



ACE SCHOOLS



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PROVISION GUIDE 2024-25



INTRODUCTION

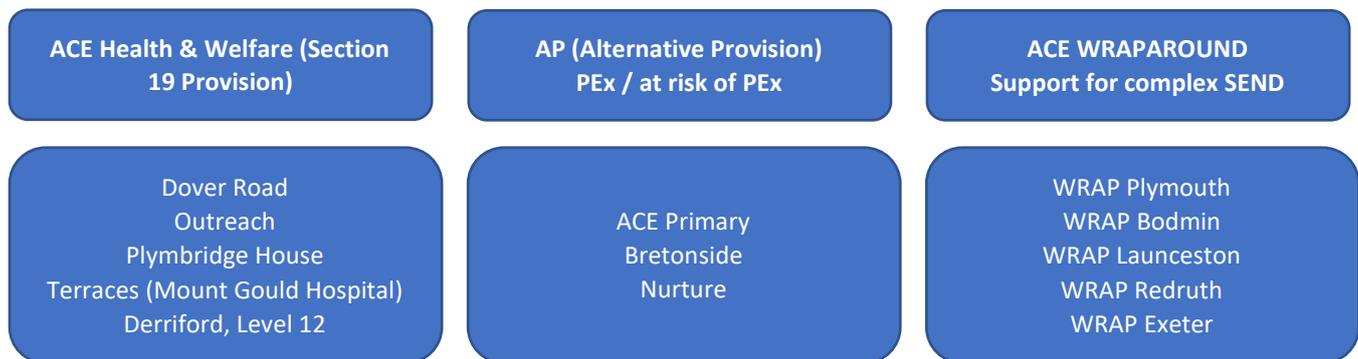
WELCOME TO ACE SCHOOLS

ACE Schools is an Alternative Provider (AP) of education. Alternative provision (AP) is education outside of school, arranged by local authorities or schools, for pupils who do not attend school for reasons such as school exclusion, behavioural, emotional, social, medical or mental health needs.

We offer support across three broad areas:

- an alternative provision for children who have been or who are at risk of permanent exclusion;
- health and welfare provision (traditionally more commonly known as hospital school) for children who are medically struggling to access school; and
- bespoke provision on an individually commissioned basis for children with complex special educational needs (SEND) or in crisis who for various reasons may be unable to be placed within any local mainstream or specialist provisions and are at risk of being CME (Children Missing Education).

We work with students aged 5- 19 years old across a number of different provisions, covering a wide geographical area and spanning three different Local Authority areas (Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall).



Our aim is to be a short-term provision if possible, and as such we have a transient population and a high turnover of students (approximately 300% turnover a year) which in itself requires some considerations in regards how we plan our curriculum and support. We aim to transition students back into an appropriate long-term placement- either mainstream or specialist- if possible and in their best interests.

Much of our cohort often display a degree of Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) needs which for various reasons prevent them successfully engaging in a mainstream setting. Although we are not a designated specialist provision, on average 50% of our cohort has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place, many of which we request ourselves once determining whether we feel a short term intervention is going to have a positive impact or if the needs are more long term. In June 2016 we converted from Local Authority control to become an independent Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) which now also includes a number of special schools in different LAs.

Tim Mathias

Deputy Head

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WHAT WE OFFER

ACE PRIMARY

AGE GROUP	KS1 and 2 Primary base, age 5-11 years
NUMBERS	Individual 1:1 packages Average of 10 students in total, 2 main classrooms
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Exclusion or risk of exclusion including challenging behaviour
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority (i.e. following PEx, Primary FAP or 0-25 CME referral); or Referral for a package from main school
FUNDING SOURCE	Single registered students – direct from LA Dual registered students – funded by mainstream setting
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils follow an appropriate FS / KS1 / KS2 curriculum dependent on ability/need, overseen by a teacher• Individualised provision for each student with full-time 1:1 TA support• Opportunities for small group work at times• Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTIC) 1 day a week• Weekly theraplay• Additional pastoral and specialist support available•
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	Formal KS1 & 2 tests facilitated if appropriate



WHAT WE OFFER

BRETONSIDE SECONDARY

AGE GROUP	KS3 and 4 Secondary base, age 11-16 years
NUMBERS	Small class sizes on site (5-8 pupils on average daily) Average of 80-100 students in total (not all on site at one time)
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Exclusion or risk of exclusion including challenging behaviour
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority to ACE (i.e. Secondary FAP/ PEx); or Referral for a package from main school
FUNDING SOURCE	Single registered students – direct from LA Dual registered students – funded by mainstream setting
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils follow a secondary style curriculum of discreet lessons, with a strong emphasis on English and Mathematics• 9 class groups (3 x KS3, 3 x Year 10, 3 x Year 11)• Opportunities to be involved in alternative curriculum activities, such as Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTC) and vocational work-based training• Full-time TA to support each group at all times• Additional pastoral and specialist support available
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry Level offered in English, Mathematics, Science, Arts Award, Citizenship, Humanities, PE, Technology – as appropriate



WHAT WE OFFER

NURTURE

AGE GROUP	KS3 Secondary provision, age 11-14 years
NUMBERS	Small group (5-6 pupils maximum)
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Exclusion or risk of exclusion including challenging behaviour but requiring smaller, more nurturing support possibly due to SEND
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority to ACE (i.e. Secondary FAP / PEx); or Referral for a package from main school
FUNDING SOURCE	Single registered students – direct from LA Dual registered students – funded by mainstream setting
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils follow a thematic, topic based curriculum, with a strong emphasis on English and Mathematics, taught through classroom and off-site activity based tasks• Group is led by 1 teacher and 1 TA• Students can be picked up and dropped home by school which reduces anxiety and increases attendance• Attachment friendly approach• Additional pastoral and specialist support available
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry Level offered in English, Mathematics, Science, Arts Award, Citizenship, Humanities, PE, Technology – as appropriate



WHAT WE OFFER

ACE WRAPAROUND

PLYMOUTH, DEVON, CORNWALL

AGE GROUP	KS1-4, Primary and Secondary provision, age 5-16
NUMBERS	Various – dependent on base
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Individually commissioned provision for children with complex special educational needs (SEND) who for various reasons may be unable to be placed within any local mainstream or specialist provisions.
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority; or Referral for a package from main school
FUNDING SOURCE	Single registered students – direct from LA Dual registered students – funded by mainstream setting
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individualised provision for each student within full-time 1:1 (occasionally 2:1) TA support• Pupils follow an appropriate curriculum dependent on ability / need / interests, overseen by a teacher. This may be thematic, topic based curriculum, or discreet subject based, always with a strong emphasis on core subjects, taught through classroom and off-site activity based tasks. This may include vocational or LOTC type providers, i.e. Forest School, and may include outreach support within the home• Opportunities for small group work at times• Students can be picked up and dropped home by school which reduces anxiety and increases attendance• Attachment friendly approach• Additional pastoral and specialist support available
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry Level offered in English, Mathematics, Science, Arts Award, Citizenship, Humanities, PE, Technology – as appropriate Any other subjects if appropriate, i.e. Media ASDAN Award Scheme



WHAT WE OFFER

ACE HEALTH & WELFARE – DOVER ROAD

AGE GROUP	KS3 and 4 Secondary base, age 11-16 years
NUMBERS	Small class sizes (5-8 pupils on average) Average of 25-30 students in total on base
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Unable to attend school due to short-term medical concerns preventing them from being able to access their mainstream setting – these can be physical or mental health related but should preferably be supported by Consultant level medical involvement
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority to ACE Health & Welfare (Section 19 Panel); or Internal referral within ACE, or 0-25 referrals for CME/ complex SEND
FUNDING SOURCE	Single / dual registered students – funded by LA under statutory Section 19 provision for students with medical needs or other LA funding
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils follow a secondary style curriculum of discreet lessons, and a set timetable including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, PSHE, Citizenship, PE, Art• Opportunities to be involved in alternative curriculum activities, such as Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTC) and vocational work-based training• 3 class groups (KS3, 2 x KS4)• Full-time TA to support each group at all times, specialist teachers• Additional pastoral and specialist support available• Our aim is to offer short-term intervention for students to enable them to return to their mainstream school when medically well enough• Expectation is that all Section 19 funded students should remain dual registered
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry level offered in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Citizenship, Humanities, PE, Technology – as appropriate



WHAT WE OFFER

ACE HEALTH & WELFARE – OUTREACH

AGE GROUP	KS1-4 Primary and secondary base, age 5-16 years
NUMBERS	Many on outreach will only access a reduced provision Numbers vary on a flexible model
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Unable to attend school due to short-term medical concerns preventing them from being able to access their mainstream setting or consistently leave the house in order to access provision on site – these can be physical or mental health related but should preferably be supported by Consultant level medical involvement
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via Local Authority to ACE Health & Welfare (Section 19 Panel); or Internal referral within ACE
FUNDING SOURCE	Single / dual registered students – funded by LA under statutory Section 19 provision for students with medical needs or other LA funding
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach students are usually medically unable to access full-time provision, we aim to offer a minimum of 4-5 hours support a week and gradually increase this if able• Individualised provision for each student dependent on their needs which may be delivered in the home of the student, an alternative environment, online or in their school• This may include transitional support into another ACE base or back into their mainstream setting• Provision may include academic support, face to face with a member of ACE staff, or online, as well as support with life skills, social and emotional support if appropriate or access to alternative curriculum such as vocational courses• Work may be provided by the mainstream setting to enable continuity or through ACE• Additional pastoral and specialist support available• Our aim is to offer short-term intervention for students to enable them to return to their mainstream school when medically well enough• Expectation is that all Section 19 funded students should remain dual registered
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry level offered in English, Mathematics, Science or a range of alternative subjects if studied.



WHAT WE OFFER

ACE HEALTH & WELFARE – DERRIFORD

AGE GROUP	KS1-4 Primary and secondary, age 5-16 years
NUMBERS	Numbers vary on a flexible model
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Unable to attend school due to short-term medical concerns requiring admittance to one of the children's in-patient wards on level 12 of Derriford Hospital, the High Dependency Unit or Children's Outpatient Department
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via admittance to Derriford Hospital
FUNDING SOURCE	Dual registered students – funded by LA under statutory Section 19 provision for students with medical needs
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our hospital facilitator oversees the teaching room, which has an open door policy• Students are usually medically unable to access full-time provision, however, it is available if appropriate• Individualised provision for each student dependent on their needs which may be delivered in the teaching room, by the bedside or online• Work may be provided by the mainstream setting to enable continuity or through ACE• Our aim is to offer short-term intervention for students to enable them to return to their mainstream school when medically well enough• We encourage schools to maintain links with their student and to visit if appropriate• Expectation is that all Section 19 funded students should remain dual registered
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry level offered in English, Mathematics, Science or a range of alternative subjects if studied.



WHAT WE OFFER

ACE HEALTH & WELFARE – PLYM BRIDGE HOUSE

AGE GROUP	KS3-5 Secondary, age 12-18 years
NUMBERS	12 full-time places (12 bed inpatient unit)
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Unable to attend school due to severe mental health illness requiring inpatient admittance to a CAMHS residential tier 4 unit run by Livewell. It serves the population of 12 to 18 year olds in Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon and Torbay. Young people are admitted to Plym Bridge House for acute, short-term assessment and treatment
REFERRAL ROUTE	Via admittance to Plym Bridge Tier 4 unit, NHS run residential psychiatric facility
FUNDING SOURCE	Section 19 provision for students with medical needs. Dual or single registered students
PROVISION OFFERED	<p>The unit is staffed by a multi-disciplinary staff group, which includes health and education professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils follow a set timetable including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, PSHE, Citizenship, PE, Art, STEM• Opportunities to be involved in alternative curriculum activities, such as Learning Outside The Classroom (LOTIC)• Individualised work for each student dependent on health needs, ability and Key Stage• Work may be provided by the mainstream setting to enable continuity or through ACE• We encourage schools to maintain links with their student to enable them to return successfully when medically well enough• Expectation is that all Section 19 funded students should remain dual registered
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	GCSE, Functional Skills, Entry level offered in English, Mathematics, Science or a range of alternative subjects if studied.



WHAT WE OFFER

FOREST SCHOOL @ POOLE FARM

AGE GROUP	KS1-4 Primary and secondary, age 5-16 years
NUMBERS	Small group sizes (5-8 pupils on average per day)
REASON FOR REFERRAL	Students struggling to access their mainstream setting or main ACE base due to risk of exclusion including challenging behaviour, complex SEND or SEMH needs meaning that an alternative setting such as Forest School is felt would be beneficial and support inclusion.
REFERRAL ROUTE	Internal referral within ACE, or Referral for a package from main school (usually for 1 day a week)
FUNDING SOURCE	Single registered students – direct from LA Dual registered students – funded by mainstream setting
PROVISION OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a child-centred provision that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking through a forest school approach• Structured sessions are led by a teacher and TA (both Level 3 Forest School qualified), 3 days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays).• Students usually attend 1 day a week (occasionally 2 days) as part of either a time limited package/ intervention or ongoing as part of a more bespoke curriculum offer• The aim is to support inclusion in a non- classroom based setting and enable students to successfully remain within mainstream provision if possible
QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER	John Muir Award Scheme available if appropriate