



The Collaborative of Callington Schools

Background

Over recent years Callington Community College and the eleven primary schools in this area of South-East Cornwall have worked closely together to develop a common vision of education that prepares all 3 to 19 year olds for the world today and the future. In servicing a disparate community spread over 300 square miles, the benefits of working closely together have long been recognised resulting in all the schools becoming part of The Learning Co-operative Network Learning Community for the past two years. The schools involved in this partnership are:

1. Calstock Primary
2. Callington Community College
3. Callington Primary
4. Delaware Primary
5. Gunnislake Primary
6. Harrowbarrow Primary
7. Pensilva Primary
8. Quethiock Primary
9. St Dominick Primary
10. St Mellion Primary
11. Stoke Climsland Primary
12. Upton Cross Primary

Over the last twelve months Headteachers and Governors from Callington Community College, Delaware Primary and Harrowbarrow Primary Schools have been exploring the potential to develop a single unified organisation with a common ethos, values and a single vision that meets all the educational needs of the Callington Community. Central to this vision is the provision of a seamless, high quality educational and support structure for young people from the age of 3 to 19 through the delivery of a fully integrated Family and Child Service in line with the aims of “Every Child Matters”.

Emerging from the work of this group is the intention to form a Collaborative of Callington Schools commencing in September 2005. The purpose of the Collaborative will be to:

1. Provide a more coherent and appropriate educational provision across all age groups.
2. Develop a real sense of community education for pupils, parents, school staff and other adults.
3. Utilise school buildings and facilities in rural areas to provide education for the whole community.
4. Provide more efficient and economically effective education.
5. Raise educational standards by improving provision, staff development, parental education and the quality of teaching and learning.

6. Rationalise the management of schools in a rural area.
7. Move schooling into the 21st Century

Although the Collaborative will commence with Callington Community College, Delaware Primary and Harrowbarrow Primary Schools, all the other schools will be invited to join the Collaborative in the near future to help in the development of a Learning Community that will provide a model of excellence for others to follow in similar circumstances throughout the country.

Terms of Reference – The Joint Strategic Committee of the Callington Collaborative (Draft)

(Note: The following is intended to offer a basic framework for the operation of the Joint Strategic Committee as it establishes itself between September 2005 – March 2006. During this period these Terms of Reference will be constantly evaluated and any changes/improvements incorporated into a substantive document to be produced by April 2006)

Composition

The Headteacher and two additional governors will represent each school in the Collaborative. Members of each school's Senior Management Team will be invited to attend as appropriate but will have no voting rights.

(Note: If the number of schools in the Collaborative increases, the number of governor representatives may have to reduce to keep the Committee to a manageable size)

Quorum

Meetings will be held as scheduled regardless of numbers present. However, any item discussed which has the intention of changing any element of any school's current practice or policy must have at least one representative present from each school within the Collaborative to be a quorum and for such changes to be accepted.

(Note: The Joint Strategic Committee will attempt to identify significant issues in advance and notify members to ensure a quorum is present in such instances)

Authority

It is within the remit of the Joint Strategic Committee to request any individual Governing Body joining the Collaborative to delegate part, or all of its powers to this Committee. However, it is the intention of the Committee at present, to respect and retain the power of individual Governing Bodies and trust that recommendations made by this Committee are endorsed by the Governing Bodies of the schools within the Collaborative. Given that the Joint Strategic Committee will, initially, be focusing on strategic matters that impact upon all the schools in the Collaborative and developing the vision referred to under the preceding "Background" heading, it wants individual Governing Bodies to retain the power to address local matters/issues as necessary.

(Note: If operating in this manner proves inefficient a decision will have to be considered to change this protocol in March 2006)

Accepting the aforementioned intention, the Committee reserves the right to exercise Discretionary Power in the instance of a matter of great importance arising which requires immediate action being taken without there being time to refer to individual Governing Bodies to gain their approval. Such power will only be exercised if the Committee is quorum and a majority of governors approve the action.

Meeting Structure and Operation

Meetings will be held every month.

They will be held in each of the schools in the Collaborative on a rotating termly basis (unless otherwise stated/directed by the Committee for specific reasons).

A chair and vice chair will be elected at the September meeting.

All meetings will be clerked by the host school's existing clerk to the Governing Body.

Outcomes/Minutes of all meetings will be circulated to all the schools/governors and SMT within the Collaborative before the next meeting.

The agenda for each meeting and its location, time will be calendered for the year.

At present, all significant strategic decisions agreed by the Committee will be put as "proposals" to individual Governing Bodies of schools within the Collaborative for their endorsement. (Note: Exception for the exercise of Discretionary Power under the heading entitled "Authority")

Agenda

All items placed on the agenda of any meeting will, wherever possible, be agreed in advance or be notified 48 hours prior to a meeting. there will not be AOB.

Minutes of all meetings will be approved as a true record at the next meeting and any matters arising addressed.

Meetings will focus on:

- 1 Leadership and Management
- 2 Teaching and Learning
- 3 Services
- 4 Extended Schools/Community Development
- 5 Finance

Any unplanned items to be raised should be reported to the Clerk 48 hours prior to the meeting or in an emergency by agreement with the chair.