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Dear Head Teacher/Team Manager,

Exe Valley Challenge 2026 – entries open

We are delighted to inform you that this year's Exe Valley Challenge will be organised at Isca Academy on Sunday 12th July 2026. It will feature over 250 teams from schools across Exeter and the surrounding region. The aim is to provide an exciting opportunity for children to challenge themselves, develop teamwork skills, and work independently in a fun and safe environment.

Objective

After a staggered start from Isca Academy each team will follow a circular route, either a 5, 7 or 10-mile course around the River Exe. The route will not be marked on the ground and teams will have to use basic map reading and orienteering skills. Checkpoints will be marked on the maps provided and teams should aim to complete each stage within the prescribed time. Penalty points will be given to teams arriving either late or early. In addition, a question sheet will be issued to Senior and Junior teams to gain bonus points. All competitors who complete the Challenge will receive a medal which will be presented to them at the finish awards ceremony.

Teams

Each team must start with 4 students. This can be made up of any combination of age and gender. The age and gender category in which they compete will be determined by the eldest member of the group.

Route	Distance	Year(s)	Team categories
Mini	5 miles	2 and 3	Mixed
Junior	7 miles	4 and 5	Boys, Girls or Mixed
Senior	10 miles	6 and 7	Boys, Girls or Mixed

There are 7 categories to provide as many opportunities for trophies as possible, plus an additional trophy to be awarded to the overall winning team!

Scoring

The team with the fewest penalty points on completion will be the winner of their category. Teams will be scored out of a maximum of 400 points for the Seniors, 350 points for the Juniors and 300 points for the Minis.

Training

Each team will need to practise in advance of the event, and you can find the routes on the Isca website (linked below) so that you can organise your own training walks. Schools are welcome to come to Isca Academy to start and end any of their training walks, but please contact us beforehand so we know to expect you.

Safety

The safety of all participants is of paramount importance. We have taken all reasonable measures to make sure this is a safe event for students to take part in, involving the police, the Highways Agency, Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, and Devon LA Outdoor Education Advisor, in our planning. On the day of the event, the Team Manager (or nominated member of staff from school or club) must attend and make themselves known to the organisers at registration. For further details of safety procedures please refer to the document 'Team Managers Brief' which can be found on the school website.

Sponsorship

Over the years this event has raised over £10,000 in sponsorship for the Children's Hospice Southwest. We will be continuing that tradition this year and would love participants to download the CHSW sponsorship form on the Isca Academy website and raise money alongside training for the event.

Further essential information is contained in additional documents found on the Isca Academy website at [Isca Academy/Exe Valley Challenge](#)

- Teams Managers Brief
- Assembly
- Kit List
- Routes
- Parent / Carer Information
- Sponsorship form

How to enter

Please complete this [Initial Entry Form](#) by Friday 24th May 2026. You may request to enter as many teams as you like, and once the deadline is passed we will contact schools to let them know how many teams they have been allocated. Once teams are confirmed, we will ask for entry fees which will be £24 per team (£6 per child).

If you have any questions at this point then please don't hesitate to contact me at the email address below.

Kind regards,



Ollie Milverton
Event Coordinator
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