

The Catholic High School, Chester

Alternative Provision Policy

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11.

Administration	
Statutory / Non-Statutory	Statutory
Website	Yes
Document formulated	June 2025
Date reviewed	September 2025
Next review Date	Every 3 Years (September 2028)

Introduction

As a Catholic school we are guided by the teaching of Jesus Christ. We recognise that at times we all fail to behave in a way that reflects the commandment to love God and love our neighbour. Jesus also taught about the need for forgiveness and giving people the opportunity to change.

Aims

We aim for all our students to develop academically, spiritually and socially to become successful, happy and caring citizens. We pride ourselves on providing a nurturing, supportive and caring ethos in which positive relationships are at fostered between all members of our school community.

Our key aims are as follows;

Achievement

- Students work rigorously in the pursuit of excellence

Readiness

- Students have positive routines and good habits to enable them to engage with their learning effectively and prepare them for the next stage in their lives

Community

- Students personify the values needed to positively contribute to their communities

Health

- Students demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed to have healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy relationships

ARCH in action

Achievement

Remember, you will always reap what you sow. So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up for we will reap a harvest of blessing – Galatians 6:7 & 9

- Live out Christofidelis
- Excellent attitude to Learning
- Resilience in learning
- Seeking excellence in all areas of study
- Commitment to extracurricular opportunities
- School representation
- Community representation

Readiness

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it – Proverbs 22:6

- Contribute to our school ethos
- Excellent attendance
- Excellent punctuality
- Excellent standards of personal presentation (uniform)
- Always being prepared for learning (equipment, kit, school books, homework)

Community

Love one another. As I have loved you, you should love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples – John 13:34-35

- Follow the Catholic Social Teachings and Gospel Values
- Respectful behaviour towards other at all times
- Empathetic and kind
- Tolerance of other views and beliefs
- We keep ourselves and others safe
- Acceptance of others right to learning
- Respectful of school property and the property of others

Health

May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – spirit, soul and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ – Thessalonians 5:23

- Nurture spiritual growth at every opportunity
- Connect positively with others
- Give to others
- Learn new skills
- Be physically active
- Understand how outside factors (social media / screens) can affect a Healthy Mind
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1. Rationale and Vision

At The Catholic High School, Chester, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every student is given the opportunity to thrive. Guided by our Gospel values of dignity, compassion, and justice, we recognise that, for a small number of students, accessing alternative provision (AP) may be necessary to better meet their educational, social, emotional or behavioural needs.

This policy outlines how and when alternative provision is used, how it supports student progress, and the procedures that ensure placements are safe, effective, and reflect our Christian values.

2. Aims

- To ensure students placed in AP continue to receive a high-quality education.
- To reduce the risk of permanent exclusion by providing early and appropriate intervention.
- To support reintegration into mainstream education where possible.
- To safeguard all students in line with statutory guidance.
- To work in partnership with parents, carers, students, and external providers to promote success and wellbeing.

3. What is Alternative Provision?

Alternative provision is education arranged by schools for students who, because of exclusion, behaviour, illness, or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education. This may be full- or part-time and may include:

- Off-site education at a registered provider.
- Online provision (where appropriate).
- In-house provision for support or reintegration.
- Vocational training placements.
- Therapeutic or specialist settings (e.g., SEMH support).

4. Guiding Principles

- Any AP placement must be in the best interest of the student.
- All placements must be quality-assured, safe, and offer a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Students retain their place on the school roll and remain the responsibility of the school.
- The dignity and potential of every child is upheld, with the aim of helping them to flourish.

5. Identification and Referral

Students may be considered for AP for reasons including:

- Risk of exclusion.
- Persistent disruptive behaviour.
- School refusal or attendance issues.
- Social, emotional, or mental health challenges.
- Medical needs.
- Risk of disengagement from learning.

The decision to place a student in AP will be made by the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with the Year Leader of Learning (YLL), SENCO (if relevant), and the student and their parent/carer.

6. Planning and Monitoring

For all AP placements:

- A personalised plan will be drawn up, including educational targets, duration, and review dates.
- Parents/carers and the student will be involved in the planning process.
- Regular monitoring will take place through visits, updates from the provider, and student progress reviews.
- Safeguarding arrangements will be in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).
- Students will continue to access a broad curriculum, including Maths, English, and personal development.

7. Curriculum and Outcomes

The school will ensure that alternative provision:

- Offers appropriate qualifications and personal development opportunities.
- Equips students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to progress in education or employment.
- Reflects the Christian mission of valuing each student as a child of God.

8. Safeguarding

The school retains safeguarding responsibility for all students in AP. The DSL will liaise with providers to ensure:

- All staff are appropriately vetted.
- Safeguarding policies are in place and followed.
- Attendance is monitored and reported daily.
- Any safeguarding concerns are promptly shared with the school.

9. Review and Reintegration

All placements will be regularly reviewed to assess suitability and progress. Where possible, the goal is successful reintegration into mainstream education. This will be managed sensitively and with a tailored support plan.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Headteacher:** Final decision-making and oversight.
- **SLT Link for Alternative Provision:** Day-to-day monitoring and evaluation.
- **YLL/SENCO:** Identifying need and coordinating support.
- **DSL:** Safeguarding liaison.
- **Parent/Carer:** Engaged in partnership and support.
- **Student:** Encouraged to take responsibility and participate in planning.

11. Equality and Inclusion

All decisions about AP are made in line with our Equality Policy. We seek to remove barriers for vulnerable or disadvantaged students and will not discriminate based on protected characteristics.

12. Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the SLT and approved by the Governing Body.

Appendix 3.

Guidance considered

[Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[KCSIE 2025](#)

[Searching, Screening and confiscation. Advice for Schools.](#)

[Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Guidance](#)

[Behaviour in Schools. Advice for headteachers and school staff](#)

[Use of reasonable force. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies.](#)

Links to other relevant policies

[Harmful Behaviours & Anti-Bullying Policy](#)

[Attendance Policy](#)

[Drug Policy](#)

[Special Education Needs and Disabilities Policy](#)

[Child-on-Child abuse/sexual harassment and violence policy](#)