

**Proposal to Federate
Carbeile Junior School,
Furlanesend Community
Primary School
&
Torpoint Nursery and Infant School
into the
Rame Federation**



The Consultation Period runs from

Monday 21 September 2026

to

Monday 2 November 2026

The Proposal

At a time where school budgets are getting increasingly tighter and where only 12% of Cornish schools are currently maintained by the local authority, Torpoint Nursery and Infant School (TNIS) approached Carbeile Junior School and Furlanesend School, in their capacity as a federation, to propose a new federation.

The proposal to federate in January 2027 is a big step in the process of Carbeile Junior School and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School merging in September 2027. With a significant drop in birth rates and subsequent school rolls, as outlined in previous communications, there are some financial advantages to merging, whilst not in any way compromising the quality of education that the children in Torpoint receive. The formation of this federation will ensure that any staffing changes associated with the merger are dealt with in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner. A single governing board will be appointed to oversee the process, ensuring that all staff across the schools are treated equally. Additionally, the federation will create opportunities for staff to share their expertise across all three schools, enriching children's learning experiences and strengthening the educational opportunities available to children throughout the federation.

We feel that it is essential that all three schools maintain their individual character, status and ethos so that the schools can continue to best serve the community within which they are situated. Our schools will support each other to share resources and improve and achieve the best possible outcomes for the children. This proposal formalises that relationship between the schools and improves capacity for both schools to meet the challenges of the future.

The federation will look at the best possible combinations of staffing in the interest of the children in all schools but also for budget purposes. An Executive Head will oversee a Headteacher at TNIS and two Heads of School, one each at Carbeile and Furlanesend. This will ensure that each school maintains its own individual identity and that the schools work well together.

Having given careful consideration to the opportunities that this model provides, the senior leadership teams and governors of the three schools are fully supportive of the proposal to federate. We need your feedback to ensure our wider community is fully engaged with the process and has the opportunity to consider the benefits of a more formal collaboration. This is a proposal to federate at a time that is appropriate for the eventual process of amalgamation of Carbeile and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School, whilst ensuring all processes around staffing are fair and equitable.

We are therefore seeking the views of parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders on the proposal to establish a federation between the three schools from the 1 January 2027.

The School Governors wish to hear your views on this proposal – details of how you can make your representations are in the survey.

What is a Hard Federation?

A Hard Federation is defined in law as two or more maintained schools (including nursery schools) operating under the governance of a single governing body. Each federated school is treated as an individual school, meaning it:

- keeps its existing DfE category and does not gain, lose, or change its religious character through being part of a Federation
- continues to have its admissions determined by the appropriate admission authority
- will receive individual budgets, noting that the local authority can allocate this as a single budget share to the federated governing body. Additionally, the federated governing body, upon receiving the delegated budget for all the schools in the federation, can allocate the budget to each individual school or pool all or part of the budget with the agreement of governors
- is inspected individually by OFSTED
- can still be subject to a Direct Academy Order (DAO)

Federation is a shared governance structure which provides a basis for extensive school-to-school partnership.

The Advantages of a Federation

There are lots of reasons why schools may want to work together within a federation. Our Governing Bodies feel that there will be the following particular benefits to federation:

- a fair and equitable process around staffing across schools within the federation, in preparation for an eventual amalgamation between Carbeile and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School
- strong collaboration with shared accountability leading to better progress and attainment for children, helping us to meet rising expectations
- leaders and teachers sharing thinking and planning to spread expertise and tackle challenges together
- governors coming together to share strategic thinking, to combine skills and support each other in challenging times
- working together to find different solutions to recruitment challenges, retaining staff by providing new opportunities, and planning succession more effectively
- sharing professional development led by staff from all schools
- using strategies to reduce significant deficits within the budgets through economies of scale and collective purchasing
- a curriculum that works across our schools enabling children to smoothly transition to the next stage of their learning and enabling specialist teachers to work together across all schools
- providing richer curricular and extra-curricular activities together, as well as care, guidance and support for children

The Vision for the Federation

Staff, governors and parents have the moral courage and integrity to do the right thing for our children; to allow everyone to be what they are meant to be; to inspire everyone to reach their potential; to be happy, safe and hardworking.

Constitution of the new Governing Body

Our proposed Governing Body will include governors from the existing governing boards from the current Rame Federation and from Torpoint Nursery and Infant School.

- 1 Executive Head
- 1 Headteacher (TNIS) and 2 Heads of School (Carbeile and Furlanesend).

- 1 Staff Governor (from any of the three schools)
- 2 Parent Governors (from any of the three schools)
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 7 Co-opted Governors (can include parents from all schools)

In constituting the new Governing Body we will endeavour to ensure that an equal representation from each school, including parent representation, is secured.

Statutory Regulations

The following statutory regulations will be implemented when constituting the governing body:

- The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 allows for at least 2 parent governors but no allowance to stipulate from which school
- The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 only allows for 1 staff governor and no allowance to stipulate from which school
- The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012, introduced the category of co-opted governors, the total number of co-opted governors who are eligible to be elected as staff governors must not exceed one third of the total membership of the governing body

Staffing Arrangements

- There will be a shared executive headteacher, a headteacher at TNIS and a Head of School at Carbeile and Furlanesend
- Shared staff expertise to benefit all three schools
- Future staffing changes will be agreed by the wider Federation Governing Body
- Contracts of employment will not materially change; however staff from the three schools will receive a statement of change letter to confirm the change from the current school or federated governing body to the Rame Federation governing body
- Future employment, contracts, line management and other employment related matters, e.g. pay, will be formally managed by the employing school with oversight from the Rame Federation governing body

Admissions Authority

The admissions authority for the three schools remains with Cornwall Local Authority.

The governing bodies proposing to federate must publish the proposals by sending them to:

- the Secretary of State
- the relevant local authorities
- the Executive Headteacher, headteacher and heads of school of each school
- all staff paid to work at any of the schools
- every person known to them to be a parent/carer of a registered pupil at any of the schools
- such other persons as the governing bodies consider appropriate

The proposal will be circulated via the Cornwall Council 'Let's Talk' link to Torpoint Community College, all Torpoint Nurseries, Millbrook Pre-school, Kingfishers, St. Barnabus

MAT, Torpoint Town Council, Cornerhouse, local churches, nurseries, library, Maker with Rame and Antony and Millbrook Parish Councils, Anna Gelderd MP, Cllr Rob Parsonage and Cllr Kate Ewert.

Timeline

July 2026

Discussions between the governing boards of Carbeile/Fourlanesend and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School regarding the advantages of forming a new federation ready for the merger of Carbeile and TNIS in September 2027.

August 2026

Structure of the new federation designed.

Committee structure, leadership model and proposed federation date established.

2 September 2026 (Carbeile and Fourlanesend)

8 September 2026 (Torpoint Nursery and Infant School)

The Governors of Carbeile/Fourlanesend and TNIS unanimously voted in favour of a Hard Federation of the three schools.

Monday 21 September 2026

Federation proposal published and sent to parents, staff, trade unions, Cornwall Council, Secretary of State.

Monday 21 September 2026

Consultation period starts. Details published on Cornwall Council's Let's Talk page. Staff from all schools informed.

Tuesday 6 October 2026

3.00pm Parent meeting at Fourlanesend School.

Wednesday 7 October 2026

4.00pm Parent meeting at TNIS.

Thursday 8 October 2026

4.30pm Parent meeting at Carbeile School.

Monday 2 November 2026

Consultation period ends.

Wednesday 18 November

The existing governing board from the current Rame Federation and from Torpoint Nursery and Infant School will meet separately and then together to analyse the feedback from the Cornwall Council Let's Talk forum and make a final decision on the formation of the federation.

Monday 30 November

Communicate decision to all stakeholders.

Friday 1 January 2027

Federation formally begins

