



Department
for Education

Cornwall Local Authority Special Free School

**Seeking proposals to establish a
Special Free School**

Cornwall Local Authority

January 2019

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

1. Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) is working collaboratively with selected Local Authorities to establish new schools that fit within the local authorities' strategies for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision. This opportunity is intended to identify and meet untapped demand for special and alternative provision free schools as a supplement to LAs' existing resources. If a strong proposal is received by a trust that both the Local Authority and the Secretary of State wish to take forward, DfE will provide capital funding and start-up grants subject to value for money assessments.

This document sets out the key information regarding the school that Cornwall Local Authority will be establishing alongside DfE. Trusts should use the information within this document, alongside the engagement events, to determine whether they would like to apply to open the school, and to base their application on.

2. Key dates

24 July 2018	Special and AP free schools wave is launched – the guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools is published.
11 March 2019	Cornwall Council informed of successful bid for new special SEMH free school and confirmation received to proceed to 'the Trust Competition Stage' to seek a proposer for the new school.
18 March 2019	Specification for new special free SEMH school published on Cornwall Council's web page https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/
By 23 April 2019	Cornwall Council meeting with the Department of Education to progress the school.
1 May 2019	Engagement event with potential proposers – Cornwall County Showground, Whitecross, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 7JE
18 June 2019	Engagement event with local families and Parent Carer Cornwall – St Austell Conference Centre

Midday 30 September 2019	Department for Education (DfE) deadline for submission of trust applications.
September – December 2019	Assessment of potential proposer applications.
Winter 2019	Secretary of State's decision on successful proposer
Early 2020	Announcement of successful proposer

3. Contact details and further information

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

Name: Julie le Masurier
Job title: Head of SEND
Email: julie.lemasurier@cornwall.gov.uk
Tel: 01872 326977

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the site, please contact:

Name: Sharon Hindley
Job title: Head of Education Access and Sufficiency
Email: sharon.hindley@cornwall.gov.uk
Tel: 01872 327775

Please find below the contact details of the Regional Schools Commissioner:

RSC: to be confirmed
RSC's office: 2 Rivergate Bristol BS1 6EH
Email: rsc.sw@education.gov.uk

4. Cornwall Council Context and Planning

Please include here details of why the local authority is running this competition and requires this school. Should this be a joint bid, please explain how the local authorities will work together and how other local authorities are involved in commissioning places.

The delivery of a cohesive, robust continuum of Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision is a priority for Cornwall's SEND strategy. This school is a key development.

Partners in Cornwall believe our children and young people, and their families, deserve a range of high quality provision meeting SEN of different types and degree wherever children and young people live in our beautiful, but geographically challenging, county. Cornwall does not currently have a full continuum of provision for Social, Emotional and Mental Health. Most children and young people with a high level of need are successfully included in mainstream settings in our authority but some children and young people of primary and secondary age have long term educational provision via an alternative provision academy (APA) or attend an Independent Specialist Provision (ISP) with pupils with needs that can be more complex than their own. This mixes children and young people with different levels of need in both types of setting impacting upon provision delivery. Cornwall currently accesses places in Devon and Plymouth state funded SEMH special schools. The schools are only within the geographic reach of part of our population and places are rarely available.

Our current provision does not meet the needs of our population and the arrangements currently in place are more expensive than the revenue costs of a new special school.

Our needs and provision developments are well established and fully owned by families, as well as colleagues in education, health and social care. In preparation for this exciting development confirmatory discussions were undertaken with key partners about the development of an SEMH special school, including its proposed location, and the delivery priorities for the school. The discussions were enthusiastic with each group fully endorsing the proposals. Discussions were also undertaken with LA officers in Devon, Plymouth and the Isles of Scilly, as our neighbouring local authorities. Cornwall Council is committed to being able to using all 65 places, but we will always work closely with neighbouring authorities to the benefit of children and young people if capacity were to be available at the time it was needed for a pupil from a different local authority.

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We believe that this school will also improve our alternative provision offer further through enabling greater clarity of purpose and support cost effective arrangements with independent specialist providers based in Cornwall.

Extensive engagement has taken place with partners within Cornwall including;

- Schools' representative bodies – Schools Forum, CASH and CAPH
- Parents / carers representatives – Parent Carers Cornwall, our PCF
- Children's Services Senior Leadership Team
- Members of Cornwall Council, including the Lead member for Children and Wellbeing
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- SEND Multi Agency Board

All the above have endorsed the SEND priority of a new SEMH school and committed to support to ensure its successful delivery.

SECTION TWO: THE SCHOOL

The tables below list key details of the school proposed. Your application must be for a school that has these key characteristics. Please note you only need to complete the relevant table depending on the type of school.

Type of school	Special
Area of SEN provided for (please detail designation alongside additional information known about the cohort's needs and abilities)	The primary designation is social, emotional and mental health (SEMH), some pupils will have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder or other communication and interaction difficulties. Although pupils' learning may have been impacted by their SEMH difficulties the pupils will not have severe or profound and multiple learning needs.
Which local authorities are committed to commissioning places?	Cornwall Council is the commissioner of the school and will commission 65 places.
How many places have been commissioned and by which local authority?	65 places in total. Through agreement with Cornwall Council a small number of the places commissioned by Cornwall may be used to meet the needs of Plymouth or Devon's children and young people.
Per-pupil revenue funding the local authority would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain and detail the rates per pupil, including estimates for how many of the cohort will be in each band)	Each place commissioned will attract £10k of funding and for each pupil placed the school will receive an element 3 payment of £16,500
Age range	5-16
Gender (Boys/Girls/Co-educational)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity – this should include 16-19 places but not nursery)	65
Type of placements offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	None

Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	None
Any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	Bespoke funding arrangements will be made to integrate pupils into mainstream schools. There will be opportunities to engage with other providers in training developments e.g. ITT on a cost recovery basis. The school may wish to trade with other schools, providing them with advice and support.

The table below details the number of places that the local authority proposes for each year group at the point of opening until the school is full.

	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	5	8	12	10	10	10	10
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	10	15	18	18	20	20	20
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	12	21	18	20	20	20	20
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	11	16	17	17	15	15	15
16-19: commissioner referred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	60	65	65	65	65	65

SECTION THREE: RATIONALE AND CONTEXT FOR THE SCHOOL

This section describes the rationale and the context in which the new school will operate.

3A. Please include a brief description of the existing provision in your area, future expected growth in pupil numbers and how you expect places to be filled.

All partners in Cornwall believe our children and young people and their families, deserve a range of high quality provision meeting SEN of different types and degree wherever they live in our beautiful, but geographically challenging, county. Our vision is for all children and young people with SEND to have an inclusive education that provides opportunities for them to achieve positive outcomes, to realise their aspirations and to participate fully in our wider society.

The successful inclusion of children and young people in local educational settings is well established in Cornwall. We believe that children and young people have the best life chances when they access mainstream education: life is mainstream.

However, for some young people access to specialist education provision is needed to ensure that their needs are met. The proposed new special school for children Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties will be a centre of excellence. Through engagement with mainstream settings, for the benefit of its individual pupils and through diverse partnership activity, the school will make a significant contribution to Cornwall's Local Offer for children and young people with a high level of SEMH needs.

Cornwall does not currently have a full continuum of provision for SEMH. Most children and young people with a high level of need are successfully included in mainstream settings in our authority. Currently there is no state funded special school with an SEMH designation. Some pupils, of primary and secondary age, have long term educational provision via an Alternative Provision Academy (APA) or attend an Independent Specialist Provision (ISP) with pupils with needs that can be more complex than their own. This mixes children and young people with different levels of need in both types of setting impacting upon provision delivery. It detracts from the main focus of alternative provision, and leads to higher costs for Cornwall Council. Equally, our geography, and increased demand for SEMH provision in our neighbouring local authorities, results in significant limitations on access to established provision in Devon and Plymouth.

Cornwall Local Authority wants to engage with a strong delivery partner to enhance the continuum of provision for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and, in some instances, associated Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The site has been selected in a central accessible part of the county and the school will serve the whole of Cornwall.

3B Please also include details as to how these proposed new arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs, and the outcomes for pupils, across the local authority and how you expect trusts to support this.

This excellent school will:

- Work in partnership with families and other agencies to identify, and meet the needs of, each pupil, ensuring the child or young person's voice and best interests are the central, shared reference point
- Maintain a focus on core academic skill development in conjunction with project based delivery that inspires a strong desire to attend, and builds independence and responsibility
- Have a curriculum and ethos based upon the Preparing for Adulthood strands from the youngest pupils upwards
- Work together with other settings to enable pupils to engage in mainstream education at the time appropriate to the individual e.g. year 5 mainstream integration, or part time links with education providers and employers as a step towards supported internship, apprenticeship or FE college at year 11
- Longitudinally track destinations regardless of the age at which a pupil leaves the school, and use this information to inform practice
- Ensure school staff work closely with families to establish shared understanding and consistent approaches to meeting needs, including providing parental support of different forms if required
- Be part of the network of social, emotional and mental health provision e.g. contributing to local initial teacher training, developing the understanding and skills in schools and colleges across the county when engaging them around individual pupil transitions, and through contributing to training events
- Potentially, take up the option to provide home-school transport, enabling closer links with pupils' families
- Have opportunities to tender, over time, to deliver other educational provision e.g. in the nearby Tier 4 Child and Adolescent Mental Health In-patient Unit
- Be able to develop a trading arm to provide advice and support to mainstream schools and multi-academy trusts.

SECTION FOUR: THE PROPOSED LOCATION AND SITE

This section describes the provisional site.

Full address and full postcode	Turfdown Road, Bodmin, PL30 4AP
Size of site	The total site area is approximately 3ha (30,000 m ²)
Further details on site (for example, current use/your reasons for choosing it/further developments (e.g. housing) planned for area	<p>The site has been allocated in principal and is subject to Cabinet approval and planning permissions; all of which will be completed before the final tender award.</p> <p>The Council identified its preferred location as mid/east Cornwall to support access across Cornwall and for neighbouring authorities, Plymouth and Devon.</p> <p>The site has excellent access to the two main trunk roads in Cornwall, being in close proximity to the A38 and A30. Access onto the main A38 is via a large roundabout with links to Plymouth and Devon, access to the A30 is accessed by travelling along the A38 for approximately 450 metres with links to Launceston and Devon to the east and Truro to the west. The site is relatively flat and clear of any existing buildings. The site is large, providing outside spaces for pupils with SEMH and the rural setting will also be a beneficial, calm environment with limited distractions.</p> <p>There are no buildings on the land. It is currently used for grazing.</p>