

ADMISSION & EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICIES FOR 2018-19 AND 2019-20

Report of the Head of Education and Learning

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to approval by the Cabinet and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution before taking effect.

1. Note the admission arrangements were proposed and consulted on by the Local Authority;
2. Determine the Normal Round Co-Ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2019-20, the In-Year Co-Ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2018-19, the Education Transport Policy for 2019-20 and the Fair Access Protocol, for implementation from the summer term 2018 with amendments summarised at **section 2**, all policies published at <http://devon.cc/lapolicies>
3. Approve the admissions cycle timetable drawn up for the following year's admissions arrangements cycle, set out at **Appendix Three**.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory responsibility to propose, consult on and determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools and co-ordinated admission schemes for the normal round of admissions to all state-funded schools. Consultation in Devon is held ahead of the statutory deadline for annual determination by Cabinet. Schools that are their own admissions authority are responsible for their own arrangements and determined by the schools themselves.
- 1.2 This paper is to report the outcome of the consultation on primary and secondary school admission arrangements for 2019-20 and the co-ordination of primary and secondary school admissions and to seek approval to the schemes. Admission to special schools and fee-paying independent schools is not included.
- 1.3 This paper also proposes the Education Transport Policy for 2019-20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider the Normal Round Co-Ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2019-20 and the In-Year Co-Ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2018-19 and to:
 - a) approve the Published Admission Numbers for community and VC schools for 2019-20 set out at **Appendix One**.
 - b) approve the catchment areas for community and VC schools for 2019-20 set out at **Appendix Two**.
 - c) approve the amendments to both co-ordinated admissions schemes, detailed at **Appendix Four**.
 - d) approve the amendments the Fair Access Protocol detailed at **Appendix Five**.

- 2.2 Members are requested to consider the Education Transport Policies for 2019-20 and to approve the amendments detailed at **section 6.1**

3. CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The LA is required to consult on its admission arrangements and to determine them by 28 February each year. The LA consulted on the proposed admission arrangements for community and VC schools for which it is the admissions authority and on the proposed co-ordinated admission schemes for primary and secondary schools. Where a school converts to academy status after determination, the published admission arrangements for them will remain in place.
- 3.2 Consultation took place from the beginning of November 2017 on the admission arrangements. It was open to own admission authority schools to participate in the LA consultation, including academies through an Admissions Traded Service. Joint consultation is intended to place as many admission arrangements in one place as possible for the benefit of consultees.
- 3.3 An email was sent to schools at the beginning of November 2017, notifying them that the consultation website was live. Details of the consultation were also sent electronically to all neighbouring LAs and the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses, relevant Trades Unions, local Members of Parliament, community groups and Early Years settings.
- 3.4 The consultation website set out all aspects of the proposed admission arrangements and enabled schools and other consultees to respond to the proposals online via email direct to the LA. Responses were required by 5 January 2018 in order to allow consultees time in which to respond.
- 3.5 The following were also used to publicise the consultation:
- An advert placed in the first edition of the Western Morning News in November 2017
 - Devon County Council website
 - Devon's "Have Your Say"
- 3.6 All community and voluntary controlled schools were sent a link to an admissions policy document for the school for 2019-20, drafted on the same lines as those for own admission authority schools.
- 3.7 The number of responses received remains low. A number of responses were received with regard to specific, local admissions issues, detailed at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements This is in common with neighbouring LAs.

4. CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2018-19

- 4.1 The LA is required under the School Admissions Code to co-ordinate all normal round admissions to state-funded schools. The LA has consulted annually on co-ordinated admissions schemes for primary and secondary schools; the proposed scheme for 2018-19 was a combined scheme for the Normal Round of Admissions into all state-funded schools. Normal round is the first opportunity to be admitted into any school, such as at the beginning of Reception, Year 3 for junior schools and Year 7 for secondary schools. It also includes Year 7 for all-through schools. It brought forward the arrangements from the previous academic year, with some amendments, detailed at **Appendix Four**. On average, the co-ordinated schemes manage 7,500 primary admissions, 7,000 secondary admissions and 6,500 in year admissions each year.

- 4.2 Devon's arrangements oversaw 14,706 applications for Devon-resident children for the 2017-18 normal round of admissions when 95.8% of 7057 applicants for secondary transfer were offered their first preference school and 98.8% were offered one of their preferences. For admissions into the Reception class, 96.1% of 7649 were offered their first preference school and 98.9% were offered one of their preferences. For in-year admission, 90% of 4975 applications for children living within and outside Devon were offered their first preference and 97% were offered one of their preferences.
- 4.3 The LA is not required to co-ordinate in-year admissions to all state-funded schools. It is required to manage in-year applications for community and VC schools and extends this facility to all state-funded schools. The purpose is to enable parents to apply for more than one school at the same time and promote a fair, transparent and lawful admissions process for all children in the county. By doing so, the LA seeks to minimise instances where children are missing education and ensure compliance against the code. The LA has consulted annually on an in-year co-ordinated admissions scheme; the proposed scheme for 2018-19 was brought forward from the previous academic year.
- 4.4 Published Admission Numbers (PANs) were proposed for community and VC schools, taking into account the accommodation available, expected local demand, sensible organisation and the constraints of Key Stage One Class Size Legislation and the flexibility to increase PANs where this becomes necessary. The proposed PANs are listed at **Appendix One** and can be found in the individual admissions policy document for each school at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>
- 4.5 The proposed catchment areas for community and VC schools were brought forward from the previous academic year with no amendments. During the consultation, one community school proposed an amendment to its catchment. There was insufficient time to fully consider this proposal and it has been agreed to consider the proposal ahead of the next consultation round. Details can be found at **Appendix Two**.
- 4.6 The LA's Fair Access Protocol provides for vulnerable children who otherwise would be out of school. It is continually reviewed in consultation with Devon schools and must reflect local circumstances. As determined by Cabinet in February 2017, representatives of Devon schools were invited to review the Protocol. LA officers discussed the Protocol with representatives of the Devon Association of Primary Head teachers, Devon Association of Secondary Head teachers and the Devon Association of Governors. A revised Protocol was considered and endorsed by the School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group and was distributed to all schools for comment.
- 4.7 The primary and secondary co-ordination schemes have statutory deadlines. They must be determined in February ahead of applications in September for admission the following September. This has been taken into account in a timetable for the admissions process which is detailed at **Appendix Three**.

5. OWN ADMISSION AUTHORITY SCHOOLS

- 5.1 Many schools in Devon are responsible for their own admissions policy and decisions in response to admissions applications. These are academy, free, studio, voluntary aided and foundation schools and university technical colleges (UTCs). At the time of drafting there were:

Community schools	103
Foundation schools	35
Free schools	5
Studio schools	1
University Technical College	1
Voluntary Aided	35

- 5.2 LAs have a responsibility under the School Admissions Code to collate and publish the admission arrangements of all schools, including these own admission authority schools. Devon meets this requirement and reviews the policies of all schools to ensure that they are legally compliant. Where it identifies that any part of a school's admission arrangements may be unlawful, it will raise the issue with the school's admissions authority and seek amendments to make the arrangements lawful. Where agreement is not reached, it will reach a decision on whether to formally object to the arrangements to the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator.

The first stage of the compliance process is to work closely with own admission authority schools with their admissions policies. Where amendments are made to policies for community and VC schools, they are recommended to all own admission authority schools.

6. EDUCATION TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 In previous years, the Education Transport Policy has been included in the admissions consultation and Members have been requested to consider them at the same time. The arrangements proposed for 2019-20 for statutory age children and Post-16 students are those previously determined for 2018-19 with changes proposed to wording to improve understanding, indicated by tracked changes.

7 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial considerations of this report however as the numbers of own admissions schools increase, Devon will need to continue to develop its Admissions Traded Service offer.

8 SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The admissions policy supports the principle of providing local places for local schools.

9 EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 Equality of access to education opportunities is a fundamental feature of school admission arrangements. All policies for consideration have been subject to an Equality Impact Needs Assessment, at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements
- 9.2 Increasingly in a more autonomous school system, LAs will need to ensure schools comply with the admissions code and be prepared to challenge practice that is neither legal nor inclusive.

10 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 School admission arrangements are a statutory function of the LA. Setting fair, transparent and legal co-ordinated admission arrangements ensures that the LA meets its duty and enables parents, schools and other interested parties to have confidence in them.
- 10.2 The admission arrangements have been proposed and the subject of consultation under requirements of the statutory School Admissions Code 2014. Arrangements must be

determined by the LA by 28 February and must be compliant with the statutory requirements of the Code. The amendments to policies are compliant with the Code.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The key risk is that admission arrangements are not determined by the statutory date of 28 February. This would mean that the LA was not compliant with the requirements of the Code. It would be liable to censure from the Department for Education and the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator (OSA).
- 11.2 By not determining compliant arrangements, Devon parents and schools would be a) unable to plan effectively for the next school admissions round in 2019-20, applications for which will open in the autumn 2018 or b) to effectively plan for in-year admissions during 2018-19. Further, c) the Fair Access Protocol would not meet the changing needs of parents, children, schools and the LA across the county. This would be a failure of the LA to formulate and manage a fair and transparent admissions system. Furthermore, Devon's neighbours would have cause for concern that Devon may not meet its duty to co-ordinate arrangements for admissions across local authority boundaries. Action on the recommendations addresses this risk.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The LA has more than one role in school admissions. It must set admission arrangements for those schools where it is the admissions authority and it must manage normal round admissions for all state-funded schools and children within its area. Where it believes that the arrangements for own admission authority schools are unlawful, it has a further duty to seek a local agreement for them to be lawful or make a formal objection.

The recommendations in this paper will ensure Devon County Council meets its statutory responsibilities in respect of school admissions.

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ELECTORAL DIVISION: All

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Skills: Councillor James McInnes

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Local Government Act 1972. Background Papers:

Appendix One – Proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

DfE number	School name	PAN 2019
2400	Abbotskerswell Primary School	17
3070	Ashleigh CofE (VC) Primary School	45
2201	Ashwater Primary School	8
2206	Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School	15
3101	Berry Pomeroy Parochial Church of England Primary School	15
3053	Berrynarbor Church of England Primary School	12
2210	Bishops Nympton Primary School	10
2402	Bishopsteignton School	30
2717	Bolham Community Primary School	16
2404	Bovey Tracey Primary School	40
2002	Bow Community Primary School	20
2472	Bradley Barton Primary School and Nursery Unit	60
3001	Bramford Speke Church of England Primary School	10
3002	Branscombe Church of England Primary School	10
2214	Bratton Fleming Community Primary School	20
3003	Broadhembury Church of England Primary School	8
2408	Broadhempston Village Primary School	10
3004	Burlescombe Church of England Primary School	12
2215	Caen Community Primary School	60
2476	Canada Hill Community Primary School	45
2006	Cheriton Bishop Community Primary School	10
2007	Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School	15
3105	Chudleigh Church of England Community Primary School	60
2220	Clawton Primary School	13
3777	Clyst Heath Nursey and Community Primary School	45
2009	Clyst St Mary Primary School	30
2411	Cockwood Primary School	12
2010	Colyton Primary School	25
2222	Combe Martin Primary School	30
2011	Copplestone Primary School	30
3152	Cornwood Church of England Primary School	15
2025	Countess Wear Community School	45
2015	Culmstock Primary School	15
3107	Dartington Church of England Primary School	50
2431	Decoy Primary School	60
2416	Denbury Primary School	20
2417	Doddiscombesleigh Primary School	10
2418	Dunsford Community Primary School	12
2223	East Anstey Primary School	7
2207	East-The-Water Community Primary School	60
2603	Ermington Primary School	25
2420	Exminster Community Primary	60
2225	Filleigh Community Primary School	15
2204	Forches Cross Community Primary School	30
2226	Fremington Community Primary and Nursery School	60
3059	Georgeham Church of England (VC) Primary School	15

Appendix One – Proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

3060	Goodleigh Church of England Primary School	10
3061	Great Torrington Bluecoat Church of England Primary School	70
2604	Gulworthy Primary School	12
2228	Halwill Community Primary School	15
2605	Hatherleigh Community Primary School	30
3779	Haytor View Community Primary School	30
2012	Hayward's Primary School	60
2448	Hazeldown School	60
2255	Highampton Community Primary School	7
2432	Highweek Community Primary and Nursery School	60
2607	Holbeton School	15
3063	Holsworthy Church of England Primary School	45
3064	Holywell Church of England Primary School	14
2048	Honiton Primary School	60
2231	Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School	14
3065	Ilfracombe Church of England Junior School	120
2232	Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery School	135
2233	Instow Community Primary School	20
2423	Ipplepen Primary School	30
3111	Kenn Church of England Primary School	15
3013	Kentisbeare Church of England Primary School	25
2234	Kentisbury Primary School	8
2424	Kenton Primary School	15
2050	Kilmington Primary School	15
2257	Kingsacre Primary School	30
2425	Kingsbridge Community Primary School	60
3112	Kingskerswell Church of England Primary School	60
2026	Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School	90
2027	Ladysmith Junior School	90
3154	Lamerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	8
2236	Landkey Primary School	30
2079	Landscape Primary School	60
2237	Langtree Community School and Nursery Unit	12
2612	Lifton Community Primary School	17
3028	Littleham Church of England Primary School	30
2428	Loddiswell Primary School	15
3014	Lympstone Church of England Primary School	30
3114	Malborough with South Huish Church of England Primary School	15
2610	Manor Primary School, Ivybridge	40
2238	Marwood School	17
2622	Mary Tavy and Brentor Community Primary School	15
2614	Milton Abbot School	15
2715	Modbury Primary School	30
2239	Monkleigh Primary School	15
2054	Newton Poppleford Primary School	30
2055	Newton St Cyres Primary School	15
2029	Newtown Primary School	30
2240	North Molton School	20

Appendix One – Proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

3015	Offwell Church of England Primary School	17
3066	Parracombe Church of England Primary School	8
3016	Payhembury Church of England Primary School	15
2205	Pilton Infants' School	60
3017	Plymtree Church of England Primary School	15
2059	Sandford School	30
2060	Seaton Primary School	60
2618	Shaugh Prior Primary School	10
2243	Shebbear Community School	10
2244	Shirwell Community Primary School	8
2062	Shute Community Primary School	12
4011	Sidmouth College	150 (Year 12 10)
3022	Silverton Church of England Primary School	20
2245	South Molton Community Primary School	30
2216	Southmead School	60
2089	Spreyton School	6
2242	St Giles-on-the-Heath Community School	15
4501	St Luke's Science and Sports College	196
3069	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bideford	60
3128	St Michael's Church of England Primary School	60
2442	Starcross Primary School	30
3024	Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School	20
2033	Stoke Hill Infants and Nursery School	90
2034	Stoke Hill Junior School	90
2445	Stokeinteignhead School	15
2446	Stokenham Area Primary School	30
2088	Tedburn St Mary School	17
2609	The Erme Primary School	25
2461	The Grove Primary School	45
2090	The Topsham School	30
3025	Thorverton Church of England Primary School	12
3127	Totnes St John's Church of England Primary School	30
2710	Ugborough Primary School	25
3026	Uplowman Church of England Primary School	8
2073	Upottery Primary School	15
2209	West Croft School	90
2249	West Down School	15
2074	Whimble Primary School	20
2075	Willand School	60
2724	Willowbrook School	60
3011	Withycombe Raleigh Church of England Primary School	90
2253	Woolacombe School	30
3375	Wynstream School	60
2076	Yeoford Community Primary School	10

Appendix Two – Proposed amendments to Catchment areas for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools

1. The proposed 2019-20 catchment areas have been copied from the previous academic year.
2. Mary Tavy and Brentor Community School requested that its catchment be increased to take in the area around Peter Tavy. That is part of the catchment of St Rumon's Church of England Infant School and St Peter's Church of England Junior School. Local residents and the admissions authority for these schools would not have had a minimum of six weeks to consider this proposal. The Head teacher of Mary Tavy has agreed to discuss the matter during the remainder of this academic year and may propose an amendment as part of the formal consultation for 2020-21.

Appendix Three – admission arrangements timetable

Timetable for the admissions cycle for 2018 and 2019

Statutory dates are in bold.

	Action	Action by
31 January	Deadline for the completion of the consultation on proposed admission arrangements	Admission Authority
28 February	All policies to be formally determined – including the date of determination in the Policy version section.	Admission Authority
28 February	Appeals timetable to be published	Admissions Service Admissions authority
15 March	All policies to be published on school websites All faith policies to be forwarded to Diocese All policies to be forwarded to LA Policy Officer.	Admission Authority
By 15 May	Deadline for objections to the OSA	
Summer term 2018	Review content and presentation of policies for 2020-21	Admissions Service
By 1 September	All faith own admission authority schools will receive a suggested new document for consideration	Admissions Service
By 15 September	All other own admission authority schools will receive a suggested new document for consideration	Admissions Service
By 30 September	Faith schools to meet and agree a proposed policy then forward to Diocese (CE confirmed timescale)	Admission Authority
By 30 November	Diocese to forward proposed policies to LA Policy Officer.	CE Diocese Catholic Diocese (to be confirmed)
By 30 November	All other own admission authority schools to return proposed policies to LA Policy Officer.	Admission authority
1 November	LA-hosted consultation live for proposed admission arrangements for 2020-21	Admissions Service
4 January 2019	LA-hosted consultation ends	Admissions Service
31 January	Deadline for the completion of the consultation on proposed admission arrangements	Admission Authority
28 February 2019	All policies to be formally determined – including the date of determination in the Policy version section.	Admission Authority
28 February	Appeals timetable to be published	Admissions Service Admissions authority
15 March	All policies to be published on school websites All faith policies to be forwarded to Diocese All policies to be forwarded to LA Policy Officer.	Admission Authority
By 15 May	Objections to the OSA	

Appendix Four – proposed amendments to the co-ordinated schemes

1. Dates have been rolled forward for the new academic year.
2. As for 2018-19, it has been suggested by some schools that the LA introduce admissions priority for children attending school-run nurseries for community and voluntary controlled schools. This option has been taken up by a small number of own admission authority schools. This remains a contentious issue under The Code as all objections but one nationally have been upheld by the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator (OSA). Wherever this priority is introduced, the LA will have a responsibility to ensure that the interests of local children who do not attend the nursery are protected and financial support for the school does not influence admissions priority.

Until there is greater clarity nationally through a revised version of The Code or unequivocal Guidance from the Department for Education, it remains likely that objections to the OSA will continue to be withheld. While this LA may not believe that a school's priority for nursery children breaches The Code and therefore would not be obliged to object, the advice to Devon schools that are their own admissions authority would be to make this provision with caution. The advice to Members with regard to community and voluntary controlled schools is to avoid the provision.

3. The Department for Education encourages those schools with priority for children according to an exceptional social or medical need to extend this provision to include exceptional need for parents. This is the case particularly for primary schools as parents are more likely to accompany their children to school, making their own needs more relevant.

In response, the proposed oversubscription criterion for exception need which is the second highest criterion for all primary community and VC schools has been expanded accordingly.

4. The Department for Education's own definition of sibling for the purposes of school admissions is limited to children living in the same household. This excludes children who live at different addresses, regardless of their relationship. This approach has been adopted in the proposed arrangements for 2019-20 in the interests of simplicity and aligning Devon's schools with the national strategy. It recognises that the primary purpose of giving priority to siblings is to better support families who wish to educate children who live together in the same school and use the same home to school travel arrangements.
5. Home to school distance is the first tie-breaker when two or more children have the same priority for admission to a community or VC school. This is measured using the LA's online mapping service and is a straight-line measurement from home to a point within the school campus. In order to better enable parents to understand where the measurement is taken from, it is proposed to measure from the centre of the main entrance to each school.
6. Random allocation is used as a further, definitive tie-breaker where distances cannot distinguish between two or more children seeking a school place.

The Department for Education encourages admissions authorities not to refuse admission to a school to multiple birth siblings where one of the siblings can be offered a place. Multiple birth siblings are eligible to be Permitted Exceptions to legislation limiting the size of an Infant Class where one of the siblings can be admitted without breaching the class size limit. In recognition of this position from the Department, it is proposed that random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings who are tied for the final place in a school. All community and VC schools will admit all of the

Appendix Four – proposed amendments to the co-ordinated schemes

multiple birth siblings, exceeding the Published Admission Number as necessary. This does not provide for the PAN to be exceeded where all of the multiple birth siblings could be offered places within the PAN.

7. Waiting lists must be kept as necessary for oversubscribed schools until the end of the autumn term of the intake year. They may be kept after this date and Devon has operated waiting lists whenever a parent wants to stay on a list. To streamline this process and enable vacancies to be filled as quickly as possible, parents are contacted periodically to check they still require a place. Further to this, it is proposed to close waiting lists at the end of each academic year unless parents respond to the Admissions Service to confirm a waiting list place is still required and that details such as the child's address are up to date.
8. Parents of summer-born children may request that the child delays admission to a Reception class until the following academic year, this being the start of the term after he or she reaches the statutory school age of 5. Devon has adopted a permissive approach to this process, recognising that some parents will wish to start the child in reception and then form a view that the child is not ready for Reception.

In order to ensure that this provision is available as intended, to delay the first admission into school it is proposed that delayed admission requests will be considered before the child starts in Reception or where the parent withdraws the child from Reception by the autumn half term.

9. The Schools Minister has written an open letter regarding children previously in Care outside England. This set out a commitment to amend the School Admissions Code to give priority to children who were in Care before moving to England. Admission authorities were encouraged to amend their admission arrangement proposals for 2019-20 where there remained sufficient time to consult. Where that was not possible, admission authorities were encouraged to propose a change for 2020-21. This would be as a second highest priority until legislation is introduced to allow this group of children to share the highest priority.

There is no indication of timescale for necessary legislation to be introduced, nor is there statutory guidance on eligibility and evidence-provision for children outside England. There is often significant difficulty in confirming an adopted child's prior Care status under existing provision and there is no clarity on how this provision could be managed to support children without the risk of fraud. This concern is shared by LAs across the south west of England.

Appendix Five – proposed amendments to the Fair Access Protocol

1. All LAs are required to operate a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that children who are at risk of being without appropriate education under In-Year admission arrangements are placed in a local school as quickly as possible. This is a safety net for children. The Protocol will require schools to admit children when otherwise they would refuse admission on the grounds they are full. As a consequence and as children who transfer schools In-Year can have more challenging circumstances, a further purpose of the Protocol is to promote equitable distribution among schools of children under these circumstances. The Protocol does not affect Normal Round allocations or any child who can be offered a place at a school according to parental preference.
2. The existing Fair Access Protocol has been in place since 2008 and has largely been used by the LA to place secondary school children new to the area. Over the past 12-18 months, there has been increasing pressure on In-Year admissions for primary schools and a review was undertaken in consultation with school phase associations.
3. It was proposed to continue with the arrangements for secondary schools largely unchanged: children moving into a school catchment area are placed at that school even if full, up to 3% above the Admission Number for the Year Group. Above this figure, a place is allocated at the next school up to the same 3% threshold. The rationale behind this is that each registration or teaching group would be expected to admit one more child – a compromise between the needs of the child and the impact on the school. Historically there have been very few cases where a primary school child could not be placed locally. There has been provision to place a child under Fair Access up to a 45 minute travelling distance from home. This has rarely been used but increasingly the closest schools are experiencing difficulty in meeting In-Year demand.
4. The LA is concerned that younger children should not be required to travel significantly out of their local community to attend school. To that end and to limit increasing transport costs to the LA, it was proposed to amend the Protocol so that there is greater emphasis on placing at the catchment or other close school. Vacancies at schools within walking distance of home would be the default position but provision is proposed to place above the Admission Number, including as a Permitted Exception to Infant Class Size Legislation. No class would be expected to accommodate more than 2 children under the Protocol above the point at which the school could consider it full. Rather than a travel distance of 45 minutes, a reasonable distance is proposed as no further than a 20 minute journey where a travel route is in place or where any new route would be required. This would ensure that the youngest children in the county are not placed out of their local community for up to seven academic years.
5. Greater clarity has been introduced to ensure equitable distribution among schools, identifying circumstances when a school would be exempt from Protocol allocations.
6. In light of the impact on primary schools, there was extended consultation with the Devon Association of Primary Head teachers. The proposals were discussed at meetings of the School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group through 2017 and in January 2018. The revised Protocol was endorsed, to be put before Cabinet for consideration.