

WILL ADAMS ACADEMY



Admissions Policy

Date of last review	December 2023
Review cycle	Annual
Policy due for review and approval by Local Governing Body	Autumn Term 2024

Introduction

The Will Adams Academy is an Intervention and Alternative Provision Service which belongs to Alternative Learning Trust. Its aim is to provide advice, assessment, therapeutic and educational intervention to ameliorate the difficulties and behaviours of the most challenging, troubled and disaffected students so that they can continue in or return to education in mainstream schools. The intention of the schools and the Service is that permanent exclusion will be reduced or no longer required.

In Year 10, the prime aim is to identify primary needs and remediate challenging secondary behaviour by prior intervention with schools, part-time and/or full attendance at the intervention provision and supported re-integration into school. For other Year 10 and Year 11 students this aim continues, although with the acceptance that continuing full-time attendance away from school at the Alternative Provision, will be most suitable for some students.

Will Adams' Local Governing Body oversees the Academy. It consists of a representative group of Head Teachers/Principals (or their nominated representatives) of the schools in Medway, education and/or integrated services representatives, other professionals, the Local Authority and Head of School at Will Adams Academy. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote in line with the Terms of Reference for the Local Governing Body.

Will Adams Academy is commissioned for 45 places. Medway secondary schools will be allocated places when a case is agreed as suitable for provision at the Fair Access Panel. Where additional places are required the Head of School and Executive Team will work collaboratively with the home school Head Teacher to find a solution, particularly to prevent exclusion or to ensure that the students' needs are fully met where Alternative Provision is deemed more suitable for the remainder of their secondary education.

To ensure that Will Adams Academy can meet the needs of any additional students, we remain within the agreed staff to student ratios and, to prevent negative impact on the main cohort, an additional charge will be required for spaces above the commissioned number.

Provision

The Academy Trust will:

- provide appropriate educational arrangement and a full curriculum offer that meets students' education needs, and their personal and social development needs where they have been unable to access a school place as a result of behavioural or mental health issues.
- provide full time education for Medway resident students of Key Stage 4 age who are permanently excluded or at risk of permanent exclusion.
- provide short-term support and intervention programmes to enable students to successfully remain on the role of their home school.
- facilitate a pathway to reintegration into mainstream school or appropriate transition, through tailored plans.
- provide education for new Year 11 students arriving in the County post-January for whom a mainstream secondary school is not appropriate. The aim is to prepare these students for post-16 education, training or employment.
- ensure all young people within the AP academy cohort are fully supported to make a positive transition to an appropriate post-16 placement.
- ensure effective administrative support is in place to deliver the objectives of the service and ensure records for admission, exclusion and reintegration are maintained and student progress

is tracked and recorded with reports and monitoring data produced for the Trust Board and the Local Authority.

- have in place written policies, strategies and practices to enable the delivery of positive behaviour management for which all staff are well trained and supported to ensure consistent implementation.
- ensure responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 are fulfilled, and all reasonable adjustment are made to enable access to curriculum opportunities.
- address the needs of individual students to ensure the right level of support, set out ambitious learning outcomes and provide the re-integration support they need from education, health and care as appropriate.
- take all reasonable steps to integrate the educational plan with those of other relevant services such as Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Early Help, etc.
- provide a tailored reintegration plan or transition plan, setting out the levels of support required between the service and the school, which includes monitoring following the student's return to school to ensure the student is settled and fully accessing the curriculum through a transition/reintegration plan.
- adopt a pastoral approach in partnership with the students' original school arrangements with school, parents/carers and other relevant professional such as SEND teams, CAMHS, Admissions, Educational Psychologists, Inclusion Officer and Health professionals to promote an integrated approach to the child or young person's needs.

Service Users

Medway resident children and young people of Key Stage 4 age who are:

1. permanently excluded
2. at risk of exclusion
3. would not receive suitable education without such provision due to illness or other reasons.

Admissions and Referrals

Admission to the Alternative Provision Academy will be through the Fair Access Panel or directly from Medway Local Authority.

It is anticipated that it would be very unusual for the Academy not to admit a referred child or young person and that this would only happen where the Academy could demonstrate highly exceptional circumstances arising from the child or young person's needs.

The Academy will take every possible preventative response and action to avoid suspensions, however, their policy and procedures for a fixed period will be outlined within the Alternative Learning Trust published Behaviour Management Policy.

Permanently Excluded Students

All Local Authorities have a responsibility to provide full time education for all permanently excluded students who reside in that authority from the sixth day after the permanent exclusion. Students who have been permanently excluded from school, including those Medway residents in out of county schools, can be referred to Will Adams Academy via the County's Fair Access Panel.

Referrals by the Local Authority can also be made at any time and Alternative Learning Trust will make suitable provision for an agreed new referral in keeping with agreed protocols and in the best interests of the student's placement, by the sixth day in line with DfE guidance. Where the student has been permanently excluded, contact will be made within two working days to ensure the student is kept safe. These cases are then retrospectively agreed by the Fair Access Panel.

This is subject to an emergency place being available and there being capacity within the provision to accept the referral.

Students Residing in Another Local Authority

All Local Authorities have a responsibility to provide full time education for students. The Medway Local Authority funds the spaces at Will Adams Academy. The core spaces are therefore allocated as above.

Where a neighbouring county or borough deem it suitable to seek provision at Will Adams Academy and where the service has or can increase capacity to facilitate the referral, the referring authority take responsibility for the full cost of the placement. Transport for these students also remains the responsibility of the neighbouring county or borough.

Signed Agreement

Signed for and on behalf of the school by:

Marie Woolston, Executive Head Teacher