

Directory of Approved Alternative Provision for Merton, Croydon and Wandsworth Councils

October 2026



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



Introduction

This directory is designed for use by schools and other providers to assist in their commissioning of alternative provision (AP). Commissioners of AP can access support and guidance from officers in their respective local authority.

Schools commissioning AP

Schools should be aware that Ofsted may consider their use of alternative provision as part of the inspection of the school. This includes the suitability, safety and effectiveness of placements and how well the school identifies and meets pupils' individual needs.

Schools should maintain accurate and accessible records of pupils attending off-site alternative provision, including:

- The number of pupils attending.
- The alternative providers used and their registration status.
- Provider URNs and addresses, where applicable.
- The range of needs catered for.
- The timetable and nature of each pupil's placement.
- Arrangements for monitoring attendance, safeguarding, progress and outcomes.

Inspectors may consider the arrangements schools have in place to ensure that pupils attending multiple settings or part-time provision remain safe and receive suitable education.

Schools should refer to the current Ofsted school inspection toolkit and operating guidance for the applicable inspection arrangements.

Non-school alternative provision: national standards

The Department for Education published voluntary national standards for non-school alternative provision in August 2025.

These standards are intended to support consistent approaches to the commissioning, oversight and delivery of non-school alternative provision.

Commissioners should consider the standards when assessing the suitability of providers and developing arrangements for quality assurance, safeguarding, curriculum, attendance, pupil welfare and outcomes.

The standards are currently non-statutory. However, the local authority encourages providers and commissioners to use them as a reference point for strengthening the quality and consistency of provision.

Providers should be able to demonstrate how their arrangements support the safety, education, wellbeing and progress of pupils accessing alternative provision.

Commissioning responsibility and oversight

Commissioners remain responsible for ensuring that placements are suitable for the individual pupil and that appropriate arrangements are in place to oversee the safety, quality and effectiveness of the provision.

Before a placement begins, commissioners should satisfy themselves that:

- The provider is suitable for the pupil's needs and circumstances.
- Appropriate safeguarding and risk management arrangements are in place.
- The provision is suitable in terms of curriculum, staffing, facilities and delivery arrangements.
- Clear lines of responsibility exist between the commissioner, provider and any other relevant agencies.
- Arrangements are in place to monitor attendance, progress, wellbeing and outcomes.

Where a provider is not included on the approved directory, the commissioning organisation should undertake appropriate additional checks before proceeding with the placement. Inclusion within the directory does not remove the commissioner's responsibility to assess the suitability of an individual placement or to monitor its effectiveness.

Off-site direction

Off-site direction is a temporary arrangement whereby a pupil is required to attend another education setting to improve their behaviour. It should be used as part of a planned intervention and not as a sanction or punishment for past misconduct.

Schools should ensure that:

- The purpose and objectives of the placement are clearly defined.
- The placement is time limited and appropriate to the pupil's needs.
- Arrangements for attendance, safeguarding, curriculum and progress monitoring are agreed before the placement begins.
- The pupil and their parents/carers are informed of the arrangements.
- The placement is regularly reviewed, with consideration given to reintegration or other appropriate next steps.

Schools should refer to the current DfE guidance on suspension, permanent exclusion and pupil movement for the legal requirements governing off-site direction.

Commissioning agreements and placement plans

Commissioners should ensure that every AP placement is supported by a written agreement or placement plan that clearly sets out the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the commissioning organisation and provider.

The agreement should include, where applicable:

- Safeguarding arrangements, including reporting concerns and responding to absences.
- Attendance recording and communication arrangements.
- The intended curriculum and learning objectives.

- Arrangements for monitoring progress, behaviour, wellbeing and outcomes.
- Review dates, placement objectives and arrangements for next steps.
- Relevant reporting requirements and financial arrangements.
- Procedures for managing concerns, incidents and changes to the placement.

The commissioner should ensure that the placement is regularly reviewed and that appropriate action is taken where the provision is not meeting the agreed objectives or the pupil's needs.

Registration and attendance

Schools and AP providers must ensure that pupil registration and attendance are recorded in accordance with the current School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations and DfE attendance guidance.

The appropriate attendance code will depend on the nature of the provision, the pupil's registration arrangements and who has arranged the education.

Schools should ensure that:

- Attendance and absence are recorded accurately.
- The appropriate attendance code is used for each registration period.
- The provider reports attendance and absence promptly to the commissioning school or local authority, as appropriate.
- Clear arrangements are established for responding to unexplained or concerning absences.
- Safeguarding information is shared promptly between relevant parties.

Where pupils are receiving remote education, engagement with learning should be recorded separately from attendance. Remote learning does not constitute attendance at the school or AP setting

Children Missing Education

Schools, alternative provision providers and local authorities should maintain clear arrangements for identifying and responding to children who may be missing education.

Commissioners should ensure that admission, placement, attendance and leaving arrangements support the timely sharing of information with the relevant local authority and other agencies, in accordance with applicable legislation and statutory guidance.

Providers and schools should agree how concerns about non-attendance, unplanned placement endings or loss of contact with a pupil will be escalated and addressed.

Independent schools and unregistered alternative provision

Commissioners must consider whether the provider is appropriately registered for the nature and extent of education it delivers.

Providers that meet the legal definition of an independent school must be registered with the Department for Education. A provider's inclusion on an AP directory or completion of a local authority QA process does not replace any statutory registration requirement.

Commissioners should ensure that they understand:

- The provider's registration status.
- The nature and extent of the education delivered.
- Whether the provision is delivered on a full-time or part-time basis.
- The age and circumstances of the pupils attending.
- Any relevant registration, safeguarding or regulatory concerns.

Where there are concerns that a setting may be operating as an unregistered independent school, the local authority should consider the appropriate action in accordance with current DfE and Ofsted guidance.

Local authority oversight and provider quality assurance should not be presented as equivalent to statutory inspection or registration.

Quality assurance process

The providers listed in this directory have been visited by members of the Quality Assurance Team and assessed using the agreed cross-borough QA framework.

QA visits take place on a scheduled basis. The outcome of a QA visit reflects the evidence available at the time of the assessment and does not constitute a guarantee of ongoing compliance, quality or suitability.

Commissioners remain responsible for assessing the suitability of each placement and for ensuring that appropriate monitoring and review arrangements are in place throughout the placement.

Where material changes occur to a provider's leadership, premises, registration status, safeguarding arrangements or delivery model, commissioners should consider whether further assurance or review is required.

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FUTURE SKILLS

Provision Summary

We are a small charity providing tailored support for small groups and individuals aged 8 – 19.

We specialise in supporting children and young people who have been excluded and those at risk of exclusion, including those who have SEND, emotional and behavioural issues and severe self-esteem and confidence issues.

We empower young people to develop the skills needed to progress into full-time education or employment.

About Us

We have been supporting young people for nearly 20 years, providing a therapeutic environment that allows pupils to feel safe and develop at their own pace. Our Christian ethos fuels our relational approach.

We work with many secondary, primary schools and local authority departments in Wandsworth and Merton. On average, at least 70% of leavers from our provision re-engage with full-time education.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Phil Thain

DSL: Phil Thain

Exam Centre: Yes, through a partnership with Westside School in Hammersmith.

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 30/06/2025

Lead Local Authority: Wandsworth

Email: info@future-skills.co.uk

Phone: 07377 361 533

Website: www.future-skills.co.uk

Address: Training and Resource Centre, Alma Rd, London, SW18 1AQ

Charges

£173 per day per pupil.

£136 per day for longer term placements of more than 6 weeks dependent on needs and requirements.

Subjects / Curriculum

We aim to develop the essential skills employers need: communication and teamwork skills, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership skills and self-confidence as well as provide teaching in core subjects, maths, English (or Functional Skills) and science.

Our curriculum is based on 5 main pathways: PSHE, Creative, Core Subjects, Sports and Enrichment.

We track progress using AQA Unit Awards across the whole curriculum and use a simple point award scale to measure attitude to and engagement in learning.

Days / Time Offered

Monday - Friday 9.30 - 2.30

ROAD 2 SUCCESS (R2S)

Provision Summary

R2S is a well-established alternative provision offering vocational and respite placements for 13–16-year-olds across the local area and surrounding boroughs. Our vocational courses give young people a genuine alternative route into further education and apprenticeships across a range of diverse trades, making R2S a vital resource for children who need something different from mainstream education

About Us

R2S has been a trusted, established part of the local community for over 15 years, working closely with schools, families and local authorities to support young people who need it most. What sets us apart is our ability to act quickly, we can turn referrals around and action placements immediately, meaning young people are never left waiting on a list or falling through the gaps between provisions. We understand how damaging a gap in education can be for a young person's confidence, wellbeing and long-term outcomes so from the moment a referral is made, our priority is making sure there is no interruption to their learning and support.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Sarah Panteli

DSL: Sarah Panteli

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 21/03/2025

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: sarah.panteli@r2s.org.uk

Phone: 02086870682

Website: <https://r2s.org.uk>

Address:

33 Newminster Road

Morden

SM4 6HJ

Charges:

£80 per day - Regardless of attendance

Invoices sent out at end of each month.

Subjects / Curriculum

- Multi-Skills - Ascentis Level 1 Certificate/Diploma in introduction to skills in the construction industry.
- Creative and Digital Media - OCN Level 1 Certificate in Creative and Digital Media
- Hair and Beauty - VTCT Level 1 Diploma in an introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector

Days / Time Offered

We offer tuition Monday to Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm term time only unless otherwise requested.

BRIGHT HEART EDUCATION (“Bright Heart”)

Provision Summary

Bright Heart is an award-winning, SEND-focused Alternative Provision provider. We provide nurturing, personalised one-to-one tuition for children and young people with SEND, SEMH needs, and barriers to accessing education, helping them to re-engage with learning, build confidence, and make meaningful academic progress.

About Us

Bright Heart was established in 2018 with a mission to transform the lives of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We work closely with local authorities to provide interim tuition to students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), including Education Other than at School (EOTAS) packages.

Our Education Consultants – all experienced qualified teachers – take the time to fully understand each student’s unique learning needs and ensure that they are matched with suitable tutors.

Students receive Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) that cater to their academic requirements and their SEMH needs. Our nurturing approach helps pupils to re-engage with education.

Students receive Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) that cater not only to their academic requirements but also to their SEMH needs. Our nurturing approach helps pupils to re-engage with education.

We also support schools and were an accredited (NTP) Tuition Partner.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Dr Ryan Stevenson

DSL: Carol Minkoulou

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 10/07/2025

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: councils@brighthouse.co.uk

Phone: 0208 064 3800

Website: www.brighthouse.co.uk

Address:

20-22 Wenlock Rd

London

N1 7GU

Charges:

Our in-person rates range from £56.67/hr to £80.42/hr ex VAT, depending on the qualifications and experience of the tutor. We provide a 10% discount for online tuition.

Consultations, attendance at annual meetings, and arranging exam bookings are provided at no additional cost.

Subjects / Curriculum

We cover most subjects from Reception to A Level, including Functional Skills and BTEC. We also offer additional options via the AQA Unit Award Scheme (UAS) and ASDAN. We also provide help with lifelong skills, including study techniques, mentoring and transition into adulthood. Our Education Consultants assist with exam bookings where required.

Days / Time Offered

We provide tuition Monday to Friday, with weekends available by request.

FRESH START

Provision Summary

Fresh Start in Education provides 1:1 tuition from age 4 to 25 years to engage with learning and continue education.

About Us

Fresh Start in Education is a national provider with more than 15 years of experience delivering personalised one-to-one re-engagement and education programmes for students who struggle to attend school or college. We work with young people who are NEET, have SEND or SEMH needs, are chronically ill, excluded or at risk of exclusion, involved in or vulnerable to criminal activity, or managing medical challenges.

Our approach focuses on rebuilding engagement, continuing education and supporting each student holistically, creating a safe and positive environment where they can develop emotional resilience, overcome barriers and grow in confidence. The aim is to prepare every child and young person for a successful transition back into full-time school, post-16 education, training or local employment.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Referrals Department

DSL: Sam Hayward

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 17/07/2025

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: referrals@freshstartedu.co.uk

Phone: 0203 409 6410 - Option 1

Website: <https://freshstartineducation.co.uk/>

Address:

1:1 Face to Face tuition takes place in the student's home or public venue, e.g., library, community hub, leisure centre etc.

Charges:

3 level fee structure, hourly rate:

Online (SL1) £65 p/h

In-School Face to Face Intervention Support (SL2) £75 p/h

Home or Public Venue face to face (SL3) £95 p/h

Subjects / Curriculum

Person-Centred curricula content tailored to meet individual needs.

NCFE Functional Skills in English, mathematics & ICT.

Entry Level 1 to Level 2. AQ2A Unit Award Scheme

NCFE Digital Functional Skills – Entry Level 3 to Level 1

Accredited ASDAN short courses: Core Subjects, Vocational Tasters, and Work-Related programmes.

1Life - Your Journey: Bespoke programme accredited by ASDAN and created by Fresh Start for our students.

Days / Time Offered

Monday to Friday, all year. 08:30 - 17:00 (Face to Face minimum of 6 hours a week)

LOVE SQUARED

Provision Summary

We offer support at a minimum of twelve hours per week with a blended approach of both specialist tuition and therapeutic mentoring to support our children and young people to engage and get the most out of their sessions.

Our sessions are a minimum of 2 hours long and can take place in a range of locations, most often at the family home but also in the community and sometimes at schools.

About Us

Love Squared provides specialist education and therapeutic mentoring services to children and young people impacted by mental health and special educational needs.

These packages are tailored for those with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) who need specialist provision to support their education and wellbeing. We have a strong focus on holistic and bespoke case management personalised to support the needs of the individual child or young person as we recognise that everyone is different, and there really is no one size fits all package.

We work with an incredible team of practitioners with a diverse range of skills and a wealth of experience working in specialist settings and supporting children and young people with many different Special Educational and SEMH needs.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Neil Davda / Joe Bransfield

DSL: Neil Davda

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 18/7/2025

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: Info@lovesquared.org.uk

neil@lovesquared.org.uk

joseph@lovesquared.org.uk

Phone: 07955 077481

07498 631699

Website: www.lovesquared.org.uk

Address:

Love Squared

St Werburgh's Community Centre

Horley Road

Bristol

BS2 9TJ

Charges:

£49.50 per hour - minimum package of 12 contact hours a week plus 2 hours of planning and liaison

Subjects / Curriculum

We are able to offer core subjects from primary up to A-Level however as our packages are very bespoke to the individual we can always try our best to meet their needs if a request is made. Home Tuition, Offsite Tuition in Public Spaces, Online Tuition, Flexible Learning Approaches, Tuition at school premises

Days / Time Offered

We are able to offer sessions 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday Term time and additional sessions over holidays if required.

TARGETED PROVISION

Provision Summary

Targeted Provision offers trauma-informed tuition and mentoring for young people with SEND and additional educational needs, helping them to engage with learning and fulfil their potential. Support is delivered by qualified teachers and takes place at home, in school, in community venues or online.

About Us

In the face of growing challenges in the UK's education sector - such as a shortage of appropriate school places and a marked increase in young people missing education due to unmet SEMH needs - we saw a pressing need for transformation in alternative provision. We have re-defined tuition as relational learning, offering a powerful alternative to mainstream tutoring agencies. Our tutors are qualified teachers with significant experience of supporting young people with additional needs. All referrals are overseen by our in-house SEND team who work with tutors to empower young people to take control of their learning, develop resilience and self-regulation and, in time, transition into needs-appropriate provision. We can support young in a range of circumstances, including those who are in school, those receiving EOTAS and those awaiting a permanent educational setting.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Matt Walker

DSL: Eve Mitchell

Exam Centre: YES (Functional Skills)

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 03/06/2026

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: referrals@targetedprovision.com

Phone: 020 7661 7084

Website: www.targetedprovision.com

Address:

4 Lonsdale Rd

London

NW6 6RD

Charges

We charge a fully inclusive hourly rate. Provision can be cancelled without charge with 24 hours' notice.

- 1:1 Support: Starting at £85 per hour + VAT
- Group of 2 YP: Starting at £90 per hour + VAT
- Group of 3 YP: Starting at £105 per hour + VAT

Subjects / Curriculum

We offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects alongside mentoring. We are a registered online exam centre for Functional Skills and can enter young people for GCSEs and A Levels through our partnership with an exam centre in Wimbledon.

Days / Time Offered

52 weeks per year

YOUNG GIANTS EDUCATION

Provision Summary

Founded and run by qualified teachers, Young Giants is an AP provider focused on re-engagement and inclusion.

Specialising in supporting SEND learners from EYFS to KS5+, we provide 1:1 education and mentoring (including pathways planning) in homes or local communities.

We work exclusively with local authorities and schools to provide this support and are proud to say we never refuse a referral, no matter how complex the case.

About Us

Established in London in 2016, Young Giants has become a trusted provider to local authorities and schools across London.

We provide bespoke, flexible programmes of educational support on a caseloading basis, supporting learners with a wide range of SEND and SEMH needs, including complex needs / PMLD and those who are/are at risk of PEX.

Our programmes are always fully risk-assessed and underwritten, incorporating target outcomes and ILPs, providing progress reports and live, DfE-compliant attendance data throughout.

We are a managed service, not a tuition agency, and are a sector leader in compliance with both employment rights law and the DfE's Non-School AP Voluntary National Standards.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Esme Moira

DSL: Rachel Gowreesunker

Exam Centre: Yes

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 11/05/2026

Lead Local Authority: Wandsworth

Email: enquiries@younggiants.co.uk

Phone: 0208 068 6803

Website: <https://www.younggiants.co.uk/>

Address: (Admin only)

3Space International House
6 Canterbury Crescent, Brixton, SW9 7QD

Charges

Hourly: £58 to £68 depending on level of service needed. A fee of £7 will be applied to each learner visit (this is passed directly to commuting staff).

Annual commissioning is available which offers significant savings. Please contact the team for further information.

ASDAN & Arts Awards range from £150 to £500 per course

GCSE and Functional Skills exams charged on a case by case basis.

Subjects / Curriculum

Bespoke programmes of interim education and mentoring, often running concurrently to meet re-engagement and reintegration outcomes. We are able to meet a range of needs and cover a range of subjects.

We provide pathways planning for Y11 upwards and offer GCSE exam booking. We are also a Functional Skills exam centre (online), an ASDAN and Arts Award Provider. We offer Employability qualifications and ASDAN LifeSkills for PFA and mentoring.

Days / Time Offered

Tutors and mentors typically support between Mon-Fri, term-time during school hours, however, we can flex our timetables to meet any specific needs of the learner. Office hours 8:30 - 4:30 Mon-Fri (including school holidays)

Academy 21 Limited

Provision Summary

Academy21 is a DfE-accredited provider of live online alternative provision for learners who need an alternative or additional pathway to education. We work with schools and local authorities to support children and young people experiencing attendance barriers, anxiety, medical needs, SEND, SEMH needs, disengagement from learning, or those requiring support to reintegrate into school.

About Us

Academy21 provides flexible online alternative provision designed to help learners re-engage with education, rebuild confidence and achieve positive outcomes. Provision can be used as a short-term intervention, part-time placement, transition programme or longer-term educational pathway.

Alongside academic learning, we offer optional wellbeing and academic support services, including counselling, anxiety management, literacy, numeracy and EAL support. Robust safeguarding arrangements include designated safeguarding leads, enhanced DBS checks, online safety education, and filtering and monitoring systems designed to support safe online learning.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Geraldine Bell

DSL: Amy Husband

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 19/11/2024

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: contact@academy21.co.uk

Phone: 0800 2088210

Website: <https://academy21.co.uk/>

Address: Head Office, Sixth Floor - 3 Burlington Gardens, London, W1S 3EP

Charges

Academy21 offers flexible commissioning options, including pay-as-you-go and advance purchase arrangements.

- KS2 from £130.00 per week per learner
- KS3 from £59.00 per week per subject per learner
- KS4 from £59.00 per week per subject per learner

Please contact us for current pricing and commissioning guidance.

Subjects/Curriculum

Academy21 offers a broad curriculum across Key Stages 2 to 4. At Key Stage 2, learners access reading, writing, mathematics, PSHE and wellbeing-focused learning. At Key Stages 3 and 4, students can access a range of subjects leading to Functional Skills and GCSE and qualifications.

Further information is available in the [Academy21 2026/27 Prospectus](#)

Days/Time Offered

Key Stage 2 lessons are delivered Monday to Friday. Key Stage 3 and 4 lessons are delivered Monday to Thursday, with consolidation and PSHE sessions available on Fridays. Lesson recordings are available to support learning outside timetabled sessions.