

Statutory Proposal to Discontinue Great Alne Primary School (DfE 937/2024), School Lane, Great Alne, Alcester B49 6HQ

1. Contact Details (name and address of Proposer)

Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick, CV34 4RL
Email: schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk

2. School proposed to be discontinued

Great Alne Primary School (Community School)
School Lane
Great Alne
Alcester, B49 6HQ

3. Implementation

The proposed date for the closure of Great Alne Primary School is 31st August 2026.

4. Reason for closure

Great Alne Primary is a small school with capacity for 105 pupils in a semi-rural location in Stratford on Avon District. The number of pupils on roll at the school has historically fluctuated which is a common situation for rural schools with varying resident population cohorts. However, in the last five years the numbers have dropped year on year from 102 in 2020/21 to 13 in January 2026.

The school currently has 88% unfilled places across the school. There are not enough children in the local area seeking places in this school. Great Alne Primary School is located in the village of Great Alne where a small number of children (currently in Year 6) attend the school from the village itself, with the majority travelling from the nearby town of Alcester and the surrounding area.

Schools receive money from central government based on the number of pupils they have on roll. This means that schools with a high number of unfilled places are under difficult financial pressure and have less money for staff, resources, equipment, extracurricular activities and enrichment activities for the children.

As the numbers have continued to decline, not only is the school's viability and long-term sustainability at risk with no immediate prospect of reaching pupil levels to enable a



reduction or recovery of the accumulated deficit but educating such small class numbers and providing a broad and balanced curriculum will become extremely difficult.

The pupil forecast for Alcester planning area (including Great Alne Primary School) indicates a significant surplus of places for the next five year i.e. approximately 30 surplus places at intake (25%). Due to the low numbers residing in Great Alne Primary School's catchment area, the school relies heavily on attracting children from outside of the area. Without this high level of parental preference from outside of the area, the intake at the school has dropped significantly.

There is no significant approved housing in the local that will change the demand levels in the next three years.

5. Pupil numbers and admissions

Great Alne Primary School is a co-educational maintained community school for pupils aged 4-11. The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 16 in each year group.

Great Alne Primary School – Number on roll as at 15 January 2026 Census

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Places Available	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	112
Roll Numbers (15 January 2026)	1	2	0	1	3	3	3	13
Number of unfilled places	15	14	16	15	13	13	13	99
% of unfilled places	94%	88%	100%	94%	81%	81%	81%	88%

Of the total 13 pupils on roll above, one pupil is below compulsory school age. Special Educational Needs provision - of the total 13 pupils, 6 were on the SEND register including 1 pupil with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

Great Alne Primary School does not have a nursery.

6. Displaced pupils

Where possible, the Council will offer each child currently attending Great Alne Primary School a place in a primary, infant or junior school near to their home address.

The Council will endeavour to help secure a child at the school preferred by the parents in the first instance but, where this preference cannot be met, the Council will allocate a place at the closest school to the pupil's home address. Pupils will be added to a waiting list, if they cannot be offered a place at their higher preferred school(s).



Children with an Education, Health and Care plan will be supported to ensure they have a place at a suitable school based on their needs and the provision outlined in their plan.

The reported number of children at Great Alne Primary School as at 15 January 2026 is outlined below:

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll (January 2026)	1	2	0	1	3	3	3	13

Pupils at the school reside in the wards of Kinwarton (location of Great Alne Primary School), Alcester East, Stratford Bishopston, Bidford East and Bidford West. The table below shows the reported vacancies across each year group at the nearest primary schools to Great Alne Primary School as of 15 January 2026:

Schools within 5 miles of Great Alne Primary School

School Name	Distance (miles)*	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Tudor Grange Primary Academy, Haselor	1.3	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	8
St Nicholas CofE Primary School	1.7	0	1	6	5	0	0	0	12
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	1.7	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Temple Grafton CofE Primary School	3.3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Coughton CofE Primary School	3.6	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
Wilmcote CofE (VA) Primary School	4.1	9	10	12	6	6	2	10	55
Wootton Wawen CofE Primary School	4.3	5	0	0	2	0	0	14	21
Studley St Mary's CofE Academy	4.5	-	-	-	17	10	0	3	30
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Studley	4.8	6	0	1	1	0	0	1	9
Studley Infants' School	5.0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
Total		20	16	29	32	16	3	32	148

*Distance from Great Alne Primary School via motorised vehicle

7. Impact on the community

The main impact on the community will be the loss of the option of primary education to those families in the village. The number of children in future Reception age cohorts in the village and wider rural area is low, ranging between 1 and 6 children per academic year.

The next nearest three schools from Great Alne Primary School are between 1.3 miles and 1.7 miles away. If a decision is made to close the school, the Local Authority would work with local schools and Academy Trusts to encompass the existing Great Alne Primary School priority area within the priority areas of other nearby schools.



The school site is not regularly utilised by the community or other parties outside of school hours. The Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall is located within Great Alne and also available for community use.

No decision has been made about the future of the Great Alne Primary School site if the school were to be closed.

8. Rural primary schools

Great Alne Primary School is designated as a rural primary school in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, therefore additional factors need to be considered as part of the statutory process. These considerations, and the Council’s current position in relation to them, are set out below:

Consideration	Response
Alternatives to closure: conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust.	Following discussions with two academy trusts, the school’s financial position and current numbers on roll mean that the school is not a viable option for Academy Trusts.
Alternatives to closure: the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access).	Onsite nursery provision was considered, however, there is not the sufficiency need or demand for early years provision in the area due to the low numbers of young children in the local area that would make this a viable option to support the school place numbers.
The availability, and likely cost to parents, of transport to other schools.	The number of children resident in the priority area aged between birth and five averages three children per year over the next five years. For those children who reside more than a two or three mile safe walking route (dependent on year group and extended rights) from the nearest school with places available, they would qualify for free home-to-school transport. The nearest schools to Great Alne Primary School are Tudor Grange Primary Academy in Haselor (1.3 miles motorised distance – not a safe walking route under current policy arrangements), and St Nicholas CofE Primary School and Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School in Alcester (1.7 miles motorised distance – not a safe walking route under current policy arrangements).



	For those pupils currently at Great Alne Primary School in years Reception to Year 5, all travel in from the Alcester or Bidford area
Whether the proposal will result in unreasonably long journey times.	For children currently on roll at the school the nearest schools with space to Great Alne Primary School will range between 1.3 miles and 5 miles(motorised distance) dependent on year group. For children coming up to school age the nearest schools to Great Alne Primary School are Tudor Grange in Haselor (1.3 miles motorised distance), and St Nicholas CofE Primary School and Our Lady’s Catholic Primary School in Alcester (1.7 miles motorised distance).
The size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available.	The numbers have declined to a level that do not support financial sustainability and education in such small class numbers and providing a broad and balanced curriculum will become extremely difficult.
The proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. whether the school is being used by the local community.	At the time of the October 2025 School Census, of the 29 primary aged pupils attending a state funded primary school in Warwickshire and residing in Great Alne’s catchment area, four attended Great Alne Primary School (14%). Acknowledge current standards may play a part in this low parental preference.
The overall and long-term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the school and of the loss of the building as a community facility;	Loss of a community facility/building. The school does not currently provide a regular community function out of school hours. There is also a village hall in the village.
Educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools.	It is not anticipated that the closure of Great Alne Primary School would have an adverse impact on standards at neighbouring schools. Rather, the removal of surplus capacity in an area can support the sustainability of other small schools in the area.
Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local	Reception pupil numbers entering the school in the last 3 years have been less than 5. There is forecast to be capacity of



<p>area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term).</p>	<p>approximately 30 places in forthcoming reception cohorts in the primary planning for Alcester (this would reduce to circa 15 places with the closure of Great Alne Primary School). This capacity fluctuates year on year depending on the level of applications from 'out of area'.</p> <p>Reception cohort numbers in the planning area are not forecast to increase significantly. In terms of potential future housing development, there is only a small amount of housing currently approved and building in the Alcester area; 350 homes with approximately a third remaining still to be built. This total number of homes is estimated to yield approximately 100 pupils which equates to circa 15 pupils per year group over a six year period and it is not considered that this will materially impact the viability of Great Alne Primary School, or lead to significant overcapacity in other local schools. Any further housing will be subject to conclusion of the local plan review and further planning applications.</p>
<p>Wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced pupils.</p>	<p>There is capacity in the Alcester area for new pre school cohorts moving through into primary school. There are larger numbers of pupils at the school in the Key Stage 2 year groups, but displaced pupils can be accommodated within 5 miles of their home address.</p>

9. Travel

The majority of pupils at the school travel into the village to attend Great Alne Primary School, therefore there is already a level of car use by families. For displaced pupils, alternative school places could be up to five miles away from Great Alne Primary School by motorised transport dependent on school year group. Parental preference may mean there are longer journeys to school for some families,

For future school age cohorts resident in the Great Alne Primary School priority area motorised vehicle may be required to access future school places. However, these



numbers are likely to be small – averaging three reception age children per year over the next four years.

10. Procedure for making representations

Four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person or organisation may submit comments on the proposal either by:

Using the online form: [Online Form](#)

By email: schoolorganisation@warwickshire.gov.uk

Writing to: Education Access and Sufficiency, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL

Share your views by Sunday 8 March 2026

