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Dear Parents,

### A Guide to Pool School

I confidently commend Pool School to you and your children. It is a County Comprehensive School providing education for boys and girls between the ages of 11-16 and enjoys an excellent reputation both for standards of care and academic achievement. At present about 150 pupils enter each year giving a total of about 750

A well qualified and professional staff accept the need for a balanced approach, recognizing the equal worth of all children while creating the most effective learning situations for pupils of varied interests and abilities.

Governors and Staff expect pupils to be proud to wear the School Dress 'throughout' their stay with us and with parental cooperation we are rarely disappointed. A smart and distinctive school dress also reflects and develops pupil pride in themselves, their achievements and reputations. We therefore seek your support in providing the School colours of black/white.

Like most parents we feel caring for young people does not mean being 'soft' and merely allowing them to do as they please. We provide many opportunities for self development and self discipline, but act promptly if there is a failure to meet our high expectation of work, behaviour and attitude. There must be clear rewards and recognition of special effort and achievement as well as firm and appropriate 'punishments' for those few who occasionally fail to conform to School standards.

I must stress that Pool School can only be one important influence on your children. We cannot operate in isolation and so we continue to strengthen links with parents, families and a variety of outside agencies including local community, industry as well as Governors and the Local Education Authority. We enjoy good relations with area Primary Schools, other Secondary Schools and nearby Cornwall College of Further and Higher Education.

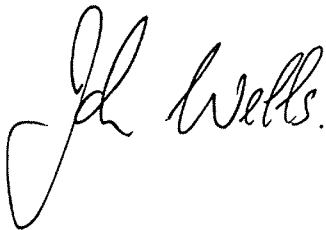
We are proud of our Pool School Association, a hard working Governing Body and our pioneering work in establishing the Pool School Coordinating Council with Industry, Commerce and Professions. The idea of partnership in the interests of all our pupils is most important to us. We naturally welcome the closest contact with parents and we encourage visits. Similarly we place increasing emphasis on pupil community service.

I further emphasise the School's belief in a balanced programme of studies for all pupils throughout five years while catering for different interests and aptitudes. A necessary degree of choice is provided in the Fourth Year but we expect all pupils to study Science, Craft Design, a Humanity (History, Geography, Social Studies etc.) as well as English, Mathematics, Religious Education, P.E./Games and a programme of Careers/Health/Social Education. We also encourage as many pupils as possible to continue with a Foreign Language. The

provision for pupils is always under review as we prepare for the recommended changes to National Curriculum . We feel this broad general Education equips pupils best for the increasingly complex life beyond School.

Sadly, at the present time, while continuing to stress the virtue of consistent effort and hard work, we also need to encourage pupils to make the best use of their time and talents without the guarantee of immediate employment. A frank realistic awareness of economic problems will assist young people to cope and avoid future disillusionment. We fervently hope that the 'products' of Pool School will soon again reap the rewards they deserve in the outside world. Thus there is the need to keep options open as long as possible and not be too specialist too early. We strive to equip our pupils to be confident, happy and flexible individuals prepared for both work and leisure pursuits. You will note the School motto is "In Pursuit of Perfection". Each pupil is expected to set sights high and give his/her best. Only by reaching for the stars will pupils be fully stretched.

From September, 1984 we were part of the Government's Technical and Vocational Education Initiative scheme for Years 4/5 which provided extra resources for additional and improved studies in areas such as Catering, Micro-electronics & Computing, Community & Health Services, Agriculture/Horticulture; French for Business, Design Crafts, Technology and Business Studies. Clearly many of these facilities, such as extra computers, benefit the whole school. In 1989 this scheme gave way to the T.V.E.E. proposal which is a further enrichment to all the curriculum areas and will benefit all pupils.



Headteacher

### POOL SCHOOL AIMS

Through a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum based on close co-operation among staff, pupils, parents, governors, outside agencies/employers, local community and the L.E.A. the school aims:

1. To provide through studies, pastoral care and extra-curricular activities a happy, warm, secure and disciplined environment for effective learning.
2. To demonstrate in all we do, respect for the equal worth and dignity of all pupils and by serving individual needs according to age, aptitude, ability, help all to strive to realise, with a sense of achievement, the fullest intellectual, social, moral and personal development.
3. To prepare all pupils for the realities, opportunities and difficulties of the adult world beyond school as student, family member, worker/non-worker, citizen and thus enable them not only to survive but contribute effectively in a fast changing technological society.
4. To educate for 'capability', flexibility, doing, making, organising, coping.
5. To help all pupils use number and language effectively so essential for learning and life.
6. To provide genuine equal opportunities for girls and boys.
7. To develop personal qualities, positive, honest and industrious attitudes, self awareness/self confidence, personal and social responsibility with sympathy for others and respect for ethical and moral values and a healthy way of life.
8. To encourage a spirit of enquiry with critical thinking and enthusiastic appetite for learning and study skills both independently and in a group with industrious application to tasks and physical skills wherever possible in contexts applicable to everyday life.
9. To help pupils gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live and appreciate the interdependence of individuals, community groups and nations.
10. To provide knowledge and awareness of our culture, involving continuity and change and appreciation of human achievements, aspirations and the variety of values, forms and problems.

## General Organisation

Academic Work is mainly through subject departments and pastoral/welfare through year groups. The Lower School (Years 7 & 8) is accommodated on the Lower School Site though much of the teaching is also on the Main Site reached 'only by using the pedestrian bridge across Church Road'. The Upper School (Years 9/10/11) is accommodated on the Upper School Site though some teaching is done on the Lower School Site.

The buildings provide many excellent facilities including well equipped Science and Foreign Language areas; Gymnasium; Music Block; Spacious Library/Resources area; playing fields/hard areas; and teaching areas for English and Maths plus Hall/Drama Studio.

## Pastoral Care

The aim of the pastoral system of the School is to help pupils make the most of the learning and developmental opportunities offered at the school,

- a) by getting to know the pupils and forming good relationships with them,
- b) by monitoring academic and general progress, and
- c) by therefore being in a good position to offer guidance, both social, educational and vocational.

This is achieved at Pool School by using the horizontal or year system. Each pupil is placed in a form or tutor group made up of pupils of the same age. This tutor group is based on friendship and includes pupils of varying abilities. Care for this group is given to the Tutor, or form master/mistress.

The Tutor's responsibility is to blend the group into a social group and efficient administrative unit as well as caring for the individual pupil within it.

The Tutor is responsible to the Year Head who is responsible for the general welfare of all pupils of the particular year or age group.

The Year Head will work closely with the Head of Lower School in Years 7 and 8 or the Pastoral Deputy for Years 9, 10 and 11 in planning and implementing a programme of care for all pupils in the school. The overall responsibility for the pastoral work of the school lies with a Deputy Head and the Headmaster.

## THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to enable pupils to work to their best ability within a broad and balanced curriculum. Tenth and Eleventh year courses include an element of choice, within this balanced framework, which lead to qualifications in G.C.S.E.

B. Tec.

Pitman Elementary Word Processing  
Associated Board of the Royal Schools  
of Music.

### Year 7 & Year 8 Curriculum

Comprises of,

English, Mathematics, Balanced Science, French, History, Geography, Religious Education, Physical Education, Art, Music, Drama, Design & Technology, Home Economics, Textiles, Information Technology & Library Studies.

### Year 9 Curriculum

As above, except

- i) Information Technology is delivered within subject areas.
- ii) Social Education is introduced and Careers replaces Library Studies.
- iii) Spanish is available as a second language.

This is the year of choice for 10th and 11th year courses.

During this year, progress, ability, interests and aptitude of pupils will be watched very closely. Parents will be invited to play a vital role, when pupils, guided by Parents, Careers Staff, Heads of Departments, Heads of Year, Director of Studies and the Headmaster, will choose, in addition to English, Mathematics, Balanced Science, four subjects from the list offered for the 10th Year.

### 10th and 11th Year

The school is anxious to provide a balanced curriculum for all pupils and this requires that in addition to English/English Literature, Mathematics and Science, pupils will choose four other courses, including a humanity and an Aesthetic/Craft, from the list below.

Geography, History, Integrated Studies, Religious Education, Art & Design, C.D.T. Design & Communication, C.D.T. Design & Realisation, C.D.T. Technology, Home Economics: Child Development, Home Economics: Food & Nutrition, Home Economics: Family, Home & Food, Music, Business Studies, Computing/Microelectronics, Modular French, Spanish, Spanish for Beginners, Word Processing and Cornish.

Additionally all students follow Physical Education and Social, personal and moral education as well as having private study, self assessment and tutorial time.

## EDUCATION FOR ADULT FAMILY LIFE

At Pool School this important aspect of the curriculum is approached in several subject areas in a sensible, caring manner. There is no sex education programme as such but rather, where the curriculum naturally leads to discussion of sexual matters then this is undertaken. For example, Pool has established Health and Social Education programmes for all pupils in the Upper School and syllabuses in Science, Physical Education, Home Economics and Community Care all have areas of study for adult and family life.

## CAREERS (Partly timetabled within Social Education)

Careers education is an important factor of the curriculum at Pool School. In years 9, 10 & 11 pupils are given the opportunity to meet visiting speakers and staff from the local technical college from time to time to gain experience of the adult world and employment. At various points in the upper school curriculum pupils are taken on visits and in many cases work experience is available where this is felt to be necessary and appropriate. Parents are also invited to school at strategic points in the calendar to discuss career possibilities for their children. This area of staff have a deep knowledge of the work/study situation beyond the age of sixteen so parents are urged to consult with the school whenever a problem or opportunity requires discussion. As mentioned elsewhere, the school has a strong employment link - the Pool School Co-ordinating Council with Industry, Commerce and the Professions which meets regularly on a termly basis. Pool School is anxious to prepare pupils for employment or study in further or higher education. The Headmaster will be very pleased to provide references and testimonials for all pupils who work with enthusiasm and purpose.

## WORK PERMITS

Parents are reminded that there is a LEGAL requirement for all pupils to obtain Work permits before undertaking part-time employment out of school hours. These permits can be obtained from Mr. Thomas (Deputy Head) failure to submit this could result in prosecution of both employer and parents.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The School strives to encourage an awareness of the local community and its needs among its pupils and to promote this active participation in a wide spectrum of service.

The success of the programme it has developed to cater for this can be measured by the wide range of community service given by individuals or groups of pupils and the close links which have been fostered between the school and its community.

Throughout the school year, visiting speakers from the charitable organisations, the professions, industry and commerce are welcomed. Many children are actively engaged in raising money for charity, visiting and helping the old and sick, and those in need.



Proceeds of the school's annual Carol Service are used to provide food parcels for the old and those in need. These parcels are packed and delivered by pupils just before Christmas.

Concerts and a matinee performance of the annual production are given for old age pensioners and physically handicapped.

The school has won several awards for its participation in the National Westminster Bank's "Project Respond" - the latest for its sensory garden built by senior pupils in the Tehidy Country Park.

Further success for the school came when the Logo senior pupils had designed was used by the Equal Opportunities Commission - Women into Technology Project".

Many of these pupils will visit a wide range of 'caring' institutions including residential homes, schools for the mentally and physically handicapped, playgroups, day centres and hospitals.

A number of these pupils volunteer to work in one of the local establishments in their spare time as well as being placed there for a period of work experience in their 10th or 11th year. Pupils participate in Cornwall Technology Project and Young Enterprise for Business Education linked with community.

We endeavour to give pupils an insight into the nature and purposes of the Community Services also a knowledge and understanding of the structure of the services and of the various personnel and their functions within the services. We introduce our pupils to a wide range of skills and practices within the Community Service spectrum, offering experience in breadth, as well as in depth for some aspects of Community Care.

We make the most of available opportunities for visits to local caring institutions, visiting speakers and in the 10th & 11th year, work experience.

Practical activities and assignments provide opportunities to develop a range of skills important to pupils, giving them a 'caring' attitude and the ability to work with others in the community.

To achieve these aims, here are some of the links we have firmly established between the School and our community:

Variety of Charity/Fund Raising Activities.

Entertaining Senior Citizens to Lunch etc.

Community Policeman.

P.H.A.B.

Old Age Pensioners/Needy.

School Production/for old/disabled.

Concerts at School/within community.

Visits to local Residential Homes.

School for Mentally Handicapped.

School for Physically Handicapped.

Primary Health Care Team, Groups, Hospitals, Day Centres, Luncheon Clubs.

Visiting speakers from Professions, Industry & Commerce.

Participating in Project Respond (for which we won an award from National Westminster Bank.)

Work Experience Week. Young Enterprise. Neighbourhood Engineers.

## PUPILS REQUIRING SPECIAL HELP

### **Special Educational Needs Provision**

The co-ordinator and staff aim to ensure that all pupils share the right to a broad and balanced and appropriately differentiated curriculum at Pool School. With the introduction of the National Curriculum it is expected that all pupils will have the opportunity to experience the many facets of the Curriculum and will not be denied access to it on grounds of ability.

We tend to cater for:-

1. Pupils who are experiencing learning difficulties across the curriculum.
2. Pupils of all abilities who have a specific problem. These problems may be temporary, eg. a pupil may need special help in spelling or handwriting.
3. Pupils who have a learning difficulty as a result of a sensory, physical or emotional disability.
4. Pupils who have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of their age.
5. Pupils of above average ability.

It is accepted that Special Educational Needs are not just a reflection of a pupil's inherent difficulties; they are often related to factors within the School which can prevent or make worse some problems. It is our job to ensure that the interaction between the pupil and the School, including its curriculum, is one in which our young people can learn successfully and make pleasing progress.

Where ever possible we try to provide our Special Support on an individual basis within the mainstream classroom and it is only on exceptional occasions we seek to withdraw pupils for Special Help.

Such is our reputation for "caring" and provision of Special Needs that our policy statement has now been adopted by the County Education Committee as a model for all schools.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding our function in the School please don't hesitate to contact: Mr. S. Chapman, Special Needs Co-ordinator.

## SCHOOL TRAVEL

"Travel in the younger sort", said Francis Bacon, "is a part of education". We offer an extensive programme of travel planned for various age groups and with a variety of objectives, ranging in time from half a day to two weeks and providing experiences both interesting and helpful to everyone who takes advantage of them,

### (a) Camping in Cornwall.

- i) School Camp for Lower School pupils Seven days in Summer Term.
- ii) Adventure Camp - 10th Yr. pupils 1 week - July.
- iii) Senior Camp - Upper School pupils 1 week - July.

### (b) Sport

- i) Ski-ing Holiday in the Alps for members of 8th to 11th forms usually eight days in February.
- ii) Occasional extended tour - Football/rugby - week-end/Easter Holidays.
- iii) Visits to international matches, etc. in London and elsewhere Football Years 7-9 Hockey - one day/week-end - Years 7-11.

### (c) Foreign Exchange

- i) Spanish exchange with Santander. 2/3 weeks in Spain and 2/3 weeks entertaining exchange partner at home, during July/August. - Upper School combined with pupils from other schools

### (d) Field Classes

- i) Geography - one day field classes at various times throughout the year.
- ii) Foreign fieldwork work - This year a group of Yr. 10 pupils will visit Holland to broaden their fieldwork experience.

### (e) Study Classes

- i) A variety of half and one-day visits to places of interest, including Science visits to Stithians reservoir and the History Museum, Rural Studies visits to the Cornwall CCFHE Farm, Royal Cornwall Show, Lectures, Exhibitions etc. Year 7 Year History to Chysauster.

### (f) Theatre Visits

- i) To see performances by professional and amateur companies.

### (g) General Interest

- i) Occasional Schools Cruises to the Mediterranean for members of the 8th to 11th forms - Eight days Canal Cruise - one week - June/July.

#### (h) Foreign Language Visits

- i) Camping - Brittany - 2 weeks Summer Holidays (often more than one camp)
- ii) Paris - Autumn half term/Easter Holidays - 1 week, (occasional)
- iii) Spain - 8 days - Autumn half term (occasional)
- iv) French Exchange in conjunction with Redruth (Dourarnenez-Brittany)

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The school is fortunate to have funds available, mainly through School Activities/Pool School Association to maintain the school 45 seater coach. It is invaluable for sports fixtures; educational visits and fieldwork as well as careers work and educational holidays both at home and abroad.

#### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

At Pool School pupils are given the opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities. Every day at lunchtime and after school there is a wide range of clubs and societies set up to enrich the education of your son/daughter. Some activities will require particular items of equipment/dress, others will necessitate travel away from school from time to time. Your son/daughter will always be given full details of the activities available at the beginning of each term. You will be advised in good time, of any special item of clothing or equipment that may be necessary for outdoor work.

#### HOMEWORK

Homework is regarded as an essential support to class teaching for pupils. All children will therefore do homework, the amount varying according to their needs at each stage in their School Life. Parents are asked to encourage children with homework by providing facilities for study. Homework provides an opportunity for children to go more deeply into a subject, to practise a newly required skill, to read more widely, to consolidate new ideas and to develop self reliance by working on their own. Each pupil is issued with a homework diary in which all homework must be entered by the pupil. Parents are asked to look at the diary at least once a week and to initial the homeworks when they are completed. If as a parent, you find over a period that homework is taking a much longer or shorter time than you think it should, please contact the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Howley, for advice. A good idea is to prepare a homework timetable for your son/daughter so that a routine is developed. It is normal for homework to be set more on some days than on others due to the daily lesson plan, but students are always given a reasonable time to complete the work set. In general Year 7 pupils should average three to five hours homework per week but in the upper school the amount of home study will be considerably more in cases where pupils are seriously studying for external examinations.

## CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Governors naturally accept the principle that education should be free and pupils should not be disadvantaged on financial grounds. However they also recognise that a number of activities can only take place if parental contributions are available.

The main aspects are:-

- i. Optional Visits wholly or mainly Outside School Hours  
Normally the full cost of such visits will be charged. Also voluntary contributions may cover teacher costs and subsidy for some pupils.
- ii. Visits Wholly or Mainly During School Hours  
Voluntary contributions will normally be invited from parents. Often such visits will not take place unless sufficient contributions are forthcoming.
- iii. Board and Lodging Charges on Residential Visits  
Normally the full cost of such elements will be charged. However, where parents are in receipt of Income Support or Family credit, board and lodging charges are to be remitted if the visit is wholly, mainly in school hours or if out of hours provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed public examination, or to fulfil statutory requirements of national curriculum or religious education.
- iv. Individual Tuition in Playing of Musical Instruments  
It is not intended to charge for such tuition where it is provided within contract by LEA employed staff, whether in or out of school hours.
- v. Resits of Prescribed Public Examinations and Charges to Private Candidates  
The full cost of resits will be charged where there has been no further preparation by the school. Similarly candidates entered by private tutors will be so charged.
- vi. Examinations not Prescribed in Government Regulations  
The full cost for such entries will normally be charged.
- vii. Ingredients, Materials and Equipment  
Parents who are willing to contribute will be encouraged to do so on a voluntary basis. The school may charge for, or invite parents to supply ingredients, materials and equipment where parents are willing to own the finished product.
- viii. Breakages and Fines  
Parents will be asked to pay for damage to equipment or property caused by their child.
- ix. Unpaid Charges  
Sums payable by parents for wasted examination fees, optional extras etc. are recoverable as civil debts.
- x. Support for Pupils  
Any requests for financial support to enable pupil participation in certain school activities, should be addressed to the Head Teacher of the School. It will appreciated funds for such support are extremely limited.