



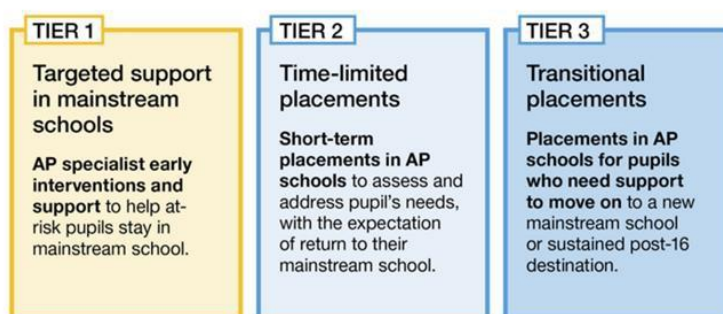
## Alternative Provision FAQs

### 1. What roles can an AP placement play in a child’s education?

Alternative Provision includes a wide spectrum of settings and approaches, from Care Farms to Pupil Referral Units. What all Alternative Provisions have in common is that they provide an alternative to mainstream education with a more small-scale and bespoke approach.

Alternative Provisions can provide up to three tiers of provision:

#### A three-tier model for alternative provision



This could include outreach support for pupils in mainstream schools and offering short-term places to pupils who need a time-limited intervention away from their mainstream school.

AP may form a particular part of a pupil’s timetable (complementing their time in school) or may be full time.

### 2. My child hasn’t been excluded, they have SEND, is an AP placement still appropriate?

A child can still attend an AP setting if they have SEND and have not been excluded from school. If they have an EHCP, the home school might liaise with the local authority SEND team in the first instance to ensure its in the best interests of the child. As APs come in many forms, it will require a collaborative effort to ensure it will derive the maximum benefit for the child.

### 3. Where can I find a full list of possible places offering alternative provision in Worcestershire?

#### a) Registered provisions:

Name	Status	Age Range
<a href="#">The Beacon Primary Pupil Referral Unit</a>	Maintained Primary	5 - 11
<a href="#">Unity Academy</a>	Academy (The Rivers C of E Multi Academy Trust)	5 - 11

<a href="#">Perryfields Primary Pupil Referral Unit</a>	Maintained Primary	5 - 11
<a href="#">The Forge Secondary Short Stay School</a>	Maintained	11 - 16
<a href="#">The Aspire Academy</a>	Free School (Aspire Free School Academy Trust, single-academy trust)	11 - 16
<a href="#">Newbridge School</a>	Academy (Central Learning Partnership Trust)	11 - 16
<a href="#">Continu Plus Academy</a>	Free School (Continu-Plus Academy Trust, single-academy trust)	11 - 17

**b) Unregistered provisions (see below for definition of unregistered settings):**

[SEND and Alternative Provision directory | Worcestershire County Council](#)

**4. Do I need to differentiate between LA run and privately run AP settings?**

The Local Authority and schools can access both maintained and privately run AP provision. The fundamental division between educational provisions is whether they are ‘registered’ or ‘unregistered’ provisions.

[Strengthening protections in unregistered alternative provision \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

*‘Local authorities and schools can arrange alternative provision and special educational provision in settings which are not schools or colleges. This is commonly known as unregistered alternative provision because, unlike schools or colleges, this type of provision is not subject to a national registration scheme or inspection framework. The vast majority of those in unregistered settings have identified special educational needs (SEN). This fluid, diverse sector provides a range of flexible and bespoke fulltime and part-time education and support for some of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and disengaged children in the education system. It comprises of many localised and often small providers, delivering valuable training, vocational education and work experiences, which take place in a variety of settings including work environments or outdoors. The unregistered alternative provision sector also includes tutoring companies and online providers, some of which operate across multiple local authorities.’*

Both schools and the Local Authority use both registered and unregistered provisions.

There are additional restrictions regarding how unregistered provisions operate. A provision must become registered if it provides full time education for:

- 5 or more pupils of compulsory school age
- 1 or more pupils of compulsory school age with an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- 1 or more pupils of compulsory school age who are looked-after by the local council

**5. Who funds an AP placement?**

The Local Authority funds placements for pupils who have been permanently excluded.

For pupils on roll at a school, the school can choose (in partnership with families) to fund AP to compliment a pupil’s education. Schools can approach the Local Authority for support with funding if circumstances require this.

The Local Authority’s CCAS process and panel (Children who Cannot Attend School) works with partners, including schools, to support children who cannot attend school because of illness or other circumstances. Funding agreements are made during this process and may be shared.

## **6. Can my child attend AP full time?**

Yes. If a pupil is excluded they would be expected to attend AP full time, though this will depend on the individual pupil's needs and the programme on offer.

If a pupil is on roll at a school they can attend AP full time for a limited period (known as 'Off-Site Direction'):

[A guide for parents on school behaviour and exclusion - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

'To support your child with their behaviour, your child's school can decide that your child will be educated somewhere else for a limited period.

Your child could be educated at another school or alternative provision setting. This could also include your child splitting time between 2 different locations. This should only be used when it is the best way to support your child's behaviour. This arrangement is commonly known as off-site direction.

If your child has an EHC plan, the local authority should be told about an off-site direction placement.'

Placements for pupils on roll at a school may also be for a part of the school week, as a tailored intervention, or to complement their education provision.

## **7. Can an AP placement be named in my child's EHCP?**

This is not standard practice. If a pupil has an EHCP, only a mainstream or specialist setting can be named unless a specific package of support is required which cannot be met by these settings.

## **8. How long can my child attend their AP for?**

Most APs are short stay schools and not intended as a long-term provision. If a pupil is on roll at a school and attending as an intervention, this is usually for between 6 and 12 weeks.

If the child has been permanently excluded, they will attend an AP for as long as is required to get them ready to reintegrate to a mainstream setting or, where suitable, to move to a specialist setting.

If a child is excluded in the latter part of their school journey, it may be more appropriate for them to remain in their AP provision to avoid disruption and ensure their best educational outcomes.

## **9. Who quality assures APs in Worcestershire?**

All registered APs are inspected by Ofsted.

All unregistered APs are required to meet quality assurance criteria via the Local Authority's 'AP DPS' before being used by the Local Authority. QA visits from WCF representatives review provision. The Commissioning Team carry out quarterly QA updates.

Schools complete their own Quality Assurance of any AP provision they use, including safeguarding arrangements.

The Education Engagement - Inclusion Team carry out regular Quality Assurance meetings with AP Settings. Officers meet each registered provision weekly, plus the Inclusion Team Manager visits each setting at least half termly.

The School Improvement Team work with each maintained AP setting.

The Local Authority is in the process of implementing a new QA framework.

## **10. What's the difference between an AP and a PRU?**

Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are a type of alternative provision.

## **11. School is saying my child doesn't need AP, what evidence is required to initiate an AP placement?**

If a pupil is on roll at a school and parents/carers feel that their child would benefit from AP they should discuss this with the relevant school contact. Schools are not required to provide AP but may do so where this is necessary to ensure a pupil receives a suitable education.

**12. How do I work out what type of AP provision is right for my child? How and who determines what type of AP placement is required?**

If a pupil is on roll at a school and parents/carers feel that their child would benefit from AP they should discuss this with the relevant school contact to explore the options available (see Q3).

If a pupil is permanently excluded parents/carers will be contacted by the Local Authority to explore the options available.

**13. Who is responsible for transport to and from the AP placement?**

If a pupil is permanently excluded, the local authority will assess whether the child is eligible for funded transport. If they are on roll at a school and attending an AP as an intervention, the parent/carer and/or home school would be responsible for transport unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**14. Can you get AP if a child is in an independent school (self-funded) with no EHCP but isn't attending?**

Independent schools can access AP in the same way as other schools.

**15. Can a child be attending more than one AP setting?**

Yes, as an example they might attend their school 3 days per week, a care farm one day per week and a therapeutic setting one day per week.

**16. What age range of APs open to?**

It depends on the setting but most commonly from compulsory school age, so 5 -16. Some APs will offer support until the young person reaches adulthood. See Q3.

**17. How do AP settings report back to school and to families?**

If the pupil is on roll at a school and attending AP as intervention, then AP provisions should liaise with the family and school.

If the pupil is on roll at an AP (usually due to being permanently excluded) the AP will liaise directly with the family and the local authority.

**18. Does my child stay on roll with their school whilst attending an AP?**

If a pupil has been permanently excluded, they would be removed from the roll of their school and would thus need to be put on roll at their new provision (which is likely to be an AP).

If they are attending AP as part of an intervention program from their school, they will remain on the roll of their 'home school' and the AP will be their host school. In this case, the register would reflect this using a 'B' registration code (educated offsite) or 'D' registration code ('dual-registered' at their school and at the AP).