

Small School Checklist

How many pupils in your school (NOR)? Less

No

Where do your pupils come from? Check out information relating to your school's local demographics via DCC schools Education Infrastructure Plan – it will identify the likely number of children in your catchment area in future and you can then calculate the effect of this on your planned NOR over the next three to five years.

Yes

Where do your pupils come from? Check the DCC Education Infrastructure Plan to find out if your NOR is likely to increase or decrease over next few years.

Increase

If your numbers look likely to increase but you have a short term fall in NOR before that happens then the LA may be able to help stabilise your short term budget difficulties, contact your LA for details.

Decrease

If your NOR is falling calculate the likely effect on your budget over the next three years. Be realistic; ask for advice as soon as possible. Staffing takes 80% of your budget, could you continue to afford your current level of staffing if numbers fall?

Yes with some small changes

Look at all the options as early as possible. Make sure you are up to date with Staff Pay Policy changes and Redundancy procedures –and ask for advice. School funding may or may not increase over the next few years, be realistic and base decisions on the latest information.

Consider

No

Would different types of partnership offering closer collaborative working with other schools provide additional options for your pupils and resources – including deployment of staff? Has your GB discussed partnerships or Multi Academy Trust status? Do you know where to get the most up to date information?

No

Yes

Further information on partnership working:
DCC: [Devon Education Services Governor Consultancy](#) and [DCC Education Infrastructure Plan 2016-2033](#)
DfE: [Convert to Academy Guide for schools](#)
Diocese: education@exeter.anglican.org
Devon Association of Governance (DAG): www.dagdevon.uk see DAG Busy Governors Guide to Due Diligence for Partnership working.
Why not find out what other schools are doing and ask them why.

Consider

Have you identified any likely partners or options? Partners will undertake 'due diligence' and will also need answers to the above questions. Are there any factors that are preventing your school from moving forward? Can these be dealt with by your GB or do you need outside help and support? If so then...