



Proposed change to the catchment area of John Mason School from 1 September 2026

Context

John Mason School is one of three secondary schools in Abingdon. In 2018 the catchment area was changed to include all addresses in the town of Abingdon. The northern boundary of the civil parish of Abingdon was the Dunmore Road between the Wootton Road roundabout and the Oxford Road roundabout. The area to the north of the Dunmore Road (Tilsley Park) was undeveloped and was in the civil parish of Sunningwell.

Since 2018 there has been housing development between the Dunmore Road and the A34. Latterly the boundaries of the civil parishes have been changed and the northern boundary of Abingdon now follows the A34 between the Wootton Road and the Oxford Road. The southern boundary of the civil parish of Sunningwell also follows the A34 between these points. Consequently housing in Abingdon between the Dunmore Road and the A34 is not in the catchment area of John Mason School while it is already included in the catchment areas of Fitzharrys School and Larkmead School. Fitzharrys School will be the closest school to these addresses. John Mason School will be second closest. Larkmead School will be third closest.

Proposal

Abingdon Learning Trust proposes that the northern and north-western boundaries of the catchment area for John Mason School be extended to cover large parts of the civil parishes of Radley, St Helen Without, Sunningwell and Wootton. In this area the catchment areas for John Mason School and Fitzharrys School will be contiguous.

This change ensures that all addresses in Abingdon now and in the future will be in the catchment area of John Mason School and provides more opportunities for local families to apply for and expect to be offered a preferred school.

The change is proposed to take effect from 1 September 2026.