

Coverack School - Outcome of Consultation:

The Board met yesterday afternoon as planned to consider the feedback on the consultation.

They discussed the proposal from the PTFA and, whilst the amazing and generous offer of voluntary funding to sustain the school appeared to be a possible solution, accepting that offer would present difficulties over sustaining a consistent approach to all schools, difficulties over following public funding guidance and would not be consistent with our co-operative values.

However, having listened to, and taken into account the views of the parents and having considered all aspects of the consultation responses, the Board have agreed to use core funding to sustain the school with a 1.8 teacher commitment for period of at least two years even though this presents some difficult challenges. In making that commitment the aim is to give parents some of the reassurance they seek over the immediate future education of their children. At all times the children's best interests and their progress are the most important priority for the Trustees.

During the coming two-year period, the Trust will work with a community working party to ensure that activities to enhance the school offer can be put in place. The Board would welcome funding from the PTFA and the village community for other additional activities such as the provision of community wrap around care or enrichment activities to enhance the village school offer to parents living in the village but not to provide core provision as explained above.

The 1.8 model will be kept under review at regular intervals to monitor impact on educational standards and the additional activities to monitor the impact on the growth of numbers. Should educational standards be impacted by the model or sufficient numbers fail to materialise causing further deterioration to the budget, stakeholders will have early warning of the situation prior to any further period of consultation.

In addition, the Trust will work with the village, the wider area, Cornwall Council and the local MP to find a longer term solution for all children on the Lizard.

The Board would like to thank everyone for their participation in the consultation period and for their creative and generous responses.