

Dear Parent / Carer,

Paignton Academy – STEPS Provision

Torbay Council and Paignton Academy, as part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, are seeking your views on a change in offer at the specialist provision based at Paignton Academy.

Paignton Academy currently run a specialist provision which supports pupils who experience Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA), which creates a barrier to accessing education and supports pupils in Key Stage 3 (years 7-9). This provision has previously been based away from the school site, but for the last year is now housed within the main school site itself. At present, this provision supports pupils who, due to their high level of needs, are unable to access elements of the mainstream school. It has been identified that in order to gain the full benefits of this provision now being attached to and within the mainstream school site, a proposal has been brought forward to alter the current offer.

An Enhanced Resource Provision (ERP) is a specialist provision which is placed with a mainstream school, to enable the pupils who access the provision, to take part in elements of the mainstream provision when they are able to achieve this. Torbay Council have developed ERPs in Torbay with a number of mainstream schools to enhance the learning opportunities of children who require additional support and intervention to enable them to integrate into their mainstream community. During the time that this specialist provision has been running at Paignton Academy, the placement of pupils by the Local Authority and its previous separation from the main school site, has resulted in the school supporting those with highly complex needs, above what an ERP is developed to provide.

It is being proposed by the Local Authority and Paignton Academy, that the provision offered within the ERP is altered to be able to support pupils who would benefit from being within a specialist provision attached to a mainstream school. It is also being proposed that the age range of this provision alter from being Key Stage 3 only, to include Key Stage 4. This will be to ensure that pupils continue to receive the ongoing support throughout their educational journey when they attend the provision at Paignton Academy.

Further information around this proposal can be found within the accompanying document.

If you would like to offer your views and feedback on this proposal, please use the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/0vJ0RUBGVh> . Please submit this by Sunday 29th June 2025.

If you experience problems accessing the link please contact childrenscommissioning@torbay.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Hannah Baker

Strategic Head of Education and SEND – Torbay Council

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.

