



# **Loughton School**

## **Alternative Education Policy**

## **1. What is alternative education?**

Alternative provision is provided for pupils who are unable to manage in mainstream education.

Alternative learning provision includes:

- pupil referral units
- hospital education
- education for children in custody
- projects that give full-time or part-time education outside of school
- preventative programmes working with individuals or groups of children to prevent them from being excluded from school
- private organisations commissioned by the Local Authority to give specific support to children not attending mainstream education.
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Loughton School may use the following alternative provision, when it is considered to be in the best interests of the child. Alternative Education is considered on a case-by-case basis and is subject to regular review, with the aim of returning the child to Loughton School at the earliest opportunity.

## **2. What can pupils expect?**

- The pupil participates as part of their regular timetable, away from the site of Loughton School and not led by school staff.
- Loughton School may use this provision to try to prevent exclusions, or to re-engage pupils in education.
- Loughton School retains responsibility for these children, including safeguarding responsibilities, and will seek written confirmation from Alternative Education that they have DBS checks, Child Protection training, a Child Protection policy and confirm that all concerns are reported back to Loughton School immediately.
- Regular updates need to be in place.
- Learners referred to off-site alternative provision should be referred on the basis that this provision is more appropriate for them than what Loughton School can provide. This will be reviewed regularly.
- If an alternative placement breaks down, the situation will be discussed and a meeting convened and if it is unable to be resolved, the pupil will be expected to return to the home school.
- Agreements are in place for all provision and include procedures for the ending of the placement. Once committed to off-site alternative provision, learners must attend, and failure to do so will carry the same consequences as non-attendance at Loughton School.
- The alternative provision will liaise regularly with Loughton School, detailing any progress or any areas of concern.

- Loughton School will monitor attendance, to ensure that the pupil is engaging with education.
- 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.
- Any safeguarding concerns are raised with the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Loughton School and that all alternative providers must be aware of and adhere to the safeguarding policy held by the school.

### **3. Monitoring of provision**

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 the pupil and occur every term.

Impact/success will be measured against the targets the students are set in a meeting once per term. Examples of these could include attendance, behaviour and qualifications.

### **4. Return to Loughton School**

It is essential that an alternative education placement is seen as a temporary arrangement, the emphasis should be on the child returning to Loughton as soon as possible. Loughton School and the alternative provision will both work towards this.

Additional support will be in place to manage the transition back to mainstream education. The transition should be as smooth as possible.

Safeguarding the child is at the forefront of the transition back to Loughton School.