



## **TRUST BOARD ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Admissions Committee of the Trust Board of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6pm.

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<b>Present</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
Mr J Crisp - Chair	Yes	Mr D Buckley, CEO	Yes
Mr L Hallam	Apologies	Ms K Williams, Clerk	Yes
Dr J Traverse	Yes	Mr I Foy Mrs J Eason, CST observer	Yes

### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Declaration of Business or Pecuniary Interest and Academy-related parties - update on any changes since completion of written declaration**

There were no changes.

### **3. Apologies**

Mr Hallam had sent his apologies in advance of the meeting.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31-10-2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 having been circulated in advance, were agreed as an accurate record.

### **5. Matters Arising**

#### **M6. Feedback on Admissions Arrangements 2022 from SMART schools.**

The numbers on roll for each of the schools had been shared with Trustees. A Trustee asked about the decrease in pupil numbers at Saltash. Mr Buckley explained this school has been impacted by competition from Callywith and other providers for sixth form but Year 7 continues to be over subscribed. A Trustee referred to the data and suggested that projected numbers for September intakes would be more useful.

*Update: Mr Buckley advised that staff turnover has been reviewed and there are no issues. There are no special arrangements for staff as this would be unfair.*

### **6. Feedback on Admissions Arrangements 2024 from SMART schools**

a) There have been no changes on the basis of admission arrangements but as part of the review process we need to agree the admission arrangements annually. There has been consideration for special arrangements for staff but this was deemed to be unfair. There is nothing that we can change in terms of the arrangements for excluded pupils.

### **7. Discuss and consider pupil numbers**

a) Considerations for Trustees: Latest trends, current numbers and in year churn in all year groups; pupil projections and the impact of financial planning; numbers of pupils falling into each category and discuss the recruitment of students to the Trust's schools

b) Mr Buckley advised that Dobwalls, Looe and Liskeard are healthy in pupil numbers and maintaining the number on roll. Liskeard and Saltash sixth form numbers are reasonably low due to competition

in the area but are still viable. The number of students in Saltash is below PAN (Published Admission Numbers). The two areas of concern are Trewidland and Landulph as they are open to fluctuation.

- c) **A Trustee asked if reduced numbers are due to demographic data or other factors.** Mr Buckley explained that there is a drop in numbers overall locally. Liskeard continues to be oversubscribed. Dobwalls is serving the Dobwalls community and there is housing being built in the area. Trewidland is an issue due to its locality. The budget is manageable at Trewidland. Saltash is a challenge as it has always taken students from Plymouth but the Plymouth schools have now done well and this is affecting the numbers at the school. There are two large housing developments in Saltash and this should raise the number of students in the school.
- d) **A Trustee asked if the predicted increase of students will impact the school in 2026/27.** Mr Buckley advised that it is hard to determine when children from the new developments will join the school as the ages of the children is unknown and it is expected to be a number of years before Saltash is oversubscribed again.
- e) **A Trustee asked if we are being predominantly impacted by Callywith.** Mr Buckley advised that they are the main competitor and a major concern.
- f) **A Trustee asked if there is a plan for recruiting to our schools.** Mr Buckley advised that marketing of Trewidland is a key focus and this remains on our agenda. We have a drive to ensure that standards continue to improve at Saltash and this will lead to better recruitment. The secondary heads now have parent forums in place to improve communication to build better relationships with families and increase parental support. In terms of sixth form, we are trying to recruit students through a strong offer and making sure that revision and expectations are clear. We have new Heads of Sixth forms at the schools who will raise the profile and increase the advocacy of students so there are active projects in place.
- g) **A Trustee asked if there is a point when the sixth forms become unviable.** Mr Buckley advised we have modelled this and we are currently in a safe position. There are some students who would not attend a sixth form if it were not in the local area. We are not in a situation where they are not viable and we poll students on the offer available and we look to optimise this. If numbers fall to 17 we would have issues but we currently sit at around 30 students although we want to increase this number.

#### 8. Consider and approve the Admissions Arrangements 2026/27

A document has been circulated in advance of the meeting. From this:

- a) Mr Foy advised that there have been very few changes. For the 2026/27 arrangements we have to include a map of the designated area. We have not made any changes to PAN so we have not had to consult on this. If Trustees are content it can be approved.
- b) All Trustees were content to approve the arrangements for 2026/27.

#### 9. Date of next meetings:

Oct 2025.

The meeting closed at 18.34.

<b>Action Summary</b>	

