



ETHOS ACADEMY TRUST

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Outreach / Exclusions Update

FAO Headteacher, SENDCOs and Behaviour Leads (Kirklees Mainstream Primary & Secondary schools).

Our Academy Trust newsletter offers information and updates for schools to further develop their offer and provision in order to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Reducing & preventing exclusion remains a priority for us all in 2020/21

With all year groups returning to school full time from September, we wanted to update you on how we will be focussing our support early this academic year. We are all aware that it is likely that adverse experiences and / or lack of routines in terms of regular attendance and classroom discipline may contribute to disengagement with education upon return to school which could result in increased incidents of challenging behaviour.

The Outreach team has prioritised transition support for pupils who have recently been allocated a new school through Fair Access and those with Education, Health and Care Plans who are transitioning from PRU settings to a new school.

We recognise that settling this vulnerable cohort of pupils after such a prolonged period of time out of school may pose a number of challenges. With this in mind, the Outreach Team is dedicating the first three weeks of the Autumn Term to providing full time support in mainstream schools, with all schools working in partnership with the Trust to support children to return to school successfully.

Additionally, schools should continue to refer for 'Turnaround Placements' in Engage Academy (KS1-2) or Reach Academy (KS3) often as an alternative to permanent exclusion. Ethos College (KS4) placements are also available via Single Point Referral.

The advice from the DFE is schools should work with those pupils who may struggle to reengage in school and are at risk of being absent or persistently disruptive, including providing support for overcoming barriers to attendance and behaviour and to help them reintegrate back into school life. The DFE also acknowledge that some pupils will return to school having been exposed to a range of adversity and trauma including bereavement, anxiety and in some cases increased welfare and safeguarding risks. This may lead to an increase in social, emotional and mental health concerns and some children, particularly vulnerable groups such as children with a social worker, previously looked-after children who left care through adoption or special guardianship, and young carers. The DFE suggest this vulnerable group will need additional support and access to services such as educational psychologists, social workers and counsellors. Additionally, provision for children who have SEND may have been disrupted during partial school closure and there may be an impact on their behaviour. Schools will need to work with local services (such as health and the local authority) to ensure the services and support are in place for a smooth return to schools for pupils.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Outreach Service or PRU Headteachers for advice and support - contact details can be found over the page.

I would also like to use this opportunity to draw your attention to the recent report shared by Kirklees LA regarding exclusions post Covid19. **This report looks at potential new and heightened risks for school exclusions caused by the recent Covid-19 pandemic.** →

The DFE also published - **Checklist for school leaders to support full opening: behaviour and attendance** →

This checklist is to assist all school leaders and staff in preparing to welcome back all pupils full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. It is a tool for schools to support the re-engagement of pupils and the return to orderly and calm environments in which all pupils can achieve and thrive. The tool is intended for mainstream schools and has been developed by the Department for Education (DfE) with input from the Department's Lead Behaviour Adviser, Tom Bennett, and the behaviour adviser team.

SEMH Outreach Team

The Outreach Service is managed by Martin Ridge as a strand of Ethos Academy Trust's Offsite Provision; Martin recently retired from Reach Academy, following 20 years as Headteacher.

We also have two experienced SENDCOs: Sue Wight (Assistant Head) and Helen Plaskitt (SENDCO). Between them, they have over 40 years' experience in mainstream and specialist provisions, in both primary and secondary settings.

Our two Inclusion Managers, Tracy Rider and Allison Langdale, support mainstream schools with inclusion, with a focus on alternatives to exclusion. The Inclusion Managers also work with families from the point of exclusion to reintegration. Both managers allocate specialist support to primary and secondary mainstream schools in order to make the transition of excluded children successful.

We are also fortunate to have a team of 10 Inclusion Workers who provide early support in mainstream schools, following a referral through Single Point Referral (SPR).

The team share a range of qualifications and experience including:

Leadership staff:

SEN Award, QTS, Degree in Supporting Young People, Children and Families, Level 7 Psychometric Testing, over 60 years of Leadership and Management experience, over 30 years working within the exclusion remit, Counselling, Restorative Practise, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and Designated LAC teachers.

Inclusion Workers:

QTS, Early Childhood Studies, Sport and Health Studies, Youth and Development studies, Mental Health First Aiders, Delivery of Theatre sessions on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Substance Misuse and Peer Pressure, Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugee children, Team Teach Trainers, Bi-lingual Support, Supporting students with English as an Additional Language (EAL), delivering small group and individual intervention for SEMH, Youth & Community work.

More information around Single Point Referral processes can be found on our website: →

Contacts and support routes:

Early Intervention and Advice

Our additional 'portal' to access early

intervention advice continues to be available via the following email address: outreach.advice@eat.uk.com

Sue Wight
Assistant Head
sue.wight@eat.uk.com

Helen Plaskitt
SENDCO
helen.plaskitt@eat.uk.com

Exclusions and Reintegration Support

For advice around Exclusions and Reintegration Support through Fair Access please contact our Inclusion Managers:

Tracy Rider
Inclusion Manager / Exclusions Contact
tracy.rider@eat.uk.com

Allison Langdale
Inclusion Manager / Exclusions Contact
allison.langdale@eat.uk.com

Director of Off-site Provision
martin.ridge@eat.uk.com

Single Point Referrals (SPR)

An updated SPR form is now available. This should be used from 7th September 2020. The panel meet fortnightly to discuss referrals, these are chaired by Kirklees Headteachers.

Please note: All primary and secondary SEMH and medical referrals should also be submitted via this referral process.

Business Support
karen.blakeley@eat.uk.com

PRU Settings

Engage Academy Headteacher
alison.ward@eat.uk.com

Reach Academy Headteacher
hannah.lord@eat.uk.com

Ethos College Headteacher
rebecca.smith@eat.uk.com

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Ethos Academy Trust

Outreach Team

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