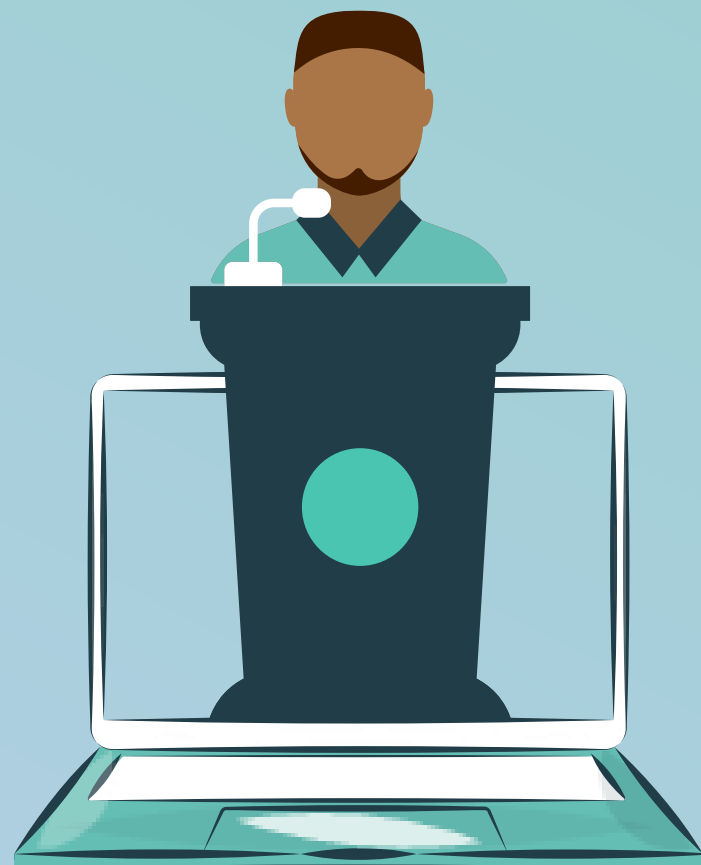


Sponsored by



IOP Institute of Physics



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2023.

Alternative Provision and PRUs. What are they and why do they matter to governors?

[#GfSConference2023](#)

Housekeeping

- Many thanks for taking the time to attend the Governors for Schools Conference 2023. Please note that this session will be recorded and uploaded to our website following the conference. You will receive an email alert as soon as recordings are available.
- If you have any questions for our panellists, please ask them using Zoom's Q&A feature.
- If you're disconnected from this call for any reason, you can re-join by clicking the same Zoom link you used to access the session.



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2023.

Sponsored by



IOP Institute of Physics

A little about me...



School report



Inspection of a good school: Educational Diversity

278a Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 9JW

Inspection dates:

11 and 12 July 2023

Outcome

Educational Diversity continues to be a good school.

Aims



-What is a PRU and what does it offer learners?



- Does your school access an AP provider?



-Do you know what to ask your board when it comes to accessing AP for learners?

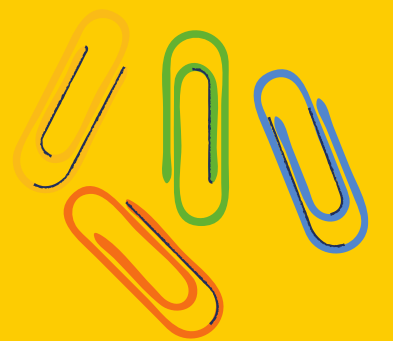
Alternative Provision

'Alternative provision is defined in the [Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance](#) as education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a suspension; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour. These placements are typically for children unable to attend a mainstream or special school.

(Alternative Provision Statutory guidance for local authorities. DfE January 2013)

Types of Alternative Provision include:

- Pupil Referral Unit
- AP Free School and AP Academies
- AP Units or 'Internal APs'
- Elective Home Education
- Online learning
- There are many more...



Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) - A PRU is a type of school for children who are unable to be educated in a mainstream school. Pupils are often referred if they need greater care and support than their school can provide. Pupils may be registered solely with the PRU or be dual registered, attending both their mainstream school and the PRU on a part-time basis.

Alternative Provision (AP) Academies and AP Free Schools increasingly common.

Your local context is incredibly important.



What does good AP look like?

- Good academic achievement, with appropriate qualifications
- A focus on breaking down barriers to attainment
- Improved confidence and engagement with education
- Defined objectives that the child can work towards
- Registered Vs unregistered





-What do governors need to know?



-What questions should we be asking?



-Why is this important?



Alternative Provision

327. Where a school places a pupil with an **alternative provision** provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and should be satisfied that the provider meets the needs of the pupil.

328. Schools should obtain written confirmation from the **alternative provision** provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment, i.e. those checks that the school would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.

Alternative Provision

168. The cohort of pupils in **Alternative Provision** often have complex needs, it is important that governing bodies and proprietors of these settings are aware of the additional risk of harm that their pupils may be vulnerable to.

169. The department has issued two pieces of statutory guidance to which commissioners of **Alternative Provision** should have regard:

- **Alternative Provision** – DFE statutory guidance, and
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statutory-guidance/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school) – DFE statutory guidance.

Keeping children safe in education 2023

Statutory guidance for schools and
colleges

1 September 2023

95. The lead inspector will also use the conversation to establish whether the school has any pupils who attend off-site **alternative provision**, either full time or part time, run either by the school or by a different organisation. If the school uses off-site **alternative provision**, the lead inspector will request further details about this.

- visiting any off-site unit that the school runs (on its own or in partnership with other schools) for pupils whose behaviour is poor or who have low attendance. Inspectors will assess safeguarding procedures, the quality of education and how effectively the unit helps to improve pupils' behaviour, learning and attendance. For more information, see the ['Evaluating the use of off-site **alternative provision** on graded inspections' section](#)

Evaluating schools' use of **alternative provision** on graded inspections

388. Inspectors will evaluate how well a school continues to take responsibility for its pupils who attend alternative or off-site provision. Inspectors need to be assured that leaders have ensured that the **alternative provision** is a suitable and safe placement that will meet pupils' academic/vocational/technical needs, pastoral needs and, if appropriate, SEND needs. Inspectors will speak to a selection of pupils who attend off-site provision, where possible, including potentially through video or telephone calls.

389. Inspectors will ask the school about the registration status of any alternative providers that they use. Any provider of **alternative provision** must be registered as an independent school if it caters full time for 5 or more pupils of compulsory school age, or one pupil who is looked after or has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. If a school uses **alternative provision** that should be registered but is not, inspectors will carefully consider whether this affects the likelihood that pupils are safeguarded effectively.

Evaluating the use of off-site **alternative provision**

282. Where pupils, including those in PRUs and other alternative providers, attend off-site **alternative provision**, inspectors will evaluate the extent to which these placements are safe and effective in promoting pupils' progress. Inspectors will normally visit a sample of the alternative providers used and, if required, may speak to local authorities, other agencies and parents/carers to gather evidence. Inspectors will want to understand how providers ensure that pupils who attend multiple settings or part time are kept safe when they are not on site for the whole school day.



Guidance


School inspection handbook for September 2023

Updated 13 September 2023

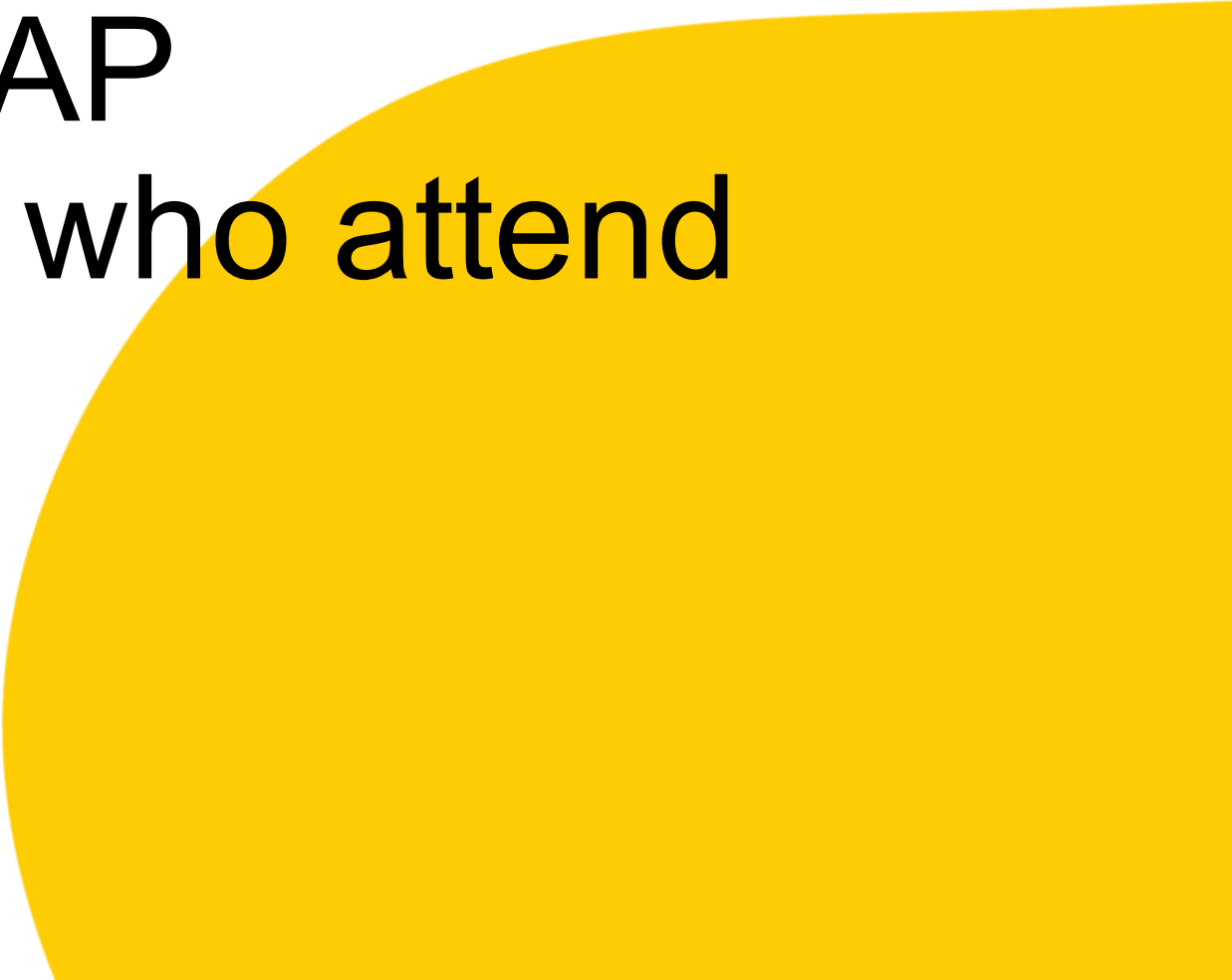
How Ofsted inspects your use of AP

Inspectors will check any AP that your pupils attend, to evaluate how well you take responsibility for these pupils. This is outlined in the School Inspection Handbook.

They need to confirm that the AP:

- Is suitable and safe
 - Is effective
 - Meets academic/vocational/technical/pastoral needs
 - Meets needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
 - Risk assessments and research done on the AP
- 
- A large, bright yellow decorative shape, resembling a partial circle or a thick curved line, is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Your school is likely to be judged inadequate for leadership and management if you:

- Make ineffective or inappropriate use of AP
 - Haven't taken steps to make sure that the provision is suitable
 - Don't know how many pupils attend AP
 - Aren't taking responsibility for pupils who attend
- 
- A large, solid yellow shape that curves from the bottom right corner towards the center of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

In making their judgement, inspectors will consider:

- Why you believe AP to be best option for some
- Whether you keep this decision under review
- Whether you've made the appropriate checks on registration status and safeguarding
- How you're making sure the AP's curriculum is suitable
- How well pupils behave at the AP, and their attendance
- How well the AP promotes personal development



What governors can do?



- Standing items to explore numbers, use and rationale
- Check registration status of APs used
- Ensure risk assessments and research on AP is sound
- Monitor reintegration rates and figures
- Evaluate the provisions used
- Hold account for value for money

Reintegration

BACK



At the end of a placement, if a child is ready the process of reintegrating back into a mainstream school can occur.

-Will take careful planning to be successful

Governors could seek to understand what this process looks like

- Governors can seek to monitor anonymised data about next destinations
- NEET statistics





Evaluations

Focus on:

- Quality of teaching and learning
- Pupil progress towards qualifications
- Pupil's progress towards employability
- Holding to account on value for money


What are the most common mistakes schools make when using AP?

- Lack of safeguarding checks on the providers.
- Inadequate attendance procedures at the provision
 - Poor monitoring of pupils attending AP
- Inadequate risk assessments of certain provisions



Final thought:

2000 pupils at your school may be receiving an outstanding education in all respects – but if a single pupil at AP is not safeguarded effectively, then this is still a serious failure



Get in touch, next steps or queries

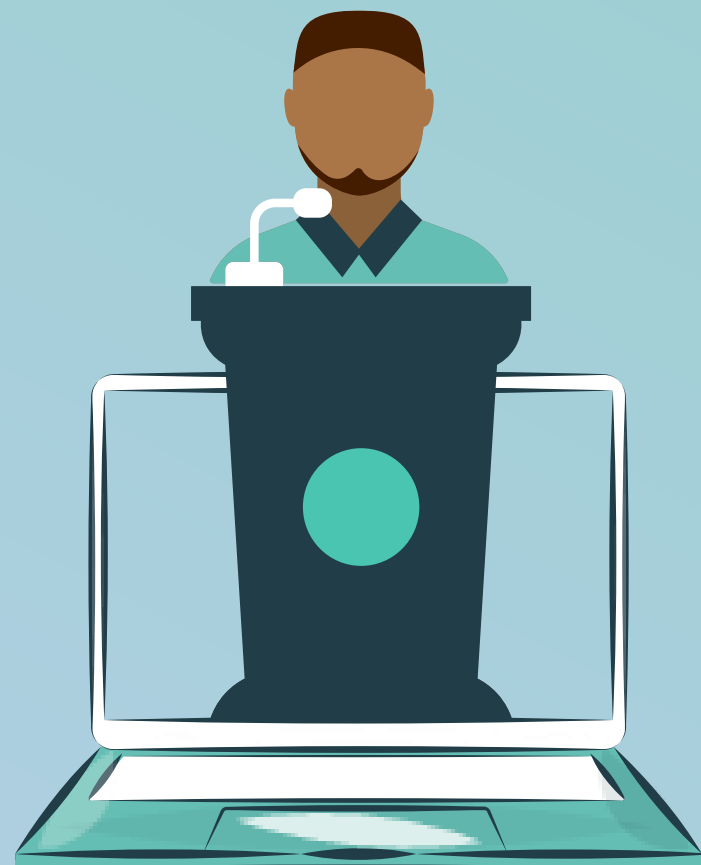
jamie@diverseapply.com



Sponsored by



IOP Institute of Physics



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2023.

Thank you for attending

Governors for Schools would like to thank the Institute of Physics and Limit Less for their generous sponsorship of #GfSConference2023

#GfSConference2023