

Make Contact with Devon County Council and Your Local School/Preschool.

School admissions are handled by the Local Authority. They are acting as the key coordinator for all Ukrainians arriving as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

You can view their useful map-based school resource - <https://maptest.devon.gov.uk/portaldvl/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7d6cfdd6915a410baa95bb024516ff7c>

Check eligibility for school transport (if the local school is not within reasonable walking distance) - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport>

You could contact your local schools in advance to see if they have spaces, to find out if they have experience welcoming families through resettlement or other schemes or if they have worked with children with English as an Additional Language (known as EAL).

When your guests arrive, support them to learn more about the local school provision. Talk to them about the English school system and arrange a visit for them to look at the local schools. If they are not English speakers, it may be worth reaching out to a community network to see if someone can translate key school information documents.

It is important that families are aware of the choices they have. In some areas school choice will be limited due to the rural nature of our county or the availability of school places in a specific school. In other areas there may be a choice of schools or preschools within walking distance. It is important that families understand they can make decisions about the school (s) they feel will best welcome and support their children.

Help your guests to make appointments to visit potential schools, colleges or nurseries. A visit is crucial – it will provide families with a sense of how a school feels and how their children will be supported to settle initially and to thrive longer term. Encourage the family to ask questions about the support their children will receive and how the school operates.