

SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICIES FOR 2025-26

Report of the Deputy Director, Education and Learning

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

1) Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) agree the Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Admissions Policies, set out in section 3 of the report are adopted for September 2025;
- (ii) note that the approved admissions policies for September 2024 were used as a basis of consultation with schools and others for formulating the relevant admissions policies from September 2025/26 onwards;
- (iii) agree the Published Admissions Numbers as set out in Appendix One, noting the reduction for West Croft School from 90 to 60;
- (iv) approve the reduction in the catchment area of Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School;
- (v) agree the normal round co-ordinated admission scheme and the in-year co-ordinated admissions scheme for **2025-26**;
- (vi) agree the admissions timetable as set out in Appendix Five.

2) Background

2.1 The Local Authority (Devon LA) has a statutory responsibility to annually 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. The purpose of this report is to seek the necessary approvals to meet Devon LA's statutory responsibilities for the academic year 2025-26.

2.2 Consultation on the Local Authority admissions arrangements, detailed later in the report, were held ahead of the statutory deadline for consideration by Cabinet. Schools which are their own admissions authority (Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Academies and Free schools, University Technical Colleges, and Studio Schools) are responsible for their own arrangements and determined by the governing boards and academy trusts.

- 2.3 The admission arrangements for **2025-26** are based on the arrangements for **2024-25**.
- 2.4 The report details the outcome of the consultation on primary and secondary school admission arrangements for **2025-26** and the co-ordination of primary and secondary school admissions and seeks approval to these schemes.
- 2.5 Admission to special schools and fee-paying independent schools fall outside the scope of these arrangements.

3) Proposal

- 3.1 The Local Authority is required by the School Admissions Code to co-ordinate normal round admissions to state-funded schools, apart from new Free Schools, where the Department for Education’s instruction is to not coordinate in the first year of opening. Devon has consulted annually on co-ordinated admissions schemes for primary and secondary schools; the proposed scheme for **2025-26** 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 minor amendments, detailed at **Appendix Four**. On average, the co-ordinated schemes manage over 7,500 primary admissions, 7,500 secondary admissions and 6,500 in-year admissions each year.
- 3.2 Devon’s arrangements oversaw nearly 15,000 applications for Devon-resident children for the **2023-24** normal round of admissions for all schools and academies. The percentage of children who received a place at the school preferred by the parent remains significantly above the national average¹, see below:

2023-24 Normal Round Summary			
		National	Devon
Secondary	Applications	620,000	7,779
	First preference offered	82.6%	90.4%
	Any preference offered	95.6%	96.8%
Primary	Applications	568,600	7,065
	First preference offered	92.5%	96.7%
	Any preference offered	98.6%	98.8%

¹ Taken from [Secondary and primary school applications and offers, Academic year 2023/24 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

- 3.3 Local Authorities are not legally required to co-ordinate in-year admissions to all state-funded schools. Devon LA manages in-year applications for community and VC schools and extends this facility to all state-funded mainstream schools. The purpose is to enable parents to apply for one or more schools at the same time and promote a fair, transparent and lawful admissions process for all children in the county. By doing so, Devon seeks to minimise instances where children, in particular vulnerable children, are missing education and to ensure compliance with the School Admissions Code and School Admissions Appeals Code. Devon has consulted annually on an in-year co-ordinated admissions scheme; the proposed scheme for **2025-26** was brought forward from the previous academic year. As an integral part of a fair, legal and transparent admissions service, Devon-wide in-year co-ordination forms a part of the Admissions Service for all schools and academies.
- 3.4 Published Admission Numbers (PANs) were proposed for community and VC schools, taking into account the accommodation available, expected local demand, sensible organisation, a strategic overview of the number of places in an area, 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 form part of the admissions policy document for each school at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>. Changes in PANs for 2025 demonstrate the impact of a falling early years cohorts compared to upper years groups in Primary Schools and the continued pressure in Secondary schools.
- 3.5 Following detailed changes in last year's report to Cabinet, proposed catchment areas for community and VC schools were brought forward from the previous academic year with the exception of Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School.
- 3.6 Similar proposed amendments to admissions policies were drafted for own-admission authority schools across Devon to encourage consistency.
- 3.7 The responsibility for determining the admission arrangements for the schools lies with the governing bodies and academy trusts for those schools.
- 3.8 Admissions Officers provide support to own-admission authority schools regarding their policies for **2025-26**, which also need to be determined by the end of February. This can include challenge to ensure compliance with the School Admissions Code especially where there is a potential for local children to be refused a local place.
- 3.9 The primary and secondary co-ordination schemes have statutory deadlines and for this year must be determined by the end of February 2024 ahead of normal round applications in September 2024 for admission in September 2025. This has been taken into account in a timetable for the admissions process which is detailed at **Appendix Five** below.
- 3.10 Many schools in Devon are responsible for their own admissions policy and decisions in response to admissions applications, including maintained schools.

These are academy, free, studio, voluntary aided and foundation schools and university technical colleges (UTCs). At the time of writing, there were²:

Academy schools	200
Foundation schools	35
Free schools	10
Studio schools	1
University Technical College	1
Voluntary Aided	20
	267

There remaining schools for which Devon is the admissions authority:

Community	59
Voluntary Controlled	27
	86

3.11 LAs have a responsibility under the School Admissions Code to collate and publish the admission arrangements of all schools, including own admission authority schools. Devon meets this requirement by publishing a copy of all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> and reviews the policies of all schools to ensure that they are legally compliant and meet the potential need from their local community.

3.12 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, these are recommended to all own-admission authority schools. In most cases, Devon formulates the policy for own-admission authority schools to consider and approve. Support for own-admission authority schools has included scrutiny, advice, and challenge as necessary.

3.13 Members are requested to approve the recommendations, as outlined in the section at the start of the Report.

² School type data is taken from the Department for Education's *Get Information About Schools* website for Devon schools and academies.

4) Options / Alternatives

- 4.1 Admission arrangements must comply with the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code, School Admissions Appeals Code, and all relevant legislation. All local authorities must formulate schemes so that parents can apply for the normal round intakes to mainstream, state-funded schools and academies and for in-year admission to mainstream, maintained schools. Individual school admissions policies must include all of the mandatory elements set out in the Codes.
- 4.2 The LA may not reduce a school Published Admission Number (PAN) without prior public consultation. It is considered good practice to consult on increases in PAN. The expectation is that PANs will be determined at the same level as for 2024-25. West Croft School requested that its PAN be lowered in response to lower anticipated demand. The School Place Planning considered the proposal and supported given the short-term demographics.
- 4.3 School catchment areas may not be amended without prior public consultation. It had become evident that the priority for local children to the east of Exeter was not operating as intended: to promote the interests of residents of the newer housing developments at Westclyst. Children from beyond the new developments but closer to the schools have been securing admission at the expense of residents. To address this, the admission authority for Westclyst proposed to amend their arrangements to include conventional geographical catchment areas. Where this coincided with existing catchment areas, complimentary proposals were made to amend those catchments so that each address has an admissions priority to one primary and one secondary school, wherever possible. Options presented through the consultation have been reviewed but are not considered to support effective admissions.
- 4.4 There is no statutory requirement to coordinate in year admissions, however as identified later in this paper, it is considered to be in the best interests of students and parents to offer this service.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

- 5.1 Devon County Council consulted on the proposed admission arrangements for community and VC schools and on the proposed co-ordinated admission schemes for all primary and secondary schools. Where a school converts to academy status after determination, the published admission arrangements remain in place until the next admissions round. Emails were sent to all state-funded, mainstream schools in the summer and autumn of 2023 ahead of public consultation at the beginning of November 2023. Details of the consultation were also sent electronically to all neighbouring Local Authorities, Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses and other required consultees. The Devon Education Forum has been consulted through the School Organisation, Capital, and Admissions Forum, including a specific amendment to in-year co-ordination

at section 11.4 regarding own admission authorities making timely decisions in response to applications.

- 5.2 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 Devon. A notice was also placed in the Western Morning News in November 2023.
- 5.3 All community and VC schools were sent a link to an admissions policy draft document for the school for **2025-26**. Feedback from schools suggests that they are largely content with matters such as oversubscription criteria, Published Admission Numbers, catchment areas and the application process. Devon works closely with Diocese, headteacher and governor representatives throughout the year, discussing policy matters. Responses were received regarding specific local admissions issues, detailed at **Appendix Three**. This is in common with neighbouring Local Authorities.
- 5.4 The proposal to review the catchment area for Stoke Canon Primary School has seen the largest number of responses from the school and parents. They are detailed in **Appendix Three** with the evidence base and recommendation at **Appendix Two**.
- 5.5 The Admissions and School Place Planning Teams work collaboratively with all own-admission authority schools to ensure their arrangements are compliant with the Admissions Code as well as meeting Devon's statutory place planning sufficiency responsibilities.

6) Strategic Plan

- 6.1 The proposals in this paper support Devon's priority of being Ambitious for Children and Young people. Admission policies including fair access and in year are crucial in reducing the time children are potentially out of school. They provide a framework for ensuring school decisions are timely and compliant as well as facilitating scrutiny of decision and seeking direction to admit where necessary.

7) Financial Considerations

- 7.1 There are no significant direct financial considerations arising from school admission arrangements. The proposed change to catchment area would see a reduction in home to school transport costs in the medium term.

8) Legal Considerations

- 8.1 School admission arrangements are a statutory function of Devon County Council. Setting fair, transparent and legal co-ordinated admission arrangements ensures that Devon meets its duty and enables parents, schools and other interested parties to have confidence in them.

8.2 The admission arrangements have been proposed and the subject of consultation under requirements of the statutory School Admissions Code 2021. Arrangements must be determined by Devon by 29 February and must be compliant with the statutory requirements of the Code. The amendments to policies are compliant with the Code.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

9.1 The admissions policy supports the principle of providing local places at local schools.

10) Equality Considerations

10.1 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.

10.2 The policies comply with equal opportunities requirements in that all persons are treated equally with criteria being applied objectively. The Equality Act 2010 consolidates the law prohibiting discrimination, harassment and victimisation. All schools must have due regard to their obligations under the act and an admission authority must not discriminate on the grounds disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation as to who is offered admission as a pupil. All schools must have due regard to their obligations under the Act and review their policies and practices to make sure these meet the requirements of the Act, even if they believe that they are already operating in a non-discriminatory way.

10.3 Where relevant, in coming to a decision the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding

in relation to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (for employment), pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

A decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

In progressing this particular scheme / proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Members and also is available on the Council's website at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/published>

Members will need to consider the Impact Assessment for the purposes of this item / meeting.

11) Risk Management Considerations

11.1 The key risk is that admission arrangements are not determined by the statutory date of 29 February. This would mean that Devon County Council 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's parents and schools would be unable to plan effectively for the next school admissions round in **2025-26**, applications for which will open in the autumn 2023 nor effectively plan for in-year admissions during **2025-26**. This would be a failure of the Education Authority to formulate and manage a fair and transparent admissions system. Furthermore, neighbouring Education Authorities 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.

11.3 All risks are appropriately managed and mitigated.

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

12.1 Devon County Council has a broad and constantly changing role in school admissions with a priority for ensuring timely access to statutory aged education.

12.2 The recommendations in this paper will ensure Devon County Council meets its statutory responsibilities with regard to school admissions as well as its broader role in supporting children and young people.

Ceri Morgan
Deputy Director, Education and Learning

ELECTORAL DIVISION: All

Cabinet Member for Children Services and Schools: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Contact for enquiries:

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Appendix One – Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools 2025-26

Published Admission Numbers can also be viewed as part of each school’s admissions policy for each academic year, published at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>

PANs detailed are as determined by Cabinet for 2024-25 and recommended to Cabinet for 2025-26.

Changes recommended to Cabinet are school-specific and do not include the amendments that have been recommended for all schools, set out in **Appendix Four**.

DfE	School name		PAN 2024	PAN 2025	changes from 2024 to 2025
2400	Abbotskerswell Primary School	C	15	15	
2201	Ashwater Primary School	C	8	8	
3053	Berrynarbor Church of England Primary School	VC	12	12	
2210	Bishops Nympton Primary School	C	10	10	
2402	Bishopsteignton School	C	30	30	
2404	Bovey Tracey Primary School	C	40	40	
2002	Bow Community Primary School	C	20	20	
2472	Bradley Barton Primary School and Nursery Unit	C	60	60	
3001	Brampford Speke Church of England Primary School	VC	10	10	
3002	Branscombe Church of England Primary School	VC	10	10	
3003	Broadhembury Church of England Primary School	VC	8	8	
2476	Canada Hill Community Primary School	C	45	45	
2007	Cheriton Fitzpaine Primary School	C	15	15	
3105	Chudleigh Church of England Community Primary School	VC	60	60	
3777	Clyst Heath Nursey and Community Primary School	C	45	45	
2009	Clyst St Mary Primary School	C	30	30	
3152	Cornwood Church of England Primary School	VC	15	15	
2025	Countess Wear Community School	C	45	45	
2015	Culmstock Primary School	C	20	20	
2431	Decoy Primary School	C	60	60	

2416	Denbury Primary School	C	17	17
2223	East Anstey Primary School	C	7	7
2207	East-The-Water Community Primary School	C	60	60
2420	Exminster Community Primary	C	60	60
3059	Georgeham Church of England (VC) Primary School	VC	15	15
3060	Goodleigh Church of England Primary School	VC	10	10
3061	Great Torrington Bluecoat Church of England Primary School	VC	75	75
2228	Halwill Community Primary School	C	15	15
2605	Hatherleigh Community Primary School	C	30	30
3779	Haytor View Community Primary School	C	30	30
2012	Hayward's Primary School	C	60	60
2448	Hazeldown School	C	60	60
2432	Highweek Community Primary and Nursery School	C	60	60
3063	Holworthy Church of England Primary School	VC	45	45
2048	Honiton Primary School	C	60	60
3065	Ilfracombe Church of England Junior School	VC	90	90
2232	Ilfracombe Infant and Nursery School	C	120	120
3013	Kentisbeare Church of England Primary School	VC	25	25
2234	Kentisbury Primary School	C	8	8
2050	Kilmington Primary School	C	15	15
3112	Kingskerswell Church of England Primary School	VC	60	60
2026	Ladysmith Infant and Nursery School	C	90	90
2027	Ladysmith Junior School	C	90	90
2079	Landscore Primary School	C	60	60
2237	Langtree Community School and Nursery Unit	C	12	12
3028	Littleham Church of England Primary School	VC	30	30
2428	Loddiswell Primary School	C	15	15
3014	Lympstone Church of England Primary School	VC	30	30
3114	Malborough with South Huish Church of England Primary School	VC	15	15
2622	Mary Tavy and Brentor Community Primary School	C	15	15

2614	Milton Abbot School	C	15	15	
2715	Modbury Primary School	C	30	30	
2239	Monkleigh Primary School	C	15	15	
2054	Newton Poppleford Primary School	C	30	30	
2055	Newton St Cyres Primary School	C	20	20	
3015	Offwell Church of England Primary School	VC	17	17	
3066	Parracombe Church of England Primary School	VC	8	8	
3016	Payhembury Church of England Primary School	VC	15	15	
3017	Plymtree Church of England Primary School	VC	15	15	
2059	Sandford School	C	30	30	
2060	Seaton Primary School	C	60	60	
2618	Shaugh Prior Primary School	C	10	10	
2243	Shebbear Community School	C	10	10	
2244	Shirwell Community Primary School	C	8	8	
2062	Shute Community Primary School	C	12	12	
3022	Silverton Church of England Primary School	VC	20	20	
2245	South Molton Community Primary School	C	45	45	
2242	St Giles-on-the-Heath Community School	C	15	15	
3069	St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bideford	VC	60	60	
3128	St Michael's Church of England Primary School	VC	60	60	
3024	Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School and Pre-school	VC	15	15	reduction to catchment area
2033	Stoke Hill Infant and Nursery School	C	90	90	
2034	Stoke Hill Junior School	C	90	90	
2446	Stokenham Area Primary School	C	30	30	
2609	The Erme Primary School	C	25	25	
2461	The Grove School	C	45	45	
2090	The Topsham School	C	30	30	
3025	Thorverton Church of England Primary School	VC	15	15	
3026	Uplowman Church of England Primary School	VC	8	8	

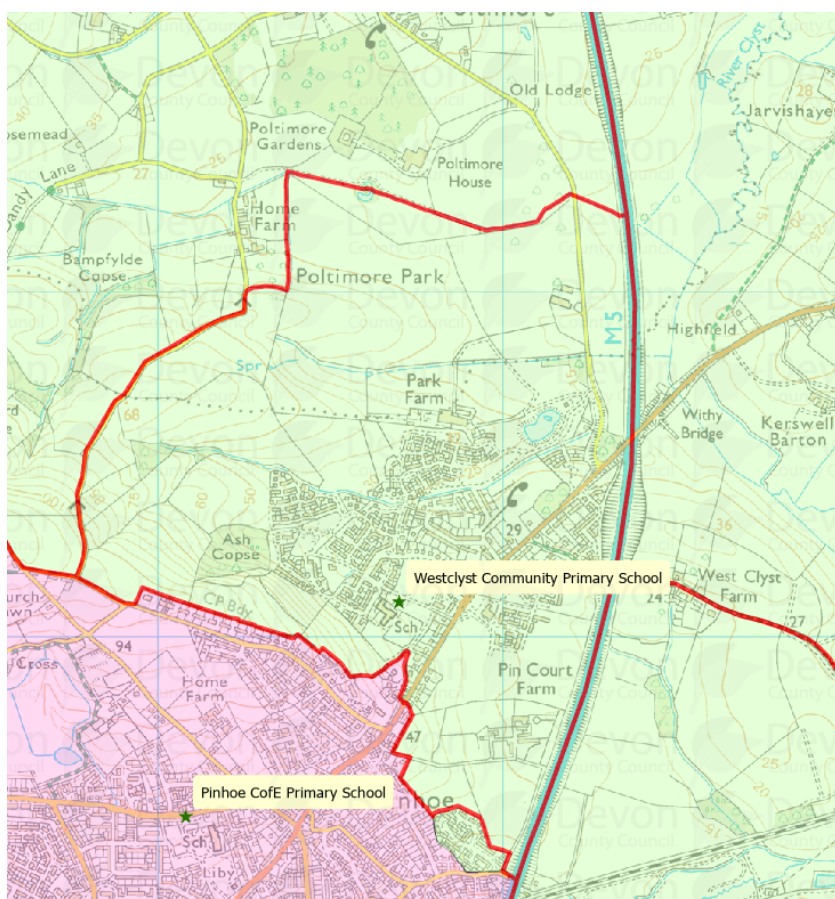
2073	Upottery Primary School	C	15	15	
2209	West Croft School	C	90	60	reduction in PAN
2249	West Down School	C	15	15	
2074	Whimble Primary School	C	20	20	
2075	Willand School	C	60	60	
2724	Willowbrook School	C	60	60	
3011	Withycombe Raleigh Church of England Primary School	VC	90	90	

Appendix Two – Proposed amendment to the catchment area for Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School and responses to the proposal.

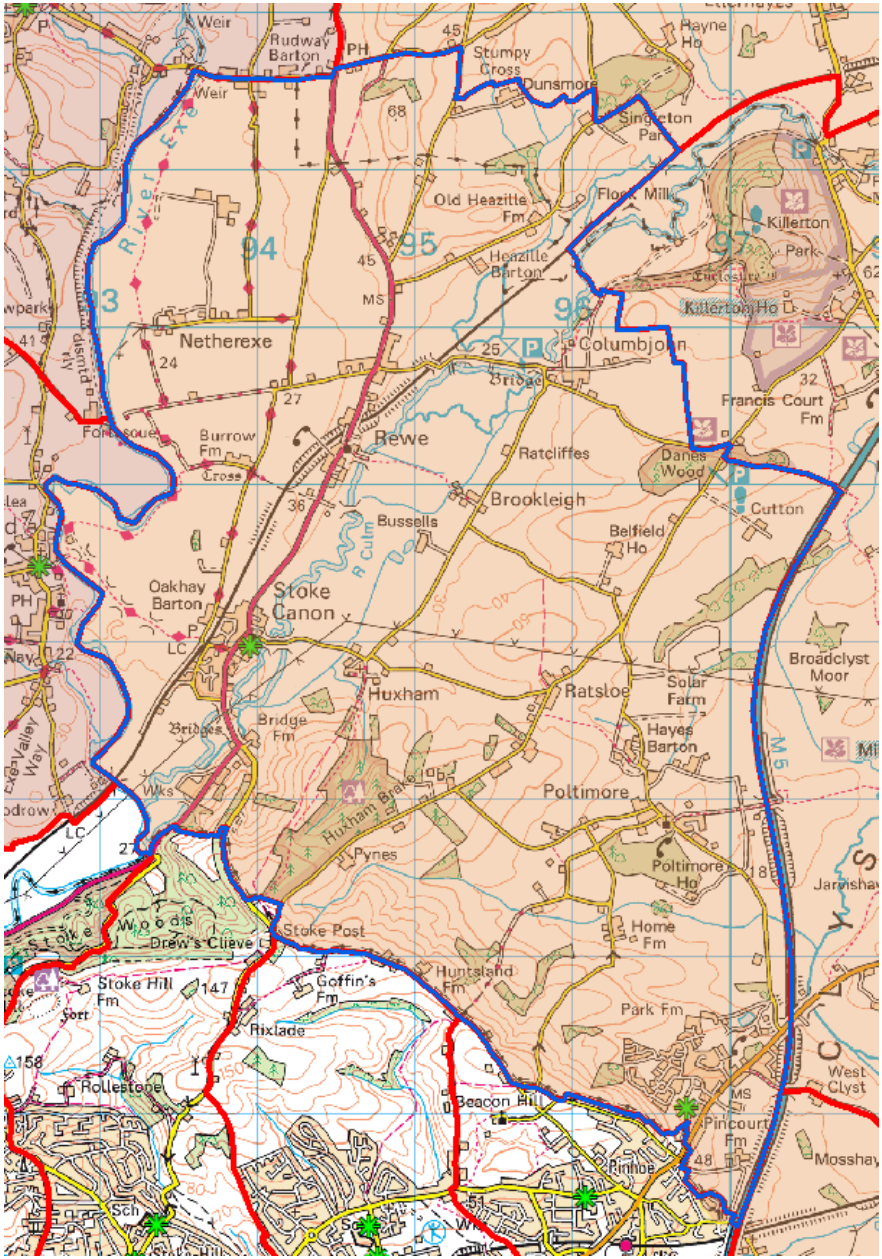
The proposal for the new West Clyst primary school was included within the East Devon Local Plan 2016 to 2033 (adopted January 2016) supporting new development in the area – Strategy 14 Urban Extension Pinhoe. The local plan allocated circa 800 dwellings but additional applications have seen the housing increase to circa 1,200 dwelling in the proposed catchment area for the school. The new school was part-funded from the Department for Education Free School Programme and developer contributions from Old Park Farm and Pinn Court Farm.

It was proposed for the consultation that the catchment area for **Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School** be reduced. This co-incided with a proposed amendment to the admission arrangements for **Westclyst Community Primary School** (a Free School) to establish a conventional, geographical catchment area to replace priority for children living within a 3-mile radius of the school.

The proposals put forward by Westclyst and for Stoke Canon would redesignate the southernmost part of the current Stoke Canon area as Westclyst's catchment. This area is shown in the map below, marked with a red boundary and with a green-shaded background, taking into account all the new homes. No other schools would be affected.



All properties in the proposed new area for Westclyst are within the statutory walking distance of 2 miles from school and so would not be entitled to transport to school. Transport would be provided if Westclyst could not provide a place and the nearest school available was further than 2 miles. Existing passengers would not be impacted.



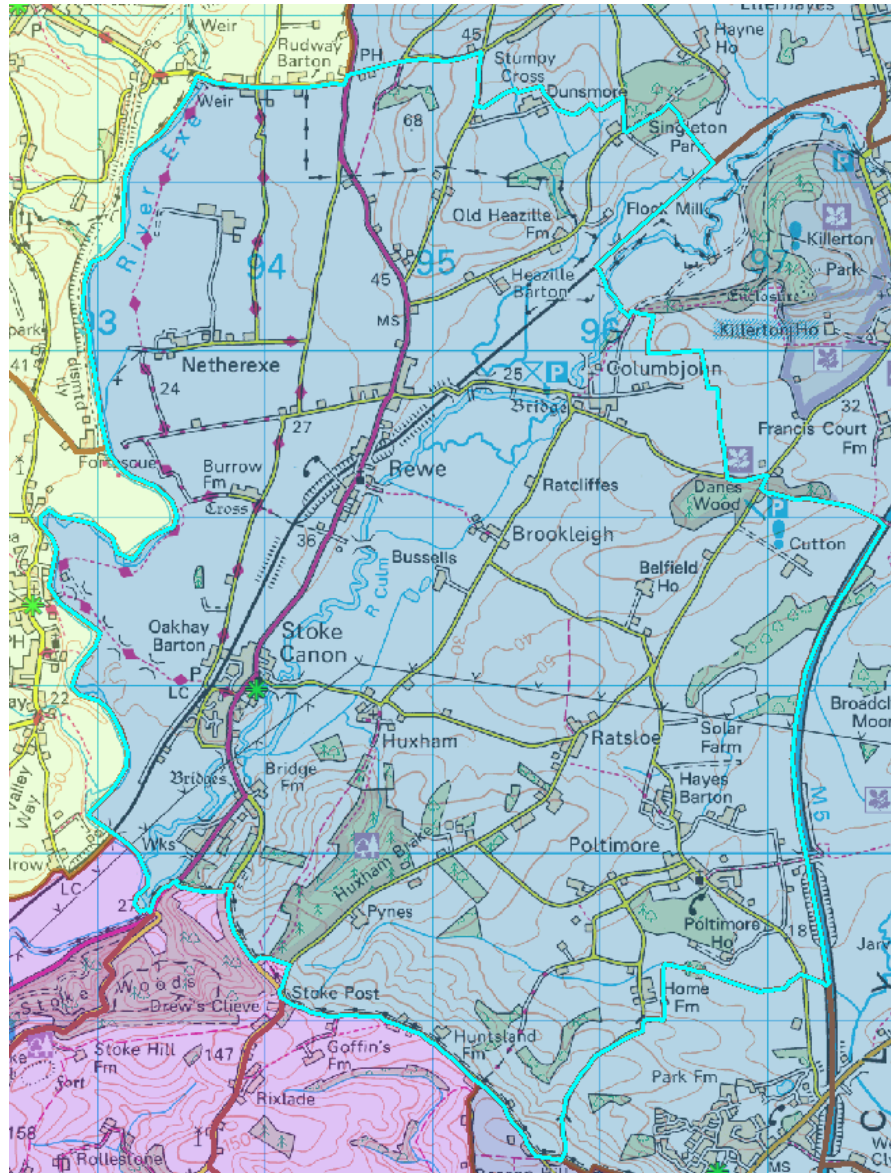
have. School locations are marked in green, The straight-line distance between Stoke Canon and Westclyst schools is 2.5 miles.

The catchment area that was proposed for Stoke Canon is shown below:

Westclyst school was established to serve the new community at Westclyst. This free school currently gives priority to children living within a 3 mile radius of the school site. This approach has meant that local children have priority over children who attend the school nursery. This has led to children from outside of the Westclyst development having priority over some children within the development.

By introducing a conventional geographical catchment area, the admission authority for the school will be able to better ensure that children who live in the Westclyst development will have appropriate priority for admission to the school built to serve them.

The purpose in reducing the current catchment (left) for Stoke Canon is to recognise that the school preference for the majority of Westclyst parents is for Westclyst school, within walking distance, rather than the more distant Stoke Canon school. It would also avoid establishing priority for two schools which other parents in the wider area do not



Points for consideration

- There are 74 children on roll at Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School³, currently only 7 of these children live in the new proposed catchment area for Westclyst. Of these 7 children, 3 originally applied for West Clyst Primary but were refused.
- There are currently 10 preferences for Stoke Canon's next intake into Reception in September 2024⁴, only 1 of these is from the new proposed catchment area for West Clyst and is not a first preference.
- There are 5 children at Stoke Canon's early years provision who will apply for a reception place in September 2025. None live in the proposed Westclyst catchment area.
- No younger siblings of Stoke Canon pupils have been identified living in the proposed Westclyst catchment.
- The Reception intake since Westclyst opened is detailed below

³ Data is taken from the ONE database, 8 January 2024. Includes children not on roll but allocated a place.

⁴ The closing date for applications is 15 January 2024.

Reception intake	Stoke Canon	Westclyst
2016	10	27
2017	12	29
2018	12	43
2019	11	42
2020	8	60
2021	7	60
2022	5	60
2023	14	60
2024 (anticipated)	9	60

Stoke Canon's pupil roll has been in decline for since 2006 where there were 156 children on roll.

How many children would be directly affected?

No pupils on roll at Stoke Canon would lose their school place.

No current passengers receiving free LA transport would lose that entitlement. The LA has always brought in changes to entitlement on catchment school grounds for new applicants only. There are currently 7 children receiving transport from a Westclyst address to Stoke Canon. That entitlement would continue for the remainder of their time on roll at Stoke Canon while living at the same address. Eligibility for transport for younger siblings of passengers would be according to the revised catchments if amendments were made. Analysis has not identified younger siblings of Stoke Canon pupils who live in the Westclyst area.

Future demand?

The application period for the Reception intake in September 2024 closes on 15 January. Any Westclyst resident could apply for Stoke Canon and have admissions priority and a catchment area entitlement to transport. To date, there is a single third preference for Stoke Canon.

Under the proposal, from 2025, catchment children who are refused admission to Westclyst would be allocated a place at whichever school is closest to their home address with a vacancy. In order of distance from Westclyst school that could be: Pinhoe, Monkerton, Willowbrook, Whipton Barton Infants; all within statutory walking distance.

By changing its catchment to target children in the Westclyst development, there is a lower risk that those children would be refused. Refusals are more likely for children who live close to but out of area for Westclyst.

Impact on the numbers of catchment children

Below are the numbers of children living in catchment⁵ and the split under the proposal:

Cohort	Stoke Canon current	Stoke Canon proposed	Westclyst proposed
Year -4 (reception 2027)	69	9	60
Year -3 (reception 2026)	72	12	60
Year -2 (reception 2025)	84	9	75
Year -1 (reception 2024)	80	14	66
Reception	87	15	72
Year 1	67	10	57
Year 2	72	16	56
Year 3	81	19	62
Year 4	44	5	39

⁵ Data taken from NHS data from September 2023.

Current transport costs?

Currently 7 Stoke Hill pupils are passengers from “Westclyst”, along with 5 other entitled children. This costs £247.09 per day (£46,930 per annum) for a 16 seat vehicle.

The other 5 passengers could have been accommodated in a smaller vehicle with a relatively short round trip. The estimated cost ranges from £90 to £150 a day (£17,100 to “28,500 per annum).

In September, there will be 6 and 4 others, plus any other new, entitled passengers.

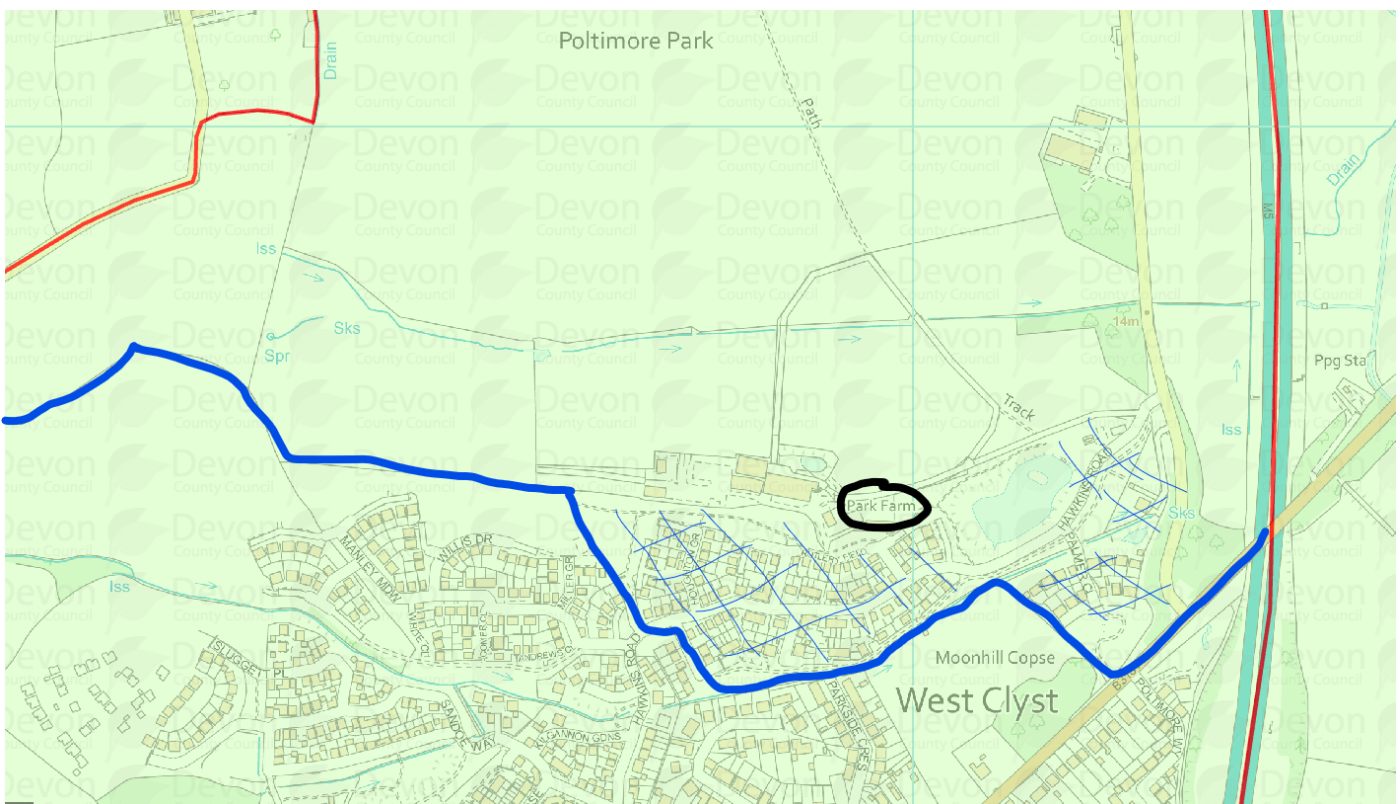
In September 2025, there will be 3 and 2 others, plus any other new, entitled passengers.

Alternative options

The consultation has suggested options that:

- no change be made or
- no change be made with regular reviews of the position and how parental preference is expressed year on year
- the Park Farm area remain in catchment for Stoke Canon

Park Farm is a pre-existing building, shown circled below. There are very few properties there or to the north before Poltimore. Placing a boundary here would have no appreciable impact on local demand. Locating it along the blue line would include properties in the blue hatched area in Palmer Close, Houghton Grove, Bussel Close, Vickery Close, Ferguson Rise, Rutlery Field, and Hawkins Road. It could be seen as arbitrarily excluding part of the Westclyst development from admissions priority for the school built to serve it. There are no current pupils of Stoke Canon in this part of Westclyst.



Reasons for and against amending then catchment for Stoke Canon

For

In line with the LA strategy to promote one catchment school for each address, in the interests of equity with surrounding areas.

Supported transport entitlement away from Westclyst could be seen as a precedent for other schools. Westclyst school was built to serve the new housing development and over the last 8 years the number of active preferences for Stoke Canon from the Westclyst development has been very small. Where preference for Westclyst cannot be met, there are 12 closer alternative schools than Stoke Canon, four of which are within walking distance.

The LA need not provide free school transport on catchment school grounds for properties with 5 schools within walking distance.

Parental preference for Stoke Canon is low, even with an entitlement to free transport.

Against

Residents of Westclyst would no longer have admissions priority to two primary schools.

Residents of Westclyst would no longer have catchment transport entitlement to Stoke Canon.

The school is concerned that if there is less demand for admission from “Westclyst”, the school roll would fall further. This could lead to budgetary pressures.

Recommendation

Whilst the concerns of the school are recognised, the analysis of admissions does not support the suggestion there would be a significant impact on Stoke Canon C of E Primary School. The numbers on roll at the school are falling, allowing for free transport and admissions priority from the proposed Westclyst catchment has not been shown to provide significant numbers of admissions to Stoke Canon. Improving Westclyst priority for Westclyst residents is likely to reduce the number of Westclyst children requiring places elsewhere and will provide local schools for local children.

By continuing to support free transport to Stoke Canon, the LA could be seen as setting a precedent to provide free transport to a school further from home than alternative schools in order to artificially maintain numbers where there is no basic need to support unfilled capacity. Further, the LA’s strategy to date has been to promote a network of catchment areas so that each home has admission priority for one school at primary level. This is in the interests of equity and making entitlement transparent and easy to understand.

Recommendation for Members: To reduce the catchment area, as consulted.

Appendix Three - Responses to the proposal to reduce the catchment area for Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School

1. The following responses were received:

SC1) from the Chair of Governors, Three Rivers Federation (including Stoke Canon school):

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body of Three Rivers Federation in response to the consultation setting out proposed changes to the catchment area for Stoke Canon CE VC Primary School and West Clyst Primary School with effect from September 2025/26.

Governors are concerned that the proposed change diminishes Stoke Canon's catchment area which currently includes both the Park Farm and Pinn Court Farm areas. Stoke Canon Primary School currently attracts children resident in the Park Farm area and children typically receive an entitlement to home to school transport. In the event that the proposed change to reduce the catchment area is implemented, governors are concerned that this will be at the detriment of Stoke Canon Primary School and will seriously and adversely affect the financial viability of the school.

Given the serious implications of the proposal, governors seek clarity on the key drivers for the proposed change and the options being explored and would welcome the opportunity to meet with Council Officers, The Cornerstone Academy Trust, the relevant ward members and the Council's Cabinet member for Education Children. It would be helpful if Officers could co-ordinate a meeting to be held in advance of the final determination of admission arrangements. Please note, while we are aware that The Cornerstone Academy Trust are the admissions authority for West Clyst Primary School, we trust you are taking a role in coordinating discussions with all interested parties.

Catchment Area – Is it necessary?

While it is understood that the proposed catchment is intended to serve the growing new community at West Clyst, governors question whether the catchment is necessary? It is thought that the admission arrangements will eventually, naturally resolve competing claims of admission without the need for a catchment area. This reflects that children from more distant addresses who were allocated places at West Clyst Primary in previous years (while momentum from children yielded by the development was building), are increasingly less likely to be afforded priority of admission as the development yield matures and children age through the school. Over time, children with a sibling link will also age through and local development children will be afforded priority on the basis of distance and will increasingly live closer to the school. It would be useful to understand the extent to which the status quo remains an option for all interested parties?

Excess Demand for Places

Governors note that demand from the development/community within the proposed catchment area exceeds the capacity of West Clyst Primary School and that the combined capacity of other local schools, including Stoke Canon Primary School, provides the places necessary to accommodate demand. This means that:

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Not all families who live within the newly proposed catchment area for West Clyst will have a reasonable chance of obtaining a place at their local school. This could mean that the proposed catchment area is unreasonable or unfair. Governors note that catchment areas are designed to resolve competing priority of admission and serve the purpose of indicating to parents/cares what local schools serve their area [in densely populated areas]. As such, there should be a reasonable chance of local parents/cares receiving an offer of a place at the school (albeit not guaranteed). In particular, Governors do not agree that the Park Farm area should be uniquely served by West Clyst Primary School and would like to understand the extent of the data the Council has considered in drawing up the proposed change including the current patterns of admission for local resident children, the pupil projections for the local area/the total projected pupil yield from the development and the extent to which the capacity of all local schools in the area including Stoke Canon is necessary to meet strategic demand.

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Stoke Canon Primary School is an important part of the mixed economy of local, diverse schools. The small and rural nature of Stoke Canon Primary School offers parents/carers a strong choice both in terms of its size, ethos and faith. In the event that the proposed change is approved, the change could well discourage families from expressing a preference for Stoke Canon in the future. This will have a lasting adverse impact on the sustainability of Stoke Canon Primary School. The Executive Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the school is viable and recent changes supported by the Council to implement an Early Years Foundation Stage Unit means that the Federation has been proactive and responsible in the financial management of Stoke Canon Primary School. In particular, the Governors are keen to understand the Council's strategy to support small and rural schools and how this strategy will support the continued viability of Stoke Canon in the face of the proposed change?

Home to school Transport Implications - Access and Affordability

Given the interaction between home to school transport policy and admission arrangements, changes to Stoke Canon's catchment area could impact parent/carer's ability to get their children to and from Stoke Canon. Depending on how any changes are implemented, this could affect both existing children on roll and new starters from September 2025/26 as follows:

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The existing catchment area for Stoke Canon entitles SC Primary School children to free assistance with travel. The proposed changes could sever this entitlement and adversely impact families with children already in attendance at Stoke Canon. This could force families to take difficult decisions about whether or not they can continue to send their children to Stoke Canon Primary School and may result in children from across the age range being withdrawn (approximately 15 development children are currently on roll at the school). This will have devastating consequences for the financial viability of the school.

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Without the prospect of free travel assistance, parents/cares with children starting school may be dissuaded from expressing a preference for Stoke Canon which is outside the proposed catchment area. This will impact on Stoke Canon numbers and viability in the short and longer term.

The Governors are interested to understand the Council's policy on entitlement to free assistance with home to school transport as it relates to the proposed changes to Stoke Canon's catchment area. Importantly, Governors would like to know what options are being considered for any change to be implemented – i.e. will there be no change for the entitlement of existing children on roll? Will the change impact new starters only and if so, what data has the Council analysed in considering the impact on Stoke Canon Primary School? Are other options being explored to preserve entitlement for free travel for children travelling to Stoke Canon and has a cost comparison been undertaken to compare the costs of transporting children from Stoke Canon village to other local schools in the event of its closure?

Governors kindly request that these issues and concerns are carefully considered during the decision-making process. It is essential to ensure that any changes made to the catchment area are in the best interests of the students, families, and the sustainability of SC Primary School. I appreciate the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation and look forward to further discussions on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you require any additional information or clarification on the points we have raised.

SC2) from the Executive Headteacher, Louise Herbert:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area as I feel that this significant change in the catchment area could affect the long-term sustainability of the school. It would also impact on our whole federation as if resources, and consequently staffing, are reduced then vital skills would be lost across our federation. Stoke Canon village is situated on a flood plain so it is very unlikely that any new development will take place within the area so should the catchment area reduce then the school will cease to be financially viable. At

present we have 12 pupils coming by bus to Stoke Canon and pupils have historically come from the Park Farm area and this area would then be in the West Clyst Area. If these children went elsewhere then the school would lose approximately £48,000. I have looked at the predicted number of reception pupils for both schools in the next four years and there are enough to sustain both schools despite falling Primary school rolls.

I believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. This could then be reviewed at a future date in time.

SC3) from the Head of School, Peter Grierson:

I have worked at Stoke Canon Primary school for over 23 years.

We are a thriving small village school that serves the local community and local families in a proactive way. The proposed changes to the catchment area could have a profound impact on the school where it may no longer be able to deliver the quality of education and support for our families.

It is essential that the catchment remains the same.

SC4) from a member of the public, name provided:

I would like to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution for all parties involved as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon could have a detrimental financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils and even possible closure of the school.

Furthermore, I would like to request all formal documents related to this proposal as well as all documents regarding the issues of catchment at the time of the building of West Clyst School.

SC5) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in the catchment area would give parents like me less choice and could significantly impact the size of my local Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of the catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as there is currently a number of pupils attending school from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC6) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area.

Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils which is a significant and detrimental impact of the. quality of education able to be provided to the existing pupils.

In addition, the three schools neighbouring to Stoke Canon and including Westclyst are already over subscribed so the change in catchment area would further restrict parents from accessing their preferred schools for their children.

I would be grateful if you could explain other avenues that have been explored before this option was considered.

SC7) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC8) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC9) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

I believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC10) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC11) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

Stoke Canon primary school is a small, village school and is a great benefit to the local community. Any changes that might negatively impact the school could have potentially negative consequences for the local communities as well.

We hope you will consider the impact these proposed changes could make before making a final decision.

SC12) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in the catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of this Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of the catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as Stoke Canon currently has a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC13) from a member of the public, name provided:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC14) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I believe a reduction in the catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of the Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of the catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

Having attended the school myself as a child and now seeing two year old daughter growing in confidence through attending the preschool, I feel passionately that this is a wonderfully nurturing environment and would hate to see that eroded through reducing the catchment size.

SC15) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon primary school catchment area. I believe a reduction in the catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of the primary school in the longer term.

I believe that the continued sharing of the catchment with Westclyst is the best solution as Stoke Canon currently has a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC16) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC17) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a

number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC18) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC19) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concern to the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School catchment area. I believe the reduction in the catchment area would have a detrimental effect on the school numbers and consequently staffing over the next few years.

As a staff member numbers have continually reduced and staffing has also reduced. This would have a huge financial implication on an already small village school.

SC20) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our extreme concerns having recently been made aware about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

It is our understanding that a reduction in the catchment area would give parents in the area less choice and more importantly, directly affect the numbers and finances of the wonderful Stoke Canon School.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution, not just for the children who attend the school now but also, the children in the future who may wish to attend this brilliant school or for the parents who prefer to have a choice rather than be shoe horned into a large multi academy trust school.

We ourselves had to change educational establishments for our daughter after finding she just wasn't thriving at our local primary school. There shouldn't be a 'one size fits all' policy and parents should have freedom to choose the best setting for their child.

Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils. Times are already tough enough in education - this decision would have such a significant detrimental impact that I felt forced to bring my concerns to your attention.

SC21) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

We therefore believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have several pupils attending from this area.

Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC22) from a member of the public, name provided:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC23) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my deep concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

A reduction in the catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of Stoke Canon Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC24) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. I am concerned that a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. I believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as there are currently a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC25) from a member of the public, name provided:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC26) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC27) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

I am a parent of a child who currently attends Stoke Canon school, and we live in the Park Farm area on the new housing estate. We moved here in the knowledge that the area fell within the catchment of Stoke Canon because we were already using the school for our children and wished to continue to send our children to the school. We are also users of the bus transport to the school. I am concerned that the proposal for reducing the catchment area for Stoke Canon will reduce the choice for parents

who wish to consider which school is best for their children. Furthermore, the West Clyst School is currently operating at capacity, as I understand it, and so would be unable to absorb the additional children into the school in any case.

The impact of this change on the Stoke Canon school will be significant in that it risks reducing the number of pupils attending over time and having a significant impact on the school's financial resources, affecting resources and staffing for all pupils.

I think that to continue with the shared Catchment area for West Clyst and Stoke Canon is the best outcome from this consultation. This solution enables parents to make the best choice for their children, continues to provide enough school places for those children that need it in the area and will help to sustain Stoke Canon pupil numbers and financial security into the future.

SC28) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

I currently have a daughter at the school and we consider the change will have a huge detrimental impact on the school and we are concerned for the long term future of the school should the amount of pupils reduce.

SC29) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.”

SC30) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our extreme concerns having recently been made aware about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

it is our understanding that a reduction in the catchment area would give parents in the area less choice and more importantly, directly affect the numbers and finances of the wonderful Stoke Canon School.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution, not just for the children who attend the school now but also, the children in the future who may wish to attend this brilliant school or for the parents who prefer to have a choice rather than be shoe horned into a large multi academy trust school.

We ourselves had to change educational establishments for our daughter after finding she just wasn't thriving at our local primary school. There shouldn't be a 'one size fits all' policy and parents should have freedom to choose the best setting for their child.

Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils. Times are already tough enough in education - this decision would have such a significant detrimental impact that I felt forced to bring my concerns to your attention.

SC31) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC32) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to Stokecannon primary school catchment area! I believe a reduction in our catchment area would significantly impact us! We really rely on this service! I believe that the continued sharing catchment with west Clyde is the best solution!

SC33) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC34) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I am writing to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC35) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC36) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

Some children that already attend Stoke Canon school catch the provided bus from Westclyst, I know multiple parents that don't drive, so the stopping of this service would have a great impact, could I have confirmation that IF the catchment is reduced the bus service will still be provided for those that already attend Stoke Canon School.

SC37) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area.

We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC38) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC39) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

I am emailing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the catchment area for Stoke Canon Primary School. I, like many other parents at the school, believe a reduction in the catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our beloved Primary School in the longer term.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with WestClyst is the best solution, as I believe there are a number of pupils who attend from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils. Something which would impact myself and my three children who attend Stoke Canon Primary School.

SC40) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC41) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC42) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term.

We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

SC43) from a member of the public, name provided:

I would like to register my support for the proposed establishment of a catchment area for Westclyst Community Primary Academy, Exeter and the associated changes to the catchment areas of Pinhoe Primary School and Stoke Canon Primary School, which addresses a long-standing anomaly.

SC44) from parent of a current pupil at Stoke Canon:

We would like to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Stoke Canon Primary School Catchment area. We believe a reduction in our catchment area would give parents less choice and could significantly impact the size of our Primary School in the longer term. We believe that the continued sharing of our catchment with West Clyst is the best solution as we currently have a number of pupils attending from this area. Reducing numbers in Stoke Canon would have a large financial impact in the future which could affect resources and staffing for all pupils.

Appendix Four – 2025-26 Normal Round and In year Coordination Summary of Proposed Amendments

The policy documents can be viewed within the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes folder at <http://devon.cc/lapolicies>:

- Proposed **2025-26** Normal Round Admissions Scheme.
- Proposed **2025-26** In-Year Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme

Recommendation for Members: to approve the amendments to the normal and in-year co-ordinated admission schemes detailed below.

1. Amendments to wording from the **2024-25** Schemes are highlighted in red text.
2. Dates have been rolled forward for the new academic year.
3. Dates for selective testing for schools and their outcomes will be inserted when the respective policies have been determined.
4. Amended at section 3.1 (normal round scheme and in-year scheme) footnote to clarify that there is no right to a place on the waiting list for a selective school where refusal was on the grounds that the academic criteria had not been met.
5. Amended at section 3.2 (normal) footnote to clarify parents may opt for part-time attendance until a child reaches statutory school age.
6. Amended at section 3.7 (normal and in-year scheme) so that offers **will** lapse if not taken up within 10 school days rather than **may** lapse unless a school agrees to hold open that place.
7. Amended at section 4.6 (normal) option for parents to apply for middle or high school schools in other LA areas rewritten.
8. Amended at section 11.2 (in-year) wording and associated footnote amended to reflect timescale for applications.
9. Amended at section 11.4 (in-year) new section to provide for action by the LA where a school's admission authority does not communicate a decision in response to an application: "non-determination".
10. Amended at section 12.10 and 12.11 (in-year) to add the definition of challenging behaviour as published in the School Admissions Code.
11. Amended at section 12.11 (in-year) reference in the footnote to Managed Moves removed.
12. Amended at section 12.12 (in-year) wording added to clarify that the LA will consider whether the reasons for refusal comply with the School Admissions Code.
13. Amended at 18.1 (in-year) wording added to clarify that parents confirm that they wish to remain on a waiting list by re-applying.
14. Amended at section 19.1 (normal) and 22.1 (in-year) wording added, a national identity card can be used as evidence of a child's date of birth.

15. Amended at section 29.2 (normal) wording added to make provision for increases to a school's normal round intake to add another registration group or class to be taken as an increase in the PAN itself.
16. Amended at section 29.4 (normal) wording added to make provision for increases to a school's normal round intake to admit another child or children according to individual need not to be taken as an increase in the PAN itself.
17. Amended at section 30.1 (normal) and 31.1 (in-year) wording added to clarify that a sixth form may provide its own application form in place of the LA's DCAF5.
18. Amended at section 30.4 (normal) and 31.2 (in-year) wording added to clarify that a sixth form's academic criteria to be included as part of the admissions policy.
19. Amended at section 30.6 (normal) new section inserted to clarify that offers for new students to a school's sixth form are provisional on the young person meeting academic criteria to access courses.
20. Amended at glossary Admission Number (normal and in-year) wording inserted to clarify that an Admission number should be seen as a guide rather than as the minimum number of places available.
21. Amended at glossary Application (normal and in-year) wording inserted to make provision that the date an application has been submitted will change if new information is provided that affects the application.
22. Amended at glossary Atypical admission schools (normal and in-year) the name of the only atypical setting in Devon inserted.
23. Amended at glossary Common Application Form (normal and in-year) advice added that applications for children living outside England should be made to the LA where the school is located.
24. Amended at glossary Common Application Form (normal and in-year) reference to DCAF6 removed.
25. Amended at glossary Distance measurement (normal and in-year) measurement changed from the main entrance to a home to the establishment marker for the home. Also note added to confirm that other mapping systems are not used for admissions purposes.
26. Amended at glossary Documentary evidence (normal and in-year) wording amended to clarify that the admission authority for a school may ask for evidence.
27. Amended at glossary Member of staff (normal and in-year) wording amended to clarify eligibility for priority for members of staff employed at more than one school in a federation or chain of schools. Also wording added that priority for children of members of staff ceases if the parent is no longer employed there.
28. Amended at glossary Prejudice to efficient education (normal and in-year) wording added to confirm the process of reviewing numbers is called *future prejudice*.
29. Amended at glossary Sibling (normal and in-year) wording added to clarify that sibling priority cannot be given for children who attend a nursery.

30. Amended at glossary Tie breaker (normal and in-year) measurement changed from the main entrance to a home to the establishment marker for the home.
31. Amended at glossary Tie breaker (normal and in-year) note inserted that a property location will be estimated until a new-build property is added to the map.
32. Amended at glossary Tie breaker (normal and in-year) wording and footnote added to clarify when a random ballot will be used as a tie breaker and who would carry out the ballot.
33. Amended at Appendix 3 and 4 within the schemes (normal and in-year) note added to criterion 2 to advise that a supplementary information form must be completed.
34. Amended at Appendix 3 and 4 within the schemes (normal and in-year) wording and footnotes amended for criterion 6 with regard to definitions of children of members of staff.
35. Amended at Appendix 7 within the schemes (normal and in-year) reference to DCAF6 removed.

Appendix Five - Timetable for the admissions cycle up to May 2025

Statutory dates are in bold.

	Action	Action by
15 January 2024	Deadline for timely applications for the normal round of admissions to primary, infant and junior schools.	Admissions service
31 January	Deadline for the completion of the consultation on proposed admission arrangements	Admission Authority
29 February	All policies for 2025-26 to be formally determined – including the date of determination in the Policy version section.	Admission Authority
29 February	Appeals timetable to be published	Admissions Service Admissions authority
1 March	National Offer Day for the normal round of admissions to secondary schools for September 2024	Admissions Service
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 Senior Policy Officer.	Admission Authority
16 April	National Offer Day for the normal round of admissions to primary, infant and junior schools for September 2024	Admissions Service
By 15 May	Deadline for objections to the OSA	
Summer term 2024	Review content and presentation of policies for 2026-27	Admissions Service
By 1 August	All faith own admission authority schools will receive a suggested new document for consideration	Admissions Service
By 1 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
31 October	Deadline for timely applications for the normal round of admissions to secondary schools.	Admissions Service
By 31 October	Diocese to forward proposed policies to LA Policy Officer	CE Diocese Catholic Diocese (if required)
By 31 October	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 2026-27	Admissions Service
10 January 2025	LA-hosted consultation ends	Admissions Service
31 January	Deadline for the completion of the consultation on proposed admission arrangements	Admission Authority
28 February	All policies for 2026-27 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/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 Senior Policy Officer.	Admission Authority
By 15 May	Deadline for objections to the OSA	