Admissions Arrangements 2026/27

Approved by:	Board of Directors	**Date:** 27/02/2025
Last reviewed:	February 2025	
Next review due by:	November 2025 for 2027/28 arrangements	

Introduction

The Board of Directors of The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust is the Admission Authority for all member academies. They will operate an admissions policy, which ensures that all applications for admission to the Rainbow academies are dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions and Appeals Codes.

All decisions regarding admission to each academy are the responsibility of The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust. However, it should be noted that Cornwall Council has a statutory duty to coordinate the admissions process for reception and junior school year 3 applications.

Each Academy will participate fully in the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for starting school and applying for a place during the school year. Details of these schemes are available on the Council's website (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the Local Authority. Closing dates and other details about the application process will be stated in those schemes.

Applications for in year admissions should be made directly to the Local Authority and applications for Nursery classes should be made to the Academy on one of our Admission to Nursery forms (St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy, St Ives Infant School, Troon School, Bishop Bronescombe C of E School, Grampound Road C of E School, Grampound with Creed C of E School, Ladock C of E School, Veryan C of E School only). Admission to one of our nurseries can take place at any time between your child's second birthday and the end of the summer term before their fifth birthday (your child's third birthday and the end of the summer term before their fifth birthday for St Ives Infant School). The Academy will allocate a place within its Nursery if the applicant is of the appropriate age and would like to start at point of application and there are spaces available. In the event of oversubscription for nursery places the same criteria would apply as for school places (see table on page 5).

PAN- Main School

Academy	Published Admission Number
Penponds School	15
St Ives Infant School	60
St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy	60
St Meriadoc CE Junior Academy	60
Troon School	25
Bishop Bronescombe C of E School	45
Grampound Road C of E School	20
Grampound with Creed C of E School	12
Ladock C of E School	15
St Michael's C of E School	60
Veryan C of E School	12

Applying for a place

All applications for places in reception, or during the school year, must be made direct to the applicant's home local authority on the appropriate application form. The application form and supporting information will be available on the Local Authority's website.

Please note that parents of children attending an attached pre-school/nursery still need to apply for a place in Reception.

However, if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, you **do not** need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process.

Children with special educational needs

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) you do not need to complete an application form as a school place will be identified through a separate process. Please contact the Statutory SEN Service for more information:
Tel: 01872 324242 Email: statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk

However, if a request has been made for an EHC needs assessment for your child, or your child is currently being assessed to decide whether an EHC Plan is necessary, you will need to make an application using the normal process.

Allocation of places

Parents/carers will be notified of the outcome of their application for a place in reception (place in year 3 for St Meriadoc CE Junior Academy) in line with the timetable outlined by the Local Authority in their admissions scheme.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school will be admitted regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Children in Care who are directed to the school by the Secretary of State will be admitted to the school regardless of the number on roll in the year group.

Places will be allocated up to each academy's PAN. In the event that more applications are received than places available, the oversubscription criteria listed later in this policy will be used to decide on allocations. If the school is not oversubscribed, all applicants will be admitted. In the event of over subscription and a place being refused, parents/carers are given the right of appeal.

Applications for other year groups (in-year applications)

An "in-year" application is an application for a place in years 1 to 6 (with the exception of year 3 for St Meriadoc CE Junior Academy) for the 2026/2027 school year (or part of the year if the application is made after the school year has commenced) and an application for a place in 2026/2027 reception year (or year 3 at St Meriadoc CE Junior Academy) if the application is made after the autumn term 2026 has commenced. Parents are welcome to contact the relevant academy for information regarding available places. Alternatively, parents can contact the Local Authority (Cornwall Council) for information regarding available places at all schools

and academies in Cornwall. Cornwall Council will also, on request, provide parents with a suitable form to complete when applying for a place for their child at a school or academy.

Deferred/Delayed/Part-Time entry

All children are entitled to start school full time in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents may choose deferred or part-time entry to the reception year for their child, bearing in mind that by law children have to be in full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday – when they reach 'compulsory school age'.

Parents of summer-born children may also seek a place for their child outside their normal age group i.e. entry to reception a year later than normal, for example if the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. Parents choosing part-time or deferred entry or wishing to delay entry to the reception year must contact the Head.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Those wishing to request placement outside the normal age group should contact the Head. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and in the best interests of the child concerned.

Guidance can also be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions or on request from the School Admissions Team. Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, they do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

Waiting lists

Nursery

If the applicant is not of the appropriate age or the required admission date is not immediate, the applicant will take a position on a waiting list. This does not mean that the space will be held for the applicant and it is possible that spaces may be filled by another applicant of appropriate age and need. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list.

School

If the school is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be held for the whole of the academic year for all year groups. Children will be automatically added to the waiting list if they are refused a place at a school. Parents no longer need to request to go on a waiting list for schools in Cornwall if they are refused a place. The waiting list will be based on the school's

oversubscription criteria and a child's place on a waiting list is subject to change according to additional information received about applications or children being added to the list – so their place on the list might move up or down**. No priority is given to the length of time that a child has been on the list.** Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and children in care or children that were previously in care will take precedence over those on the waiting list. Children admitted under the Fair Access Protocol will also be given priority over children on the waiting list.

Oversubscription criteria

If, after the admission of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan where the academy is named in the Plan, an academy is oversubscribed, the order of priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order. These oversubscription criteria will also be used, if necessary, to decide on in-year admissions to all year groups (reception to year 6) for the 2026/27 school year:

Rank	Description
1	Children in care, or children that were previously in care but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in care as a result of being adopted.
2	Children attending St Meriadoc Infant Academy (applies to St Meriadoc Junior Academy only)
3	Children with siblings attending the academy at the proposed time of admission and who live within the designated area of the academy. In the case of St Meriadoc Junior Academy, the sibling can be at St Meriadoc Infant Academy. In the case of St Meriadoc Infant Academy, the sibling can be at St Meriadoc Junior Academy. In the case of St Ives Infant School, the sibling can be at St Ives Junior School.
4	Children who live within the designated area of the school, as defined by the Local Authority or whose parents/carers can provide evidence that they will be living in the designated area of the school by the date from which admission is required.
5	Children who live outside the designated area of the school, as defined by the Local Authority, with a sibling who will be attending the school at the time of the intended admission.
6	Children attending the academy's nursery class. Applies to: • St Ives Infant School • St Meriadoc CE Infant Academy • Troon School • Bishop Bronescombe C of E School • Grampound Road C of E School • Grampound with Creed C of E School • Ladock C of E School

	• Veryan C of E School
7	All other children

Appeals

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right of appeal. Appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel arranged by the Local Authority on behalf of the Academy. Further details and a timeline can be found in Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

Applicants can only appeal again for a place at the same academy for the same academic year if The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust has accepted a further application because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent/carer, child or academy (e.g. a change of address into a school's designated area) but has determined that the new application must also be refused.

Notwithstanding the arrangements outlined above, the Secretary of State may direct an academy to admit a named pupil on application from any Local Authority. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the academy in question.

Definitions

Children in care

A 'child in care' may also be referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

A 'child Arrangement Order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society (see Section 23ZZA(8) of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017)).

Siblings

'Siblings' means brothers or sisters. They are defined as children with at least one natural or adoptive parent in common, living at the same or a different address. Children living permanently in the same household at the same address would also be counted as siblings, regardless of their actual relationship to each other. To qualify as a sibling a child must be on the roll of or due to be on the roll of the school in question at the date of admission.

If a child is a sibling of a multiple birth (e.g. twins, triplets, etc.) and has been offered a place at the requested school, every effort will be made to offer places to siblings at the same school, which may mean allocating places above the Published Admission Number (PAN) where this is possible. However, where this is not possible, parents will be invited to decide which of the children should be allocated the available place(s).

Home Address

Each child can have only one registered address for the purposes of determining priority for admission and transport entitlement. The address must be the child's principal permanent residence at the point of application and the address from which they will attend school; or a future address from which the child will attend school, supported by a form of evidence from the list in the Local Authority's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

An admission authority may refuse to accept an address if an applicant still owns or rents an address at which their child previously lived. Is it for the admission authority to determine if the address given on an application is a child's current or future principal permanent residence and the address from which they will attend school; and which address should be used to determine eligibility for a place.

Exceptional circumstances in relation to the provision of a home address will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If there is shared residence of the child or a query is raised regarding the validity of an address, the academy will consider the home address to be with the parent with primary day to day care and control of the child.

Residency of a child may also be clarified through a Child Arrangement Order where it is shown who has care of the child. Evidence may be requested to show where the child resides.

It is expected that parents will submit only one application for each child. Any disputes in relation to the child's home address should be settled before applying, the admission authority will not become involved in any parental disputes. If agreement cannot be obtained before an application is made then parents/carers may need to settle the matter through the courts. Where no agreement is reached or order obtained, the Academy will determine the home address.

For information on disputes between persons with parental responsibility in relation to school preferences please see Cornwall Council's Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the relevant year.

Service families

Applications for children of Service Families will be processed and places allocated based on the proposed address (with supporting evidence) or, if the family are not able to confirm a proposed address and a unit or quartering address is provided, an allocation will be made based on the unit or quartering address. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address or quartering area address will be used to determine allocation of a school place. For the purposes of measuring distances, the main entrance of the unit will be used.

Tie-breakers

If any of the criteria outlined above leave more children with an equal claim than places available, priority will be given to the child who lives nearer to the preferred school.

Final tie-breaker

Should the tie-breakers above still leave children with an equal claim because distances are exactly the same, random allocation will be used to decide on priority. The school will use the Local Authority's Random Allocation Protocol, supervised by an independent person, which is available on request.

Distances

Home to school distances used for tie-breaking will be measured by straight-line measurement as determined by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographical Information System. Measurements will be between the home address (the centre of the main building of the property) and the main gate of the academy (as determined by Cornwall Council).
Distances used to determine nearest school with room (i.e. where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred academy) and for establishing transport entitlements will be measured by the nearest available route as determined by Cornwall Council's nominated Geographic Information System software.

Designated Areas

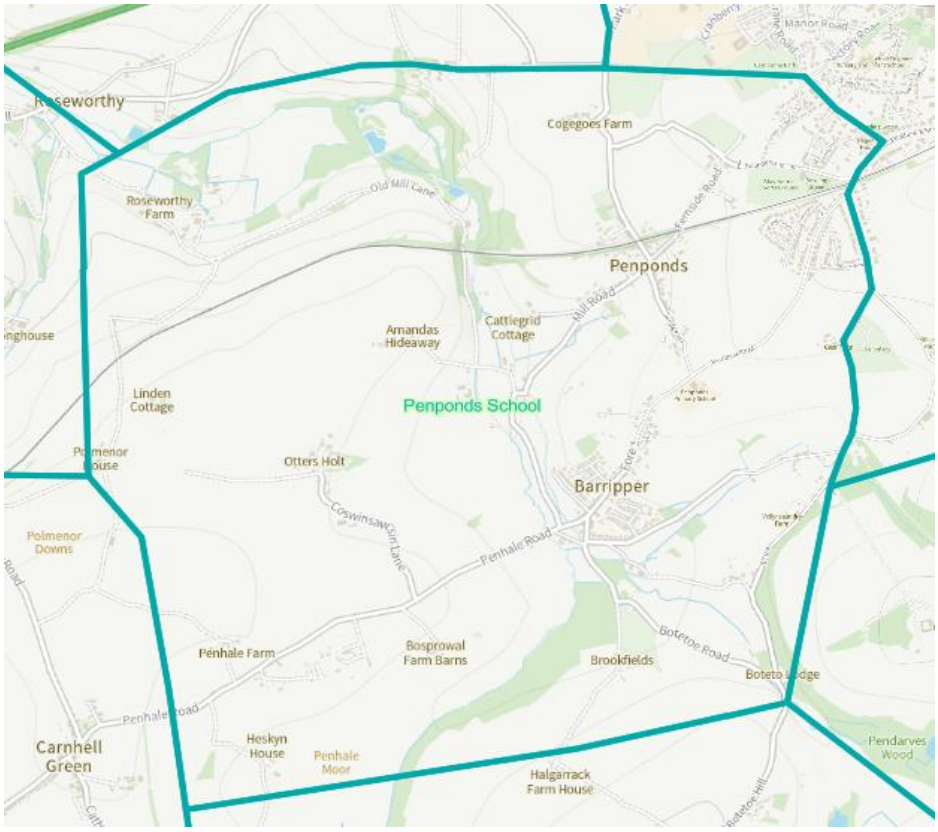
Cornwall Council has divided Cornwall into geographical areas. Each of these areas is served by a specific primary school, or in some cases, groups of schools. These areas are called 'designated areas' (you may also have heard these areas referred to as 'catchment' areas).

The designated area used in The Rainbow Academy Trust's oversubscription criteria will be as defined by Cornwall Council. NB: not all schools prioritise on the basis of designated area or use Cornwall Council's defined area, however, entitlement to home to school transport will still be based on these areas. Your designated school will not always be the one nearest to your home address. Maps are available for all designated areas online at: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
or by calling the School Admissions Team on 0300 1234 101 or emailing: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

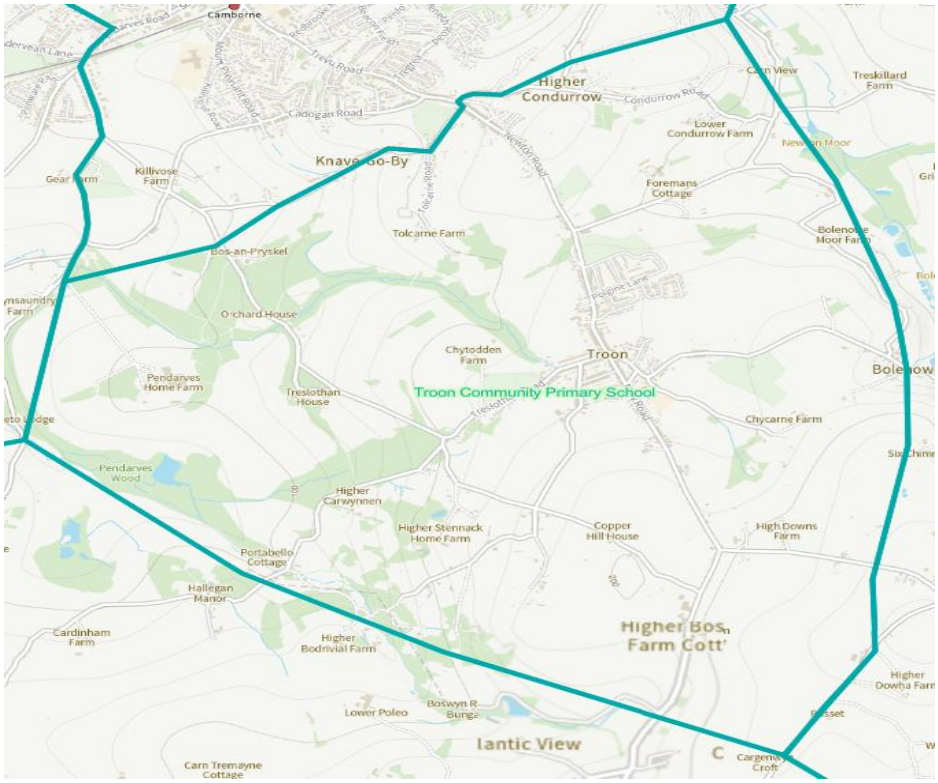
If you are planning to move into the designated area of a school within The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust, your application for a place for your child will not be given the priority accorded to designated area pupils without firm evidence of your new address and moving date, such as a copy of a signed and dated tenancy agreement or confirmation that contracts have been exchanged.

Appendix 1 – Rainbow MAT Designated Areas

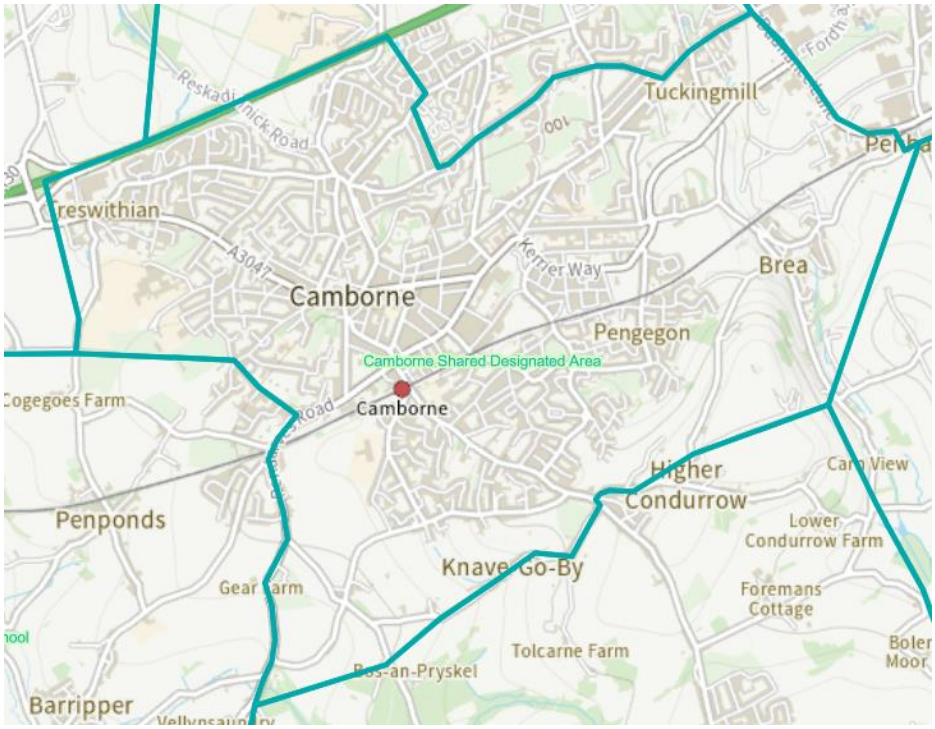
Penponds



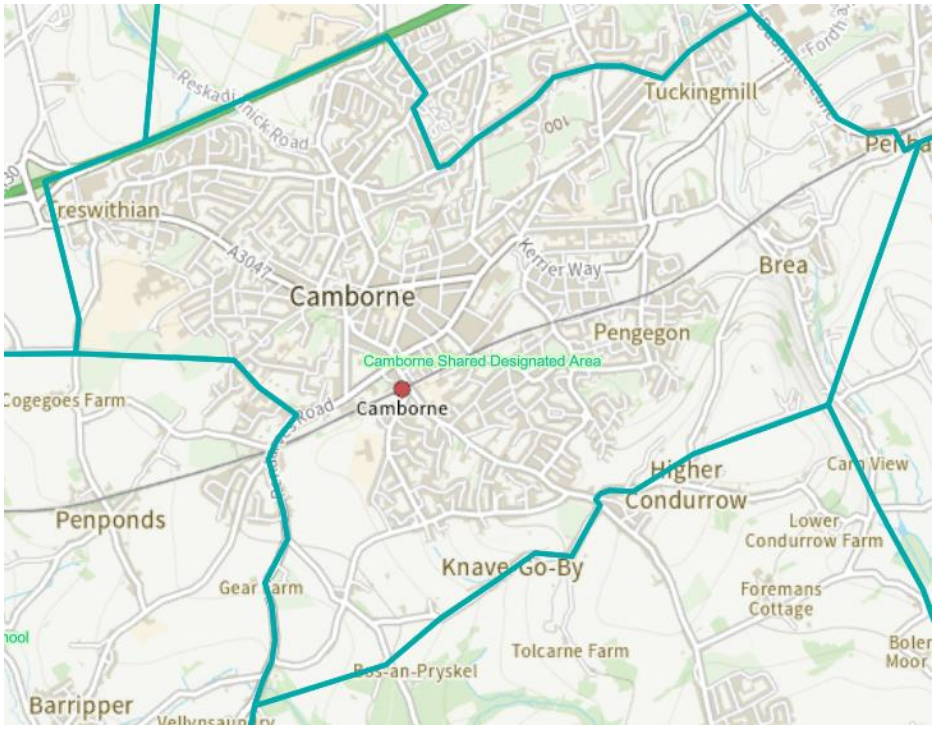
Troon



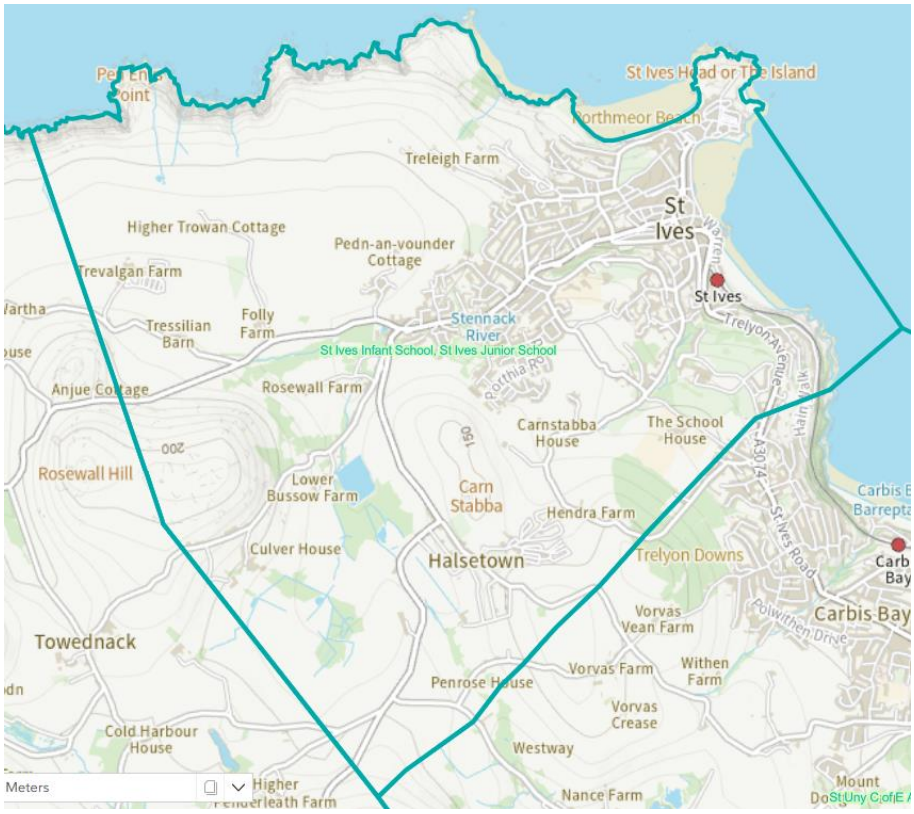
St Meriadoc Infants and Nursery School – Camborne Shared Designated Area



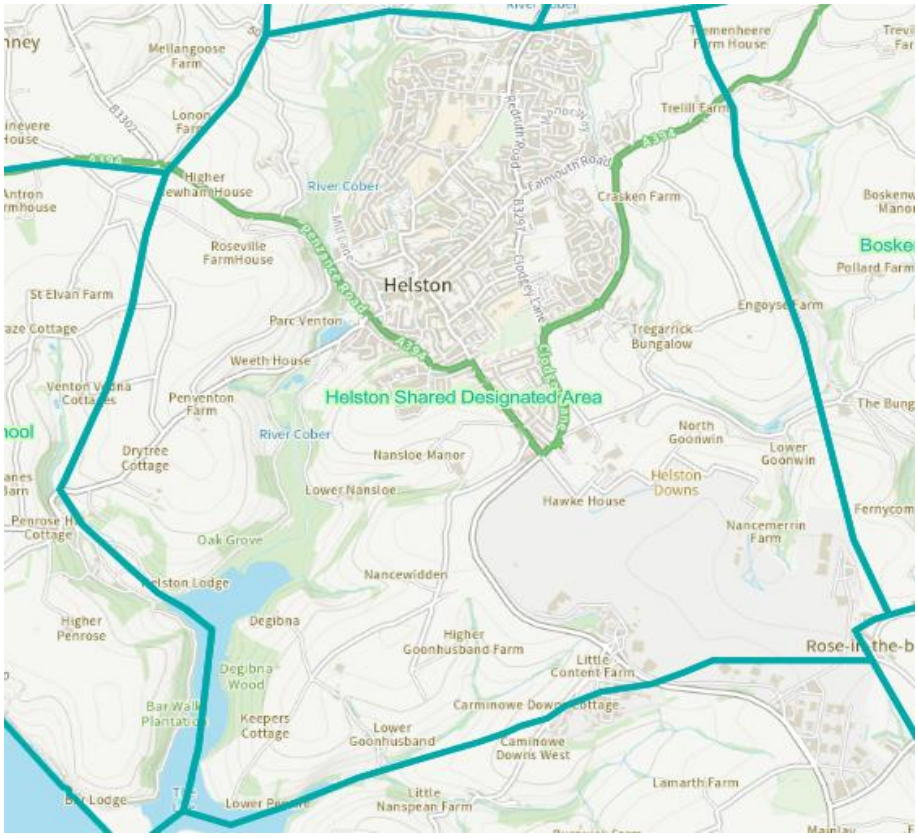
St Meriadoc Infants and Nursery School – Camborne Shared Designated Area



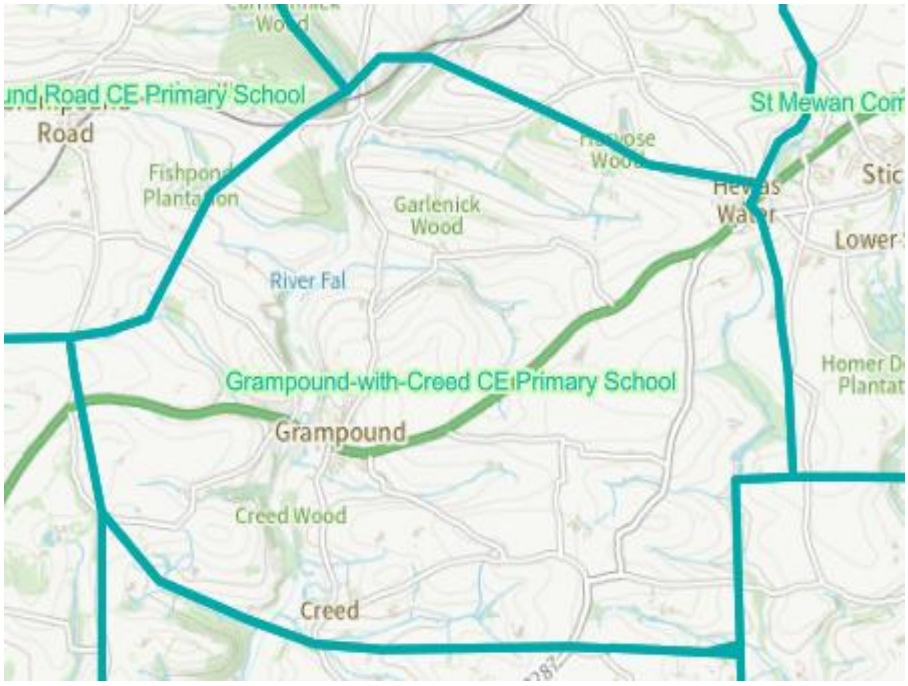
St Ives Infants



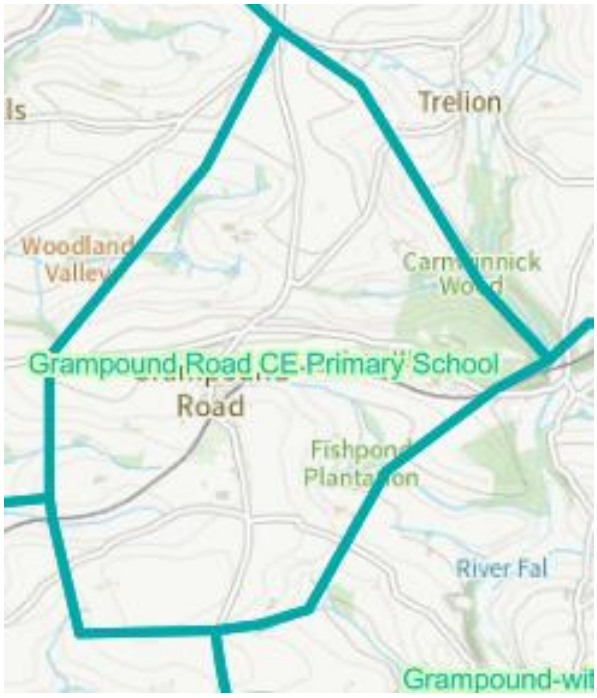
St Michael's C of E – Helston Shared Designated Area



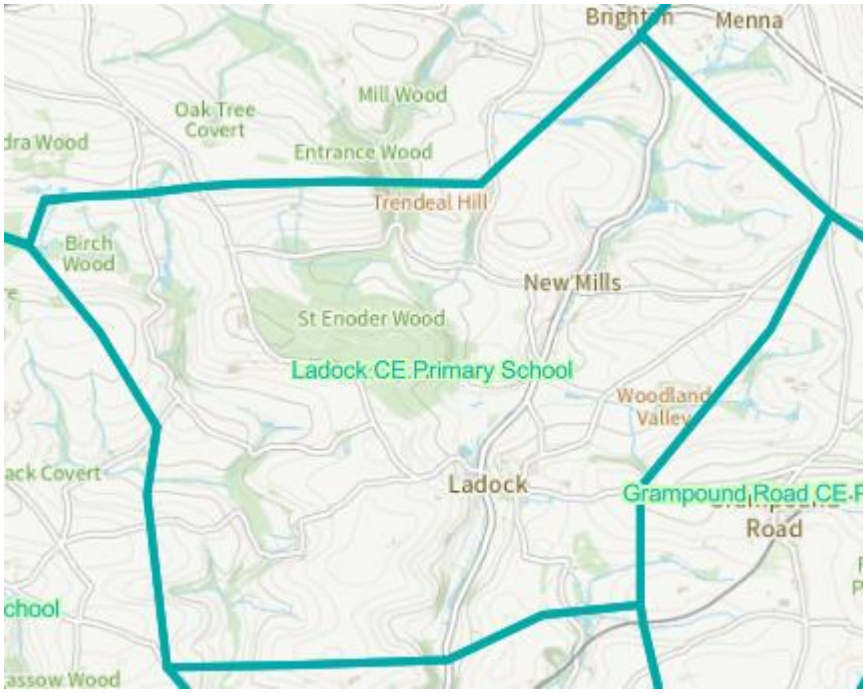
Grampound with Creed C of E



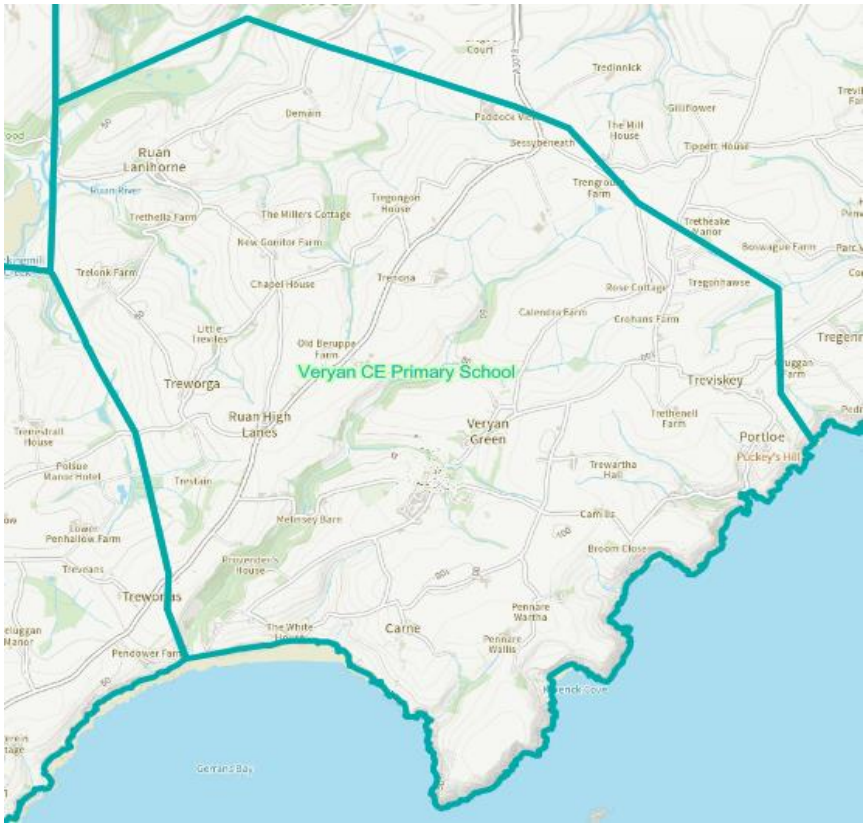
Grampound Road C of E



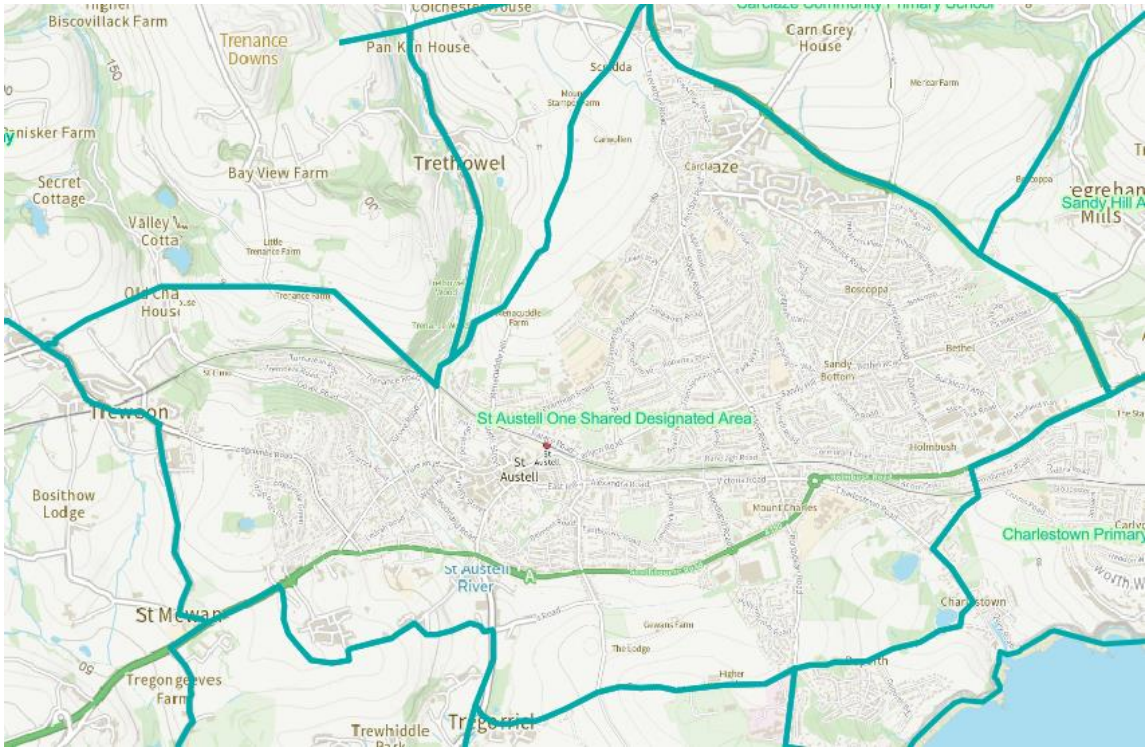
Ladock C of E



Veryan C of E



Bishop Bronescombe C of E St Austell One Shared Designated Area



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