

Heathcote Primary School



Alternative Provision Policy

Date adopted by Governors:	March 2023
Date for policy review:	March 2024
Person responsible for review:	SENDCO
Signed by Chair of Governors	March 2023

Alternative Provision Policy

Context

Heathcote Primary School recognises that there is a need to ensure that our curriculum and ethos is inclusive and accessible, providing opportunities for all our children to succeed. However, we also recognise that rarely, but sometimes, our school is not the right place for some children to flourish either on a part time, full time or temporary basis.

In order to offer an alternative, we work with a local provider to offer 'alternative provision' for struggling children to reach their potential in a school-based environment.

Objectives of the policy

- To outline why some pupils may be offered alternative provision.
- To ensure that the offer of alternative provision is offered in a consistent way.
- To provide guidance on the referral process and the suitability of providers.
- To ensure that there are suitable procedures in place relating to attendance and the safeguarding of the children.
- To outline arrangements made for keeping in touch with students ensuring we monitor academic progress, behaviour and pastoral welfare.

Reasons why we might offer alternative provision

- It is thought that the pupil is at risk of exclusion and that an alternative provision might prevent this.
- The pupil is not able to access the curriculum provided at Heathcote Primary School because of learning or emotional and social difficulties and that an alternative approach would re-motivate and engage the child.

Suitability of providers

We only use providers who are registered and approved and who have safeguarding policies in place.

What providers do we use?

We spend time deciding on a suitable provider and take advice from a number of sources to select the right place for our pupils. There are many factors to consider such as distance to travel, age range provided for, and activities on offer etc.

To date we have used:

Flourish at the Farm, Snitterfield, Warwickshire

This is an indoor/outdoor centre where pupils have opportunities to work with animals, cook outside, craft, develop forest school skills and build. The curriculum there is very practical and suited to children who thrive on this approach. Children will typically attend for half a day per week. Children can attend as long as is suitable.

(All risk assessments and policies from *Flourish at the Farm* are shared with the school.)

Dare2Dream Foundation

This was through a referral from local authority in preparation for a move to specialist provision.

The Referral Process

The school refers to the DfE publication: Alternative Provision: Statutory guidance January 2013 when referring children to alternative provision. This guidance forms an appendix to this policy.

Parents/carers are always an integral part of the referral process and are consulted at each stage of the process. The children in alternative provision remain on role at Heathcote Primary School. The school funds the places at alternative provision. The school remains ultimately responsible for the pupil, and the offer of an alternative placement demonstrates a commitment to inclusion by the school. Attendance and Safeguarding Attendance at off-site alternative provision will be monitored closely. Alternative providers will contact school if a student is absent and this will be recorded on our attendance system with a reason for the absence. Continued absence will be closely monitored and dealt with accordingly. It is expected that any safeguarding concerns are shared with Heathcote Primary School by liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Academic progress and pastoral welfare

There will be a detailed handover at the start of the placement when data, pupil characteristics and behaviour as well as objectives for the placement will be shared with the alternative provision. The pupil, whilst on placement, will be visited by school staff to ensure contact with the school and for staff to monitor the appropriateness of the placement. Regular liaison and updates will take place between the provider and school to ensure that the placement objectives are being achieved and that the placement still addresses the needs of the child. Where appropriate, pupils will continue to attend school functions and events and the provider will inform Heathcote Primary School of any significant events or incidents that happen whilst on placement.