

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCE BASES IN MAINTAINED AND ACADEMY SCHOOLS IN DEVON

If you need a summary of this in a different format or in a different language, contact the Strategic Planning Team on 01392 382057 or email schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk

1. Introduction

Following expressions of interest and schools meeting the criteria in extending special educational capacity within both primary and secondary schools across Devon, Devon County Council is consulting on increasing provision for learners with Education, Health and Care Plans across the County in the following types of bases:

- Communication and Interaction (for learners displaying ASD behaviours). Many of these learners have a very literal understanding of language, do not recognise their emotions or those of others and can be rigid in their thinking. This provision should support their development of social skills and help them to re-integrate into a mainstream classroom.
- Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs are a type of special educational needs in which children/young people have severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviour. They often show inappropriate responses and feelings to situations. This means that they have trouble in building and maintaining relationships with peers and adults; they can also struggle to engage with learning and to cope in a classroom without additional strategies and interventions. Children with SEMH will often feel anxious, scared and misunderstood.
- Nurture bases – primary schools. This provision is literally to ‘nurture’ these learners who may have experienced adverse childhood experiences, may have insecure attachments with the adults in their lives and often have separation anxieties. The provision should support these learners to achieve self-regulation, build self esteem and to develop positive trusting relationships with adults.

The intentions within each of these resource bases is to support the learners to overcome their barriers to learning, to be resilient and to be better able to cope and to be re-integrated into a mainstream setting in which they can achieve their potential.

The provision is in line with Devon’s Education Infrastructure Plan <https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/pupil-place-planning> and the findings of the SEND Strategic Review <http://devon.cc/sendreview2017>

2. Consultation Process

Making significant changes to SEND provision must follow a statutory process. Academy schools are independent of the Local Authority and will follow their own procedures following this consultation. However, this is a joint

consultation in collaboration with the Academies shown below. The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide information on proposed new resource bases in Devon;
- Consult widely in accordance with statutory guidance.

3. The Proposals

Capacity in the following bases is for a minimum of 6 learners with capacity to extend to a maximum of 8 learners:

School	Resource Base Type
Westcliff Academy, First Avenue, Dawlish, EX7 9RA	Social Emotional and Mental Health
Great Torrington School (Academy) Calvesford Road, Great Torrington EX38 7DJ	Social Emotional and Mental Health
Ilfracombe Church of England Junior School (Voluntary Controlled) Princes Avenue, Ilfracombe EX34 9LW	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Okehampton Primary School (Academy) Glendale Road, Okehampton, EX20 1JB	Communication and Interaction
Teignmouth Community School and Nursery (Academy) Mill Lane, Teignmouth TQ14 9BB	Nurture (will be commissioned places)
Whipton Barton Federation (Academy) Hill Lane, Exeter, EX1 3JP	Communication and Interaction

4. Capital Implications

There are no capital implications for these proposals.

5. The Consultation

We are consulting with:

- pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors at the schools
- other local schools
- the community
- all identified stakeholders

An indicative timetable is as follows:

24 March – 14 May 2021	Consultation period – you can send in your response to the proposals and we will consider these.
24 May – 25 June 2021	<p>We will publish a 'brief notice' in the Western Morning News and publish the full proposals on the following webpage: https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/ We will notify parents and other interested parties and keep the website updated.</p> <p>During the four weeks from the date of the 'brief notice', anyone can write in to comment on or object to the proposals. Responses must be in writing, even if you have already responded at the consultation stage.</p>
June/early July 2021	Decision: Devon County Council's Cabinet will make the decision using information that has been submitted, including comments or objections.
January 2022	Implementation of the proposals.

6. Responding to the consultation

You can respond to the consultation by:

emailing: schoolconsultations@devon.gov.uk or

writing to:

Strategic Planning Children's Services, Room 120, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX24QD.

We will place all responses on public file and they will be available for public inspection. The decision-makers will consider all comments, but we will not send individual responses. We will share consultation responses with the school concerned unless you request otherwise. We will update the website and comply with all statutory requirements.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 5 p.m. on the 14 May 2021.