

THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL LTD

Admissions Policy



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Context

The Alternative School is a non-denominational school for boys and girls aged from 6 -18 years who, for various reasons, are not succeeding in a mainstream or special school. The school aims to take a more holistic and therapeutic approach looking to support both the personal and educational needs of pupils, helping them to overcome a wide range of barriers to learning and to develop, ready to transition back into school or moving into further education and/or training.

Our Inspiration and Vision

This strategy is developed in line with **Our Inspiration and Vision** that:

The Alternative School is inspired by a belief that we can make a difference to every young person we work with by listening, **raising aspirations** and tailoring what we do to meet the needs of the individual. We believe **that everyone has the potential to succeed** and with our more holistic approach of nurture, academic achievement, vocational opportunities and inclusion for all, we aim to ensure that time spent with TAS is both enjoyable and successful.

And in line with the TAS strategy of **Our 5 Principles** to:

Support, Educate, Encourage Independence, Inspire and Motivate and Partnership Working

In pursuit of our vision:

We will:

- Create and deliver an alternative curriculum for young people which is innovative, holistic, encourages collaborative working, **positive progression** and promotes independence
- Provide advice and support to young people, signposting to other agencies as appropriate
- Work only with organisations which work with young people to ensure they are listened to, and their individual needs met

We have an 'open door' admissions policy, and will not discriminate on any grounds, previous history or special need that a young person may have.

If you would like your child to attend TAS, please contact our main office on 01282 851800 option ? or alternatively email referrals@thealternativeschool.co.uk.

Our Capacity:

The Alternative School is authorised to provide education for up to 260 pupils. Individual campus numbers are listed below:

St. James,
Burnley 65

Abingdon Sports
College 56
Blackpool

The Old Library
Barnoldswick 54

Warbreck

Middle School. ?

Floating school 8

Woodlands 16

Edspace, Accrington 8

Re-engagement programme ?

If you apply at a time when your chosen campus is at capacity, we will try our best to accommodate you at another campus until a space becomes available.

In the event that the whole school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled.

- Highest priority will be given to looked after children, and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.
- Next, priority will next be given to children on the basis of special educational needs and those children with an existing EHCP.
- Thirdly, we will then prioritise children that the school defines with social and emotional needs that are creating a barrier to their learning. The school does not require an EHCP assessment to be completed for these places, and can help support with this process, from initial assessments and specialist assessments to completing a finished application.

For all referrals from schools and local authorities

Please contact 01282 851800 option ?, or alternatively email referrals@thealternativeschool.co.uk.

For all referrals from parents

Please follow the above procedure.

In most cases, we work directly with the local authority or school in order to secure funding for your placement and we will work with both you and the local authority to help organise this. Self-referrals and self-funded places are also available for both short and long-term placement and you can discuss

these options with your headteacher in the meeting. We can assist with reduced rates and funded places in some cases for self referrals.

Following this, we will invite your child for a taster session to see if they like us. All young people are welcome, and we believe strongly in TAS being a fresh start for all.

Information for parents and carers

Once your child has been offered a place and start date at TAS, we will invite you along with your child for a compulsory induction session where we will tell you both, more about TAS and how we aim to work closely with you in order to raise your child's achievements and expectations over the coming months.

At this induction session we will make available all of the TAS policies, our previous last three year's results, the latest ISI report and details of all of our staff team and volunteers. This will be an opportunity for you to be directly involved in your child's education, to be a part of personalising their experience and to ask as many questions as you wish.

We will also give you further details such as school holidays and book you into our half termly review process and request that you sign our home-school agreement. We hold six parent/carer events throughout the year but can hold more on request and we will always be there to offer support and advice as required.

Following this induction and at any time while your child is attending TAS, please feel free to contact the team at TAS at any time to discuss your child's progress and/or any concerns or issues you may have. Please see our contact details at the end of this document.

TAS Induction

At TAS we aim to have a positive relationship with parents/carers and to support pupils to achieve their best possible academic and personal progress via a personalised and individual education plan (IEP).

All new pupils are placed on an induction programme for a maximum of 4 weeks when they first start with TAS, which allows pupils to settle in and also complete our 10 point initial assessment programme which includes assessments on: Reading, Spelling, Writing, Maths, Dyslexia Screening, Boxall, Ace Scores, Learning Styles, SEN along with informal assessments. From here and using historical data from past primary and secondary schools, we formulate an individual education plan (IEP) specific to the individual and set targets which will help that individual to progress in their education.

To this end all TAS pupils are placed on our Additional/Special Educational Needs and Disability Register in order that their needs, abilities and suitable support and provision are clearly identified.

Information Release (consent form as part of your induction session)

We will always ask your permission before discussing your child with another agency or disclosing any information about you and/or your child. (We will ask you to sign an information release form).

Photo Consent Form (consent form as part of your induction session)

Photographic evidence is taken during many of the activities undertaken at TAS including in class and outdoor activities and visits. We would appreciate your permission for TAS to use photos of your child during the involvement of these activities that they are taking part in.

Pupil Identification

During the initial registration period, we also need to verify the identity of all our pupils. This involves having accurate information about their legal name and date of birth as shown on their birth certificate.