

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I choose a school?

A: A place will be offered to your child at the half termly panel meeting. If there are any concerns relating to a particular school or schools, then you can voice your concerns to the current school representative and this can be raised at the initial meeting before the referral is presented.

Q: When will I be informed of the school the panel have chosen?

A: As soon as possible after the Secondary Placement Panel meeting by the Specialist EWO or a representative from your child's current school.

Q: What happens at an Induction meeting?

A: You will be invited with your child. This is a formal meeting to discuss expectations. It is an opportunity to raise any concerns and put support plans in place to ensure the placement has every chance of success.

Q: Can the parent / pupil withdraw from the process?

A: You or your child can withdraw from the process at any time. Please liaise with the representative from your child's current school or the Specialist EWO, if this is a consideration.

Q: What happens if the placement is at risk?

A: The new school will contact you, and will arrange an interim review meeting

to discuss the concerns. Expectations will be re-established and targets set in collaboration with all parties.

Q: What happens if the placement breaks down?

A: The Specialist EWO will liaise with the you and your child. If it is agreed that the placement has been unsuccessful, then an emergency review is called, attended by you, your child, both schools and the Specialist EWO. Your child may return to their previous school or a bespoke package may be proposed. A personalised programme involving Alternative Provision may need to be explored to meet the needs of your child at this time.

Q: Will I be entitled to free transport?

A: If you receive certain benefits and the new school is more than 2 miles away from your home, you will be entitled to a free bus pass. If the new school is more than 3 miles away from home, your child will qualify automatically for a free bus pass.

Q: Will I receive any additional financial support with purchasing school uniform?

A: Depending on circumstances, you may receive some additional financial support to purchase the new school's uniform. Please speak to the representative at your child's current school.



Fresh Start PLUS

A guide for parents and carers

In Year Fair Access
Secondary Schools

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What is a Fresh Start PLUS?

A 'Fresh Start PLUS' is a process that ensures that a pupil is given a final, well supported and structured opportunity to succeed in another setting.

At the point of the 'Fresh Start PLUS' process a school considers a pupil is at serious risk of being permanently excluded and feels that the extreme measure of moving schools needs to be undertaken.

A 'Fresh Start PLUS' should be the best option for a pupil and the current school must have provided all available support before a 'Fresh Start PLUS' is considered.

A 'Fresh Start PLUS' is not appropriate for a pupil who has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), going through the assessment process or is a Looked After Child (LAC).

The parent and pupil must agree to the 'Fresh Start PLUS' process which must be clearly explained by the current school. The referral form must be completed by the current school and signed by the parent, pupil and the headteacher of the current school.

All referrals are presented to a panel of Headteachers from each mainstream secondary school and Local Authority representatives, who meet once every half term.

If the referral is successful, the pupil will start at the new school as soon as possible. The pupil remains on the roll of their current school and is added to the roll of the new school. During this transitional period, the pupil will be dual registered.

Placement reviews will take place regularly until the pupil settles into the new school and both schools agree to end the transitional period. At this point, the pupil becomes single registration at the new school and is removed from the roll of the previous school.

If the panel agree to the 'Fresh Start PLUS' referral but don't feel that the pupil would be successful in another mainstream school, then the pupil may be directed to Alternative Provision.

Step by Step guide

School considers the pupil is at serious risk of Permanent Exclusion or feels that the extreme measure of moving schools needs to be considered.

The 'Fresh Start PLUS' process is discussed and agreed between the parent, the pupil and the current school.

The current school completes Fresh Start PLUS Referral and Challenge Guidance.

The referral is presented to a panel of secondary Headteachers who meet once every half term during term time.

If the referral is agreed by the panel of Headteachers, a new school / schools will be offered during the meeting.

The referral is passed to Secondary Placement Panel for confirmation and final placement.

The current school will arrange a meeting with the parent and the pupil, a representative from the new school and the Specialist EWO involved in this process. At the meeting, the following will be arranged,

- A start date will be agreed
- The review process will be agreed
- Support strategies will be agreed

It can take up to 10 school days for the induction meeting to be arranged and a start date to be provided.

If the placement is successful, the pupil will be confirmed on the new school roll following the review period, and the pupil will then be removed from the previous school roll. The review period has no time limit attached to it.

If the referral is agreed by the panel of secondary Headteachers however no school offers a place for the pupil, then the referral will be passed to Secondary Placement Panel and the pupil will be offered a bespoke package of education which may include attending an Alternative Provision site.