


# The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust

## Consultation Document Summer 2013




 **Penponds Primary School**



 **St Meriadoc CE VA Nursery and Infant School**



 **St Meriadoc CE VA Junior School**



**TROON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
*To be the best we can* 

# **The Proposal**

The Governing Bodies and headteachers of Penponds School, St Meriadoc CE VA Nursery and Infant School, St Meriadoc CE VA Junior School and Troon School are considering the possibility of converting to Academy status in September 2013 and forming together a Multi-Academy Trust, called The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust.

We believe that this proposal gives us a way of working together for the benefit of all of the pupils across the 4 schools whilst still retaining the individuality of each school.

Any decision on whether or not to convert to Academy status will be taken by the Governing Bodies based on what is considered best for our schools, our pupils, staff and the wider community. As part of the decision making process the Governing Bodies are 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 tell you how you can take part in the consultation.

## **What is an Academy?**

An academy is a state-funded school which operates within the requirements of national codes of practice for state schools but receives its funding directly from central government rather than through a local authority.

## **What is a Multi-Academy Trust?**

A Multi-Academy Trust brings together a number of schools with a shared vision under a single Academy Trust. The Directors/Trustees/Governors of the Academy Trust would be responsible for the overall strategic direction of all the schools within the Trust and for ensuring the Trust meets its legal obligations. Each school within the Trust would have its own local governing body, which would nominate some of its members to sit on the Academy Trust.

## **Reasons to become an Academy**

- As a Multi Academy Trust the 4 schools would have greater buying power and increased opportunities for saving money which could then be spent on improving the education for all of the children.
- The schools will be able to share resources and services more effectively to provide consistent and continuous support for our young people in keeping with our ethos and mission.
- There will be greater opportunities for staff development as staff will be able to work collaboratively across the schools

- Changes in government policy mean that smaller schools such as ours can be left in a very vulnerable position. By coming together as part of a Multi Academy Trust we are ensuring that we can continue to work in the way which we know works best for our particular children.
- Each of our 4 schools are very proud of our particular strengths and traditions. The Multi Academy Trust will allow us to preserve and improve these whilst moving forward to provide an excellent education for the foreseeable future.

## **What has led to this point?**

A Steering Group consisting of the Headteachers and the Chairs of the Governing Bodies of the four schools has been meeting over the past few months to identify ways in which we can work ever more closely together to provide excellent education and opportunities for all our children and to ensure (as far as is possible in the current economic climate) the future sustainability of our four schools. Having considered all the governance options available to us we believe that converting to Academy Status and forming The Rainbow Multi-Academy Trust will offer us a number of benefits.

## **Our Vision**

**The Rainbow Multi-Academy Trust's vision is to provide outstanding education, resources and opportunities which will improve the aspirations and life chances of all of the pupils across the four schools.**

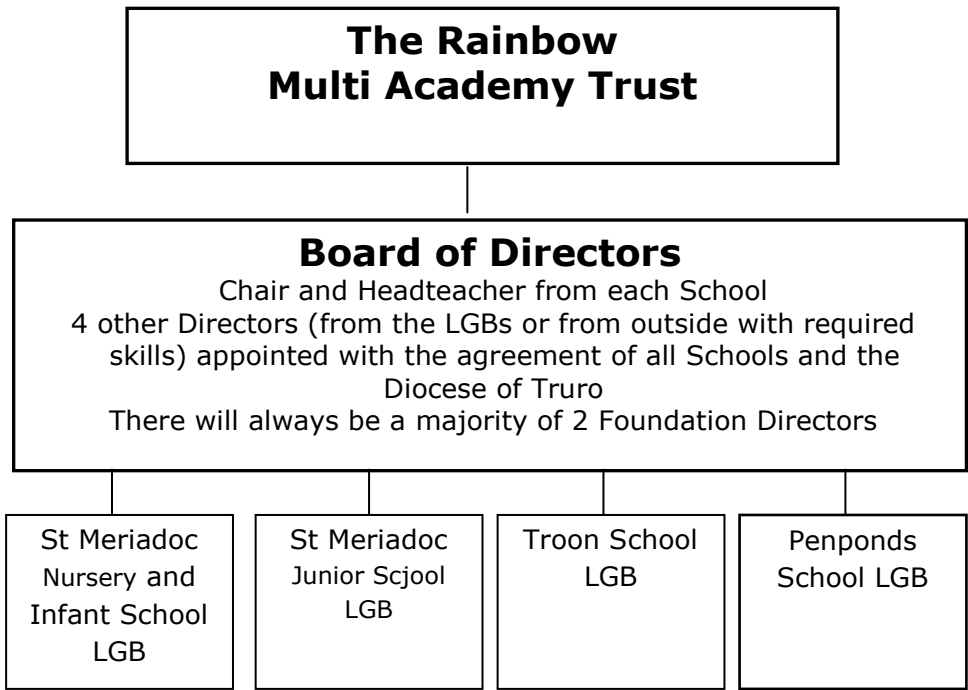
## **The Benefits of working together**

We have identified the following benefits of forming the Rainbow Multi Academy Trust.

- Improved outcomes for all of our children through sharing best practice in Teaching and Learning
- A combined School Improvement Plan which supports the identified needs of each school
- Improved financial sustainability through shared costs and procurement
- Collaborative working on a more formal basis
- Sharing expertise, specialisms and resources
- Joint planning, monitoring and professional development opportunities
- Shared administration to minimise cost and maximise efficiency (finance, policies etc.)
- Increased opportunities for sporting fixtures and events.

# What will change?

The proposed model of Governance is shown below. Each Local Governing Body will have parent and staff Governors elected to it as well as Community or Church appointed governors as appropriate.



A number of other elements will remain unchanged. As an Academy we will 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 would be no change to the school’s policy on pupil discipline or the school uniform of each school as it is important for each school within the group to retain its own identity.

Our schools will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, however Academies are not bound by the prescriptions of the national curriculum so we will be able to explore these possibilities together and share our expertise with each other for the benefit of all our children.

All of our schools have excellent relationships with the 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 Authority across a wide range of schools in an atmosphere of mutual support.

The terms and conditions of employment of our staff will remain the same and additional formal consultation will take place with them before the final decision to convert is made.

## **How will the consultation work?**

The consultation period will run from 17.05.13 to noon on 17.06.13.

The Governing Bodies are consulting with all our stakeholders including:

Parents and known future parents

Pupils

Staff including Staff unions and associations

The Cornwall Local Authority

Elected representatives (local MPs, Councillors)

The Truro Diocesan Board of Education

Parish Priests and the Christian Community

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

[consultation@rainbowacademy.org.uk](mailto:consultation@rainbowacademy.org.uk)

In addition, you are welcome to attend either of the Consultation events:

22.05.13 at 6.30 at Troon School

05.06.13 at 6.30 at St Meriadoc Infant School

13.06.13 at 6.30 at Penponds School

Any views expressed at them will be captured and included in the final considerations of the Governing Bodies.

## **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:

[www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies)

[www.rainbowacademy.org.uk](http://www.rainbowacademy.org.uk)