



**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

# Alternative Education Policy And Procedures

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# Alternative Education Policy And Procedures

**Ready, Respectful, Safe**

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## Introduction

*Students who attend alternative provision, arranged by the school, attend regularly, show improved attitudes and behave well. The alternative provision placements are well thought through and so they benefit individual students' personal and social skills. (OFSTED 2019)*

As an inclusive academy we believe all children deserve a high-quality education. Alternative Provision is for those students who cannot attend mainstream school for a variety of reasons and are therefore unlikely to reach their full potential without intervention.

## Key motivations for Alternative Provision:

- The student's key talents are not being developed through the national curriculum. Alternative Provision recognises that we are all individuals with different strengths and areas for development and that mainstream education does not necessarily provide opportunities for every student to achieve.
- The student has had one or more fixed-term exclusions and is considered to be at risk of permanent exclusion from school. Alternative Provision is a strategy to avoid permanent exclusion for students and to encourage inclusion in education.
- The student has had significant difficulties with attendance and/or engagement with education. This may include (but is not limited to) ill health, mental health needs and anxiety. Alternative Provision offers a setting away from the site of the school which may encourage improved attendance and therefore improved outcomes in terms of achievement, enjoyment and self-esteem.
- There are identified SEND needs and an Alternative Provision has been identified to support the needs of the student. At EHCP, the provision may form part of the student's provision.

## What are the advantages of the Alternative Provision?

- Students can access a variety of educational options, including core GCSEs, vocational training and qualifications, and practical skills that lead to valuable employment.
- Students are given a greater degree of flexibility in what and how they learn
- Students are given some independence and are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves.
- Students who are doing what they enjoy often find they are more motivated to attend class and achieve good results in their chosen subject area. Doing well promotes higher self-esteem.

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**This policy will be kept under regular review in light of legal developments and best practice.**



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- Students who are referred to provision outside the academy remain on roll with academy and the academy funds their place in alternative provision. The academy remains ultimately responsible for the student and the offer of alternative provision shows a commitment by the academy to an inclusive approach to the student's education. The academy maintains a positive link with a commitment to six-weekly reviews for each student.

We use a range of providers for Alternative Education at Nunthorpe Academy and provide a range of offers tailored to each student's requirements. Alternative Provision packages will always provide opportunities for completing as much of the curriculum as possible including Maths and English. Current placements offer a range of opportunities including trade subjects (mechanics, constructions, hairdressing) to specialist areas (Sport, Health and Social Care, Childcare, Art, Media Studies).

The qualifications students receive are nationally recognised and enable progression to further education.

### **How are Alternative Provision offers made and what procedures are followed?**

- Referral to alternative provision is made on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the student's needs and aspirations, with input from the student and their parents/carers, to ensure that the selected provision is a good match.
- Alternative provision applications will be made following detailed meetings from multiple internal Nunthorpe Academy staff, necessary agencies and parents/carers. Funding will always be an item discussed when looking at Alternative provision and what we can offer individual students at different stages of their education.
- The alternative provision package will offer an equality of opportunity so that learners outside of the academy have the same chances to progress in their education as they would have had should they have remained within the curriculum.
- The academy will make their best endeavours to ensure the alternative provision package offers a full time equivalent to the student's current curriculum offer. Students in alternative provision should receive the same amount of education as they would receive should they have remained in Nunthorpe Academy. Full-time can be made up of two or more part-time provisions.
- Alternative Provision placements may be offered in either a long term or short term capacity:
  - Long term for students who have correct funding levels in place and are studying towards a specific set of qualifications.
  - Short term for students who require respite placements for specific reasons to complete a set of work towards a specific goal e.g. managing anxieties in crowded spaces, overcoming anger and emotion or specific attendance based work.
- If an alternative placement breaks down the situation will be discussed and a meeting convened. If the situation cannot be resolved the students will be expected to return to Nunthorpe Academy.
- If an alternative placement is unable to continue to meet a young person's needs or during quality assurance proceedings it is viewed that an alternative placement is not supporting a young person to have opportunity to succeed then a meeting will be convened to discuss termination and either a new placement being sourced or a return to Nunthorpe Academy. As per the expectations in KCSIE, where a student attends an alternative provision provider, Nunthorpe Academy continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that student and will only do so if satisfied that the provider meets the needs of the student. This includes obtaining written confirmation from the alternative provision provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on

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individuals working at the establishment, i.e. those checks that Nunthorpe Academy would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.

- Service Level Agreements are in place for all provisions partnered with Nunthorpe Academy. Each provision will be quality assured by the academy on a termly basis.
- Once committed to off-site alternative provision, students must attend and failure to do so should carry the same consequences as non-attendance at Nunthorpe Academy
- The academy will monitor attendance, behaviour and educational progress through close links with the alternative provision provider. The academy will maintain strong links with the family and provider through six weekly review meetings and termly quality assurance.
- Attendance at off-site alternative provision will be monitored closely and reported to the academy daily, every step will be taken to ensure that accurate attendance data is kept by Nunthorpe Academy. All professionals have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and tracking and reporting attendance at alternative provision is an essential component in achieving this. There is an expectation that any safeguarding concerns are raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Nunthorpe Academy and that all alternative providers adhere to the NMAT Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy..

### Alternative Provision Checklist

- Students may be referred by the Pastoral Team, AVP Inclusion/AVP Behaviour and Attitudes or the Head of School of the academy. The AVP Inclusion and AVP Behaviour and Attitude meet fortnightly and part of their discussions is use of Alternative Provision.
- Prior to any decisions being made in regards to booking an Alternative Provision for any student applications will be made to the Local Authority to ensure that finances are in place or agreed in principle to support the student in the placement and ensure that delivery can be consistent and maintained.
- A designated member of staff (usually AVP Inclusion) from the academy will clearly explain to families the reason why the alternative provision is being offered. The package will be explained in full to the student and parents/carers including:
  - The curriculum being offered
  - The expected impact on attainment and achievement
  - The expectations in terms of student conduct
  - The expectations regarding the role of the parent
  - The expectations regarding the role of the academy and the provider.
- Once agreement has been reached regarding the package the AVP Inclusion will contact the provider and ask that a place is allocated. If parents/carers do not accept the offer of alternative provision as an appropriate alternative to education at Nunthorpe Academy this will be documented and other alternatives will be investigated.
- Students must attend the on-site or off-site alternative provision as required and in line with Academy expectation and parents/carers must support this. The Academy does not automatically provide transport to the Alternative Provision sites. In exceptional circumstances, students with an EHCP or CLA may have an additional application made for transport to support them in attending any agreed Alternative Provision placement.

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## **Alternative Education Policy And Procedures**

- It is the responsibility of Nunthorpe Academy to arrange for a quality assurance check of the premises to be undertaken for each alternative education provider attended by the student on an annual basis.
- Alternative education providers will contact Nunthorpe Academy whenever the student is absent and also make contact with parents/carers and try and resolve the issue to ensure regular attendance is achieved and if unsuccessful, contact the academy attendance officer for support and advice. If necessary this should then be referred to their agencies as appropriate.
- Nunthorpe Academy will formally monitor attendance and update records and maintain contact with the alternative learning provider on a daily basis.
- If the placement does not appear to be working or if the student is not attending - a formal meeting will be held involving the academy, parent/carer, student and any other appropriate person. The meeting will reinforce the expectations of the original agreement while seeking feasible alternatives or agreeing a full time return to the Academy.
- Any agreement around alternative provision for a student will be regularly reviewed. Timescales and responsibilities for reviewing the agreement must be clear to professionals, parents/carers and student and occur at least every half term.
- Impact / success will be measured against the targets the students are set in each review meeting.
- Students' academic and pastoral data will be collected from the provider and shared with parents/carers in line with the academy calendared data collection points.

### **Accessibility**

- The academy will make every effort to ensure that students who have been referred to Alternative Provision are able to access the full range of opportunities available.
- Our third party partners will have variation in their own level of accessibility based on their location and premises and as such suitability will be assessed based on the needs of students.
- Nunthorpe academy will actively work with students, families and our providers to create solutions where there are accessibility concerns or difficulties.
- Each of our providers has health and safety policies which are scrutinised by the academy during quality assurance. Parents/carers can request copies of provider policies from the AVP inclusion.