



Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your responses so far to our **Crofty Education Trust consultation**.

It has been great to hear your thoughts as a part of this process and to speak with many of you on the gate. I have collected some frequently asked questions below and hope that my responses here are helpful. It is my intention to be as impartial as possible to allow all thoughts and opinions to be considered. As ever, if you would like to talk this through at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### **Why is Penpol considering joining a trust?**

The educational landscape has changed dramatically in recent years, particularly in Cornwall. The majority of Cornish schools are now trust-led; local authority services have reduced significantly and the system is facing unprecedented budgetary pressures. For a maintained school like Penpol to safely offer all that its community deserves is increasingly challenging year on year.

Meanwhile, joining a trust can allow schools to work collaboratively to support an excellent provision for every child. We would also see a number of real enhancements, such as increased speech and language support and a more responsive maintenance programme.

It is unlikely that the direction of travel towards a trust-led system will be reversed, whatever the outcome of this week's election. As time goes on, the range of trusts available to us could reduce further. Therefore, it is wise to consider joining a trust aligning our values whilst we have the agency to do so.

### **What changes, if any, would be made to the school or classroom settings?**

Being the forward-looking, outward-facing school that we are, we are always developing, honing and improving the way in which we serve your children.

One of the reasons that Crofty aligns well with our way of working is that the trust identifies *principles* of effective teaching and learning, rather than *specific* strategies. This allows each school to serve its unique community in an individual way. The way in which we work currently would fit well within these principles. Therefore, we do not expect joining Crofty to necessitate any changes.

### **What will happen if the school community chooses not to join a trust?**

In this instance, we would remain a maintained school for the time being. It is likely that we would need to join a trust at some point in the future and cannot be certain what our options would be at that time.

**If Penpol School does join Crofty, can parents and carers be assured that their children will continue to receive the excellent education and experiences they are currently receiving?**

As a team, we remain committed to providing your child with the very best primary education possible. Whilst joining Crofty would not immediately fix all budgetary challenges, it could help to smooth them out year on year. This would likely protect the breadth of our offer rather than endanger it.

Working in a collaborative trust such as Crofty would also help us to provide further developmental opportunities for our fantastic staff team, keeping them here at Penpol for as long as possible.

Thank you again for your time and consideration around this proposal. You can find much more information about the trust and how its schools work together here:

<https://croftymat.org/>

**If you have not yet completed the survey or would like to add a further response, we would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments please:**

<https://forms.gle/YMiKLYaNiLQsABwL8>

As ever, if you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes,

Chris Coyle-Chislett (he/him)  
Headteacher  
Penpol School  
[head@penpol.cornwal.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwal.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr C Coyle-Chislett Phone: 01736 753472 Email: [secretary@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk) Online: [penpolschool.co.uk](http://penpolschool.co.uk)

*“Penpol pupils are **curious, creative and courageous** learners. Our school community believes in **authenticity** as the foundations of **deep-rooted** learning. Through our **rich and relevant** curriculum, we nurture **community-minded, forward-facing** international citizens of the future.”*