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Home / Together for Families / Future of Sixth Form Provision - Torpoint Community College

Future of Sixth Form Provision - Torpoint Community College



The Governing Body of Torpoint Community College is seeking your ideas, feedback and views on proposals it is putting forward to change the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11-16, through the phased closure of the sixth form.

The publication of these statutory proposals and following consultation period, forms part of a wider, formal statutory process, which is outlined in detail below.

Stage 1:	Full Proposals Published	Monday 29 June 2026
Publication		
Stage 2:	Formal Representation (Consultation) Period	Monday 29 June 2026 to, Friday 24 July 2026
Representation		
Stage 3:		No later than
Decision		Monday 24 September
Stage 4:	Implementation of Changes (if approved)	September 2027
Implementation		

It is important to emphasise that no final decision has been made at this stage. This consultation provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to share their views before any determination is reached.

Why is this being considered?

Over recent years, the College has experienced a sustained decline in the number of students choosing to continue into the sixth form. Alongside this, it has carefully reviewed:

- student and parent voice
- curriculum offer and breadth
- student experience
- financial sustainability
- availability of alternative provision locally

This review has indicated that:

- student demand is currently very low
- the curriculum it can offer is limited by small cohort sizes
- and the long-term sustainability of provision is increasingly uncertain

Throughout this process, the College's focus has been on ensuring that all students are able to access a high-quality and appropriate post-16 experience.

What is being proposed?

The consultation relates to a proposal to:

- discontinue post-16 provision at the College, and
- formally change the age range from 11-18 to 11-16 from **September 2027**

Full details of the proposal can be found in the "**Full Statutory Proposals Document**" to the right along with an **FAQ's** document.

What Happens Next?

The four-week period between today, **Monday, 29 June and Friday 24 July** is known as the 'Representation Period'.

During this time, The Governing Body of Torpoint Community College is seeking to consult with stakeholders (including but not restricted to, parents and carers, students, staff, local schools and providers and the Local Authority) around the full proposals it has put forward.

During the Representation Period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal, to be taken into account by the Decision Maker (which in this case is Cornwall Council). Representations will also be forwarded to the Proposer to ensure that they are aware of local opinion.

There are two ways to enable your voice to be heard:

- **Online survey** - you are invited to complete the survey below to provide your feedback, comments, and questions in relation to the full statutory proposal.
- **Stakeholder Meeting** - 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.

The meeting will be led by members of the College's senior leadership team and its Governing Body.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 July at 16:00pm at the college.

The Governing Body of Torpoint Community College commits to considering ALL the views submitted during the representation period, including all support for, objections to, and comments on the proposal.

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 before the statutory deadline of **Monday 24 September 2026**.

SURVEY

Future of Sixth Form Provision - Torpoint Community College

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.

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](#)

Take Survey



Page last updated: 30 Jun 2026, 09:23 AM

Documents

Full Proposal - Torpoint Community College.pdf (262 KB) (pdf)

FAQs - Torpoint Community College.pdf (209 KB) (pdf)



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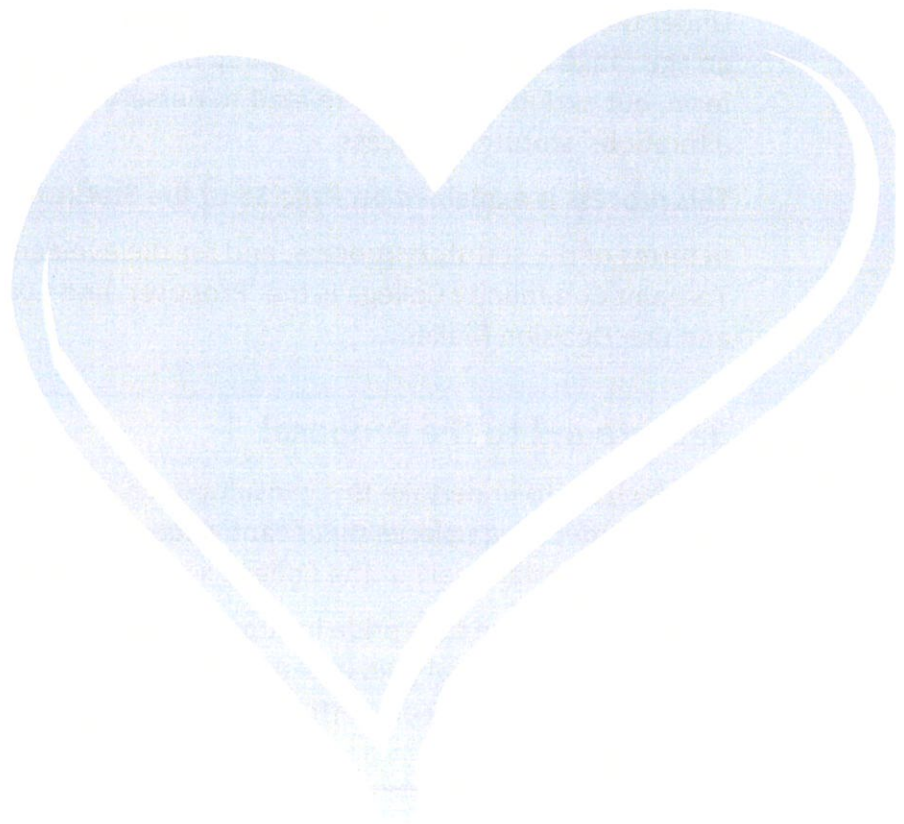


Torpoint Community College Full Statutory Proposal

Proposal to change the age range of the School from 11-18 to 11-16
through the phased closure of the Sixth Form (a prescribed alteration)

Summary of Proposal and Variation to Admission Arrangements.

Date: 29/06/2026



The Governing Body of Torpoint Community College (an 11-18 foundation school at Trevol Road, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2NH), is consulting on a proposal to change the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11-16 through the phased closure of the sixth form.

The proposal being consulted upon is as follows:

- Students currently in Year 12 will remain at Torpoint Community College to complete their courses
- No further Year 12 admissions will take place from September 2027 (subject to final decision)
- The sixth form would formally close on 31 August 2027

Statutory Guidance and Legal Frameworks

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

- The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (“the Regulations”)
- The Making Significant Changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools statutory guidance for proposers and decisions makers (DfE, 2025) (“The Statutory Guidance”)

Under the regulations, governing bodies of foundation and voluntary schools can propose an age range change of one year group or more (including adding or removing a sixth form, but excluding changes related to nursery provision) by following the prescribed alterations' statutory process.

This process is explained on Page 35 of the Statutory Guidance.

In terms of the statutory process, and for the avoidance of doubt, the governing body of Torpoint Community College is the ‘Proposer’ and Cornwall Council is both a ‘Consultee’ and the ‘Decision Maker’.

Background to the Proposal

The decision to undertake this consultation has not been taken lightly. Torpoint Community College places significant value on its sixth form provision, which has long been an important part of the College’s identity and community.

Staff at the College take pride in supporting students through to age 18, providing both academic and pastoral guidance as they transition into adulthood. Over many years, the College has remained committed to sustaining post-16 provision, even during periods of low recruitment.

However, in response to sustained low student numbers and concerns regarding the long-term viability and quality of provision, the College took the decision to pause Year 12 admissions for the academic year 2026–27.

A comprehensive internal review was then undertaken to assess whether sixth form provision could be viably re-established for the current Year 10 cohort (September 2027 entry).

Rationale for the Proposal

The proposal has been informed by a detailed review of multiple sources of evidence, summarised as follows:

A) Student Demand

Student destination data demonstrates that:

- only a small minority of students indicate a clear intention to remain at the College post-16
- the majority of students have well-defined alternative pathways, including further education colleges, apprenticeships and other sixth forms (including local grammar schools)

Student voice consistently highlights:

- a desire for a “fresh start” post-16
- preference for larger providers
- demand for a broader subject offer and enrichment opportunities

B) Curriculum Offer

Due to low numbers, the College is unable to deliver a broad and balanced post-16 curriculum.

- the offer would be restricted to a narrow range of traditional A Levels
- students have expressed interest in a wider range of subjects, including those not currently offered
- this creates a significant mismatch between student demand and what the College can provide

C) Student Experience

Very small cohort sizes would impact the quality of provision:

- projected class sizes of 2–3 students
- limited opportunities for discussion and peer learning

- reduced enrichment and wider experiences compared to larger providers

D) Financial Viability

The review identified significant financial challenges:

- the sixth form would require a substantial annual subsidy from the main school budget based on the low projected numbers
- projected student numbers fall significantly below the minimum threshold of approximately 50 required for viability

Continuing provision under these conditions would place pressure on resources across the wider school.

E) Local and National Context

The post-16 landscape is changing:

- increased competition from larger providers offering broader academic and vocational programmes
- growth in apprenticeships and technical pathways
- demographic projections indicating falling student numbers locally

A number of comparable schools have already taken steps to close or restructure their sixth forms.

Consideration of Alternatives

A range of alternative options has been explored, including:

- expanding vocational provision
- collaboration with other schools
- online delivery models
- continued pause in recruitment

Each of these options presents significant limitations, including logistical challenges, lack of student demand, or inability to provide a high-quality and sustainable offer.

Impact on Students

The College recognises that this proposal may be disappointing for some students and families. **However:**

- current sixth form students will complete their studies without disruption
- no students will be required to transfer mid-course

For future cohorts:

- there is sufficient high-quality post-16 provision available locally
- students already routinely access providers such as City College Plymouth, Callywith College and Duchy College, as well as Sixth Form provision within local grammar schools

The College will continue to provide:

- one-to-one careers guidance
- application support
- transition support

Impact on Staff

The potential closure of the sixth form may impact staffing and the wider College community.

The College recognises:

- the professional value of post-16 teaching
- the potential impact on staff morale
- concerns regarding job security

Any future staffing decisions will be considered as part of the College's overall staffing structure and in the context of falling rolls. The College will work closely with trade unions and staff to manage this process fairly and transparently.

Equality Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

This has considered the potential impact on:

- SEND students
- disadvantaged students
- rural and coastal access

The assessment concluded that:

- no group is disproportionately disadvantaged
- access to alternative provision is supported by established transport links
- appropriate mitigation strategies are in place

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

**Cornwall Council, County Hall
Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY**

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk

Telephone: **0300 1234 100**

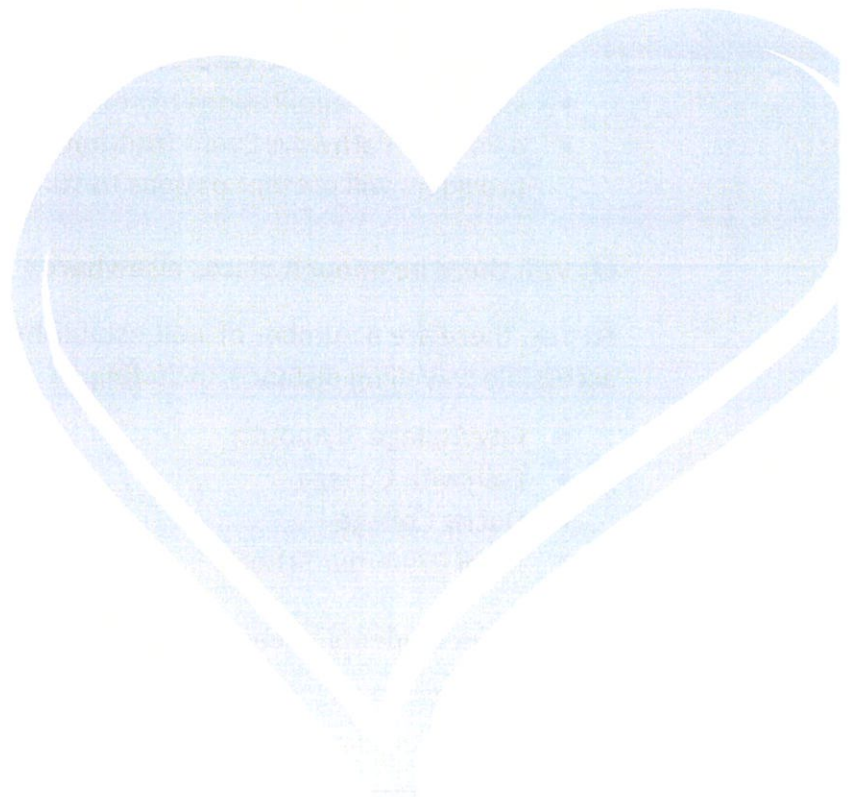
www.cornwall.gov.uk



FAQ's

Torpoint Community College

Date: 2026



Q: Is the sixth form definitely closing?

A: No, this is a consultation on proposals. No final decision has been made.

Q: Why is this being proposed?

A: Because of:

- low student demand
- limited curriculum offer
- financial sustainability concerns

Q: What does this mean for current students?

A:

- all current sixth form students will complete their courses without disruption
- no student will be required to move during their programme of study
- current support (including careers guidance) will continue

Q: What support is in place for future students?

A: The College is committed to ensuring all students are fully supported in their next steps. **This includes:**

- ongoing one-to-one careers guidance
- support with applications to colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships
- a Post-16 Pathways Event (Autumn Term 2026–27), where a range of providers will present options to students and families

Q: Will there be enough places elsewhere?

A: Yes, there are a number of well-established post-16 providers within accessible travelling distance, **including:**

- City College Plymouth
- Callywith College
- Duchy College
- Local Grammar Schools

Many of our students already choose to attend these providers.

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