



Alternative Provision Policy

Agreed by Governors: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed: Autumn 2025

Context

Dothill Primary School recognises that there is a need to ensure that our curriculum and ethos is inclusive and accessible, providing opportunities for all our children to succeed. However, we also recognise that rarely, but sometimes, our school is not the right place for some children to flourish either on a part time, full time or temporary basis.

To offer an alternative, we work with a small number of local providers to offer 'alternative provision' for struggling children to reach their potential in a school-based environment. This is usually a split placement but may, on rare occasions, be full time.

Objectives of the policy

- To outline why some pupils may be offered alternative provision.
- To ensure that the offer of alternative provision is offered in a consistent way.
- To provide guidance on the referral process and the suitability of providers.
- To ensure that there are suitable procedures in place relating to attendance and the safeguarding of the children.
- To outline arrangements made for keeping in touch with pupils ensuring we monitor academic progress, behaviour and pastoral welfare.

Reasons

There are a variety of reasons why a pupil may be referred to an alternative provision. Some of these may be the following:

- A serious behavioural event that would normally result in an extended exclusion or permanent exclusion.
- Continued poor behaviour that fails to meet our standards and that has not improved with the supportive pastoral process put in place.
- Pupils' needs are not being met through the mainstream curriculum on offer. The emphasis on smaller classes and engagement may be more suitable to some pupils.
- Pupils who have a diagnosed health issue (mental health and physical) may need to be supported to access a mainstream curriculum.

Suitability of providers

We only use providers who are registered and approved and who have safeguarding policies in place.

The provider we currently use is: The Linden Centre PRU

The Referral Process

The school refers to the DfE publication: *Alternative Provision: Statutory guidance January 2013* when referring children to alternative provision.

[Alternative provision - GOV.UK](#)

Pupils referred to off-site alternative provision should be referred on the basis that this provision is more appropriate for them than that which Dothill Primary School can provide.

Parents/carers are always an integral part of the referral process and are consulted at each stage of the process.

Once committed to off-site alternative provision, parents must ensure pupils attend, and failure to do so will carry the same consequences as non-attendance at Dothill Primary School.

The children in alternative provision remain on role at Dothill Primary School and are dual registered.

The school remains ultimately responsible for the pupil, and the offer of an alternative placement demonstrates a commitment to inclusion by the school.

Attendance and Safeguarding

Attendance at off-site alternative provision will be monitored closely.

Alternative providers will contact school if a student is absent, and this will be recorded on our attendance system with a reason for the absence.

Continued absence will be closely monitored and dealt with accordingly.

It is expected that any safeguarding concerns are shared with Dothill Primary School by liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Academic progress and pastoral welfare

There will be a detailed handover at the start of the placement when data, pupil characteristics and behaviour as well as objectives for the placement will be shared with the alternative provision.

The pupil, whilst on placement, will be visited by school staff to ensure contact with the school and for staff to monitor the appropriateness of the placement. Regular liaison and updates will take place between the provider and school to ensure that the placement objectives are being achieved and that the placement still addresses the needs of the child.

Where appropriate, pupils will continue to attend school functions and events, and the provider will inform Dothill of any significant events or incidents that happen whilst on placement.

Responsibilities

Governing Body: Monitor and review the alternative provision on a regular basis

Senior Leaders:

- Responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the alternative provision
- Report to stakeholders on the effectiveness of the provision.

Safeguarding Lead:

- Will maintain a register of those students' accessing a day or more (or the equivalence of) at an alternative provision
- Plan and inform staff of multi-agency meetings; delegating appropriate staff to represent the school and student.
- Maintain accurate child protection records of students on an alternative provision.
- To offer, facilitate and quality assure Early Help Assessments where appropriate for all students in an alternative provision