childcare places in the borough, there are known concerns about uneven distribution and the availability of affordable childcare options. The north-east has more people per place, suggesting families there might have to travel longer distances or have fewer choices. In the north-west, families may be more inclined to seek childcare outside of Westminster.
Future Needs	Concerns about geographical distribution and choice for families in certain areas require the Council to continue monitoring demographics throughout the City Plan period to bridge identified gaps in individual wards when considering new or relocated provision.
Funding	Government-funded entitlements for different age groups and direct payments to providers offering funded early education services.

EDUCATION

Primary Education

Although Westminster is experiencing a decrease in primary school enrolments, plans are underway to re-purpose existing primary school sites across the borough to address surplus capacity. A £10m re-purposing scheme will enable the amalgamation and improvement of Westminster's primary school portfolio, including re-use for additional education (e.g., SEND) and community services.

Primary Education

Category	Details
Lead	Westminster City Council
Current Provision	There are 38 primary schools in Westminster, including maintained primary schools, free schools and academies[1].
Known Planned Provision	After the 2022 reception allocations, Westminster had a 29.2% surplus capacity, with 31 out of 37 primary schools having vacancies or short waiting lists. This suggests declining primary school enrolments, with Westminster's primary schools having a 23% spare capacity, exceeding the London average of 18%. To address this, Westminster's Schools Forum is implementing reductions, targeting 7-8 entry forms by September 2025.
Future Needs	Plans to re-purpose Westminster's Primary School Portfolio will enable the amalgamation, improvement and re-use of existing places and services to manage surplus capacity during the City Plan period.
Funding	School funding is allocated based on factors including school size, student age, and local deprivation levels. Westminster schools receive above-average funding, with primary schools receiving an average of £5,537 per pupil in 2020/21, reflecting local cost of living and deprivation levels. A minimum Funding Guarantee ensures a 1.84% increase in funding per pupil. Further planning information is required to determine funding sources for the Primary School Portfolio scheme.

Secondary Education

Demand for secondary schools remains high with current schools experiencing full enrolment levels. No planned provision for secondary school places has been identified, although there will likely be a need for additional places due to demand from residents and students from other areas given current capacity constraints.

Secondary Education	
Category	**Details**
Lead	Westminster City Council
Current Provision	There are 11 secondary schools in Westminster, including community schools, academies, and one all-through school. Secondary schools are experiencing full enrolment levels. Additional students are often admitted through the Fair Access Protocol.
Known Planned Provision	Demand for secondary education remains high, and there is a deficit of -0.8% in current secondary school capacity. No planned provision has been identified for additional resources or facilities.
Future Needs	There may be a future need for more secondary school places due to demand from residents and students from other areas, with current schools already fully enrolled.
Funding	Funding is allocated by the council considering school size, pupil age, and area deprivation level.

[1] https://www.westminster.gov.uk/schools-offer

EDUCATION

Send Education

SEND Education	
Category	**Details**
Lead	The Council in collaboration with a range of partners including local schools, health, and social service organisations.
Current Provision	There are over 70,000 children and young people aged 0-25 in Westminster. Of these, 6,290 have Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). There are three SEND schools and one alternative provision academy. The Council's revised strategy for SEND 2021-2024 is aimed at addressing the needs of children with special needs and disabilities. It highlights a key challenge facing SEND infrastructure in Westminster is planning for an expected increase in children with SEND.
Known Planned Provision	Forecasts show an expected increase in children with SEND. Plans are underway to enhance the capacity of existing SEND services.
Future Needs	Addressing the forecasted rise in children with SEND through effective planning for growth and capacity building.
Funding	Council funding considering school size, pupil age, and area deprivation level.

Prioritisation	Programme / Strategic project	Location/s	Description	Provider	Estimated WCC cost	Phasing (Start)	Phasing (End)	Timescale	Total Funding gap
Essential	Special School and Short Breaks service at Pimlico	SW1V 3SE	Conversion of Westminster Cathedral School	WCC	£2,000,000	TBC	2024	Short	£1,000,000

Further Education including Adult Education

Further Education including Adult Education	
Category	**Details**
Lead	Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES) is responsible for providing education and training opportunities for learners aged 19 and above in collaboration with the Council and other sector partners.
Current Provision	Westminster has four Further Education Colleges and one skills development centre. WAES services include art, vocational programmes, work-based curriculum, basic skills, and community and family learning. This curriculum aligns with priorities in the Fairer Westminster and London Mayor's Skills for Londoners Strategy. WAES operate out of three sites in Westminster, namely Lisson Grove Centre, Pimlico Academy and the Amberley Road Centre. The Westminster Employment Service is a programme administered by the Council which provides support to unemployed residents, offering access to training programs and employment opportunities.
Known Planned Provision	Development plans are underway for the current WAES Lisson Grove Centre, which is the lead delivery site and office accommodation for staff. It accounts for 75% of the service's current usage, which is limited due to the confines of space. WAES consultation also identified proposed plans to identify space that can be converted into a retrofit classroom to deliver green skills.
Future Needs	Delivery of planned provision would enable the WAES to deliver sustainability skills and contribute to Westminster's Fairer Economy objectives.
Funding	Funding for the WAES element of the Lisson Grove development was sourced through the Council's CIL.

EDUCATION

Schedule									
Prioritisation	Programme / Strategic project	Location/s	Description	Provider	Estimated WCC cost	Phasing (Start)	Phasing (End)	Timescale	Total Funding gap
Essential	Lisson Grove Programme	NW1	Early Years and Adult Education provision	TBC	£5,457,000.00	2023	2026	Short	£2,947,000.00

Higher Education

There are various higher education institutions and universities in Westminster. Although these are not the direct responsibility of the Council, known planned provision includes the enhancement of existing facilities, establishment of new facilities and dedicated student housing to accommodate increasing student numbers over the next 5-10 years.

Higher Education	
Category	**Details**
Lead	Various higher education Institutions and universities in collaboration with the Council.
Current Provision	Higher education institutions in Central London include the London School of Economics, Imperial College London, and King's College London.
Known Planned Provision	The known planned provision includes the enhancement of existing facilities, establishment of new facilities, improved teaching and research spaces and dedicated student housing.
Future Needs	Ensuring continual improvement and capacity to attract top-tier talent and ongoing collaboration for a joined-up approach to support more young people into higher education and employment.
Funding	Universities receive income from tuition fees, research, and teaching grants.