

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



September 2024

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

During schools' Ofsted inspection planning conversation, the lead inspector will:

- *establish whether the school has any pupils who attend off-site alternative provision, either full time or part time, run either by the school or by a different organisation; if the school uses off-site alternative provision, the lead inspector will ask for further details about this, including:*
 - *the number of pupils who attend*
 - *the number of off-site alternative providers used currently*
 - *the URNs and addresses of the alternative providers*
 - *the names and addresses of the alternative providers (if there is no URN for one or more alternative providers)*
 - *the range of needs that these providers cater for*
 - *the timetables for the pupils who attend*
- *arrange to visit a sample of off-site alternative providers during the inspection. Inspectors will normally visit a sample of any part-time unregistered alternative providers during the inspection, as directed by the relevant Ofsted region. Any registered alternative provision that we have not yet inspected will normally be visited during the inspection (see 'Evaluating schools' use of alternative provision on graded inspections')*

(School inspection handbook 2024; Paragraph 96)

In addition, in evaluating the use of off-site alternative provision, Ofsted will assess the safety and effectiveness of the AP. This may include visiting the provision:

Where pupils, including those in PRUs and other alternative providers, attend off-site alternative provision, inspectors will evaluate the extent to which these placements are safe and effective in promoting pupils' progress. Inspectors will normally visit a sample of the alternative providers used and, if required, may speak to local authorities, other agencies and parents/carers to gather evidence. Inspectors will want to understand

how providers ensure that pupils who attend multiple settings or part time are kept safe when they are not on site for the whole school day.

(School inspection handbook 2024; Paragraph 292)

Commissioners should have processes that enable them to satisfy themselves of the quality and suitability of all placements. Where a provider commissions an AP placement from a provider which is not on this approved list, they should take further steps to satisfy themselves of the safety, suitability and quality of the provision.

All education providers are required to adhere to the statutory guidance; Working Together To Improve School Attendance Guidance.

Service level agreements (SLAs):

It is essential that any commissioned placement in AP is governed by an SLA that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the commissioner/referrer and provider. This should cover safeguarding (including referrals and first day calling for absence), progress (academic, behaviour and attendance), other necessary reporting and costs/invoicing.

All commissioners of AP should keep in mind the following statutory guidance:

Responsibility for the alternative provision used rests with the commissioner. The nature of the intervention, its objectives and the timeline to achieve these objectives should be agreed and clearly defined. Progress against these objectives should be frequently monitored, appropriate reviews should be built in and continuity into the next stage in the child's life should be considered. Where reintegration to the school is an objective, there should be agreement on how to assess when the pupil is ready to return, and the school should provide an appropriate package of support to assist their reintegration. These objectives and plans should be agreed with providers, set out in writing and regularly monitored, including through frequent visits to the provider.

(DfE - Alternative Provision; Statutory guidance for local authorities: 2013)

Roll status

Where the pupil is on roll at a DfE registered school, they are the main school, and the AP provision is the subsidiary school, and this should be entered on the School Census in this way.

If the AP is a registered school, the main school mark the pupil as D -dual registered- and the AP (which is a registered school) mark the pupil in the normal way (attendance

mark or absent). If the AP is not a registered school, the main school mark the register as code B- educated off site- and the AP mark the pupil in the normal way (attendance mark or absent).

There must be clear agreed lines of who is responsible for following up on absences and how information will be shared between the two parties.

Under Children Missing Education guidance, it is a legal requirement that the LA is notified within 5 days of a pupil being admitted to the roll of a school or AP and within 24 hours of a pupil leaving the school or AP.

If the LA have arranged the AP educational provision, the school where the pupil is on roll at, must record the nature of the provision and be notified of attendance and absence. The AP should record the pupil's attendance and absence and report this back to the school. Schools should mark the pupil as K when attending AP arranged by LA, and with the appropriate absence code if they have not attended for any reason.

Direction off site

In addition to strategies set out in the Behaviour in Schools Guidance, schools can also consider an offsite direction to alternative provision to improve behaviour as a preventive measure to exclusion.

This should be a time limited move with clear objectives, for example, to gain an understanding of the support a child or young person needs to improve behaviour. To support reintegration, pupils should continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum during this time. This power should only be used to improve future behaviour, and not as a sanction for past misconduct.

Depending on the individual needs and circumstances of the pupil, off-site direction can be full-time or a combination of part-time support in alternative provision and continued mainstream education. The nature of the intervention, it's objectives and the proposed maximum timescale for achieving these objectives, should be clearly defined and agreed with the provision from the outset. This must also be communicated in writing to the pupil and parents/carers. The plan should then be monitored closely and reviewed regularly. The length of time a pupil spends in alternative provision must be kept under review by the governing body. As part of planning, alternative options should be considered once the time limit has been reached, this could include a managed move on a permanent basis.

Quality assurance (QA) process

The providers within this directory have been visited by members of the Quality Assurance Team (QAT). These providers have been assessed using the agreed cross-borough (Croydon, Merton and Wandsworth) QA framework. QA visits take

place every two years. All providers in this directory met the QA Framework expectations at the time of their most recent visit.

Independent schools

Each listing within the directory outlines whether a provider is registered with DfE as a school. Providers **without** independent school status are unable to legally provide full-time education to any pupils with an EHCP or those looked after by the local authority.

The local authority has a duty to report any unregistered provision found to be in breach the following thresholds to Ofsted:

- full-time education to one or more pupil(s) with an EHCP
- full-time education to one or more pupil(s) who is looked after by the local authority
- full-time education to five or more pupils who do not fall into the two categories above.

A 'pupil' is defined as a child of statutory school age.

There are a number of factors to consider in making a judgement about whether the education offered by an unregistered provider is full-time. These factors include:

- the number of hours per week that is provided - including breaks and independent study time
- the number of weeks in the academic term/year the education is provided
- the time of day it is provided
- whether the education provision in practice precludes the possibility that full-time education could be provided elsewhere.

In terms of hours, according to the DfE guidance, it is unlikely that a school operating for less than 18 hours a week would satisfy this test.

The DfE guidelines state:

Generally, we consider any institution that is operating during the day, for more than 18 hours per week, to be providing full-time education. This is because the education being provided is taking up the substantial part of the week in which it can be reasonably expected a child can be educated, and therefore indicates that the education provided is the main source of education for that child.

(DFE - Registration of independent schools; Departmental guidance for proprietors and prospective proprietors of independent schools in England: 2019)

Exam centre status

Each listing indicates whether a provider is an approved exam centre. This is of particular significance when commissioning placements for pupils who are preparing to sit public examinations. Those providers without exam centre status will have difficulties in entering pupils for external exams without the support of commissioning schools or collaboration with external, third-party examination centres. Commissioners of long-term AP placements must have a plan for how/where their pupil(s) will sit their public exams.

Alternative Provision Directory Index

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FUTURE SKILLS

Provision Summary

We are a small charity providing tailored support for individuals and small groups 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 and primary schools in Wandsworth and local authority departments. On average, at least 70% of leavers re-engage with full-time education.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Phil Thain

DSL: Phil Thain

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 19/4/2024

Lead Local Authority: Wandsworth

Email: info@future-skills.co.uk

Phone: 020 3818 6210

Website: www.future-skills.co.uk

Address:

Caius House

2 Holman Road

London

SW11 3RL

Charges

£160 - £210 per day per pupil dependent on need and requirements.

Concessions for longer term placements of 6 weeks or more.

Subjects / Curriculum

We aim to develop the essential skills employers need: communication and team work skills, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership skills and self-confidence. We do this through a broad social and cultural curriculum.

We offer maths, English, science and functional skills tuition. We can also offer counselling through the on-site service available here.

We track progress using a tailored version of the Coping in Schools Scale and we incorporate Skills Builder into our approach also. These tools alongside our daily session reports allow us to report accurately on pupils' progress.

Days / Time Offered

Monday - Friday 9.30 - 2.30

RISE Education

Provision Summary

An Independent Therapeutic Educational Institution specializing in tailoring exceptional learning experiences for students with Special Educational Needs, harmoniously integrating therapeutic practices to nurture their unique potential.

About Us

At RISE Education, we foster a compassionate and nurturing environment where every student is heard, valued, and cherished. We deliver tailored education that integrates therapeutic interventions to address each child's distinct requirements. Our commitment to excellence in academics, along with a robust focus on music and art, ensures that your child receives the highest quality education and qualifications, while their creativity and self-expression flourish in a warm, supportive atmosphere.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Alton McDonald

DSL: Rena Johnson

Exam Centre: YES

Independent School: YES

Date of last QA Visit: 27/02/2024

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: info@riseeducation.org.uk

Phone: 0208 665 2605

Website: www.riseeducation.org.uk

Address:

37-39 Western Road

Mitcham

CR4 3ED

Charges

Fees range from - £30,000 to £72,215 per annum.

Subjects / Curriculum

- GCSEs and Functional Skills in English, Maths, Science, IT, and Humanities
- PE, Food and Hygiene, PSHE, Music, Arts Award, and Princes Trust
- Off-site Specialized courses in Bike Mechanics & Construction
- Life Skills development and a comprehensive Mentoring Programme/Counselling & Therapies

Days / Time Offered

RISE operates on the Merton mainstream school calendar. When required, we design customized timetables to reintegrate students with substantial educational gaps or irregular attendance histories.

ROAD 2 SUCCESS (R2S)

Provision Summary

R2S is an alternative provision that provide Vocational and Respite placements for young people in the local area and surrounding boroughs. R2S offer a proven and well-established 14-16 year old alternative school provision. These courses provide an alternative route to further education and apprenticeships in a variety of interesting and diverse vocations. This is a vital resource to our children today. Our portfolio also includes educational and social courses covering a wide range of topics.

About Us

R2S is an established part of the local community and has been for over 15 years. We can action placements immediately and this is what makes us stand out as we pride ourselves on how we strive to ensure young people do not have any gaps in education.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Sarah Panteli

DSL: Sarah Panteli

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: NO

Date of last QA Visit: 31/01/2023

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 8.30am - 5.30pm term time only unless otherwise requested.

BRIGHT HEARTS

Provision Summary

Bright Heart is an award-winning SEND-focused AP provider based in London. We offer a more nurturing approach designed to boost learning and confidence. We support children and young people with learning challenges or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.

About Us

Bright Heart was established in 2018 to better serve children and young people with 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 experts take the time to fully understand students' unique learning needs and ensure that we provide well-matched tutors, who are carefully vetted. 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.

We also support schools as an accredited National Tutoring Programme (NTP) Tuition Partner.

Our tuition has been recognised at the National Tutoring Awards (Tuition Business of the Year 2022, runners-up 2023/4) and the NASEN awards (winner 2020, runners-up 2021).

Useful Info

Main Contact: Dr Ryan Stevenson

DSL: John Salmon

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 18/07/2023

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 £54.17/hr to £75/hr ex VAT, depending on the qualifications and experience of the tutor. We provide a 10% discount for online tuition. Consultations are free.

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. In addition, we provide help with lifelong skills, including study techniques, mentoring and transition into adulthood,

Days / Time Offered

We provide tuition Monday-Friday (weekend by request).

FLEET EDUCATION SERVICES

Provision Summary

We are a tuition provider with over 20 years' experience of building strong relationships with local authorities and schools to provide a package of alternative provision for underachieving, disadvantaged and vulnerable learners. We provide bespoke 1-1 catch-up and re-engagement with learning programmes and offer a wide range of national curriculum subjects from Key Stages 1 to 5. Our tuition offer extends to transition support when a learner returns to school to ensure the transition is successful.

About Us

We assess every learner at the start of their programme and develop a personalised learning plan with clear and achievable targets. We track attendance, engagement and progress throughout the programme and have clear processes for intervention where required. Our quality assurance team monitors tutor performance through reports and observations. We are experienced in working with learners with SEND and our Programme Leads work closely with parents/carers, clients and tutors to ensure every learner is thriving. We also provide an exam entry service for learners who are studying functional skills, GCSEs and A-levels.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Linda Chapman

DSL: Linda Chapman

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 19/6/2023

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: linda.chapman@

fleeteducationservices.com

Phone: 07464 673351

Website: <https://fleeteducationservices.com>

Address:

3rd Floor, Abbey House

282 Farnborough Road

Farnborough

GU14 7NA

Charges:

For AP Tuition, we charge by the week with a minimum 5 hour charge per week. The effective charge per hour decreases according to how many hours of tuition per week are requested. Please ask for our current prices.

Subjects / Curriculum

We offer the maths, English and science subjects at all levels as well as Modern Foreign Languages, humanities, ICT, ESOL, art, accountancy, business studies and computer science.

Days / Time Offered

We offer tuition Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm term time only, unless otherwise requested.

FRESH START

Provision Summary

Fresh Start in Education provides 1:1 tuition to engage with and continue education.

About Us

For over 14 years, Fresh Start in Education has been delivering person-centred packages to students who are having difficulties attending school or college for a variety of reasons.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Referrals Department

DSL: Matt Goody

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 13/6/2023

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:

4 level fee structure, hourly rate:

Online (SL1) £57.20 p/h

Basic Provision (SL2) 68.20 p/h

Premium Provision (SL3) £79.20 p/h

Enhanced Provision (SL4) £89.20 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.

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 9 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: Essi Pentti / Hannah Baker

DSL: Ben Sweet

Exam Centre: No

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 11/7/2023

Lead Local Authority: Merton

Email: Info@lovesquared.org.uk

Phone: 020 7205 2667

Website:
www.lovesquared.org.uk

Address:
Love Squared
67 Stoke Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 1EP

Charges:

£45 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.

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: Emma Stanway

Exam Centre: YES (Functional Skills)

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 24/4/24

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 £75 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

Provision Summary

Young Giants is a specialist AP education service providing 1:1 and small group tuition and mentoring, KS1-5. We are a managed service (not a tuition agency) working exclusively with schools and local authorities to support children & young people who are PEX/at risk of PEX, those with SEND (including complex needs/PMLD), neurodiversity and SEMH.

About Us

Established in 2017, we are focussed on raising standards in the sector by providing bespoke, needs-based, and flexible programmes of educational support that incorporate re-engagement, re-integration and inclusion outcomes. Managed by a team of qualified teachers, we firmly believe that every child can access education if the professional team around them work collaboratively, creatively and flexibly. We form a strong part of every learner's TAC, monitoring progress and supporting engagement throughout a learner's time with us. We never refuse a learner and never withdraw our education support in any circumstance. We provide attendance data, ILPs and progress reports, and can support schools by providing a presence during Ofsted.

Useful Info

Main Contact: Jaime Johnson

DSL: Ellen Davison

Exam Centre: Yes

Independent School: No

Date of last QA Visit: 8/7/2024

Lead Local Authority: Wandsworth

Email: enquiries@younggiants.co.uk

Phone: 0208 068 6803

Website:

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

Address: (Admin only)

2-4 Packhorse Rd

SL9 7QE

Charges

Hourly: £55 to £65 depending on complexity. A fee of £7 will be applied to each learner visit (this is passed directly to commuting staff). ASDAN & Arts Awards range from £150 to £400 per course

Subjects / Curriculum

Bespoke programmes of education and mentoring (often running concurrently to meet re-engagement outcomes). We are a Functional Skills exam centre* (online), an ASDAN and Arts Award Provider

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)

Sources of further guidance

- [DfE: Keeping Children Safe In Education Sept 2024](#)
- [Ofsted: School Inspection handbook](#)
- [DfE: Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#)
- [DfE: SEND and alternative provision improvement plan: right support, right place, right time](#)
- [DfE: Alternative Provision: Statutory Guidance](#)
- [DfE: Regulating Independent Schools: Guidance](#)
- [DfE: Registration of independent schools: guidance for proprietors](#)
- [DfE: Working Together To Improve School Attendance: Statutory Guidance](#)

