TRAFFORD COUNCIL

School Places

Admissions and Strategic Place Planning

March 2023

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School Place Planning Overview

Decision Making

Trafford Council Executive

Strategic Planning

School Places/ Education Capital Board
School Admissions
School Capital Projects
School Improvement
School Finance

Place Shaping Board
Education
Strategic Planning
Development Management
Legal, Finance, Estates

Strategic Priorities

Achieve the right balance of sufficient places without overprovision to maintain stability within the existing school system

- Expand existing schools to protect financial viability
- Remove mixed age classes where they exist
- Amalgamate separate infant and junior schools where possible
- Achieve best value through efficient allocation of resource

Funding Streams

- DfE Basic Need Grant
- Developer Contributions
- Trafford Corporate Capital

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School Place Planning Context

- Complex landscape – selective system, popular schools, significant inbound migration.
- Sufficient places for all children starting primary school, cohorts grow year on year due to pressures from in-year applicants moving in, particularly in Sale and Altrincham.
- School Capacity (SCAP) survey submitted annually to DfE looking at supply and demand. Utilises GP registrations, school census, admissions data, new housing developments, average migration rates and survival rates. Informs basic need funding allocation.
- Unprecedented surge in demand from in-year applicants summer 2021 with continued elevated levels of inbound migration, domestic and international.
- In school year 2021/22 primary in-year up +56% to 1,414 and secondary in-year up +41% to 336 compared to pre-pandemic average. Similar trend 2022/23 to date.
- Temporary and permanent expansions across primary schools to accommodate pupils, unable to progress secondary expansions leading to current pressure.
- September 2023 position:
  - Primary - sufficient YR places in all areas
  - Secondary – as expected, insufficient Y7 places in Altrincham and Sale areas with break even position across Trafford as a whole.

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Secondary Places RAG Rating 2022/23

Planning Area	Lower Year Groups	Upper Year Groups
Altrincham	Red	Red
Sale	Red	Red
Stretford	Amber	Green
Urmston	Red	Red
Partington	Red	Red

*As at March 2023

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Allocation of Local School Places

- We have met our statutory duty to offer every child a school place.
- 3,231 parents to be offered one of their preferred schools (on-time and late applications to date).
- 191 parents cannot be offered a preferred school, 81 of these will still be offered a local place.
- 110 Sale and Altrincham residents (3% of all applicants) will be offered a place in another area: Broadoak School in Partington, Lostock High School in Stretford or Wellacre Academy in Flixton.
- Tailored advice to Sale and Altrincham residents to apply for all their catchment schools – digital and hard copy by post to every family. Effective strategy in 2022 and 2023 admission round in securing local places for Trafford families and preventing out of area pupils achieving places in non-selective schools in Sale and Altrincham.
- Of the 110 families not being offered a local place:
  - 12 Sale and 2 Altrincham families **did** follow advice
  - 33 Sale and 63 Altrincham families **did not** follow the advice (spread across all wards)
  - 16 of the 110 families submitted late applications which must be considered after all on-times

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Support for Families

- All families will receive allocation by email on 1 March 2023, national offer day, which will also advise them of their right of appeal.
- Families who have not been offered a preferred school will receive a further email on this same day with links to sources of advice and support.
- Primary schools to be notified to support with key messaging.
- Detailed online information and advice about next steps including appeals, waiting lists and current TfGM transport information: www.trafford.gov.uk/secondaryplaces
- School Admissions - telephone helpline, email support

☎ **0161 912 5007, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm** ✉ **school.admissions@trafford.gov.uk**

School Admissions are responsible for coordinating admissions into Year 7 and for allocating places in line with the published oversubscription criteria for each school. Admission authorities **cannot** consider additional information that does not relate to these criteria. That is the role of an independent appeal panel.

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Secondary Sufficiency

- Regular meetings with DfE to monitor position, additional monitoring Trafford Executive and Corporate Leadership Team.
- To meet sufficiency for September 2023 Y7 cohort, schools across Trafford in selective and non-selective sector offered a total of 198 places over PAN.
- Ongoing pressure for secondary in-year admissions moving forwards.
- Altrincham College - permanent expansion scheme underway to create 60 additional places in each year group from September 2024.
- Sale High School - small scheme agreed for 30 additional places for Sept 2023. Central government funding secured for rebuild project due to poor condition, LA to recommend proposal of permanent expansion to go alongside this, dependent on basic need funding allocation.

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Opening a New School in Trafford - Routes

1. Central mainstream free school programme	2. Presumption free school process
• Government invited applications to establish 15 new mainstream schools in 2022 wave. • Priority for education investment areas which is those with the lowest education standards so Trafford not eligible. • DfE can provide capital for land and construction but where possible look to supplement with other contributions such as provision of a site from LA or contributions from developers.	• Where LA identifies need for new school they must seek proposals to establish free school through this process. • Minimum secondary size 6 FE / 180 PAN / 900 pupils • LA is responsible for providing the site and meeting associated capital build costs upwards of £25m, principally using DfE Basic Need funding and contributions from developers. • Trafford Basic Need allocations £8.510m 2023/24; £0m 2024/25. Fully allocated to Altrincham College expansion and temporary capacity. Any 2025/26 allocation recommended for Sale High expansion.

Trafford approached by DfE in 2022 with potential to explore to 'port' a new school proposal previously earmarked for another area. Potential sites identified by Trafford. DfE strategic decision not to pursue due to external reasons beyond Trafford control.

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Primary Places RAG Rating 2022/23

Planning Area	Lower Year Groups	Upper Year Groups
Altrincham	Green	Red
Sale East	Red	Red
Sale West	Red	Red
Stretford	Green	Green
Urmston	Amber	Amber
Partington	Green	Green

*As at March 2023

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Sale East Primary

2022/23 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	480	480	480	480	480	510	480	3,390
No. Vacancies	27	2	0	7	0	12	0	48
% Vacancies	5.6%	0.4%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.4%
No. Over PAN	0	3	9	4	13	6	21	56

- Permanent expansion (+1FE) at Templemoor Infant and Moorlands Junior School in progress
- Templemoor Infant – all year groups (except YR) under review to bring online as needed from Sept 23
- Moorlands Junior - 30 places in Y5 brought online early Sept 22, other year groups planned from Sept 23

Sale West Primary

2022/23 Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
No. Places	395	425	425	395	425	395	425	2,885
No. Vacancies	28	25	2	0	14	0	2	71
% Vacancies	7.1%	5.9%	0.5%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.5%	2.5%
No. Over PAN	0	0	5	13	16	16	19	69

- Permanent expansion (+1FE) at Firs Primary School, capital scheme now complete
- Additional Y1 and Y4 classes opened Feb 23, Y3 scheduled May 23, other year groups (except YR) under review to bring online as needed from Sept 23
- Woodheys Primary – 30 temporary bulge class places in Y6

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Challenges

- Cohort growth YR to Y6 - LA has to plan to be able to accommodate all this demand.
- Declining birth rate projected, but established place planning trends for Trafford indicate inbound migration from birth to age 4 ready to access our school system and then ongoing inbound migration as cohort progresses through primary phase. GP registrations monitored rather than raw birth rate.
- Level of offset from additional pupil yield from new housing developments, including two large strategic land allocations at Timperley Wedge and New Carrington.
- Y5/Y6 bulge classes proved an effective temporary solution where possible. All surplus spaces in primary in Sale and Altrincham now fully utilised.
- Current basic need funding allocation fully allocated to projects. Funding announcement expected Apr 23, any Trafford allocation will be prioritised for secondary places.
- Funding shortfall between capital cost of additional places and funding allocations.

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