



Email: [office@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.peacehavenheights.co.uk](http://www.peacehavenheights.co.uk)  
Tel: 01273 575989

Interim Headteacher: Miss Abby Kilgarriff  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Wendy Wiltshire  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr David Dowling

Infants: Roderick Avenue,  
Peacehaven. BN10 8UZ

Juniors: Hoddern Avenue,  
Peacehaven. BN10 7QY

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## PROPOSAL FOR PEACEHAVEN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS WITHIN THE STEP ACADEMY TRUST

I am writing to you as part of the formal consultation about the proposal for Peacehaven Heights Primary School to become an academy. As you will know from previous meetings, letters and virtual presentations, the Interim Executive Board (IEB) has been considering the future of Peacehaven Heights Primary School since the IEB first took over responsibility for the governance of the school.

I wrote to you on 19th July 2021 informing you that the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) had issued an Academy Order enabling Peacehaven Heights to join STEP Academy Trust as a voluntary sponsored academy. We are, therefore, now formally consulting with you about the proposal for Peacehaven Heights to become an academy within the STEP Academy Trust.

Becoming part of STEP would enable Peacehaven Heights to continue to work collaboratively with STEP colleagues and other schools within the Trust. Working in this way has seen some exciting and highly effective benefits, including the introduction of a much more effective approach to reading, the introduction of a robust reading programme of study underpinned by phonics from early years to Year 6 and common approaches to positive and inclusive behaviour management. The pupils are very positive about these changes and are now much more enthusiastic and confident readers and spellers. They also report that behaviour in class and the playground is better.

Also, and very importantly becoming part of Step Academy Trust would enable Miss Abby Kilgarriff to be appointed as permanent headteacher to the school and the excellent work she has led to secure improved pupils' attitudes to their learning and progress to continue. Securing stability of leadership at the school has been a very high priority for the IEB, staff and parents and joining STEP will enable us to achieve this.

More information about what this proposal means for Peacehaven Heights is attached to this letter. Details of how to comment or ask questions are provided at the end of this letter and in the attached consultation response document. There is also a separate leaflet about STEP Academy Trust. Please do let us know what you think about this proposal.

If you have any questions about the proposal, please attend the consultation meeting that is being held, when members of the IEB and representatives of STEP Academy Trust will say more about this proposal. The meeting will be held at 6.00pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> September at the Junior School site in the school hall.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please email [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk) to let us know so that sufficient, socially distanced seating can be arranged. We will be asking attendees to wear masks as they move around the building, but not whilst they are seated. It would be very helpful when you book your place if you could also give an indication of any questions you would like answered at the meeting.





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If you would prefer to attend the meeting remotely, please let me know via the consultation email address: [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk) and a link to the meeting will be sent to you.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send any questions you might have before the meeting to [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk) and we will arrange a response.

Any questions we receive and the responses will be placed on the school website.

Otherwise, if you have any comments you would like to make about Peacehaven Heights becoming an academy within the STEP Academy Trust, please send them, using the form attached, to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB by the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - either by hard copy in an envelope marked "Peacehaven Heights Academy Consultation" or by email to [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Gaunt'.

Penny Gaunt  
Chair of the Peacehaven Heights IEB





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## FURTHER INFORMATION

This document provides additional information about conversion to academy status. If you have other questions which are not answered here, or in the leaflet about STEP Academy Trust, please come to the consultation meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm at the Junior School site, either in person or via a virtual link, when representatives of the IEB and STEP Academy Trust will be present. If you are not able to attend a meeting, please write to or email [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk) and we will arrange a response. Notes of the meetings and answers to any frequently asked questions will be put on the school website.

Attached to this document is a form that asks for your views on this proposal. Please return it by the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB – either by hard copy to the school in an envelope marked “Peacehaven Heights Academy Consultation” or by email to [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk)

## What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded independent schools that are not managed by a local authority. Once converted, academies are run by an academy trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Academies are, therefore, state maintained schools available free to all children. They have to follow the same rules as all other state-funded schools over admissions, pupils with special educational needs and exclusions. They are still inspected by Ofsted.

## What impact will this have on Peacehaven Heights Primary School?

The IEB believe this will have a very positive impact and we are confident the relationships with other schools and colleagues in STEP Academy Trust will enable the current very effective partnership working between the Trust and Peacehaven Heights to continue.

Miss Kilgarriff will be appointed as permanent headteacher.

An Academy Committee will be established with representatives from the staff, parents and local community to drive forward educational improvements.

The school will receive continued support from a network of other schools.

## Why join STEP Academy Trust?

As Peacehaven Heights is now making good progress with school improvement initiatives under the leadership of a STEP Academy Trust headteacher and the staff are responding very positively to the support and professional development they are receiving from STEP it makes absolute sense for Peacehaven Heights to formally join the Trust.

STEP Academy Trust is in the top ten multi-academy trusts in the country for children’s progress between key stage one and two. We are also very impressed with the mission, vision and values of STEP which place children, and improving the life chances of all children, at the heart of everything they do.





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Each school in the trust has parity of esteem with other partners, and is part of a trust that respects the traditions and identities of schools, whilst being committed to mutual support in pursuit of high standards for all children and good professional development and promotion opportunities for all staff.

### **How will belonging to the Trust affect the quality of education for children in our school?**

We believe a group of schools working closely together in partnership and agreeing to share resources as well as support each other professionally can achieve much more for its children than schools working either alone, or in looser partnerships which do not involve as much sharing of resources or expertise. The aim of the Trust at all times is to improve the experience of children and young people in classrooms.

### **When will these changes take place?**

We want to know what parents and the local community think about this proposal and there is some legal and other work to be done to give effect to the change, which the Trust will support with and which the government funds. If all goes well, we anticipate conversion on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

### **How can I find out more?**

Please attend the consultation meeting where members of the IEB and representatives of the STEP Academy Trust will say more about the proposal. If you are not able to attend the meeting, and you have a question that you would like answered, please write to Penny Gaunt at Peacehaven Heights School in an envelope marked Academy Questions or email [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk)

### **Any comments?**

If you have any comments on the proposal for Peacehaven Heights Primary School to become an academy within the STEP Academy Trust please send the form attached to Penny Gaunt, Chair of the IEB by the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.— either by hard copy in an envelope marked “Peacehaven Heights Academy Consultation” or by email to: [consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk](mailto:consultation@peacehaven.e-sussex.co.uk)  
The IEB will consider all the responses we receive and will feed back on the next steps.

