

Reviewed: March 2018

Admissions Policy

Introduction

Northumberland Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) exists to enable children whose behaviour causes them to experience problems in mainstream schools to achieve the very best outcomes possible. The intervention of the PRU has a number of quantifiable benefits for pupils and their families, schools and the local authority. Apart from the obvious short term benefits to children of being able to continue their education without disrupting their mainstream school classes, schools benefit from detailed assessment of and support with managing a child's behaviour.

There are clearly many factors that prevent some children from coping with the expectations and challenges of school. While mainstream schools are able to support children with a wide range of needs and often have remarkably flexible ways of helping children, few schools have the resources to cope with prolonged, seriously disruptive or challenging behaviour. Even when the causes of this behaviour are identifiable, it is often difficult to provide support. The PRU is able to work intensively with children over a 20 week period, helping them to understand why they experience problems and offering them strategies to change their behaviour.

Northumberland PRU is a resource available to commissioners to assist them in supporting children with behaviour which disrupts their learning and that of others. Younger and more vulnerable children are taught separately in a purpose-built nurture unit with specially-trained teaching staff. This offers an exceptionally high level of support to children with complex needs and often quite extreme behaviour. Other children are taught in small groups by specialist teachers and support staff, using the National Curriculum; the emphasis is upon blending support with appropriate challenge.

Some pupils enter the PRU with exceptionally complex needs, and are unlikely to be able to return to a school without additional support. In these cases the PRU is able to prepare detailed reports exploring aspects of the child's educational and social needs, together with details of strategies and approaches that have been shown to work in helping to manage behaviour.

The notional 20 week time limited placement allows sufficient time for EHCP assessment, however, the commissioner must start this process within the first 4 weeks of the PRU placement if this process is to conclude within the placement period. Failure to initiate the process and complete the referral within the first 4 weeks may result in the pupil returning to the referring school without an EHCP and the necessary support.

PRU Remit

The remit of the PRU falls into two parts. First, Northumberland PRU is an intervention available to schools in the county who have concerns about individual pupils from and including year 2 up

to and including year 9. Pupils who are referred to the PRU on this basis attend for 20 weeks. A planned reintegration will take place within the 20 week period. The PRU will provide a detailed analysis of their behaviour and its triggers and suggested strategies to help schools to support their return and inclusion.

The second function of Northumberland PRU is to contribute to the local authority's role under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to make provision for the suitable education of permanently-excluded pupils who cannot access education at a mainstream school. These pupils typically attend the PRU for a short period while a suitable new school placement is identified. At the same time, pupils are required to confront the behaviour which led to the exclusion in the first place. As a result of careful monitoring and evaluation, pupils are taught strategies to control their own behaviour and encouraged to take responsibility for their actions through a structured programme of activities. Deficits in skills or knowledge which could contribute to disruptive behaviour are also highlighted and suggested responses compiled. Pupils also attend the unit for approximately 20 weeks, although some may require a longer placement.

A small number of pupils who do not fit readily into either group may also be admitted at the discretion of the Headteacher and Management Committee. Such pupils are admitted to fulfil specific objectives which further the child's interests; for example, while awaiting a specialist placement or in response to a sudden crisis.

Distinctive Aims of the PRU

Intervention with the two groups of pupils at the PRU - dual registered/referred and single registered/permanently excluded - has the following predominate aims.

For permanently excluded pupils (EOTAS):

- To provide education for permanently excluded pupils by day six.
- To support and promote educational and social inclusion through re-engaging pupils with the educational process.
- To formulate and regularly review a personal education plan with agreed targets focusing on mainstream school integration.
- To assess pupil need and inform future plans.
- To work with other LA officers and agencies to identify a new school and plan integration with appropriate support.
- To identify behaviours that led to permanent exclusion and develop individualised learning/behaviour/integration plans.
- To identify appropriate support and where appropriate, refer for Statutory Assessment.

For dually registered pupils (Schools / Academies):

- To prevent permanent exclusion.
- To identify behaviours, attainment and barriers to learning undermining school inclusion and whole curriculum access.
- To formulate a personal education plan with agreed targets focusing on mainstream school reintegration criteria.
- To work with mainstream school, parents/carers, pupils and relevant agencies/stakeholders to successfully reintegrate pupils.

- To offer a greater emphasis on the development of social and emotional skills through individualised personal development plans reinforced by a whole school approach to the promotion of social, emotional and behavioural development.

For all pupils

- To improve pupil attitude to learning.
- To formulate a curriculum and learning plan relevant and appropriate to the individual pupil's needs.
- To identify academic strengths and weaknesses and develop an individual education plan to accelerate attainment where appropriate (particularly literacy).
- To provide comprehensive diagnostic, behaviour, attainment and achievement profiles, reports and strategy/intervention prompts and advice at the end of each placement.

Operations of the PRU

The PRU is very much run as a school and is clearly identifiable as such by the children who attend. As well as being taught by experienced teachers, pupils have skilled, systematic and sustained help to change their attitudes and behaviour at school. Without this kind of support, even children who want to change their behaviour are unlikely to be able to do so. A detailed behaviour profile is prepared for each pupil. This builds up a picture of the child's perceptions, reactions in different situations and relations with other pupils and with staff. Using the profile, which is updated throughout the placement, a set of bespoke support strategies is developed, trialled and modified. This approach also allows for individual support, social and emotional development strategies, and PSHE work to be targeted more accurately. A similar approach is used to tackle problems with academic performance: individual programmes are used to highlight and tackle barriers to learning. Children are given responsibility for effecting these changes. Each child's progress is evaluated on a daily basis against agreed targets, and he or she is fully involved in monitoring the behaviour needed to achieve these.

Admission Criteria

The LA, schools and academies are able to commission places at the PRU providing they meet admission criteria:

- On admission, pupil's age is within the range:
 - Nurture Group Y2 – Y5
 - Main School Y6 – Y9 (Y9 pupils back in mainstream school for Y9/10)
 - Pupil is resident in Northumberland or attends a Northumberland school.
- The current information passport is completed in full (Available on request email: admin@pru.northumberland.sch.uk Tel 01670 514963). Referrals using previous referral forms and information passports will not be accepted.
- All appropriate Child Protection information is shared with the P.R.U.
- Risk Assessment completed where risk cannot be managed with usual staffing/resources.
- The pupil's needs are such that the P.R.U. has a reasonable chance of achieving stated objectives.
- The Commissioner agrees to attend regular reviews.
- The pupil's parent/carer is aware of P.R.U. placement and is committed to support intervention/programme.
- The Commissioner to pay 'top up' funding monthly.

Any referrals that fall outside of the admissions criteria or over the designated capacity of the PRU will be considered on a case by case basis and may be offered a placement if the appropriate funding can be secured from the LA. Where further discussion is required the case may be referred to the Management Committee.

In the cases of students with complex needs and requirements, capacity is sometimes related to management of particular combinations of students and group dynamics, rather than absolute numbers. In these circumstances it is the responsibility of the Head to ensure that the safety of all staff and pupils is not compromised; group sizes and overall capacity may be reduced.

Referral procedure.

Commissioners wishing to make referral for a placement at the PRU should complete a 'virtual schools information passport' *Appendix 1* (Available on request email: admin@pru.northumberland.sch.uk Tel 01670 514963). The form is designed to be simple, user friendly and require only the personal details and information necessary to ascertain the admission criteria are met. Whilst this provides limited information enabling us to make a provisional placement offer, we generally require further information, assessment data and advice to assess the pupil's needs and requirements.

The PRU placement administrator will advise as to what additional information is required depending on the individual circumstances but the commissioner may be asked to submit the following additional information

- Most recent ILP, PSP, IBP
- Boxall profile
- Reintegration readiness scale *Appendix 2*
- Copies of school based assessments and any relevant specialist reports
- Current attainment 'levels' or attainment relating to ARE
- Appropriate or relevant information from any agencies involved with family or child
- Risk assessment/management plans *Appendix 3*
- SIMS attendance and CTF
- Multi agency professional reports/advice
- TAF/TAC/EHA minutes/ notes/plans if relevant
- Medical information if relevant

A pre- admission visit/meeting with appropriate and relevant stakeholders will be arranged prior to confirmation of the placement decision and admission arrangements.

As with all maintained schools the Local Authority is the admissions authority for the PRU. On a day to day basis however the Headteacher has responsibility for allocating provision.

Where there is any contention with regard placement/admission decisions, commissioners should appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of the Management Committee. In these circumstances an admission panel made up of three members of the Management Committee will re consider the referral and the decision.

Appendix 1



Northumberland County Council

Virtual School Referral Passport

Request for Virtual School Service

Please complete this document in conjunction with the "Guidance for Virtual School Referral Passport" document

Please tick which service from the Virtual School you are referring to:	Permanent Exclusion	
	Pupil Placement Panel	
	Alternative Provision	
	Inclusion Support	
	Medical Needs including pregnancy	

EXCLUSION INFORMATION This must be completed for exclusions.

Date of first day of Exclusion:		Reason for Exclusion: Please also complete Appendix B
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Is a Risk Assessment required?	Yes / No	If Risk Assessment completed please attach
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Section 1: details Learners

Family Name		Forenames	
Date of Birth		National curriculum year group	
Gender		Home Language	
Home Address			
Postcode		Preferred Contact Number	Home
Parent / carer name			Mobile
Ethnicity		Religion	
Educational / Learning Setting attended		Date of Admission	February 2016
Is the child / young person a looked after child		Responsible local authority and name of Social Worker	

Date last attended school		UPN	
Pupil Premium		Date Passport Completed	
Name & Designation of person completing form			

Section 2: Referrer details

Name		
Address		
Relationship to Learner		
Telephone	Landline:	Mobile:
Email		
Contact Person in School / Setting		
Position		
Telephone		
Email	Landline:	Mobile:
School / Setting attendance contact person		
Telephone	Landline:	Mobile
Email		

Section 3: Behaviour, barriers to learning and attendance

Behaviour concerns	Actions taken
Barriers to learning	Actions taken
Current attendance % (include any other relevant information e.g. illness, pattern of non-attendance)	

Section 4: Evidence of SEN - if relevant

Type of SEN	Categories of SEN	Primary Need (tick one only)	Secondary Needs (tick all that apply)
Communication & Interaction	Speech, Language and Communication		
	Autism Spectrum Disorder		
Cognition & Learning	Specific Learning Difficulties		
	Moderate Learning Difficulties		
	Severe Learning Difficulties		
	Profound and Multiple Emotional Difficulties		
Social, Mental & Emotional Health	Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties		
Sensory & Physical	Hearing Impairment		
	Visual Impairment		
	Multi-Sensory Impairment		
	Physical Disability		

Section 5: Previous interventions and outcomes

Action / Intervention	Timescale including review dates	Targeted outcome	Actual outcome

Section 6: Details of involvement from other education professionals

Dates From - To	Professionals details	Details of support provided	Did the support have any impact? Y/N Please provide details

Section 7: Expected outcomes of Virtual School involvement

	Planned outcome	Expected impact
1		
2		

3		
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Section 8: Medical needs - if relevant

Does the learner have any medical needs that should be taken into consideration? No
 If **Yes**, please provide details

Section 9: Family information

Section 10: Involvement of other agencies / Multi Agency Involvement

Agency	Name of lead professional	Contact details	Report attached (Please ✓ or X)	Date of last review meeting (if relevant)

Section 11: Safeguarding Information

Please outline any safeguarding concerns:

Is the learner: **Child in Need (CIN)** No

Child Protection No

Section 12: Academic attainment - FOR EOTAS REFERRALS ONLY

ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT (as relevant to age of the learner)

SUBJECT INFORMATION

Please complete the table below and attach curriculum plans for current / next term

KS 1 - 3 Writing	KS 1 - 3 Reading	KS 1 - 3 Mathematics
KS 4 English	KS 4 Science	KS 4 Mathematics
Level Foundation / Higher	Level Foundation / Higher	Level Foundation / Higher

NB: Information about other subjects may also be requested at a later date

Section 13: Education and/or personal needs

What are the strengths that the learner demonstrates?

Background information outlining the nature of the learner's needs

Strengths / preferred learning styles (Please include any relevant information - what has worked well in school and what has not)

What hobbies, interests and aspirations does the learner have? (eg career aims, membership of clubs, out of school interests, favourite subjects)

FEEDBACK AND / OR UPDATE TO SCHOOL / ALTERNATIVE PROVIDER

Feedback / Update Provided By:

Date:

Consent for information storage and information sharing

It is best practice to have the consent of parents/carers to share information in the Information Passport and it is the recommendation of the Local Authority that schools make reasonable efforts to secure this consent and keep a record of these. In view of this, please ensure that this form is not submitted without a signature in either A or B.

A. I understand that the information that is recorded on this form will be shared in order to provide inclusion services/alternative education services to the learner for whom I am:

- A parent
- A carer
- Social Worker

I give my consent to the information being shared.

Parent / Carer / Social Worker

Signed			
Name		Date	

B. Despite our efforts to get a parent/carer to sign the above, we have not managed to secure a signature but we feel that it is in the best interests of the young person to be referred to alternative provision without the signature.

School representative

Signed			
Name		Date	

Please email this form as follows:

Permanent Exclusion: exclusion@northumberland.gov.uk **EOTAS:** eotas@northumberland.gov.uk **Inclusion Support Workers:** Inclusion@northumberland.gov.uk

Appendix A

Contact list to be sent with Pupil Passport when placing LAC in alternative provision

Confidentiality and safeguarding are prominent factors when working with LAC. Please ensure that details including progress and attainment data of the young person are only shared with those listed below and that updates sent to Northumberland services only include the name and details of those young people placed by that service.

For young people who are LAC it is very important that in the event of any incident, disclosure or if the young person goes missing, the correct people are informed so that steps can be taken to ensure the matter is dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner.

Could you please ensure that the people listed below are informed immediately of any of the above. The contact marked with an * is the priority contact.

Thank you

Toni McGuire

Team Manager

Virtual School Education Support Team (ESLAC)

	Name	Telephone Number	Email
Young person			
Social Worker			
Foster Carer			
Home Manager / Key Worker			
ESLAC			

FURTHER INFORMATION:

APPENDIX B TO BE COMPLETED FOR ALL PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS

Reason for exclusion - please tick the box which indicates the MAIN reason: additional reasons can be given in the letter to parents (also please attach copy of letter sent to parent regarding the exclusion and notifying them of their rights of representation and review and supporting documentation)

NB: DfE guidance states that the categories below should cover the main reasons for exclusion. The 'other' category should be used sparingly and only for incidents not covered by the categories below. The descriptions in the final column are provided by DfE to help schools categorise their exclusions.

Exclusion category	Enter tick	May include (this column is for guidance - only need tick the general category e.g. 'bullying' , not the specific type of bullying)
Bullying		Verbal, physical, homophobic
Damage (includes damage to school or personal property)		Arson, graffiti, vandalism
Drug and alcohol related		(Unknown substance - please describe in text box the appearance of the substance e.g. white powder, tablet etc.)
Persistent disruptive behaviour		Challenging behaviour, disobedience, persistent violation of school rules
Physical assault against an ADULT		Obstruction and jostling, violent behaviour, wounding
Physical assault against a PUPIL		Fighting, obstruction and jostling, violent behaviour, wounding
Racist abuse		Derogatory racist statements, racist bullying, racist graffiti, racist taunting and harassment, searing that can be attributed to racist characteristics
Sexual misconduct		Lewd behaviour, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual bullying, sexual graffiti, sexual harassment
Theft		Selling and dealing in stolen property, stealing from local shops on a school outing, stealing personal property, stealing school property
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against an ADULT		Aggressive behaviour, carrying an offensive weapon, homophobic abuse or harassment, swearing, threatened violence, verbal intimidation
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against a PUPIL		Aggressive behaviour, carrying an offensive weapon, homophobic abuse or harassment, swearing, threatened violence, verbal intimidation
Other		None of the above - please ensure details are set out in the letter to parents

The local authority is required to provide full-time education from Day 6 of this permanent exclusion. It is therefore essential that all the information requested on this form is completed. If you have any problems with contact Virtual School admin on 01670 624181 or 01670 624187.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Learning Manager Name		LAC/CP/Cin N category	
ISW Allocation			

Reason for referral:

Re referral	YES		NO		
Re referral approved	YES		NO		If NO date feedback given to referrer:
Further information (e.g. medical confirmation) requested	YES		NO		If YES (date):
Confirmation received (date)					

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Provision Required					
AP Justification					
Transport Required					
ISW Support					

	Date		Date
Referral recorded on Inclusion/EOTAS spreadsheet		Referral recorded on Inclusion/EOTAS Live Cases spreadsheet	
Referral recorded on EMS - if relevant		Initial contact - Info Passport sent to school (EOTAS)	

Folder created in New Referrals		Relevant Learning Manager notified of referral	
Transport arrangements (if any) made		ICS checked	
Social working informed where appropriate		MP added to SIMS database	
Year 11's only - Information e-mailed to Employability & Skills		Year 11's / Tuition - Exam spreadsheet	
For ISW deployment, information			
updated on ISW spreadsheet			

Appendix 2

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

shortstay 

Northumberland's P.R.U.

This assessment is a screening for suitability for inclusion and gives a diagnostic developmental profile. Used over time it gives a clear measurement of pupil development skills in each area.

It is a specific, quantitative assessment tool to help analyse behaviour; measure readiness to reintegrate; and highlight specific areas that need further development.

The profile considers five main areas:

- Self-control & Management of Behaviour
- Social Skills
- Skills for Learning
- Approach to Learning
- Self-awareness & Confidence

Allocate a score of between 1 and 4 to each of the statements as follows:

1 = rarely fulfils this criterion

2 = sometimes fulfils this criterion

3 = frequently fulfils this criterion

4 = almost always fulfils this criterion

The numerical score at the end of each main area is totalled and plotted on the grid with a maximum score of 312; an overall score of 218 (70%) or above gives an indication that the pupil may be ready for transition into their mainstream classroom.

The Reintegration Readiness Scale is used as a measure of progress and an indicator that the pupil **may** be ready to integrate in a mainstream school. The score does not trigger an automatic reintegration or guarantee a pupil will maintain these behaviours.

We recognise that the PRU environment is different in many ways to the majority of 'mainstream' schools and any integration is likely to need careful planning and considered support.

The profile will indicate areas of relative strength as well as areas for further development. The profile can therefore be used to inform IEP targets, track progress and inform planning for reintegration.

Area	Assessment Dates					
	P.O.E.					
Self-control & Management of Behaviour	/52	/52	/52	/52	/52	/52
Social Skills	/80	/80	/80	/80	/80	/80
Skills for Learning	/84	/84	/84	/84	/84	/84
Approach to Learning	/44	/44	/44	/44	/44	/44
Self-awareness & Confidence	/52	/52	/52	/52	/52	/52
Total Points	/312	/312	/312	/312	/312	/312
Percentage Overall	%	%	%	%	%	%

Name:	Class:	Year:	Upon Entry					
Self-Control and Management of Behaviour								
Can accept discipline without argument or sulking								
Can arrive in classroom and settle down quietly and appropriately								
Does not leave the room without permission								
Can accept changes to plans or disappointments with an even temper								
Shows some self-discipline when others try to encourage deviation								
Is aware of normal sound levels and can be reminded of them and respond appropriately								
Does not seek confrontation during unrestricted times e.g. break								
Behaves in socially acceptable manner in public e.g. outings								
Can maintain appropriate levels of behaviour when the classroom routine is disrupted								
Will abide by accepted rules of an organised game								
Goes to and stays in designated areas when requested e.g. playground, hall, etc								
Controls emotions appropriately when faced with difficulties e.g. does not fight, strike out immediately, run away and hide or become excessively withdrawn								
Behaves appropriately in all areas of the school building								
Points Progress								
Percentage								

	Upon Entry					
Social Skills						
Can cope with large numbers of people						
Can accept that teacher time needs to be shared						
Can ask a question and wait for the answer						
Has appropriate communication skills e.g. asking questions and listening						
Can work alongside others in a group situation without disruption						
Interacts and plays in positive ways with peers						
Apologises without reminder						

Asks permission to use objects belonging to another person						
Shows empathy for and comforts playmates in distress						
Chooses own friends and maintains reciprocal friendships						
Makes and accepts normal physical contact with others						
Accommodates other children who ask to join in an activity						
Is self-reliant in managing own hygiene and basic needs						
Shows genuine interest in the news and activities of another child						
Contributes actively to play with two or more children						
Shows variation in the roles undertaken during co-operative play e.g. is not always in the role of dominant character, etc						
Engages in appropriate conversation with another child, exchanging information and using appropriate dialogue						
Addresses adults and children appropriately by name and with eye contact						
Shares legitimately required equipment with another pupil						
Can take turns in question and answer sessions						
Points Progress						
Percentage						

	Upon Entry					
Skills for Learning						
Can work alone without constant attention for brief periods						
Can attempt to listen to explanations and instructions and attempt to act on them						
Understands the structure of the day						
Understands the role of the teacher and other adults in the room						
Understands the structure of discipline – what happens if he/she does not complete work, does not conform to playground rules etc						
Understands that there are different places for lessons other than the classroom e.g. library, hall, etc and behaves appropriately						
Can constructively use unstructured time in the classroom						
Can organise him/herself if help is not immediately available						
Responds appropriately to personal request from teacher						
Will work alongside another pupil without attempting any distractions						

Can organise the materials needed for a task and clear them away appropriately						
Shows appropriate levels of curiosity when changes to the room routines are observed						
Reading and numeracy up to level that can be coped with in a mainstream classroom given reasonable support (score 3 or 4 if yes)						
Shows a willingness to improve own literacy and numeracy (score 3 or 4 if yes)						
Can read sufficiently well to understand basic instructions needed for completion of tasks (score 3 or 4 if yes)						
Has developed some self-help strategies (at own level) e.g. using reference materials as word banks						
Does not get up and wander around the classroom without a purpose (score 3 or 4 if yes)						
Needs a mainstream curriculum						
Does not get impatient if help is not immediately forthcoming						
Is willing to try complete a task independently						
Pays attentions to class discussion and instructions						
Points Progress						
Percentage						

	Upon Entry					
Approach to Learning						
Is prepared to work in lessons						
Uses appropriate language and gestures						
Wants to be reintegrated (score 3 or 4 for yes)						
Has parental support						
Is courteous, and shows positive attitude towards staff						
Can show an interest in lessons						
Treats school property with care						
Listens with interest to class explanations						
Can accept disappointments e.g. when not chosen to participate in an activity						
Will sit appropriately without causing a disturbance in both class and general school areas on request						
Shows a sense of humour						

Points Progress						
Percentage						

	Upon Entry					
Self-Awareness and Confidence						
Willing to ask for help						
Can accept responsibility for actions without denial						
Can acknowledge own problems and is willing to discuss them						
Can risk failure						
States feelings about self, e.g. happy angry, sad, etc						
Maintains appropriate eye contact						
Contributes to class discussions						
Participates in group work, making constructive suggestions and adapting ideas						
Responds appropriately to stories, identifying the characters e.g. funny, kind, scary, bad, etc						
Accepts public praise and congratulation appropriately in front of a small group e.g. when good work is shown to peers, etc						
Shows pride in achievements and presentation of work						
Has self-esteem e,g respects self and others (score 1 for low self- esteem: depression, unhappiness, insecurity and low confidence)						
Has self - awareness e.g.is aware of strengths and weaknesses, knows what motivates self, knows achievements , what needs to improve as a person						
Points Progress						
Percentage						

