



The Ecclesbourne School

“Learning together for the future”

Alternative Provision

October 2021

1.1 Introduction

At The Ecclesbourne School we acknowledge both the value and importance of Alternative Provision (AP) for a small number of the school community; and appreciate that its success is reflected in the processes adopted by the school. This policy has been developed to ensure that all students who access Alternative Provision are successful and safe.

1.2 Definition of Alternative Provision

For the purposes of this guidance, the definition of alternative provision is as follows: education arranged by schools for students who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and students being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.

1.3 Aims

This policy aims to:

- Outline the process of commissioning AP
- Provide guidance on the monitoring, both progress and attendance, of students accessing AP
- Provide guidance and support for staff in supporting students on AP

1.4 Links with other policies and Statutory Guidance

- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities
- Attendance Plan
- Work Experience Policy
- Alternative Provision Statutory guidance for local authorities 2013

2. Why we may offer Alternative Provision;

Students will be referred to Alternative Provision on the basis that this provision is more appropriate for them than what The Ecclesbourne School can provide at that moment in time. Some reasons might be:

- The student's strengths are not being developed through the National Curriculum. Alternative provision recognises that students have different strengths and weaknesses and that mainstream education is not suitable for some. The emphasis on vocational education that some alternative provision offers may be more

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Responsibility: Head of Upper School

attractive and suitable to some students. **However, this should not be at the detriment of a child being offered a full and rich curriculum.**

- 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 seen as a desirable alternative to permanent exclusion for students and to encourage their continued inclusion in education.
- The student has not been attending school regularly and is therefore unlikely to achieve GCSEs. Alternative provision offers a different setting with a broader choice of subjects for students which may encourage attendance. Alternative provision may provide a greater opportunity for a student to progress to a suitable post-16 pathway.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT), The SENCO and The Head of Careers will work alongside other members of the Pastoral Team to ensure that those students that need Alternative Provision are supported from the Commissioning through to the end of the Alternative Provision Placement.

It is expected that the school will:

- Ensure appropriate students are signposted to AP
- Ensure appropriate courses, providers, work experience are commissioned
- Monitor the quality of both new and existing AP
- Support students/families with transport, where appropriate
- Ensure that students' progress and support is carefully monitored at the AP
- Praise and reward progress/success
- Ensure students are emotionally and physically safe at all times - Risk Assessments for both provision and students (where appropriate) in place
- Provide effective communication to all relevant parties, where appropriate
- Act on the guidance of DfE guidelines and Ofsted Framework
- Ensure that the correct insurance is in place at all times
- Only use transport where all safeguarding checks have been carried out

It is expected that students will:

- Attend all lessons/AP sessions (days) with the correct equipment
- Take pride in their work and conduct and strive to do their best
- Show respect, care and consideration for others
- Listen when teachers/instructors/coaches/students are talking
- Follow instructions first time
- Behave in a way that values learning and upholds our Behaviour and Discipline Policy

It is expected that parents/carers will:

- Ensure the child attends school/AP placement and arrives on time with the right equipment
- Support the child and the school in the AP placement
- Support the school in acknowledging and securing good behaviour

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The SLT will evaluate the success of the Alternative Provision Placement through the following means of communication and will then make any necessary amendments.

- Outcome from exams (if applicable)
- Progress reports
- Meetings between providers, students and Parents
- Attendance Data

5. Referral Process

- The school will use DfE publication Alternative Provision: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (January 2013) as a basis for making arrangements for alternative provision.
- Parents / carers will be fully involved in the process and any decisions taken.
- Students who are referred to alternative provision will remain on roll with The Ecclesbourne School and the school funds their place in alternative provision.
- The school remains ultimately responsible for the student, and the offer of alternative provision shows a commitment by the school to an inclusive approach to the student's education.
- The Ecclesbourne School will set up a meeting involving all relevant parties, including parents/carers and others as appropriate.
- A representative from the school will clearly explain to student and their parents/carers the reasons why the alternative provision is being offered.
- The student's parents/carers will sign the relevant alternative provision contract.
- Responsibilities for supporting the child and timescales for reviewing the contract must be agreed during the initial meeting.
- Any agreement around alternative provision for a student will be regularly reviewed. Timescales and responsibilities for reviewing the agreement will be agreed by the school, alternative provider and parents/carers.
- Once committed to alternative provision, students must attend, and parents/carers must support this. Failure to do so will carry the same consequences as non-attendance at The Ecclesbourne School
- Impact/success will be measured against targets agreed in the initial meeting and these will be regularly reviewed.
- Where necessary, the school will formulate a Service Level Agreement between the school and the alternative provider.