



TRURO PREP SCHOOL

**TEACHING AT
TRURO PREP SCHOOL**

2016 – 2017

What are the origins of Truro School and Truro Prep School

Truro School was founded as a Methodist School in 1880 and remains the only HMC School in the County of Cornwall. It was originally a Direct Grant Boys' Grammar School but became independent in 1976 and fully co-educational in 1990. Truro Prep (Treliske School until September 2005) was opened in 1936 as the junior department to Truro School under the first head Tommy Stratton. Sarah Patterson, who took up post as Head in September 2016, is only the fifth head in the school's history. Though, like the senior school, Treliske was originally a boys' school, the school became co-ed in 1989. The Pre-Prep Department was opened in 1991.

Truro Prep has 260 pupils in total between the ages of 3 and 11. Between 40 to 50 pupils each year proceed into the first year at Truro School where there are currently 750 pupils, including a Sixth Form of around 200. In the Senior school there are a small number of boarders who board in four houses on site. About 45% of the boarders are from overseas, with a diverse mix of nationalities represented – including Lithuanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Thai, Chinese, German, Nigerian Italian and Spanish. Day pupils travel from throughout the county to school, some on the school buses. There is no boarding at Truro Prep.

There is a continual programme of refurbishment and development at both school sites including a new classroom block at Truro Prep (2000), conversion of old dormitories into a new library, Educational Support Rooms, and instrumental tuition rooms. In summer 2009, a large extension to the Pre-Prep building was completed providing a new Pre-Prep Hall and four further teaching rooms. This has effectively doubled the size of the Pre-Prep from some 70 pupils to a potential of 130. Most recently a beautiful extension to the Dining Hall was completed, which has significantly enhanced the lunchtime experience for pupils and staff. There are well advanced plans in place for a new classroom block to replace some older Elliot Hut buildings.

The schools share a governing body and although they are located on separate campuses, they are administered very much as one school.

Who teaches at Truro School and Truro Prep?

There are about 25 teachers at Truro Prep and approximately 85 teachers at Truro School. Our teachers are gifted individuals who are able to inspire pupils with their enthusiasm and subject knowledge. They are committed to providing a high quality of teaching as well as playing a full and purposeful role in the School's extensive extra-curricular programme and pastoral and personal development of pupils.

Most are graduates in education or graduates with postgraduate certificates or doctorates and their previous experience is extensive, ranging from similar independent day schools to boarding schools, maintained sector schools and industry.

In-service training and professional development are strongly encouraged and the School has good links with local universities and teacher training institutions. The School also follows the national guidelines for the induction of Newly Qualified Teachers.

We have a healthy balance of staff from NQTs to very experienced teachers, as well as a wide spread across the age range; this mix of experience and background provides for a happy, stimulating and rewarding environment.

What will you do?

Life at Truro Prep is busy and our extra-curricular activities are wide ranging, from chess right through a wide range of sport to sailing. As well as teaching, you will be expected to contribute in some way to the School's co-curricular life. You will be encouraged to utilise your personal strengths and interests and may even wish to become qualified in areas previously unimagined! Sport, art, music and drama are significant strengths.

A number of clubs and activities take place each day at lunchtime and after school, which depend on the staff participating with active enthusiasm.

The School is true to its Methodist foundation and ethos and places emphasis on Christian values; assemblies and the weekly chapel service provide a central focus for the school's caring community.

Where do you do it?

Truro Prep has a beautiful campus with extensive woods and sports pitches surrounding the school buildings. Truro Golf course surrounds the grounds on all sides. The school has its' own swimming pool, sports hall, 2 ICT suites, design and technology workshop, art room, science room, music room and 4 instrumental practice rooms.

What about salary and conditions?

Salaries are paid at least in parity with the National Scales and fully reflect qualifications, responsibility and experience. Currently we operate our own threshold assessment for access to the Upper Pay scales and there are many opportunities for management allowances where extra responsibilities are carried.

All members of staff are able to educate their children at significantly reduced fees (currently 50% concession; pro rata for part-time staff) should they gain entry to either Truro Prep or Truro School; the two schools cater for boys and girls from the age of 3 to 18.

The school participates in the Teachers' Pensions Scheme. All appointments are subject to pre-employment checks, including references, a satisfactory medical clearance and an Enhanced DBS check (formerly CRB).

The School is an equal opportunities employer and a non-smoking establishment. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The daily routine is from 8.35am to 3.40pm with lunchtime and after-school activities. Staff should anticipate being on the school site from 8.15am to 4.00pm, although activities run up to 5.00pm.

Is it a good place to live?

Cornwall has a thriving culture and there is no doubt that it is an outstanding community in which to live, from the rugged and bracing North Coast to the Cornish Riviera of the South Coast, from the distinctive history to the unique character of its culture: the county offers something for everyone. Its relative isolation, however, being based at the end of the country and adjacent to only one county, raises its own challenges.

Truro is a thriving and bustling city and is the main centre for Cornwall's trade and commerce. It has an excellent and interesting mix of specialist shops and high street chain stores and there are many fine restaurants and cafes. The Hall for Cornwall theatre attracts a variety of international performers; and there is a vibrant Cornish drama scene, notably The Minack Theatre and through such renowned companies as Kneehigh. Music is very important to the Cornish, with excellent choral traditions at Truro Cathedral, the St Endellion Festival, and many celebrated brass bands and male voice choirs.

The 21st Century has seen a dramatic change in the economics of the county. The traditional industries of agriculture, fishing and mining have declined or disappeared, to be replaced by tourism with special attractions such as the Eden Project, the Tate Gallery at St Ives, and a range of gourmet restaurants, as well as the world famous surfing beaches and sailing waters.

The cultural and educational development of the county has continued apace in the last 10 years through the establishment of the Combined Universities of Cornwall, including the Peninsula Medical School; as well as developments at University College Falmouth and at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus, which includes the Camborne School of Mines.

Thus, although the county is the most socially and economically diverse in the country, many areas flourish, and Truro is a small, friendly, thriving and vibrant city.

There is a unanimous feeling among staff that Cornwall is a wonderful place to bring up children.

The popularity of the Duchy has pushed house prices up in recent years but there are still many and varied options in the city and its environs. There is also an excellent choice of schools, both private and maintained, at all levels. The collective experience and knowledge of the Common Room is warmly offered to newcomers, should you need advice on the local property market, schooling, health care or any other similar issues.

There is a regular rail link to London, including the overnight sleeper from Penzance. The road links via the A30, M5 and A303 are efficient (outside of the holiday season).

Where do pupils come from?

Boys and girls come from many different backgrounds and from all parts of Cornwall, some spending up to 2½ hours each day travelling to and from school. Many start their school careers in the Pre-Prep, others join us at age 7 mainly from local maintained schools.

How are we doing?

Truro Prep was inspected in May 2011 by ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate), the report for which is on the website; we came through with flying colours. The Early Years provision was rated as Outstanding (inspected by ISI, the Early Years are inspected against the Ofsted schedule used for all maintained Early Years providers). All aspects of the school from Key Stage 1 upwards were at least good and in the main, excellent (the highest possible outcome under ISI assessing against the Independent School regulations).

Our outcomes at the end of the EYFS and our SATS results at the end of Key Stage 1 are all well above national and local averages, demonstrating strong added value. Whilst in previous years we participated in the end of Key Stage 2 tests, in 2010 we chose to no longer submit papers for external marking following increasing frustrations with the system. In its stead we have implemented our own Diploma scheme, which measures pupils' achievements across a broad spectrum of subjects and areas of activity, including sport, outdoor activities, music, drama, art, design technology, ICT and other life skills, such as First Aid and cooking. Within this we still teacher assess levels in English, mathematics and science; results indicate achievement well above expectations for age and ability against national averages.

Pupils from the Prep School progress to the Senior on the Prep Head's recommendation, unless they join in Year 6, when they are required to take the entrance test alongside external candidates.

Where are we going?

This remains a very exciting time for education in Cornwall. It is the intention and vision of the school to play a full part in educational excellence in the county. As we describe in our strategic plan, we are committed to excellence and continuous improvement and for this we need high quality staff who are ambitious and innovative. Many of the best ideas come from our staff and we regularly benefit from new colleagues bringing suggestions and initiatives with them.

How do I apply?

Applications should be addressed to the Head at the school and posted c/o Sarah Wheatley, HR Manager, Truro School, Trennick Lane, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1TH or emailed to sew@truroschool.com We hope you feel encouraged to apply to join us.

Sarah Patterson
Head of Truro Prep School

September 2016