

Formal Stakeholder Statement

Thursday 16th July 2026

The Link Multi Academy Trust, the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education and Devon County Council would like to thank the community for attending the recent consultation drop-in session.

Feedback from the session indicated two clear themes: a desire from the community for the consultation period to be extended, and strong opposition to Branscombe Church of England Primary School closing during an academic year should a decision be made to proceed with closure. Having carefully considered this feedback, it has been agreed to extend the consultation period to 30 September 2026. The proposed implementation date for closure of the school will also be moved to 31 August 2027, ensuring that any closure would take place at the end of the academic year.

We continue to welcome comments and objections to the consultation up until 30 September 2026 either by:

- Email: adminbranscombe@thelink.academy
- Post: Consultation on the future of the school, Branscombe C of E Primary School, Branscombe, Seaton, Devon, EX12 3DA

Following the information session, a list of frequently asked questions will be compiled and published on the school website and on Devon County Council's Have Your Say consultation website.

Following the close of the extended consultation period, the Cabinet of Devon County Council will be asked to make a decision on whether or not they can agree to the closure of Branscombe C of E Primary School. All consultation responses submitted will therefore also be shared with Devon County Council so that the Cabinet are informed of stakeholder's comments and objections.

As an academy school, it is the Secretary of State who will make the final decision on whether the school's funding agreement should be terminated and the school should close. The Department for Education's South West Region's Group will be sent a copy of Devon County Council's Cabinet report, which will include the outcome of the consultation, and the minutes of the Cabinet meeting. This will also be sent to the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education and the Link Board of Trustees.