

Proposal to amend the catchment area of Uffculme School to include the catchment of Churchstanton Primary School

The Directors of Blackdown Education Partnership propose to vary the 2026/27 determined admission arrangements for Uffculme School by extending the current catchment into the catchment of Churchstanton Primary School in Somerset.

Churchstanton Primary School is currently a feeder school for The Castle School, also a member of The Blackdown Education Partnership and its pupils live predominantly in the catchment of The Castle School with a few living closer to Uffculme School. However, because of the large amount of housebuilding on the edge of Taunton and associated pressure on places at The Castle School the pupils of Churchstanton are unlikely ever to receive a place at The Castle as they are nearly 10 miles away from the school. The only schools in Taunton with spaces are on the other side of the town extending the journey by 3 miles and necessitating transport across town at the busiest times of the day.

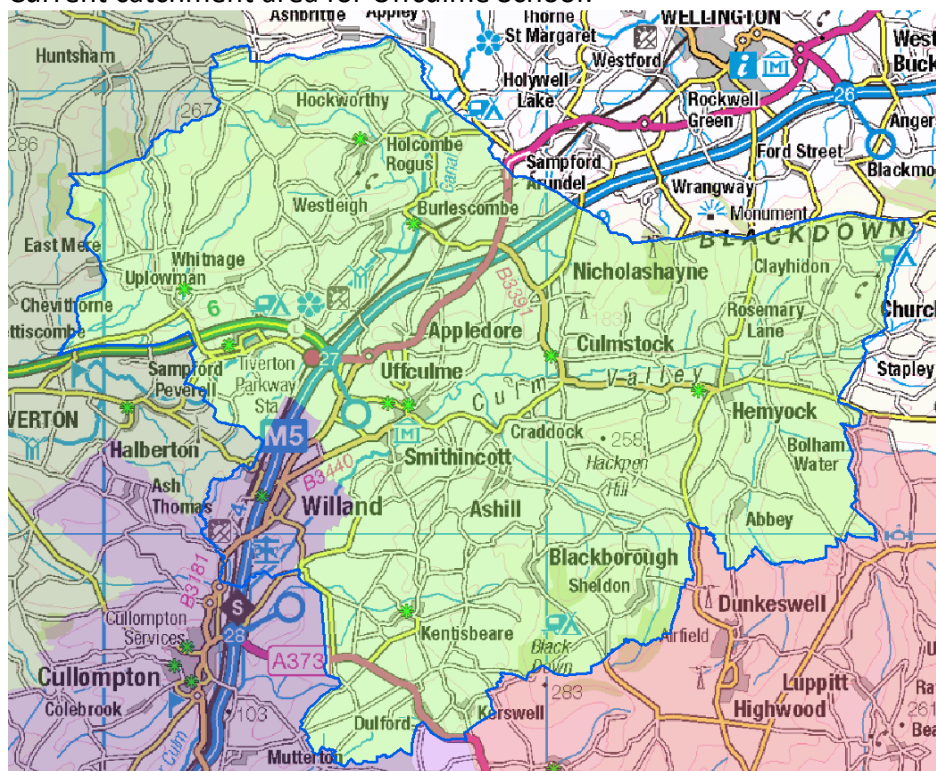
The catchment of Uffculme School currently extends to the very edge of The Castle with the county boundary forming the boundary between the two catchments. The demographic pressure on Uffculme School from within its existing catchment is not nearly as acute as it is at The Castle and numbers are predicted to fall sharply in the medium term. Uffculme continues to admit pupils from outside of its catchment and therefore should have the capacity to accommodate the small number of additional pupils applying from the new extended catchment. Journey times between Churchstanton and Uffculme are almost identical to those to The Castle and back.

Somerset LA have agreed to provide transport to pupils attending Uffculme School from the extended catchment as they would if they attended The Castle.

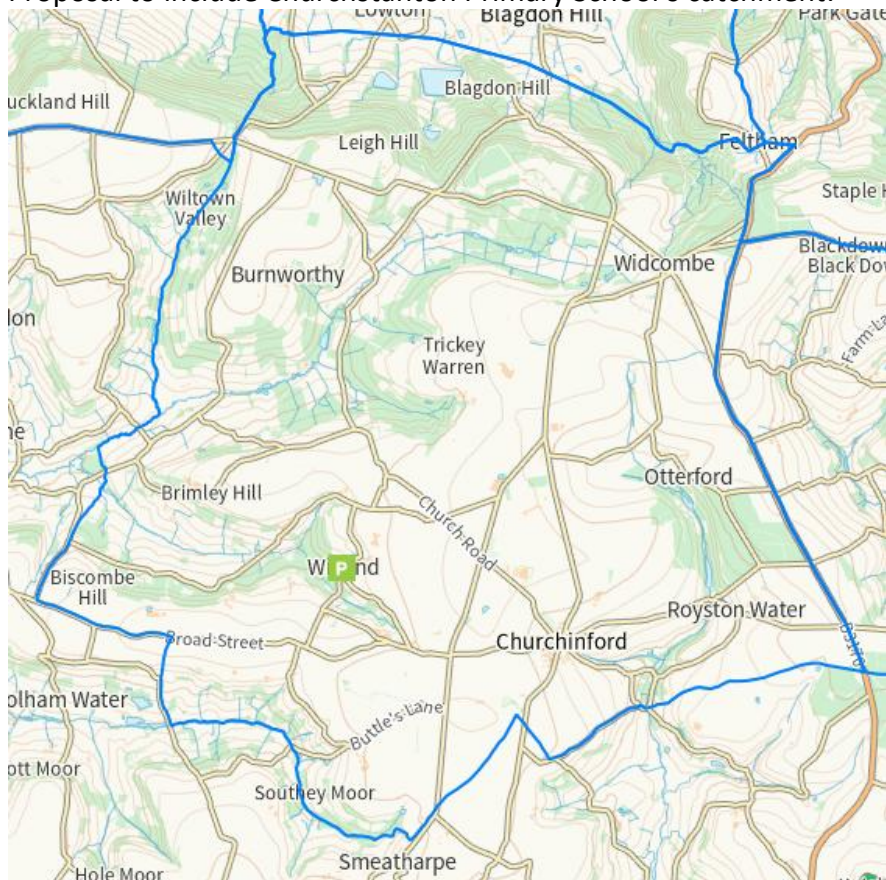
We do not propose to reduce the catchment of The Castle School at this present time because we need to retain the place of siblings in catchment at Churchstanton in the oversubscription criteria to avoid families attending different schools 20 miles apart. This means that pupils living in the Churchstanton catchment can apply to both The Castle and Uffculme but are unlikely to be allocated a place at The Castle unless they have an older sibling there.

Because we are very concerned that children at Churchstanton will not be allocated a suitable secondary school place in September 2026, we would like to make this change outside of the normal consultation window.

Current catchment area for Uffculme School:



Proposal to include Churchstanton Primary School's catchment:



If you wish to comment on the above proposal, please email jgregory@bep.ac by Friday 13 June 2025.