

Proposed Catchment changes for Wellington Eagles Primary Academy

Ascend Learning Trust is proposing changes to the catchment area of Wellington Eagles Primary Academy to take account of the new housing development at Drummond Park, Ludgershall and a change to planned expansion in the local area.

The current position:

Wellington Eagles Primary Academy was opened in September 2019 as a newly built free school to meet the expansion of Ludgershall through a new housing development built on the former Corunna Barracks site. This development and the building of Wellington Eagles Primary Academy, was part of a wider expansion of local housing stock and infrastructure to meet the anticipated increased needs as part of the Salisbury Plain Army Basing programme which took place between 2014-2019, and formed part of the Army 2020 rebasing plan. The Corunna Barracks development delivered 246 family homes.

As such, Wellington Eagles Primary Academy was built with the capacity of 420 students, therefore operating as a two-form entry primary school. As a newly built school, Wellington Eagles Primary Academy formed a catchment that encompassed the new housing development and did not overlap the existing catchment area of Ludgershall Castle Primary School.

The planned expansion of Ludgershall is outlined in the document 'Planning for Tidworth and Ludgershall' dated July 2023. New non-military housing has been delivered at the former Granby Gardens site and the new housing development at Drummond Park is now under construction.

The 'Planning for Tidworth and Ludgershall' report details the need for sustained expansion to Ludgershall and Tidworth by approximately 1500 new houses in the coming years. Whilst development is already underway at Drummond Park, the pool of four reasonable development sites in Ludgershall, along with the existing construction of Drummond Park, all fall within the catchment of Ludgershall Castle Primary School. There is currently no planned expansion in the 'Planning for Tidworth and Ludgershall' report for the existing catchment for Wellington Eagles Primary Academy and although the land between Hill Road and Somme Road was designated for planned development, it has not been identified in this report as one of the four reasonable development sites in Ludgershall. Therefore, anticipated growth in the catchment area of Wellington Eagles Primary Academy is less likely.

The proposal:

Ascend Learning Trust proposes a change to current arrangements with the current new housing development at Drummond Park and future development sites identified in the Planning for Tidworth and Ludgershall report being incorporated fully into the catchment area for Wellington Eagles Primary Academy.

This change will create a shared catchment area of the urban areas of the town of Ludgershall with Ludgershall Castle Primary School.

The catchment area of Ludgershall Castle Primary School extends beyond the town of Ludgershall into the surrounding countryside and villages. Ludgershall Castle Primary School currently has a designated capacity of 420 and current published data available from the Gov.uk Get Information About Schools website shows that the current number on roll is 270 pupils. The school therefore has 150 places in its available capacity.

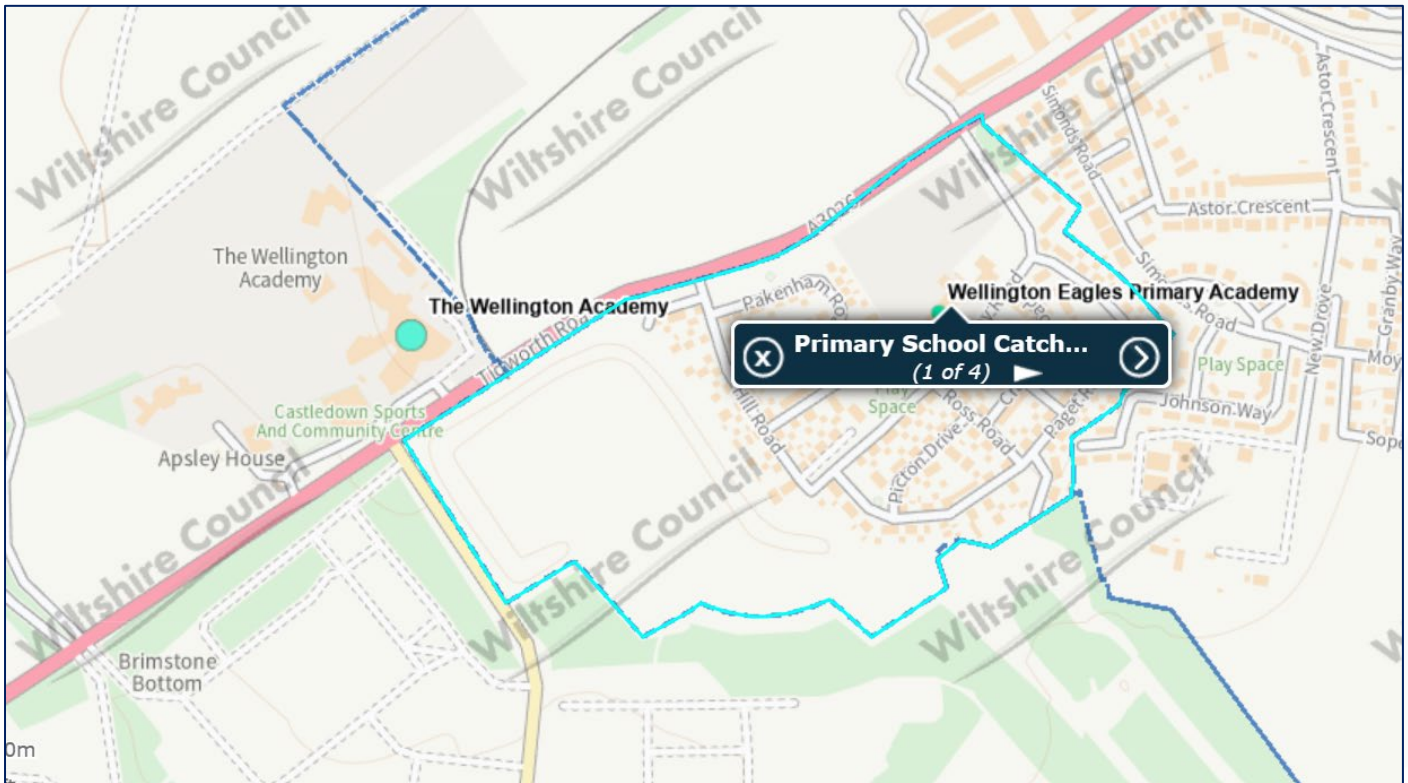
The development at Drummond Park will deliver 412 new homes. Based on the Department for Education's forecast assumption that for every 100 new homes, 38 primary school places are required, the existing development at Drummond Park will require an additional 152 places alone.

Based on this data alone, the current catchment arrangement will mean that Ludgershall Castle would be unable to fulfil the existing development of the area without further expansion. This does not factor any movement in families within the wider Ludgershall area. Given that Wellington Eagles Primary Academy has capacity for 420 children and is currently operating at approximately 50% capacity, Ascend Learning Trust believes that it is prudent to alter the defined catchment area to be able to offer the local area the security of available school places within a defined catchment area school.

This re-alignment is proposed solely in response to the changing development needs of the local town after former likely developments have not materialised and to ensure that planned future developments can be accommodated within existing school capacities first and foremost.

It is therefore proposed that the catchment boundaries for Wellington Eagles Primary Academy be redrawn for school admissions from September 2026 onwards.

Wellington Eagles Primary Academy Current Catchment



Wellington Eagles Primary Academy Proposed Catchment

