

Alternative Provision

Amended: June 2017

Approved by Governors: June 2017

Review date: July 2020

Reviewing Panel: Standards, Staffing and Curriculum

Alternative provision is educational provision for pupils who are not accessing mainstream education for a variety of reasons at KS3 and KS4.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this policy is:

- To set out the rationale for securing a personalised curriculum for pupils at KS3/4.
- To ensure that alternative provision is offered to suitable pupils in a consistent way.
- To ensure that budgets for such provision are established in due time and managed effectively.
- To guide and support staff with the administration of alternative curriculum provision.

Purpose of the Policy

A number of pupils at KS3 and KS4 are offered a variety of alternative curriculum provisions as a way of supporting their wider development and equipping them with skills and experience for the world of work.

Important acknowledgements underpinning this policy are:

- That Woodlands school recognises the need to personalise the curriculum for some pupils.
- Pupils may wish to explore an alternative provision that is linked to skills aptitudes and interests they have which are outside the mainstream curriculum.
- To enhance the pupils' curriculum linked to the area of need or interest.
- That a minority of pupils at KS3 struggle to meet the academic and social demands of mainstream education expectations.
- That a minority of pupils at KS4 struggle to meet the academic demands of their core GCSE subjects.
- These pupils may be damaged by their experiences in subject areas that they cannot access, or may negatively impact on the learning of their peers.
- These pupils need additional provision to enhance their experiences and qualifications at the end of KS3 and KS4.
- These pupils need to develop skills and experience of the world of work to reduce the chances of them being NEET post-16.

Objectives of this Policy

The principal objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure that alternative provision is offered to suitable pupils in a consistent way.
- To provide guidance on the identification of pupils requiring alternative provision and of suitable provision for different aptitudes and aspirations.
- To ensure that budgets for such provision are established in due time, approved by SLT and Governors and managed effectively by the Deputy Head and Alternative Education lead.
- To guide and support staff with the monitoring and support of alternative curriculum provision.

These are the main reasons for choosing Alternative Provision;

- Pupils' educational needs are not being met through the national curriculum. Alternative Provision recognises that we are all individuals with different strengths and weaknesses and that mainstream education is not for everyone.
- Alternative Provision is a strategy to avoid permanent exclusion for pupils and to encourage inclusion in education.
- The pupil has not been attending school regularly for whatever reason, and is therefore unlikely to achieve GCSEs. Alternative Provision offers a different setting with a broader choice of subjects for pupils which may encourage attendance.
- To enhance the pupils curriculum linked to the area of need or interest.

All procedures have been developed on the basis of the following principles:

- Pupils referred to off-site alternative provision should be referred on the basis that this provision is more appropriate for them than what Woodlands School can provide.
- If an alternative placement breaks down the situation will be discussed and meeting convened with the relevant agencies.
- Service Level Agreements are in place for all provisions.
- Once committed to off-site alternative provision, pupils must attend and failure to do so will carry the same consequences as non-attendance at Woodlands School.
- Woodlands School will monitor attendance through close links with the alternative provision provider.
- Attendance at off-site alternative provision will be monitored closely and every step should be taken to ensure that accurate attendance data is kept by Woodlands School.
- All professionals have a statutory responsibility to safe guard 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 DCPO at Woodlands School and that all alternative providers adhere to the safeguarding policy held by the school.

Process

- Woodlands 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 families the reason why the alternative provision is being offered. If parents refuse to accept the offer of alternative provision as an appropriate alternative to education at Woodlands School this will be documented.
- Pupils must attend the on-site or off-site alternative provision as required and parents/carers must support this
- Alternative learning providers will contact Woodlands School whenever the student is absent and also make contact with parents/carers and try and resolve the issue ensure regular attendance is achieved and if unsuccessful contact the school attendance team for support and advice. If necessary this should then be referred to their agencies as appropriate.
- Woodlands School will formally monitor attendance and update records and maintain contract with the alternative learning provide on a weekly basis.
- If the placement does not appear to be working or if the pupil is not attending - a formal meeting should be held involving the school, parent/carer, pupil and any other appropriate person. The meeting will reinforce the expectations of the original agreement while seeking feasible alternatives.
- Any agreement around alternative provision for a pupil must be regularly reviewed. Timescales and responsibilities for reviewing the agreement must be clear to professionals, parents and pupil and occur every term.
- Impact / success will be measured against the targets the pupils are set in a meeting once per term. Examples of these could include: attendance, behaviour, qualifications.
- Woodlands staff will be monitoring the attendance records weekly and a half termly visit will be undertaken by a member of Woodlands staff at the off-site provision. This will include lesson observations, pupil feedback, monitoring of academic progress and staff feedback.

Power of schools to direct a student off-site for education to improve behaviour

Governing bodies of maintained schools have the power to direct a student off-site for education to improve his or her behaviour. (Education Act 2002) The Secretary of State has made regulations, as is required by the related primary legislation, concerning schools' use of power.

Under the current regulations, parents/carers will be notified in writing of any requirement that their child attend off-site provision. Notice must be sent as soon as practical and no later than two days before the off-site placement is due to begin. The notice letter must be sent out explaining:

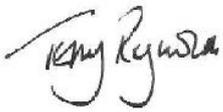
- The reasons for the referral to alternative provision;
- The aims of the placement;
- The period for which the student will be required to attend the placement;
- The date and time the placement will start;
- The address the student will need to attend and the name of the person to whom they must report on the first day;
- Details of the session times ie the time the morning and afternoon sessions start and end.

This policy does not stand alone and Woodlands School has many other policies that support the Alternative Provision Policy.

- Safeguarding Policy Procedures for Assessing Risk.
- Anti-bullying Policy Induction and Code of Conduct for Staff.
- Racial Incident Policy Intimate Care Policy.
- Harassment and Discrimination Policy Safer recruitment Policy and Practice.
- Use of Physical Intervention Policy Confidentiality.
- Educational Visits Policy One to One Working.
- Intimate Care Policy Children in Care.
- E-safety Policy Equality.
- Health & Safety Policy SEN Policy.
- Drug and Substance Mis-use Policy.
- Behaviour Management Policy.
- Child Looked After Policy.
- Attendance Policy.

Signed: 
Head Teacher

Dated: 29th June 2017

Signed: 
Chair of Governors

Dated: 29th June 2017

Updated June 2017