



Statement for Stakeholders of The Federation of North Petherwin and Werrington Primary Schools Conversion to Multi-Academy Trust Status

“Expectation, Aspiration and Respect for All”

What is being proposed?

The Governing Body of The Federation of North Petherwin and Werrington Primary Schools are considering a proposal to join a local primary Multi Academy Trust (MAT) in January 2016.

Any decision on whether or not to convert to Academy status will be taken by our Governing Body based on what is considered best for our schools, our students, our staff and for The Federation of North Petherwin and Werrington Primary Schools. As part of the decision making process, the Governing Body is committed to undertaking full consultation with our stakeholders and will take their views into account before any final decision is taken. The purpose of this statement is, therefore, to introduce the proposals to you, signpost you to where you can find additional information and inform you how you can take part in the consultation.

What is an Academy?

An academy is a state-funded school which operates independently within the requirements of national codes of practice for state schools. However, unlike a state school it receives its funding directly from central government rather than through a local authority. The first Academies, established under the Labour Government, required a sponsoring organisation and had the sole objective of raising standards within the school. Under new legislation introduced by the coalition government, schools that are either ‘outstanding’ or ‘good with outstanding features’ are able to convert to Academies. In addition, schools within a group forming a collaborative structure to support one another are now also eligible to convert to Academy status. It is the current intention of the government that all state schools should become Academies by 2020.

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

The model involves a family of schools forming a ‘Multi Academy Trust’ (MAT) under a Shared Company. The essential principles of the model are that it involves no external business sponsorship and there will be no change to the distinctive and individual nature of any of the schools in the arrangement.

Why convert?

Schools have always operated within a changing educational landscape and the introduction by the coalition government of the Academies programme and the continued support by the Conservative Government means that for the schools to do nothing is not a viable option. It is the Government’s vision that all schools in England will over time convert to Academy status and will cease to be



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'maintained' by their Local Authority. To date, the funding for maintained schools has been routed through Local Authorities who have 'top sliced' funding to construct and deliver a set of support services, such as legal advice, across all their maintained schools. Local Authorities are adapting to this new climate by selling services in packages. So even remaining as we are, a community maintained school under the Local Authority would look different in the future than it does today.

In addition, the Multi-Academy Trust model will enable our schools to share resources and services more effectively and to provide consistent and continuous support for young people in the Launceston area.

What will change?

Conversion to academy status is not too difficult. Under the proposed model Governance of our schools would remain largely unchanged as the majority of governors on the Local Governing Bodies would be appointed as currently and there would be staff and parent governors as now. The only difference would be the establishment of an overarching Multi Academy Trust Board of Directors consisting of representatives from each School Local Governing Body.

We now have the opportunity to work together in a supportive Multi Academy Trust which builds on the collaborative structures already established. This will give extended opportunities to share good teaching and learning, join together to buy resources and develop a collaborative way of working for the benefit of all our children and families and create a pathway for the long term sustainability of all of our schools.

We have a vision for education that goes beyond individual schools. The challenge for us all is 'How can we share our gifts and talents to ensure all education for all of our children is 'outstanding.'

A number of other elements would remain unchanged. An Academy would still be bound by the statutory codes for Special Educational Needs and the Admissions criteria and catchment areas for each school would remain unchanged. There are no planned changes to the pay and conditions of staff, to the start and finish times or length of the school day and no change to the school's policy on pupil discipline or the school uniform.

Our schools will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. However, an Academy is not bound by the prescriptions of the national curriculum and Governors are conscious that this freedom could offer an additional safeguard from an imposed wider national agenda or curriculum which may not accord with the local contextual learning requirements of pupils in the Launceston area.

Our schools have excellent relationships with their Local Authority and work well in partnership with other local schools. That commitment to wider partnership working will remain and we will work with our Local Authorities across a wide range of providers in an atmosphere of mutual support.

How will the consultation work?

The consultation period will run from Wednesday 13th May 2015 to 9:00am on Tuesday 30th June 2015. The Governing Body are consulting with all our combined stakeholders including:

- School Governors
- Parents and known future parents



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- Pupils
- Staff including Staff unions and associations
- The Cornwall Local Authority
- Elected representatives (local MPs, Councillors)
- The wider local community including voluntary groups associated with the Schools

How can I make my views known?

You are invited to submit your comments and views using the following e-mail

governors@north-petherwin.cornwall.sch.uk .

In addition, you are welcome to attend the Consultation events listed below. Any views expressed at the meetings will be captured and included in the final considerations of the Governing Body.

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting Timetable:

Initial Information meetings to be held at **North Petherwin Primary School** on **Monday 18th May**

Staff and Governors – 2:15pm

Parents and other community stakeholders – 3:15pm

A further meeting to gather opinions will be held on **Monday 15th June**

Staff and Governors – 2.15pm

Parents and other community stakeholders – 3.15pm

Initial Information meetings to be held at **Werrington Primary School** on **Tuesday 19th May**

Staff and governors – 2.15pm

Parents and other community stakeholders – 3.15pm

A further meeting to gather opinions will be held on **Tuesday 16th June**

Staff and governors – 2.15pm

Parents and other community stakeholders – 3.15pm

Before I give my views where can I find out more information?

Further information generally on Academies provided by the DfE can be found on:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>



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Finally

We feel it is important to emphasise the distinctiveness of the Multi Academy Trust proposal. It is underpinned by a commitment to work for the good of all the schools, to ensure that none are left in a vulnerable position and our individual identity, characteristics and ethos are maintained and strengthened.

Furthermore, our schools will maintain their commitment to working with others within and beyond our local area for the benefit of all concerned. The freedoms, with the resources, that Academy status will bring would be major factors in enabling our schools to continue to provide the best possible education for our young people and to serve our wider local community.