

Advice and Guidance for Alternative Provision

My child is being educated at an alternative provision. What do I need to know about this? What do I need to do?

What does the law say?

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 places a legal duty on local authorities to ensure that children who are unable to attend school due to illness, exclusion, or other reasons receive suitable education elsewhere. This applies to children of compulsory school age (5-16). The provision aims to prevent children from falling behind in their education due to circumstances beyond their control.

Additional information

- Alternative Provision education hours should be the same as a child would receive in school and can be made up by two or more part-time provisions. The education can take place in a Pupil Referral Unit or at another school.
- The expected standards of high quality alternative provision include:
 - good academic teaching and learning
 - the identification and meeting of specific personal, social and academic needs of pupils
 - an aim to improve a pupil's motivation and self-confidence, attendance and engagement
 - Clearly defined objectives including future option of education, training or employment
- Commissioners responsible for arranging alternative provision should ensure that it is good quality, registered where appropriate and delivered by high quality staff with suitable training, experience and safeguarding checks.
- Pupils should also be involved in decision making from the start.
- The Local Authority responsible for maintaining an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) must be closely involved in any decision about placement in alternative provision.
- Alternative provision should support the child to overcome their individual barriers to attainment and achievement, giving equal consideration to their pastoral needs, and enabling them to thrive and prosper in the education system. Provision should address a child's physical or mental health needs as well as personal, social and emotional needs, alongside their educational needs.

Key questions you may want to consider:

- Why does my child need to attend AP rather than school?
- With the maximum time of 15 hours per week allowed at AP, how often will my child attend?
- What will the curriculum & teaching methods look like and how will these address my child's learning style & any special educational needs (SEN)?
- Can my child & I look round the AP first before they start so that we can see the layout and meet relevant staff?
- Who will be my contact at the AP?
- What contact will be made between school and the AP?
- Will there be regular review meetings to discuss progress?
- What other services will be involved with my child's reduced timetable?
- What happens if my child does not like the AP?
- Will my child remain on the school roll?
- How will my child know what is happening within his school whilst he attends AP?
- What is the plan for my child to return to mainstream school?
- Where will my child sit their exams?
- Will attending an AP effect my child's future?

For further information, please use the QR code to visit our Peterborough Virtual School website



Key websites for further advice and guidance

- [Peterborough Information Network | Appropriate Provision Education and Inclusion service \(Local Offer\)](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)
- [Arranging Alternative Provision - guide for LAs and schools](#)
- [Are you aware of Alternative Education Provision?](#)
- [Peterborough Information Network | SEND Information Advice and Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#)