

Admissions Policy 2025-26



South Dartmoor Community College Sixth Form

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Our ethos – we ask parents and carers to respect our ethos and its importance to the school community. This doesn't affect the right to apply for a place here or how that application would be considered.

South Dartmoor Community College is an inclusive, non-denominational comprehensive school which delivers education to students from the ages of 11 to 19 years.



Devon
School
Admissions
Service

Key information. For glossary and explanatory notes, see Appendix A. Text in blue that is underlined like this is a link to further information, within this document or elsewhere.	
Policy consultation period	1 November 2023 to 5 January 2024
Policy determined on	February 2024
Policy published on school website	15 March 2024
Policy contact: name and position	Jenny Veal, Headteacher
Amendments after determination	Informed by a Determination of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (REF4394 19 March 2025), a time restriction on in-year applications for children of Crown Servants and UK Service personnel was removed.
Department for Education school number	878-4108
Age range	11 to 18 secondary school ¹ and sixth form
Early Years provision	No
Type of school	Academy
Admissions authority	Westcountry Schools Trust
Normal round intake, (relevant age group)	Year 7 and Year 12
Published Admission Number 2025-26	240 in Year 7 25 in Year 12²
Priority for children from another setting	No
Designated religious character	No
Priority according to faith	No
Admissions catchment area	Yes – see below
Entitlement to transport support from Devon County Council ³	Yes – if the LA accepts that there are no other means to enable attendance and engagement in further education.
School uniform	Post 16 students are not expected to wear uniform but are expected to wear suitable attire for an educational setting
Application Form	D-CAF5 below, at devon.cc/applicationforms or by calling 0345 155 1019 or from the school office
Supplementary Information Form	Not for Post-16 education. All candidates – internal and external – will be required to complete an Options Form to indicate the courses they wish to study. This is not an application form and does not affect the decision whether a place can be offered to an external candidate.
Academic criteria to access courses	<p>South Dartmoor Sixth form offers a broad range of Level 3 courses including A Level, C-TEC and B-TEC qualifications.</p> <p>Entry requirements All students must achieve 6 GCSEs, or equivalent, at a grade 4 or above. Some subjects have specific entry requirements, please refer to the prospectus. Subject availability is correct at the time of publication however courses will only run if adequately subscribed, therefore there is the potential for removal of qualifications prior to the start of the academic year. Any such decision will be communicated with potentially impacted students.</p> <p>A Level Courses 6 GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade 4 or above and: Art (Fine Art) grade 5 Art and Design or related subject Art (Photography) grade 5 Photography or related subject Biology in Triple Science: 6 Biology, and 6 in Physics or Chemistry in Combined Science: 6, 6 and 5 Maths and 5 English Business GCSEs grade 5 or above; must include English and Maths Chemistry in Triple Science: 6 Chemistry, and 6 in Physics or Biology in Combined Science: 6, 6 and 5 Maths and 5 English Classical Civilisation grade 5 in English Literature or History Computer Science grade 5 in English and Maths</p>

¹ See the separate admissions policy for years 7 to 11.

² The PAN for Year 12 is for external applicants only. It is in addition to students moving on from Year 11 at this school.

³ For Devon-resident young people. Where the school is further than a walking distance of 3 miles. See the [Education Transport Policy](#) for full details.

	<p>Dance no additional qualifications</p> <p>Design and Technology GCSEs must include English and Maths</p> <p>Drama and Theatre Studies grade 5 English Literature</p> <p>Economics 6 GCSEs at grade 6 or above. Must also have 6 in Maths and 5 in English</p> <p>English Language grade 6 English Language</p> <p>English Literature grade 6 English Literature</p> <p>French grade 5 English and 6 in French</p> <p>Geography 6 GCSEs at grade 5 or above; must include Geography, Science, English and Maths</p> <p>Graphic Communication grade 5 Art and Design or related subject</p> <p>History grade 5 History and English</p> <p>Mathematics grade 6 Maths at Higher Tier</p> <p>Further Mathematics grade 7 Maths</p> <p>Music 6 GCSEs at grade 4 or above with grade 5 English, 6 Music or equivalent (grade 5 instrumental skills)</p> <p>Philosophy and Ethics grade 5 English Language</p> <p>Physical Education grade 5 English and Maths</p> <p>Physics in Triple Science: 6 in Physics, and 6 in Physics or Physics in Combined Science: 6, 6 and 5 Maths and 5 English</p> <p>Politics grade 5 English</p> <p>Psychology must include English, Maths and Science. Must also include a grade 5 in a subject requiring extended writing, such as English or History. Must also include a grade 5 in a subject the requires scientific and methodical thinking and analysis, such as Science and Maths</p> <p>Sociology grade 5 English or other subject such as Geography, Religious Studies or Psychology.</p> <p>Spanish grade 5 English, 6 Spanish</p> <p>Vocational Courses (These can be studied in a combined programme with A Level subjects) 6 GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade 4 or above and:</p> <p>Criminology Level 3 Applied Diploma grade 5 English and in Geography, History or Religious Studies</p> <p>Design, Engineer, Construct! Level 3 Diploma must include Science; grade 5 English and Maths</p> <p>Health and Social Care Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate 6 GCSE grades 9-5 to include English, or other subjects requiring research, reading and writing</p> <p>Music Performance, Digital Music Production BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate must have studied dance, drama or music (may have been certificated or completed externally)</p> <p>Performing Arts (Dance and Drama) BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma must have studied dance, drama or music at Key Stage 4 (GCSE or vocational)</p> <p>Personal Finance Level 3 Diploma must include English and Maths</p> <p>Sport and Physical Activity Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma no additional requirements</p>
Academic criteria waiver process?	Requirements will be waived where equivalency can be demonstrated.
When to apply, normal round admission	1 September to 31 January 2025. Late applications accepted ¹
Normal round decision	28 February 2025 – conditional on exam results
When to appeal	from 20 school days after the refusal ²
Deadline to submit appeal ³	31 March 2025. Later appeals accepted.
Deadline to hear appeal, normal round	14 June 2025
When to apply, in-year admission	from 1 June 2025 for Year Group 13 from 1 September 2025 for Year 12
In-year decision	within 15 school days of an application
When to submit appeal	any time after refusal

¹ Applications made after the closing date will be considered after all on-time applications (unless the LA accepts that the application could not have been made earlier) and may be disadvantaged.

² Appeals can be submitted sooner than this.

³ Where possible, normal round appeals that are submitted after the deadline will be heard by 14 June. If that is not possible, they will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal form being submitted.

Deadline to submit appeal	there is no deadline
Deadline to hear appeal	within 30 school days of the appeal submission

Contact details

Westcountry Schools Trust	01752 891790 admin@westst.org.uk
Devon School Admissions Service	0345 155 1019 admissions@devon.gov.uk devon.cc/admissions
Devon policies and admission information	
Devon common application forms	http://devon.cc/applicationforms
Devon Education Transport Team	0345 155 1019 devon.cc/schooltransport
Devon Virtual School	01392 384789 educate.virtualschool-mailbox@devon.gov.uk
Devon Admissions Appeals Panel	0345 155 1019 devon.cc/appeals
Children's Education Advisory Service	RC-DCS-HQ-CEAS@mod.gov.uk
Office of the Schools Adjudicator	www.education.gov.uk/schoolsadjudicator

Relevant Policies and Legislation

[School Admissions Code 2021](#)
[School Admissions Appeals Code 2022](#)
[School Standards and Framework Act](#)
[The School Admissions \(Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
[The School Admissions \(Infant Class Sizes\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
[The School Admissions \(Appeal Arrangements\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
[The School Information \(England\) Regulations 2008](#)
 Devon's [Step by Step and In-Year Guides to Admissions](#)
 Devon's [Normal Round and In-Year Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes](#)
 Devon's [In-Year Fair Access Protocol](#)
 Devon's [Education Transport Policy](#)

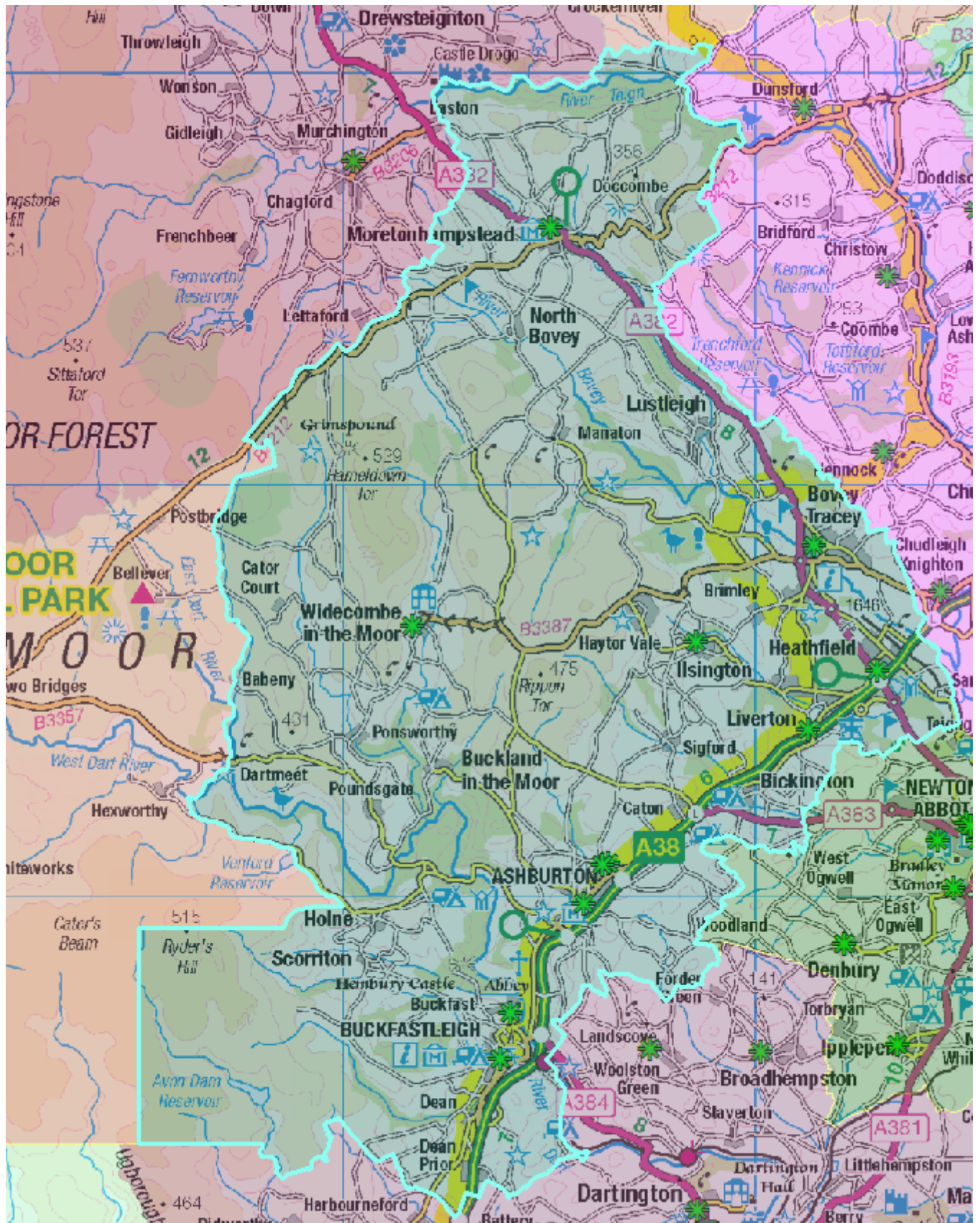
Catchment area

The catchment area can be viewed in more detail at devon.cc/schoolareamaps.

The boundary is marked by blue lines.

For admissions purposes, distances are measured in a straight-line from the green star marker for the school.

Distances for school transport purposes are measured by the shortest available route.



Oversubscription Criteria

To be used only when there are more applications than there are places available.

A child whose Education, Health and Care Plan names the school will be admitted without regard for these criteria.

1. **Looked after children¹ and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order² including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.**
2. **Priority will next be given to children living within the catchment area set out in the map who are siblings³ of pupils on roll at this school.**
3. **Priority will next be given to other children living within the catchment area.**
4. **Priority will next be given to children living outside the catchment area who are siblings of pupils on roll at this school.**
5. **Priority will next be given to children of members of staff⁴ who have been employed at this school⁵ for more than two years or recruited within the past two years to fill a vacancy for which there was a skills shortage.**
6. **Priority will next be given to other children.**

Tiebreaker – to prioritise applications in the same oversubscription criterion:

- a) straight-line distance from home to school and then,
- b) where distances are equal (within 2 metres) an electronic list randomiser will be used.

¹ Children who are Looked After by or provided with accommodation in the exercise of its functions (see the Children Act 1989 section 22(1)) by a local authority.

² An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

³ 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a stepbrother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of a single-family unit at the date of their application for a place. **Siblings are those on roll in Year 7 to Year 13** or with a formal offer of admission to those year groups.

⁴ A child will be eligible if the member of staff is either the natural or adoptive parent or other person with parental responsibility or any person living in the same household and acting as the child's parent.

⁵ This will be any salaried person employed at this school when the application is made. Where the duties of a member of staff are undertaken at different schools in a federation or chain of schools, there will be admissions priority only at one school. This will be at the member of staff's base school, where he or she works for more than 50% of their duties.

School Admissions Policies

Every school must set a separate admissions policy for each academic year. The policy will tell parents how to secure a place at the school and tell the school and its leaders and staff what they must do to meet their legal duties. Policies have to be fair, clear, and objective so that they comply with the legal requirements of the Admissions Codes and all other relevant legislation. The policy will explain:

- parents must make a formal application
- how and when to make applications
- how many places are available for the first intake into school: Year 12
- the school's commitment to fair, consistent, and transparent processes

Our policy should be read along with Devon County Council's admission information and its policies to support access to education, including admissions and transport. Parents of children who live in a different LA area should read the equivalent information and policies published there.

Once our policy is determined, it can't be amended except where it is permitted or required under the terms of the Admissions Code. Any amendments we make will be detailed in the Key Information section [above](#).

We will consult on our policy every year. It is possible that we will propose changes to policy. Although we have not often made changes to parts of the policy such as the oversubscription criteria, the Published Admission Number, or the catchment area, parents should not assume that the policy will be unchanged from one year to the next.

How to apply for admission - at the normal round for Year 12 admission

Applications for places in our sixth form are not co-ordinate by a LA. Young people who are not in Year 11 at the school (external candidates) or their parents must make a formal application for admission direct to the school. Places aren't allocated automatically to external candidates and no young person has a guarantee for admission. This includes those with siblings at the school.

We ask all external students to complete the **D-CAF5**, Devon Key Stage 5 Common Application Form and to send it in to the Post-16 office. Applications submitted after our closing date will be late, considered after those received on time. The form is available from the school office or at <http://devon.cc/applicationforms>.

Young people who are in Year 11 (internal candidates) and wish to stay on into Year 12 do not need to make a formal application for a place in sixth form. They should tell us that a place is required AND then meet the academic requirements for the courses they wish to study.

All students (internal and external candidates) are required to complete a subject Options Form.

We welcome visits from parents and young people who are considering applying for a place here. This is an opportunity to see what we have to offer and we strongly recommend visits. They aren't a compulsory part of the admissions process and won't affect decisions on whether a place can be offered here. Visits can be arranged by contacting the school office.

Post-16 settings and sixth forms can't hold places in reserve in case any parents or students forget to apply or in case a family moves to the area later – there are very limited circumstances when an application can be refused. The responsibility for making applications and for providing information or evidence in support of an application lies with parents or the student.

Places will be offered for admission at the beginning of the autumn term in September 2025.

How to apply for admission - in-year admission to Year 12 or 13

Applications for admission made after the normal round, are called In-Year admissions. They can also be made using the D-CAF5. All applications received by 6pm on the same day will be considered together, before later applications.

Applications can be made at any time after the Year Group has started¹ but will not be processed sooner than 8 school weeks before the place is required. Applications for children of UK Service personnel and Crown Servants will be processed earlier than this.

We offer advice and guidance including about potential in-year admissions into Year 12 and in Year 13 where transfers should be avoided wherever possible.

¹ This means after 1 September of Year 12.

The responsibility for decisions lies with the admissions authority for the school which may meet virtually (for example by conference call). Decision-making cannot be made by a single individual.

The school will notify the LA of numbers on roll in the school within 2 school days when requested to do so. This enables the LA to advise parents.

Responsibility for decision-making

The admissions authority is responsible for all decisions. The LA may assist with tasks such as ranking applications against the oversubscription criteria and will provide advice and support.

Decision-making cannot be made solely by email or by a single individual.

The admission authority may meet virtually (for example by video or conference call). The admission authority will be a local governing board or admissions sub-committee with at least 3 members. It will meet within 5 school days of receiving an in-year application and record its decisions and the reasons for them. This is to ensure that a decision can be communicated to the parent within 15 school days.

The school will notify the LA of numbers on roll in the school within 2 school days when requested to do so. This enables the LA to advise parents.

Academic Criteria

Students are required to meet the academic criteria we set to access his or her preferred courses. They are published above in the key information. This applies to all students, both internal and external candidates. Any offer for admission at the start of Year 12 will be conditional on examination results.

The admission authority will waive this requirement where it accepts that the student is able to benefit from further education at this sixth form.

The right of Appeal when an application is refused

Young people and their parents have the right of appeal against a decision to refuse admission to a Panel that is independent of the admission authority and the LA.¹ Information about the right of appeal and how to appeal will be provided with any refusal.

A timetable for appeals is included in the glossary below.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Young people (or their parents) can request that they are taught outside their normal or chronological age group. If this occurs after admission, the sixth form will discuss the options and reach a decision on the appropriate year group in the student's best interests. Applicants can request that admission to the school is outside the normal year group. This could be because:

- a child is learning at greater depth, sometimes referred to as being gifted and talented, and requires an older year group or
- a child has experienced problems such as ill health and parent wants a younger year group or
- of parental preference for a summer-born child to start school in Reception in a younger year group.

With any request for admission outside a child's normal age group, the admission authority has two decisions to make:

1. which year group would be in the child's best interest.
2. whether there is a place that can be offered in that year group.

Applicants should contact the school as soon as possible to discuss any admission outside the student's age group.

For normal round admission to a younger year group, applicants are encouraged to **apply** for admission to the normal year group and to **request** agreement that a place would be made available in the younger year group, vacancies permitting. This enables admission authorities to reach a decision on year group before offers are made.

¹ Where a child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools there is no need for an admission authority to comply with parental preference for a period of two years from the last exclusion.

Applicants are encouraged to explain why they are requesting admission out of the normal year group and to provide as much supporting evidence as they wish to. The admission authority will decide, based on the circumstances of the case, and in the best interests of the young person concerned, considering:

- the headteacher's views
- the parent's views,
- any information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development submitted by the parent or otherwise known,
- information about the child's medical history and the views of a relevant medical professional submitted by the parent or otherwise known,
- whether the student has previously been educated out of their normal age group,
- guidance from the Department for Education on the admission of summer-born children to Reception,
- whether the student may have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

If the request to be taught out of the normal age group is agreed, the application can be withdrawn before a place is offered. The applicant will then make a fresh application for the younger year group in the next admissions round. If the request is refused, the student or parent decides whether to continue with an application for the normal year group. It may be that another school agrees to admission to the younger year group there.

Young people and their parents should consider the implications of a student being taught out of the normal age group. A school to which the student transfers is not obliged to teach outside the normal age group though it must take into consideration that the student has been taught outside of the normal age group.

Delayed Admission to Reception: transfer to Sixth Form

Children can start in school from the start of the September term after the **fourth** birthday but don't have to start then. Parents can put off admission until the beginning of the term after the **fifth** birthday, when the child reaches CSA – compulsory school age. It is the parent's decision whether to start after the fourth or fifth birthday.

Children whose birthday is between 1 April and 31 August are called **summer born**. For them, CSA is at the beginning of the September term of the next academic year. If the primary or infant school agrees to delayed admission into the Reception class being the following year, that child will be a year behind other children of the same age and may be seeking to transfer a year later than other children. The admission authority for this school will decide whether to admit the child into the adopted or the normal age group in the same way that the decision was taken by the previous school. The decision will be whether it is in the child's best interests to be admitted into Year 12 or Year 13, accepting that it is the parent's decision to transfer at the start of the September term after the seventeenth birthday. In reaching this decision, the admission authority must take a view why it would be in the student's best interests to start in Year 13 if that means not experiencing Year 12.

We invite young people and their parents to make contact in good time so that we can discuss transition and reach a decision.

Emergency arrangements

If a local, regional, or national public health lockdown is imposed, school admission and appeals arrangements may operate to amended timescales or under emergency regulations. Wherever possible, admission applications will continue to be processed under the terms of the co-ordinated admissions schemes so that parents are not disadvantaged. Places will be held open until it is practical and safe for children to attend on site. Remote learning will be made available as for existing pupils although we recognise that in some circumstances, a parent may feel it is expedient to take up remote learning from the current school on a temporary basis.

Provision may be available for vulnerable and key worker children on site or at an alternative setting, according to circumstances at that time.

Appendix A – Explanatory notes for Devon state-funded schools, both for primary and secondary-phase schools (*and sixth forms in italic text*) unless explicitly varied in a school policy. The oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed [above](#). Further information can be found at www.devon.gov.uk/admissions and in the Step by Step and the In-Year Admissions Guides at <http://devon.cc/prospectus>

Admission authority	<p>This is the body with legal responsibility for the admissions policy and decisions in response to applications for admission. This includes proposing, consulting on, determining and publishing the policy. The admission authorities for different types of school are:</p> <p>Academy: the academy trust or multi-academy trust Community school: the LA Foundation school: the school’s governing board Free school: the academy trust or multi-academy trust Studio school: the academy trust or multi-academy trust University Technical College (UTC): academy trust or multi-academy trust Voluntary Aided school (VA): the school’s governing board Voluntary Controlled school (VC): the LA</p>
Admission Number (AN)	<p>The AN is the equivalent of the PAN after the intake year but should be seen as a guide rather than as a minimum. It is the number of places a school expects to be able to provide in the Year Group. It will often be the same as the PAN that was originally determined for that group of children when it first entered the school. It may be increased or decreased in response to changes in demand or in the school’s accommodation or organisation. See also PAN.</p>
Appeal	<p>When an application is refused, this is because the school believes it would “prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources” (see the School Standards and Framework Act 1998).</p> <p>Any refusal will be in writing and inform the applicant of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reason for refusal • right to an appeal to be heard by an independent panel • right to a place on a waiting list for vacancies <p>An appeals service is available for all Devon state-funded schools before the Devon Independent School Admissions Appeals Panel. Further information about the process is available from the Appeals Clerk. Appeal papers will either be sent with the refusal letter or can be requested from the LA.</p>
Appeals Timetable	<p>The deadline for submitting appeals allows appellants at least 20 school days to prepare and submit a written appeal. The appeal must then be heard within 40 school days for the normal round and within 30 days for in-year admissions.</p> <p>Normal round intake: Allocation date for Reception or junior school Year 3: 16 April 2025 Deadline for appeal forms to be submitted: 31 May 2025 Appeals will be heard within 40 school days, by: 25 July 2025 Where possible, appeals that are submitted after 31 May will be heard by 25 July. If that is not possible, they will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal form being submitted.</p> <p>Allocation date for Year 7 intake or studio school / UTC Year 10: 3 March 2025 Deadline for appeal forms to be submitted: 22 April 2025 Appeals will be heard within 40 school days, by: 24 June 2025 Where possible, appeals that are submitted after 22 April will be heard by 24 June. If that is not possible, they will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal form being submitted.</p>

	<p>The allocation and appeal dates for the Year 12 intake are set by each sixth form. At <i>South Dartmoor Community College</i>:</p> <p><i>Allocation date for Year 12: by 28 February 2025</i> <i>Deadline for appeal forms to be submitted: 31 March 2025</i> <i>Appeals will be heard within 40 school days, by: 14 June 2025</i> <i>Where possible, appeals that are submitted after 31 March will be heard by 14 June. If that is not possible, they will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal form being submitted.</i></p> <p><i>Sixth form appeals in response to a candidate not meeting academic criteria when the external exam results are published in August, within 30 school days: by 14 October 2025.</i></p>
Application	<p>For normal round admissions, applications are considered to have been made on the closing date for this school or the date when the application was submitted or amended if later.</p> <p>In-year applications are considered to have been made on the date they are received or amended, including any supporting evidence that is required – for example, a new address or evidence of a Child’s in Care status or a Supplementary Information Form will amend the date on which the application is considered to have been made.</p> <p>It is an applicant’s responsibility to make sure that the admissions authority is informed about changes to circumstances and eligibility for priority if, for instance, a sibling is taken onto the school roll, or the home address changes.</p>
Catchment Area	<p>Many schools operate an admissions catchment area. This is the geographical area that the school is primarily intended to serve. There is a higher admissions priority for children who live in it. Living outside a catchment or priority area does not prevent a child from being admitted to the school where there are vacancies. Children living in a residential property split by a catchment boundary line will be considered to be living within the catchment area. The boundary line will then be reviewed for future applicants.</p> <p>Eligibility for catchment priority where this is part of a school’s arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Children adopted from state care outside England	<p>These children have the same admissions priority as Children in Care. Evidence of having been in state care before adoption will be required. Guidance on what constitutes as state care in any country will be available from the Headteacher of the Devon Virtual School.</p>
Children formerly in Care (Looked After)	<p>These children were looked after until they were adopted (see the Adoption and Children Act 2002 section 46) or made the subject of a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (Children Act section 14A). Child arrangements orders are defined in s.8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by s.12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.</p> <p>All admissions policies must give priority to Looked After and Previously Looked After Children and those adopted from state care outside of England.</p> <p>Eligibility for looked after or formerly looked after priority is not a guarantee of admission although there is a presumption in favour of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Chronological Year Group	<p>This is the group of children usually taught together according to their date of birth. Children born between 1 September and 31 August have the same chronological Year Group. This is sometimes called the normal age group.</p>

<p>Common Application Form</p>	<p>This is the name for the application form provided by the LA and must be used for any normal round admissions application. The form provided by the LA where the child lives must be used, regardless of where the school is.</p> <p>Children who live outside England when the application is made should apply to the LA where the school is located.</p> <p>Most applications in Devon are submitted online at devon.cc/admissionsonline. There are also paper versions of Devon's common application forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-CAF in-year admissions after the normal round, from Key Stage 1 to 4 at any Devon state-funded school. • D-CAF1 normal round applications to Key Stage 1. • D-CAF2 normal round applications to Key Stage 2. • D-CAF3 normal round applications to Key Stage 3. • D-CAF4 normal round applications to Key Stage 4. • D-CAF5 normal round or in-year applications to Key Stage 5. <p>The D-CAF and D-CAFs1 to 4 allow up to three preferences. To be and returned to the LA. D-CAF5 allows a single preference. To be returned direct to the sixth form.</p>
<p>Compulsory School Age (CSA)</p>	<p>Children reach compulsory school age and must be in full-time education on the prescribed day following their 5th birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.</p> <p>Children are no longer of CSA when they reach the School Leaving Age (SLA); the last Friday in the June of the academic year during which a child has their 16th birthday.</p>
<p>Deferred admission</p>	<p>Parents can choose to defer their child's admission to a Reception class from the September after the fourth birthday to the start of the term after the fifth birthday. This will be the spring or summer term within the same academic year.</p> <p>Deferred admission children remain in their normal year group.</p> <p>The offer for a place will be held open for the child where a parent has informed the school. The place will not be offered to another child.</p>
<p>Delayed admission</p>	<p>Parents of summer-born children can request that their child's admission to Reception class is delayed from the September after the fourth birthday to the September after the fifth birthday which is the point at which they are required to be in suitable education. The decision rests with the admissions authority for a school and must be made in the best interests of the child. Where it is agreed, the parent must also make an application for admission in the appropriate normal round alongside all other applicants.</p> <p>As delayed admission children are then out of their normal year group, parents should contact schools in good time before transfers to make a similar request to be admitted to the next school out of the normal year group. This will be for in-year transfers or normal round admission to junior schools, secondary school or otherwise. The admission authorities for other schools must consider the child's school history but they are not bound by the decision to agree delayed admission previously taken.</p> <p>Delayed admission should not be confused with deferred admission which involves putting off admission to the Reception class within the same academic year. Deferred admission children remain in their normal year group.</p> <p>Guidance on delayed admission is available from the LA at: www.devon.gov.uk/admissions.</p>

<p>Distance measurement</p>	<p>Measurements for school admissions purposes are straight-line from the establishment marker for a child's home (the residential building) to the star marker for the school on Devon's Geographical Information System, an electronic mapping system which can be viewed at www.devon.gov.uk/schoolareamaps.</p> <p>Other mapping systems are not used for these purposes.</p>
<p>Documentary evidence</p>	<p>Once a place has been offered to a child, the school may ask for evidence of identity – usually a short birth certificate. This may not be necessary where the child has been on roll at another school in England which can confirm that evidence has been seen at that school.</p> <p>The admission authority – or the LA on its behalf – may also request evidence that of the child's address or that the person who made an application for admission was legally permitted to do so.</p>
<p>Education, Health and Care Plans</p>	<p>An Education, Health and Care Plan is a formal document issued by the LA describing a child's additional needs and how they will be provided for in a school. Any child whose EHCP names this school will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to other children accordingly. For in-year admissions, the child will be admitted whether the school has reached its PAN or other AN for the Year Group.</p> <p>Before a Plan is issued or amended the LA will consult with schools and ask whether it considers it could meet the child's needs, as set out in the Plan.</p>
<p>Education Transport</p>	<p>Parents should consider how their child will get to school for the whole of their time on roll. Parents are advised not to rely on lifts, car shares or public service vehicles always being available. Supported transport is provided by Devon County Council for Devon-resident children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend the catchment school recognised by the LA for transport purposes; • attend the closest school available; • (Children in Care only) the closest available Good or Outstanding school, as rated by Ofsted. <p>The home address must be further than a minimum walking distance according to the child's age: 2 miles for children at a primary, infant, or junior school and 3 miles for children at a secondary school. See Devon's Education Transport Policy for exceptions to catchment school eligibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (low-income households) one of the three closest secondary schools if between 2 and 6 miles from home; • (low-income households) the closest faith secondary school if between 2 and 15 miles from home. <p>Children who do not live in Devon should apply to their LA for transport support.</p> <p>A school's admissions straight-line measurement policy does not apply to LA school transport decisions. It is possible that a school is the closest available for admissions purposes, using straight-line measurement, but not the closest school for the purposes of entitlement to free school transport from the LA.</p> <p>Parents who rely on free transport are strongly advised to check whether there is an entitlement with the Education Transport Team before accepting the offer of a place at any school.</p> <p><i>Transport support from the LA for Devon-resident post-16 students at sixth forms is provided as a safety net, where parents and students themselves are unable to make their own arrangements.</i></p>

<p>Equally ranked preference scheme</p>	<p>When making an application, parents can express a preference for one, two or three schools. There may be more applications available in other LA areas. Preferences should be named in the order the parent would most like a place to be provided.</p> <p>It might be possible for each school to offer a place. If that happens, a place will only be offered at whichever of the schools that could offer a place the parent ranked highest. So, if places are available at School 1 and School 3, a place will be offered at School 1 only. Equally ranked preference schemes are a legal requirement which enable parents to apply for the school they prefer without risking admission to the closest school or a catchment school.</p> <p>Schools are not informed by the LA whether an application is a first, second or third preference.</p> <p>Applications for sixth forms are made directly to each setting and not within an equally ranked preference scheme.</p>
<p>Exceptional Need to attend this school</p>	<p>A school can prioritise admission for a child where there is an exceptional need to attend that school and not another school. Priority can only be agreed where it is the first preference school.</p> <p>Eligibility for this priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p> <p>Sixth forms in Devon do not prioritise according to exceptional need.</p>
<p>Extended schooling</p>	<p>Further information on services beyond the normal school day is available from the school office or website.</p>
<p>Fair Access Protocol or In-Year Fair Access Protocol</p>	<p>All LAs are legally required to operate an In-Year Fair Access Protocol across their area and all state-funded schools must take part in an agreed Protocol. This ensures that children who are vulnerable and unable to access an appropriate school place under the standard In-Year admission arrangements for the area have an admissions safety net. This may mean that a child is admitted to a school even though it is full and other children have been refused admission.</p> <p>It is possible for a child to be refused admission but be allocated a place under the In-Year Fair Access Protocol, including when there are children on a waiting list.</p> <p>Fair Access arrangements do not apply to Sixth Form admissions.</p>
<p>Faith oversubscription criteria</p>	<p>Schools with a recognised religious character may give additional priority for admission where faith criteria are met by an applicant.</p> <p>Eligibility for faith priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
<p>Fees and charges</p>	<p>There is no charge for applying for admission, for admission itself, or for the provision of education at a state-funded school. Schools will not request donations before or during the admissions process and any donations made to the school following admission are entirely voluntary. No activities such as school visits are compulsory. A policy on charging for activities is available on request from the school office.</p>
<p>General Data Protection Regulation</p>	<p>Information about an admissions application will be shared with relevant LAs and with another school when a place has been offered.</p> <p>Where one parent seeks information about an application or to locate a child, the priority will be to safeguard the child and immediate family. Unless it is established that the other parent may not lawfully receive information about the child, the following information will be shared:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preferences expressed, • the date of the application, • name of the applicant and • the outcomes of those preferences. <p>Details about the reasons for an application will not be shared with the other parent.</p>
Hard to Place	<p>A child who has been refused in year admission to a school and who does not otherwise have access to suitable education close to home. The LA may seek a place at a school on behalf of a Hard to Place child when the school would otherwise be full.</p> <p><i>Devon's Hard to Place arrangements do not apply to Sixth Form admissions.</i></p>
Home Address	<p>Places are offered based on where the child will attend school, not necessarily where they live when the application is made. If a school has vacancies, then it doesn't matter whether the home address is in a catchment area or relatively close to the school.</p> <p>The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week or for one week in turn, the home address is determined by a joint declaration from the parents which may set out the pattern of residence. The address used will be the address from which the child attends school on most mornings in a normal school week.</p> <p>If no declaration is received and there is no relevant Court Order, the home address will be the address at which the child is registered with a GP. If this is in dispute or the child is not registered with a GP, any other evidence provided by parents will be considered in reaching a decision on the home address for admissions purposes. This may be necessary where parents don't agree on the child's home address. Parents are urged to reach agreement or seek a Specific Issues Order from a court to decide which parent should or should not pursue an application. Where they do not, the admissions authority will determine the home address for admissions purposes.</p> <p>Where a school asks for evidence of the address from which a child will attend school, this would often be written confirmation of a house purchase or a formal tenancy agreement. Schools and the LA recognise that some families may be unable to provide this. Parents who can't provide this evidence should contact the school or the LA. There is no intention to disadvantage families where there is a genuine reason why evidence cannot be provided.</p>
Home-School Agreement	<p>Admission to school is not conditional on signing a home-school agreement where one is used by a school. Some schools ask parents to sign a Home-School Agreement after children have been offered a place as a positive way of promoting greater involvement in a child's education.</p>
In-Year admission	<p>This is where a child joins the school at any time after the normal round, the first opportunity for admission to the school.</p>
Linked School	<p>A school which works with another to develop curriculum links and to ease transition for pupils from infant school to junior school and from primary school to secondary school. Sometimes called a feeder school.</p> <p>Eligibility for linked or feeder school priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Looked After Children	<p>These children are Looked After by or provided with accommodation in the exercise of its functions (see the Children Act 1989 section 22(1)) by a LA.</p>

Member of staff	<p>Many schools give admissions priority to the children of members of staff. This will be any salaried person employed at the school when the application is made. All members of staff are an important part of the school community: teaching and non-teaching.</p> <p>Where the duties of a member of staff are undertaken at different schools in a federation or chain of schools, there will be admissions priority only at one school. This will be at the member of staff's base school, where he or she works for more than 50% of their duties.</p> <p>Where a parent is no longer a member of staff, priority on that basis will cease.</p> <p>Eligibility for children of staff priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Multiple birth siblings	<p>Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) tied for the final place. Where one or more can be admitted within the PAN or AN, Devon schools will admit them all and exceed the PAN if necessary.</p>
Nodal points	<p>A nodal point is a geographical location, used when a school is oversubscribed, to measure distance to an applicant's home. This can ensure the school serves pupils closest to it but also those living in other areas, for example areas that have more limited access to school places or where a straight-line measurement does not fairly represent proximity to the school. Nodal points are sometimes known as Admissions Points or Centroid Points.</p> <p>The term nodal point may also describe a specific location on school premises for distance measurement purposes.</p>
Normal Round Admissions	<p>This is where a child joins the school at the first opportunity for admission to the Year Group - even if the start is deferred until later in the school year at a primary or infant school.</p>
Nurseries and pre-schools	<p>Some primary and infant schools give admissions priority for children at a named school-run nursery. They will work with any local Early Years providers to make the transition into Reception as smooth as possible. All parents must apply for admission to Reception, regardless of where their Early Years provision has been.</p> <p>Eligibility for nursery priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Objections to admissions policy	<p>Advice is available from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator on how to object to this policy. Objections must be made by 15 May 2024.</p>
Offers	<p>When a place is offered by the LA on behalf of a school, it is assumed the offer will be accepted unless the parent advises otherwise. Schools will contact parents after the LA offer to make admission arrangements - if a parent doesn't confirm the place is required within 10 school days of the offer, the school or the LA will try to contact the parent again. If there is no response within 5 school days of that contact, the offer may be withdrawn.</p> <p>It is important that when places are offered or refused it is done fairly and consistently. Where the LA or a school has reason to believe that false or deliberately misleading information has been provided, the decision to offer will be reconsidered using correct information. The offer may then be withdrawn if it would not have been made with the correct information, even if this is after admission. Places are offered based on the address from which the child will attend school.</p> <p>Sixth forms make their own offers, not the LA.</p>

	<p>Accurate information is particularly relevant for addresses. A school or the LA may ask for evidence of a child's home address as part of the decision-making process. If a parent believes that the child's address will change before admission, the school or LA must be informed. The parent may be required to provide evidence of a new address where this would give a higher priority for admission.</p> <p>Places will only be withdrawn if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they were offered in error, • the parent has not responded to an offer within a reasonable time, or • the offer was obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which secured the offer of a place when the response would otherwise have been a refusal.
Overseas children	<p>All applications, including those submitted from outside the country, will be processed without regard for nationality or immigration status.</p> <p>Foreign nationals who wish to apply for a state-funded school place should check that they have a right of abode or that the conditions of their immigration status permit them to access a state-funded school.</p> <p>Advice for parents of foreign nationals and children overseas is available from the LA at https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/admission-advice-international-arrivals</p>
Oversubscription criteria	<p>Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available in the Year Group, the admission authority will use its published oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications. Oversubscription criteria are not used where there are sufficient places available.</p> <p>Eligibility for priority under any oversubscription criterion used by a school is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
PAN or Published Admission Number	<p>This is the minimum number of places available at the school at the normal round intake. In limited circumstances, more will be admitted.</p> <p>It is calculated considering the physical capacity of the school, the level of demand expected from local children living in a school's catchment area and sensible, lawful school organisation.</p> <p>Applications will not be refused below the PAN at the normal round. If there is unexpectedly high demand and a school believes it could admit more children, the PAN will be increased. A school may admit children above-PAN where their circumstances suggest their need to be admitted outweighs prejudice to efficient education at the school.</p>
Parent (or carer or guardian)	<p>For school admission purposes, a parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child. When we say parent, we also mean carer or guardian. Where admission arrangements refer to parents this can mean one parent or both. A school or the LA may ask for evidence of parental responsibility where a person is acting as a parent but does not hold formal parental responsibility.</p> <p>Sometimes there is a dispute between parents over which school a child should attend. Decisions in response to an admissions application will consider imminent court hearings that may have an impact on parental responsibility and living arrangements. Neither a school nor the LA will become involved in parental disputes.</p>
Prejudice to efficient education	<p>It is lawful to refuse admission where taking another child would cause a "prejudice to efficient education or the efficient use of resources" at this school. This is the point when we would say the Year Group or the class is full. In most cases, prejudice would</p>

	<p>occur when the AN for the Year Group has been reached but it may also be when a class of mixed Year Groups is full.</p> <p>In a mixed year group class, the PAN or AN for one year group may be reached but if there are vacancies in the class, a place may be offered. In reaching these decisions, the admission authority will consider the impact on class sizes in future years. This is called future prejudice (see Admissions Appeals Code 3.10.)</p>
Pupil Premium	<p>Schools can give admissions priority where a child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding if included in the school's oversubscription criteria.</p> <p>Children are eligible for Pupil Premium funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years (including eligible children of families with no recourse to public funds), • who have been adopted from care or have left care, • who are looked after by the LA, • who have a parent serving in HM Forces, • who have a parent who has retired on a pension from the Ministry of Defence. <p>Eligibility for Pupil Premium priority where it forms part of a school's arrangements is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>
Service families	<p>For children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants we will consider a family posted to the area as meeting residence criteria even if a home address has not been identified and a unit address is used. Measurements for prioritisation purposes will be from the main entrance to the residential property or the centre of the front gate of the unit address if necessary. This requires written confirmation from the relevant government department: The Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or Government Communications Headquarters.</p> <p>Schools will consider in-year admissions for families of UK service personnel posted to a new area and of crown servants returning to the country without reference to the 8 school weeks limit for other applications. Evidence will be required to confirm the posting.</p> <p>There is no additional admissions priority for children of service families.</p>
Sibling	<p>'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a stepbrother or sister or other child living in the same household as part of a single-family unit at the date of their application for a place.</p> <p>A sibling who has been offered a place within the normal admissions round will be considered as if he or she were on roll for the purposes of oversubscription priority where a child seeks admission in-year.</p> <p>A sibling who has been offered an in-year place will be considered as if he or she were on roll for the purposes of oversubscription priority where a child seeks admission at the normal round.</p> <p>Children must be on roll in year groups Reception to Year 11 or in a school's sixth form or post-16 setting to be eligible as siblings for admissions purposes. Sibling priority cannot be given for children who attend a school nursery.</p> <p>Eligibility for sibling priority (if this is part of the school's arrangements) is not a guarantee of admission. Oversubscription criteria for this school are detailed above.</p>

<p>Supplementary Information Form or SIF</p>	<p>A form in addition to the LA common application form. Some schools use SIFs to collect information necessary to apply one or more of their oversubscription criteria.</p> <p>SIFs need only be completed to provide information related to a specific oversubscription criterion, not by applicants who aren't seeking priority according to those criteria.</p> <p>An application form must also be completed in all cases.</p>
<p>Tie breaker</p>	<p>To distinguish between children in an oversubscription criterion, priority will be determined based on distance between home and school. This is measured in a straight line from the address point marker for a child's address to the centre of the main entrance to the school site using Devon LA's Geographical Information System (GIS).</p> <p>Where new-build properties are not yet displayed on the map, an estimate of the property location will be made using all available information. This will be updated when possible.</p> <p>Children who live closer to the school have a higher priority for admission. Where two or more children reside within a block of flats, they will be deemed to live at an equal distance from the school.</p> <p>If the tiebreaker above is not enough to distinguish between applicants in an oversubscription criterion, there will be a random ballot. This will be undertaken by a person independent of the school, such as an elected Member of The LA, by the operation of an electronic list randomiser. This will be used where it is necessary to distinguish between two or more addresses within 2 metres of each other.</p> <p>Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place. Schools will admit them all.</p>
<p>Uniform</p>	<p>Children attending many schools are expected to wear a uniform. Where this is the case, information about where this can be purchased and support for families who may be unable to afford items of uniform will be available from the school office and website.</p>
<p>Waiting Lists</p>	<p>Schools will operate a waiting list for each year group until the end of the academic year. This will be maintained by the LA on behalf of the school and shared with the school. Waiting lists will only contain the names of children who have formally applied and been refused admission.</p> <p>Children's positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with a school's oversubscription criteria. Positions will be reordered whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. Therefore, a child's name can go up or down on the list. The length of time on a waiting list does not affect a child's position.</p> <p>Parents must confirm they wish the child to remain on the waiting list when requested to do so and must reapply at the end of the academic year. This is to ensure the list is kept up to date.</p>
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South Dartmoor Community College Sixth Form

Admissions Application Form (D-CAF5) 2025-26

At the normal round intake or for in-year admission into a state-funded Sixth Form College.

This form can be used by a student in their own name or by their parent (or carer). It can be used for admission to this sixth form, regardless of the home address of the student. Students seeking admission to any other sixth form or FE College should approach that setting directly.

You can use this form to apply at the normal round into Year 12 or for in-year admissions into Year 12 or Year 13. Normal round applications for Year 12 may be late and at a disadvantage if submitted after **31 January 2025**. This is the only application form you need to apply for a place here.

You are strongly advised to read the Step by Step Guide and school admissions policy and to ask if you have any questions - call 0345 155 1019 or email admissions@devon.gov.uk

This form should only be used for external candidates, who want to transfer into this sixth form. Internal candidates staying on from Year 11 to Year 12 are not required to make a formal application. (Both Internal and External candidates will be asked to complete an Options Form to indicate the courses they wish to study. The Options Form is not an application form.)

Section A – details about the student

Applications for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be forwarded to the 0-25 Special Educational Needs Team. This will not affect the setting this student will attend. Please tell us if this student has an EHCP.	YES / NO
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Schools are not obliged to admit a student who has been Permanently Excluded from school twice with the most recent exclusion being in the last 2 years. Please tell us if this student has been twice Permanently Excluded.	YES / NO
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Which year group are you applying for?	Year 12 / 13
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Forename(s)	
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Surname	
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Date of Birth	
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Gender	
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Current school or setting	
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Home address with postcode	
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This must be where you live and from where you will attend sixth form. If you expect to move from this address before admission, you must let us know. We will confirm with you whether a change of address is accepted and whether evidence is required.

New address if moving, with postcode	
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Moving date		
Is this student in the Care of a Local Authority or was he or she in the Care of a Local Authority before immediately being adopted or made the subject of a Child Arrangements Order or a Special Guardianship Order?	YES / NO	
If so, please give contact details		
Section B – details about the applicant		
If you are the student and you are submitting the application, you do not need to answer the following questions in this section.		
Forename		
Surname		
Address if different to the student		
Email address		
Daytime telephone number		
Relationship to the student		
Do you have parental responsibility for this student?	YES / NO	
Is this student subject to a private fostering arrangement?	YES / NO	
Is there another person or body (such as a Local Authority) who might object to this application?	YES / NO	
Is there a court order in place that might affect this application?	YES / NO	
If you have answered YES to any of the previous 3 questions, please give details		
Section C – details about the application		
Is this student eligible for sibling priority here?	YES / NO	
If so, please tell us the sibling's name and date of birth		
Does this student live in the catchment area?	YES / NO	
Is this student the child of a member of staff working here? You must provide details of the member of staff in the box below.	YES / NO	

You can give reasons for your preference below if you wish:

Section D – declaration and signature

Sixth forms will only prioritise applications according to the oversubscription criteria in their admissions policies, published on school websites and at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> and can only consider information you provide. The reasons you mention in an application may be shared with the LA and at appeal if you are refused admission. You can attach documents to this application.

- I confirm that the details on this form are accurate.
- I understand I must inform the school if the student's circumstances change before admission; for example, there is a house move.
- I have read information on entitlement to transport support from Devon County Council for post-16 students at www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport
- I have read the Step by Step admissions guide or the In-Year admissions guide for further information on this process.
- I have also read or, had the opportunity to read, admission policy at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> and <http://devon.cc/lapolicies>
- I understand that I could contact the School Admissions Team to resolve any queries throughout the application process, at admissions@devon.gov.uk or 0345 155 1019.

Your signature

Your name (please print)

Date

Please return to: South Dartmoor Community College, Balland Lane, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7EW
before 31 January 2025

(or as soon as possible, with reasons why you feel your application should be considered on time).

For in-year applications, return the form when you wish to apply.

Privacy and Data Protection

The information collected on this form will be processed and may be stored electronically by the school in compliance with the Data Protection Act. The data may be shared with Devon County Council or agents of the school, but only for administrative or other service provision purposes and with Government Departments where there is a legal requirement to do so. By signing or submitting this form you acknowledge that you have read, understood and agreed to this data processing. For more information about Data Protection, please contact the School or visit www.devon.gov.uk/accesstoinformation/data-protection.