Alternative Provision

At

The Whitby High School

Introduction

The Whitby High School aims to embrace the needs of all of its students and offer bespoke educational programmes to engage young people during their time here. We recognise that a 'traditional curriculum' does not appeal to or meet the needs of all young people and, to that end, we aim to provide high-class alternatives for a small number of students who find mainstream schooling difficult.

The main aims of our alternative programme can be summarised below:

- To engage as many students as possible in education
- Provide appropriate pathways for young people in areas which engage them, with an aim of gaining future employment in this area
- To avoid permanent exclusion

The School's 'Positive Relations Policy' has a 'staged approach' to behaviour (see Appendix 1). Students can be permanently excluded for serious one-off incidents, but the most common reason is 'persistent disruptive behaviour' or an accumulation of incidents. The School's staged system has alternative placements from 'Stage 4' onwards. We will always try to source alternative pathways before permanent exclusion in most cases, unless there is good reason not to do this.

Students who are selected for an alternative pathway will have a full provision plan detailing the provision and the quality assurance checks put in place. Appendix 2 contains the full list of those students who are currently experiencing an Alternative Education pathway

Pre-agreement checks and Student Provision Plan

Referrals for Alternative Provision are made through the House system and considered by the Deputy Head's for Pastoral and Curriculum and Assistant Headteacher responsible for Alternative Education. A detailed and personalised Provision Plan is then created for each student and then shared with the provider and parents/carer. Appendix 3 contains an example of this type of plan.

All alternative providers are identified according to the School's and individual student's needs. The CWAC Education Access Team is aware of all of the providers below and many other schools in the authority use them. Mr Entwistle, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Alternative Provision, and/or Mr Gray, Deputy Headteacher, meet with senior people from these organisations before any agreement is made. Stringent checks are made and assurances sought. A pre-visit is arranged

which involves the student, parent/carer, School staff and a representative from the provider. Agreements have been terminated or the removal of the alternative provider from the offer when they have failed to meet quality standards.

Why do we use the providers stipulated?

We use a range of providers in order to offer as many alternative pathways as possible for young people. There is no Local Authority programme or scope to refer students for short-term intervention work at this level, so we have developed our own programme. Providers are chosen depending on the needs and wishes of the child in question. Current providers include:

1) West Cheshire College

This organisation is used mainly for Year 11 students who are disengaged with school generally. This could be for behavioural or attendance reasons. West Cheshire College has close links with the School and we work with the family of the young person to identify a suitable programme and aid transition to the College. We also provide any kit, such as work boots or catering uniforms. A bespoke timetable is offered to the student to maximise their attainment. This often involves coming back into school for small group work in maths and English, as well as other qualifications. These students are entered for as many examinations as possible.

2) The Bridge Short-Stay School

Use of this provision is dependent on the number of referrals it has at any given time. In the past, we have used 'The Bridge' to deliver tuition to students, while we have sourced work placements to run alongside it. This was as an alternative to a permanent exclusion.

3) Mploy work placements

Mploy is a respected national provider. We use Mploy for those students who would benefit from a modified timetable (one day or two to engage them in school) or as part of a package for students who are on other programmes. This pathway has led to apprenticeships for some of our most challenging students in previous years. We work with the student and family in question to make sure that appropriate placements are found.

4) Harmonize Academy

We have only used Harmonize Academy once, for a high needs student. This is due to the logistics of getting students to Liverpool from Ellesmere Port. Harmonize offers a full-time education and students complete a range of qualifications, all Level 2. Harmonize is an excellent provision and is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted (March 2015 Inspection).

5) WRAP (Wirral Respite Alternative Provision)

WRAP is based on the Wirral and offers short-term or longer-term programmes for students. Generally, those in younger year groups (for example Years 7 – 9), the programme is for 12 weeks, with an aim of re-engaging students in education. Students are given access to mainstream subjects at WRAP and given bespoke counselling. The aim is that they are successfully re-integrated into school (the 'PRU model'). There is the option to place Year 11 students with WRAP full-time with termly reviews on the suitability of this placement for the student.

6) Managed moves

When it is deemed appropriate, we will approach one of our partner schools to broach the possibility of a managed move. This may be for welfare reasons or, more commonly, behavioural reasons. It is done with parental/carer agreement with the overriding aim to prevent a permanent exclusion from school. After an initial 'trial period' (usually 12 weeks), the student goes onto the roll of the partner school. There are numerous examples of this type of agreement working well.

7) The Local Authority Fair Access Protocol

The Whitby High School is a leading member of this group. All of the providers and strategies highlighted above are discussed at this meeting.

The role of the Governing Body

The Governors have 'Alternative Provision' as a standing item on the 'Student Learning and Well-Being' Committee agenda and this is fed into the main Governing Body meetings.

Enrolment of students

All students on Alternative Provision programmes remain on the roll of The Whitby High School. The School takes full responsibility for the welfare and attainment

Student Mploy Placement Details (if part of an AP offer)

ME keeps a central record of the individual placement details for each student. Individual Houses are involved in the setting up of the day-to-day placements and a keep detailed breakdown of individual student timetables. The school have also employed (through Mploy) a caseworker who sources and monitors the weekly placements (if required). Regular meetings between the Assistant Headteacher (Alternative Education) take place to discuss progress concerns. Appendix 2 provides an example of a timetable record.

Risk Assess*m*ent

A risk assessment visit takes place prior to the commencement of the placement and repeated on a yearly basis. The purpose of the visit is to check upon the suitability of the placement and to eliminate any health and safety concerns. Checks also include a review of the Safeguarding procedures and DBS certification for all staff who have contact with the students. During this visit, the member of staff completes the risk assessment form (Appendix 3). The completed forms are filed in the Alternative Education file.

Alternative Provision Monitoring Schedule

All students are monitored during their time at the alternative placement. Weekly attendance checks take place and are linked to the school's internal attendance tracking systems. Employers and College notify school of any absence on a daily basis. A monthly visit is completed by a nominate House Progress Manager for any student on a full time placement. ME/SG complete a termly visit for any student on a part-time placement.

Appendix 4 contains the Alternative Provision Monitoring Schedule.

Alternative Provision Visit Documentation

During any visit, the member of staff will complete Alternative Provision Visit form (Appendix 5). This form covers a number of questions relating to the activities covered during the placement and a brief Health and safety assessment. These records are then forwarded to the appropriate House Progress Manager and ME (Assistant Headteacher).