

Nanpean C P School  
St Georges Road Nanpean  
St Austell Cornwall PL26 7YH  
Tel 01726 822447

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

### **Nanpean School - Proposed Conversion to Academy Status**

Nanpean School is currently a maintained school, which means that it is controlled by and maintained primarily by the Local Authority (Cornwall). In the last decade, many schools in Cornwall and across the country, have converted to academy status. This means that they are funded directly by the government rather than through the Local Authority. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Governing Board of Nanpean School has applied to become an Academy under the Academies Act 2010 and is proposing to join Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT). In accordance with the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, the Governing Board is consulting on whether the school's academy conversion should take place. Further information about what becoming an academy means, and how to comment on the proposals, is set out below.

### **Will Nanpean School definitely become an Academy?**

The Governing Board has submitted an application to convert to academy status and is working towards a conversion in December 2022. However, the school is not obligated to become an academy until the contract between the academy trust and the Department for Education (known as the Funding Agreement) is signed. The academy trust will not sign the Funding Agreement until parents and carers of pupils at the school, staff at the school, and pupils themselves have had the opportunity to comment on whether the school's academy conversion should take place. The purpose of this letter is to communicate dates (early in the 2022-23 academic year) whereby you can attend a meeting to learn more about the proposal to become an academy, or to make any comments in relation to these proposals. The dates of these meetings are:

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.30pm
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, at 5.30pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, at 9.15am

We have also held meetings with staff, and will be keeping pupils informed throughout the process. Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the academy trust before a decision is taken to sign the Funding Agreement. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below. The academy trust will not sign the Funding Agreement unless they are content that conversion would be in the best interests of the school, taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications.

### **What is an academy?**

An academy is essentially an independent school which is funded by the state. It is independent of the Local Authority (LA) and receives its funding direct from central government. It is proposed that Nanpean School will become an academy as part of Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT). This means that the school will be part of an academy group comprising many schools, and including local schools such as St Dennis and Roche.

## **What are the benefits of being an academy?**

In the school's opinion the benefits are numerous and include:

- Academies in a multi academy trust (MAT) have the ability to share resources and expertise and ultimately improve the quality of teaching and learning
- Academies are independent of local authority control – this means that academies have more freedom about how they conduct themselves
- Academies receive their funding direct from central government – this means that academies receive more funding because none is retained by the Local Authority for the provision of central services
- Academies have more freedom over the curriculum taught – this means that academies do not need to teach parts of the National Curriculum which they do not consider appropriate for their pupils
- Academies can set their own pay and conditions of service for their staff – academies have the freedom to alter the pay and conditions of their staff (subject to normal employment law protections for staff) and so can provide staff with better pay and conditions than previously
- Academies have more freedom to undertake innovative projects – academies are companies and so have more freedom to undertake innovative projects, such as setting up and utilising trading subsidiaries.

## **Are there any disadvantages to becoming an academy?**

TPAT will be directly liable for matters such as insurance, employment liabilities, pensions, health and safety, and property maintenance. However, as mentioned above, academies receive more funding from central government to help them meet these additional costs, and in any event, TPAT already deals with these matters for its current schools.

## **Will the admissions arrangements change?**

As a community school, Nanpean School's admissions arrangements are set by the Local Authority, and the Local Authority also decides which pupils should be offered places at the school. As an academy, TPAT will put in place admission arrangements, and decide which pupils should be offered places in accordance with those arrangements. The academy will still be bound by the national Admissions Code, and Admissions Appeals Code. The current admission arrangements will remain in place for the time being. If the academy wanted to change its admission arrangements, consultation would be required.

## **Will staff leave?**

If the school converts to an academy, all staff currently employed by the Local Authority will automatically transfer to the new academy on their current pay and conditions. Although the academy will have more freedom to amend those pay and conditions in the future, the Governing Board does not intend to take such a step in the foreseeable future and in any event, any change to pay and conditions would need to be consulted upon with staff representatives.

## **Will Nanpean School change?**

We do not intend to change Nanpean School except in ways which we think will improve the school even more. For children, it is unlikely that they will see much, if any, change in their day to day school lives. We do not intend to change the name of the school or the uniform. Academies do have the power to vary their curriculums and vary the length of the school day, however, it is not intended to take any such steps at this stage and we would engage with parents/carers, staff and children if we did ever intend to make such changes in the future.



### How can I find out more?

A set of three meetings will be held in the School Community Hall on:

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.30pm
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, at 5.30pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, at 9.15am

We would encourage you to attend any of these meetings if you have any questions, or simply want to learn more. There is also more information about academies on the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

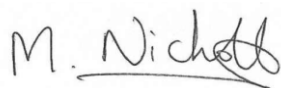
If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, and cannot attend any of the meetings, please contact Mr Nicholls in school, who will try to assist.

### How can I make representations?

To respond to this consultation on whether the school's academy conversion should take place, representations can be made in writing to: Mr M Nicholls, Headteacher, Nanpean School, St George's Road, Nanpean, Cornwall, PL26 7YH or Mrs L Watts, Chair of Governors, Nanpean School, St George's Road, Nanpean, Cornwall, PL26 7YH; Or by email to: [head@nanpean.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@nanpean.cornwall.sch.uk) or [lwatts@nanpean.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:lwatts@nanpean.cornwall.sch.uk).

The closing date for representations to be made is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope that you understand that becoming an academy and joining a trust has been something that has been discussed by the Governing Board for a long period of time, but we now feel that the time is right to make this change, so that we can continue to provide the best possible education and support for children and their families.



Mr M Nicholls (Headteacher)



Mrs L Watts (Chair of Governors)

