Admission Arrangements

As a Pupil Referral Unit, our role is different to mainstream schools. We are commissioned on behalf of the Local Authority to deliver education to students who, for various reasons, are not able to access a mainstream school.

Students do not apply for a place, but are placed by the Local Authority fulfilling their statutory responsibility of providing education for:

Students who have been permanently excluded from a mainstream school.
Students who are classed as Hard to Place (where applications to schools in the area have been refused on the basis of behaviour).

Students who have been placed through the Local Authority panel for medical or other reasons.

Sometimes schools also refer if a young person is at risk of permanent exclusion, but these are not full time or long term spaces.

Partnership

Inclusion is a big part of the work of the PRU where capacity allows. Willow Vale School have some students that come to us as part of their school programme, our work with them is designed to support them and the schools enabling them to more successfully engage with their mainstream offer.

Part of the partnership work we do is with school, so advice and guidance or training. We also have an outreach offer where our staff work with young people in their mainstream setting 1:1 or in small groups.

The work in centres for students is individually planned and bespoke depending on the need of that young person. It maybe with a member of staff from their mainstream for a session per week, it maybe for 1 or more sessions a week in a centre. The focus of our current partnership work re-engage through practical sessions.

The main legislation and statutory guidance covering the duties and powers relating to these issues:

- The School Admissions Code 2012
- Somerset Fair Access Protocol
- Alternative Provision: Statutory guidance for local authorities
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs: statutory guidance for local authorities
- Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England: A guide for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion
- The Somerset Local Offer