

Existing Partnership and New Proposals

The nine named schools have long worked together for mutual benefit, and this has included the Penwith Heads' Group and Penwith Extended Services Network.

Headteachers and teachers from our schools meet together regularly to share ideas. Learners from our schools often take part in activities organised by the schools working together. We plan to build on this collaboration and improve by sharing best practice.

Working together will help us to develop a common set of aims and values. The nine schools have now decided to formalise this collaborative working by seeking to join a shared trust, known as the Penwith Education Trust.

The purpose of joining the Trust is to enable us to continue to raise expectations and standards across the partnership: - and make our existing collaboration more sustainable.

A number of other schools have expressed an interest in either becoming a full member or an associate member of the Trust, and are currently exploring this with their governing bodies.

The consultation is open to everyone who might be affected by the proposed changes: parents/carers, learners, staff, governors, potential partners, the wider school communities.

The Consultation Process

This stage of the process runs from
**Wednesday 13th June
to Wednesday 11th July 2012**

There will be plenty of opportunity during the 4 weeks consultation period for you to find out more and make your views known. (There will also be a

second consultation phase from September 13th to Oct 11th if, at the end of this initial consultation, some or all of the governing bodies decide to publish a statutory notice to move the process forward.)

Consultation meetings are being held as follows:

Gulval, Marazion and Humphry Davy:

Tuesday 26th June

Parents: 'shorter' meeting 2.30pm
Staff: (all three schools at Gulval) 4.00pm
Public: (all three schools at Marazion) 5.15pm.
Parents: 'longer' meeting 6.15pm

Cape, St Just, St Levan, Alverton and Mousehole:

Wednesday 27th June

Unions: (all nine schools, at Cape) 2.30pm
Staff: (Cape, St Just, St Levan and Pendeen, at
Cape, Mousehole and Alverton at each) 3.30pm
Parents' 'shorter' meeting (at each) 4.30pm
Parents: 'longer' meeting (at each) 6.00pm
Public: (Cape, St Just, St Levan schools at Cape
and Mousehole and Alverton at each) 7.00pm

Pendeen:

Wednesday 4th July

Parents: 'shorter' meeting 2.00pm
Public: 5.00pm
Parents: 'longer' meeting 6.00pm

If you are unable to attend any of these meetings, your views are still welcome.

**Simply complete the attached response form
and return it to any of the nine schools.**



The Penwith Education Trust

Nine local Penwith schools, namely Cape, St Just, St Levan, Pendeen, Alverton, Gulval, Marazion, Mousehole and Humphry Davy, are proposing to become foundation schools and join a trust: in this case a co-operative learning trust: known as 'The Penwith Education Trust' (PET) with current member schools Newlyn, Heamoor, Pensans and Nancealverne.

The PET has two founder partners who will work with the eight named schools. These are: **Cornwall Council** and **The Co-operative Movement**, (represented in the interim by the **Co-operative College**)

This leaflet provides an overall summary of the full consultation Booklet One, 'Changing from Community to Foundation School Category and Joining a Charitable Trust.' This is available from each school – and its website (see below); similarly available is Booklet Two, 'Questions and Answers.'
www.st-just.cornwall.sch.uk/
www.marazion.cornwall.sch.uk
www.cape.cornwall.sch.uk
www.pendeen.cornwall.sch.uk
www.gulval.cornwall.sch.uk
www.st-levan.cornwall.sch.uk/
www.alverton.org.uk/
www.mousehole.cornwall.sch.uk/
www.humphry-davy.cornwall.sch.uk

What is a Foundation Trust School?

This is a local authority maintained foundation school which is supported by a charitable trust. Trusts can be set up by individual schools or groups of schools, and involve formal collaboration with partners.

The nine schools are interested in the co-operative trust model, which link schools together mutually using co-operative principles and allow stakeholders to become members of the trust.

The PET is its own social and educational co-operative, adopting co-operative values and principles. There are some 200 schools nationally that are now co-operative schools, the fastest growing network of schools in England: - and they are growing more quickly in Cornwall than anywhere else.

Process Timescale

Four week consultation with parents/carers, pupils staff and community begins.	Wednesday 13th June – Wednesday 11th July
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Consultation Meetings

Gulval, Marazion and Humphry Davy meetings:	26th June
Cape, St Just, St Levan, Alverton and Marazion meetings:	27th June
Pendeen meeting:	4th July
Governing Bodies receive report of consultation and decide whether or not to proceed.	17th July
Governing Bodies publish Statutory Notice of proposed changes.	13th September

Governing Bodies receive a report and responses from 4 week Statutory Notice period.

17th October

The Trust is set up (proposed date) **31st October**
If we became a Trust, what would stay the same and what would change?

There will be plenty of opportunity during the 4 weeks consultation period for you to find out more and make your views known. (There will also be a second consultation phase from Sept 13th to 11th October, if at the end of the initial consultation, some or all of the governing bodies decide to proceed and publish a statutory notice.)

What will stay the same?

Each School would continue to teach the National Curriculum, receive the same Local Authority (Local Authority) funding, and be Ofsted inspected. Each would also remain part of the Local Authority family of schools.

Each Governing Body remains responsible for the running of its school.

Teachers would automatically continue to be employed on the same national terms and conditions and each Governing Body would make sure that this is also true for support staff who are on local agreements. So, all staff stay on their same terms and conditions.

What will change?

Each Governing Body (not the LA), would now legally employ staff: and would also become responsible for its own admissions, but be bound by the School Admissions Code. School assets (grounds and buildings) would be held by the Trust rather than the LA.

The PET will appoint 2 additional governors to support and strengthen each Governing Body.

It will also set up a Members Forum to represent the views of all members of the Trust including parents/carers, staff, pupils and the local community.

If so much is going to stay the same, why change?

The chief reasons for change are improving capacity, embedding sustainability and further raising standards.

We think that, by working more closely together, we can help our schools to be more successful, speeding up the impact of current school improvement strategies.

We also think that there are a number of costs we can share, to free up more money for work with pupils. Some of our schools already benefit from working together and shared Trust Status will increase co-operation between schools for the benefit of all involved.

The model we have chosen is a co-operative Trust which is based on co-operative principles and values. This would help us to involve parents, staff and learners more in the running of their school, and to work more closely with the local community, helping to raise aspirations further across our school communities.

Trust status will help us to establish strong long-term partnerships with key partners who would help increase resources and opportunities for staff and pupils: at a time when the role and function of local education authorities is being greatly and rapidly reduced.

We feel that we will be better able to serve our local school communities by working together to raise standards and aspirations, increase opportunities and provide greater social cohesion.