

Types of Schools – Background Information

There are four types of state school all of which receive funding from the local authority. They all follow the National Curriculum and are regularly inspected by the government; they are said to be “maintained schools”.

Community schools

A community school is run by the local authority, which:

- employs the staff
- owns the land and buildings
- decides which ‘admissions criteria’ to use (these are used to allocate places if the school has more applicants than places)

Community schools look to develop strong links with the local community, sometimes offering use of their facilities and providing services such as childcare and adult learning classes.

There are 63 mainstream community schools in Wiltshire

Foundation schools

Foundation schools are run by their own governing body, which employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria. Land and buildings are usually owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation.

There are 21 foundation schools in Wiltshire

Voluntary-aided schools

Voluntary-aided schools are mainly religious or ‘faith’ schools, although anyone can apply for a place. As with foundation schools, the governing body:

- employs the staff
- sets the admissions criteria

School buildings and land are normally owned by a charitable foundation, often the RC or CE Diocese. The governing body contributes to building and maintenance costs.

There are 64 VA schools in Wiltshire

Voluntary-controlled schools

Voluntary-controlled schools are similar to voluntary aided schools, but are run by the local authority. As with community schools, the local authority:

- employs the school's staff
- sets the admissions criteria

School land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often the CE Diocese, which also appoints some of the members of the governing body.

There are 76 VC schools in Wiltshire

Admission Arrangements explain how children will be admitted to schools and in particular outline the criteria which will be used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed for the intake year in September. The local authority sets the admission arrangements for voluntary controlled and community schools.

Co-Ordinated Schemes explain the process which has to happen before an allocation can be made. They say how applications to all maintained schools will be handled. Academies are included in the co-ordinated scheme and, for admissions purposes, operate in the same way as a foundation school.