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# Sustainable Education in Torpoint Consultation



**There is a Formal Representation Period until 18 May 2026 to comment on proposals to safeguard the future of education provision in Torpoint. This follows the pre-publication consultation that took place earlier this year.**

## Pre-publication Consultation

During the period **Friday, 09 January to Friday, 06 February 2026**, Cornwall Council sought your ideas, feedback and views on a range of proposals it put forward, which aimed to address issues around the sufficient, suitable and sustainable education provision within Torpoint and its immediate locality.

This period was known as the '**Pre-publication Consultation**' and it formed part of a wider, formal consultation process, which looks like this (taking into account our updated key dates and milestones):

<b>Stage 1: Consultation</b>	Pre-Publication Consultation Period	<b>Friday, 9 January 2026 to Friday, 6 February 2026</b>
<b>Stage 2: Publication</b>	Consideration of Feedback from Consultation and Drafting of Full Proposals	<b>Monday, 9 February 2026</b>
	Full Proposals Published	<b>Monday, 20 April 2026</b>
<b>Stage 3: Representation</b>	Formal Representation Period	<b>Monday, 20 April 2026 to Monday, 18 May 2026</b>
<b>Stage 4: Decision</b>		<b>Friday, 22 May 2026</b>
<b>Stage 5: Implementation</b>		Preparation works in line with <b>Stage 4 Decision</b> to begin asap following the decision.  The date upon which any changes will take effect will be outlined in the final Decision; however, the Council does not envisage any other proposals to take effect before September 2027.

### The purpose of the pre-publication consultation was to:

- Highlight what the issues were and why they had arisen
- Set out a range of initial proposals that had been formed on the basis of early discussions and upon which the Council was seeking your feedback
- Provide you with information around how you can find out more about those proposals, ask questions and put forward your own views and ideas
- Outline the statutory processes that need to be followed in order to decide on any proposals aimed at addressing the issues, and to implement them

### Outcomes from the Pre-Publication Consultation

During the pre-publication period we encouraged you to share your views on the formative proposals that were put forward. In summary, these were:

#### **Proposal 1: Do nothing**

**Proposal 2:** Amalgamate Torpoint Nursery and Infant School (TNIS) and Carbeile Junior School on a single site

**Proposal 3:** Relocate TNIS onto the Carbeile Junior School site, but retain the two school's separate identities

**Proposal 4:** Close both TNIS and Carbeile Junior School and open a new free school (an academy) on the Carbeile Junior School Site.

We asked for your feedback on these initial proposals by either completing our online survey and/or by attending one of two stakeholder meetings held at Carbeile Junior School. Over 110 participants responded to our online survey. Whilst the majority of support was broadly split between **Proposal 2** and **Proposal 3**; the quantity and quality of the narrative responses was particularly helpful in adding detail to the responses and helping us understand what matters most to survey participants and what they wanted us to consider going forward.

In addition, we were delighted with the turnout at both **stakeholder meetings** which were led by Officers of Cornwall Council with representatives of both schools' senior leadership teams and their governing bodies also present. Those who attended were able to hear more about the initial proposals put forward, hear answers to frequently asked questions and share questions and ideas of their own. We have taken stakeholder feedback into account when finalising proposals to take forward.

## Consultation on Full Proposals - Formal Representation Period

Following this consideration of feedback, other scoping works and due diligence activity; Cornwall Council have on **Monday, 20 April 2026**, published the full proposal which can be found in the **Full Statutory Proposal document available to download and view to the right**.

The four-week period between **Monday, 20 April** and **Monday 18 May 2026** is known as the **'Representation Period'**.

During this time Cornwall Council is once again seeking to consult with stakeholders (including, in this case, parents and carers of both school-aged and non-statutory school age children, local residents and its employees) around the full proposals it has now put forward.

During the Representation Period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal, to the local authority, to be taken into account by itself, as the decision maker.

### How can I submit comments?

There are, again, **two** ways to enable your voice to be heard:

- **Complete our Survey below**

Designed to enable you to feedback your comments and questions relating to the full statutory proposal Cornwall Council has now put forward to address issues around the sufficient, suitable and sustainable education provision within Torpoint and its immediate locality.

- **Stakeholder Meetings**

In addition, two meetings have been arranged where you will have an opportunity to hear more about the full statutory proposal put forward, hear answers to frequently asked questions, and share questions and ideas of your own.

These meetings will be led by Officers of Cornwall Council and representatives of both schools' senior leadership teams and their governing bodies will also be present. Meetings will be held on **Thursday, 30 April 2026** as follows:

- **09:30am** - Torpoint Nursery and Infant School (TNIS)
- **15:30pm** - Carbeile Junior School

In addition, Officers of Cornwall Council will be available for informal conversations on the gate of each school at either morning drop off, or afternoon pick up, in advance of the meetings held at those schools above.

Cornwall Council commits to considering **ALL** the views submitted during the representation period, including all support for, objections to, and comments on the proposal.

## What happens next?

Following the Representation Period and the consideration of the views and feedback submitted therein, Cornwall Council envisages being in a position to make its final **decision** on **Friday, 22 May 2026**.

SURVEY

## 2026 - Full Statutory Proposal - Sustainable Education in Torpoint

This survey follows consideration of the responses received during the previous stage of engagement and seeks feedback on the full statutory proposal put forward.

### Our data protection and confidentiality statement

#### How will you protect my information?

Your data will be stored securely and will only be accessible by members of Together for Families. Your consent for your data to be used in the evaluation will be assumed from you starting the survey.

#### Who am I giving my information to?

The evaluation is being carried out by Together for Families. You can view our privacy notice at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/tffprivacynotice](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/tffprivacynotice).

#### How will you store my personal data?

Survey responses will be collected using the Let's Talk Cornwall survey software. By completing this survey, you consent to this transfer of your information. This includes any information which may represent your personal data. All the information you share with Together for Families will be stored safely for the duration of the evaluation. It will be destroyed one year after it has finished.

Let's Talk Cornwall is the system used to collate the data and create reports from it. You can view the privacy statement on the [Let's Talk Cornwall website](#)

Select here to provide feedback



Page last updated: 20 Apr 2026, 02:20 PM

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## Documents

- [Full Statutory Proposal.pdf \(312 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Opening and closing maintained schools Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers \(689 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Free school presumption guidance.pdf \(268 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

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## Key dates

Full Proposals Published - Formal Representation Period starts  
**20 April 2026**

Decision  
**22 May 2026**

Implementation  
**June 2026**



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## Torpoint Nursery and Infant School (TNIS) and Carbeile Junior School Consultation

### Summary of Proposal

Cornwall Council (of New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY) proposes the merger (otherwise known as an amalgamation) of Torpoint Nursery and Infant School (TNIS) and Carbeile Junior School into a single through-primary school with an on-site nursery provision.

To facilitate this merger, it is necessary to formally close TNIS (a 3-7 community school maintained by the local authority and sited at Albion Road, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2LU) and enlarge/change the age range of Carbeile Junior School (a 7-11 community school maintained by the local authority and sited at Trevol Road, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2NH) to accommodate the displaced pupils on the existing Junior School site.

It is intended that Torpoint Nursery and Infant School will close on 31 August 2027.

### Statutory Guidance and Legal Frameworks

The proposal put forward by Cornwall Council has been drafted, and is published in accordance with the following relevant legislation and statutory guidance:

- opening and closing maintained schools (Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision makers) (DfE, 2024)
- schedule 2 (closing a school), to the school organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013

In terms of the process, Cornwall Council is both the 'Proposer' and the 'Decision Maker.'

The opening and closing maintained schools guidance states, on page 25, that there are two ways to amalgamate 2 (or more) existing maintained schools.

#### These are as follows:

**1)** The Local Authority and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish proposals to close two, or more, schools and the Local Authority (or a proposer other than the Local Authority depending on category) can publish a proposal to open a new school. Where this is a presumption school, this will be

subject to publication of a section 6A notice (see part 2 of this guidance). This will result in a new school number being issued.

**2)** The Local Authority and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close one school (or more) and enlarge/change the age range/transfer site of an existing school (following the statutory prescribed alterations process as necessary), to accommodate the displaced pupils. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed. This is sometimes referred to as a 'merger.'

For avoidance of doubt, the Local Authority are proposing a merger of TNIS and Carbeile Junior School and are therefore acting in accordance with route 2 above.

### Reason for Closure

During the Pre-Publication Consultation, Cornwall Council shared its concerns around the sufficiency, suitability and sustainability of education provision within Torpoint and its immediate locality.

Globally, there has been a decline in birth rate which is now directly affecting the number of children attending (TNIS) and Carbeile Junior School. This is having an impact currently and, according to population forecasts, will likely continue to do so in the years to come.

TNIS and Carbeile Junior School have a combined capacity for 850 primary-aged children. However, this time last year there were approximately 500 primary-aged children living within Torpoint, meaning those two schools are already operating well below capacity, even if every child from the local area attended one or the other of those schools.

By September 2027, this number is expected to decline further to around 400 primary-aged children living within Torpoint town. Latest projections also show that TNIS is very likely to have fewer than 40 Reception aged children joining the school in each of the 2027-2028, 2028-29 and 2029-30 academic years; by 2029/30, the combined Reception-Year 6 number on roll across the two schools in Torpoint is expected to fall below 350.

In the past, both schools would have admitted cohorts of between 60–80 children in a single year group. Current projections therefore represent a significant decline in the number on roll.

With these population forecasts in mind; TNIS will likely have only five out of the 13 classrooms in the school being used in the 2027-2028 academic year. Similarly, Carbeile Junior School, is likely to be using just nine out of its 16 classes in the same period.

Because school funding is closely linked to pupil numbers, a reduction of this size has a major impact on the budgets of both schools. A reduction of one child equates to roughly £4,000 from the core budget (without taking into account

any additional funding which might be child-linked).

While the number of children, and consequently budget, decreases, the essential running costs of the school, such as heating, lighting, and maintaining the building, remain much the same.

Additionally, a decline in pupil numbers, and a subsequent reduction in funding, presents difficulties for a school in appointing staff and delivering the full range of curriculum opportunities to pupils. For example, reduced funding results in fewer teachers and teaching assistants and less flexibility around group sizes.

Low pupil numbers can also impact on leadership capacity and the workload of staff. This means both schools need to consider how best to use their resources, so that they can continue offering the same high-quality education that the children of the Torpoint community deserve.

## **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

As of Spring 2026, TNIS had 168 children on roll across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and a further 37 children aged 3 and 4 in nursery.

Carbeile Junior School (as of Spring 2026) had 268 children on roll across Years 3 to 6, giving a combined Reception to Year 6 pupil count of 436 on roll across the two schools.

With a capacity for 475 pupils, Carbeile Junior School already has enough physical capacity to accommodate all Reception to Year 6 pupils from the two schools on one site.

The two largest cohorts at Carbeile (Years 5 and 6) are currently 80 and 76 pupils respectively; by September 2027, when both cohorts will have moved to secondary school, the total number of Reception to Year 6 pupils across Carbeile Junior School and TNIS are projected to be 372.

Parents/carers currently apply for their children to start at TNIS in Reception and must then apply for them to transfer to Carbeile Junior School in Year 3. The amalgamated school would have a single point of entry and therefore applications would only be required to start in Reception for all-through education, Reception to Year 6.

## **Displaced Pupils**

Cornwall Council has identified that, subject to some physical alterations required to enlarge the school site; provide an on-site nursery and Key stage 1 provision as well as officially extending the age range to 3-11, there is sufficient capacity within Carbeile Junior School to accommodate those pupils who will be displaced following the closure of TNIS.

## Impact on the Community

Cornwall Council understands the impact that the closure of TNIS might have on its local community, much of which has been captured through the survey responses and feedback from stakeholder meetings.

Feedback indicates that a large number of stakeholders understand the factors that currently influence the sufficient, suitable and sustainable education provision within Torpoint and its immediate locality and can see the advantages of putting proposals forward that address this.

However, concerns have been broadly centered around (but not exclusive to): loss of identity; maintaining the same high quality of education currently delivered in the existing schools; meeting the needs of a broader age range of children on, potentially, a single school site; ensuring staff retention and wellbeing; transport, parking, and infrastructure implications; and, preservation of community assets including the current TNIS site and green spaces/sports pitches.

### **To mitigate any adverse impacts the local authority has and continues to:**

- engaged positively and proactively with a range of stakeholders throughout the process including holding in-person meetings
- acknowledged key concerns that have arisen out of the pre-publication consultation and sought to address these wherever possible.

## Early Years provision in Torpoint

Cornwall Council recognises that the existing Early Years provision at TNIS was, in 2025, recognised by OFSTED as Outstanding. The proposed merger of Torpoint Nursery and Infant School with Carbeile Junior School will ensure that this exceptional nursery provision will be able to continue at the Carbeile Junior School site following the merger, ensuring local parents still have access to this Outstanding local nursery provision.

It is anticipated that the early years capacity following the merger will be smaller (30 places) compared to the existing early years capacity at TNIS (up to 52 places). However, given the declining local population of 0-3 year olds in the last 15 years and projections not anticipating any significant increase in local 0-3 year old populations in the short or medium term, overall demand for early years provision in Torpoint is expected to continue to fall over the next few years before levelling off, leading to further reduction in pressure on early years provision at TNIS.

It should be noted that there are also currently four other early years group providers within one mile of the TNIS site (and within the Torpoint town boundary), with two having been judged as 'Good' by OFSTED in recent inspections (the other settings have not yet been inspected by OFSTED). There are a further three childminder settings in the Torpoint area. These settings,

along with the reduced 25-30 early years places following the merger are expected to more than meet early years demand in Torpoint in both the short and medium term.

## **Travel**

Carbeile Junior School is the closest primary school to TNIS at 0.4 miles away. When compared to the distance to the next nearest schools, Anthony CofE Primary School and Millbrook CofE Primary School at 3 miles and 4.7 miles respectively, it provides the most appropriate central location for a merger of the two schools.

The merger project would look to improve drop-off and pick up arrangements, both at the existing entrance to Carbeile Junior School and by providing a new drop off point at the Nursery and Infants side of the school.

As the project progresses, Cornwall Council would also work with specialists to look at improving sustainable travel opportunities for pupils, as well as other options to reduce travel by car to the site.

If you would like this information  
in another format please contact:

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