



Alternative Curriculum

History

For well over a decade like many secondary schools in England, Headlands School has utilised alternative curriculum providers at Key Stage 4 as managed move option's for our students.

Managed move students have historically been referred to the Local Authority Alternative Provision (LaAP's) who have then brokered managed move Commissioned Placements at East Riding College in Bridlington. Local Authority protocol is students remain on the School's roll until the Autumn Term of Year 11 and after the October census they then move onto the roll of East Riding of Yorkshire's Alternative Provision School called The Hub School.

East Riding College in Bridlington largely offers vocational courses. It is graded "Good" by Ofsted. Whilst the course provision has been welcomed by the students and parents and zero students have become NEET, overtime we were less confident that the provision a) provided for our students social & emotional needs b) allowed for appropriate progression onto suitable post-16 courses c) provided sufficient breadth of curriculum experience. Furthermore, the cost of the provision at £6K per annum for Level 1 courses in Motor Vehicle or Hair & Beauty + then only Level 1 Functional Skills in English and Maths, was significantly more than the school's per student funding.

Following a trial partnership with a locally based private alternative curriculum provider called ActivFirst, the Leadership team at Headlands School approached an Alternative Provision Free School based in Hull called "The Aspire Academy" which opened in September 2015. We tentatively approached them in 2016 with the view to trialling the provision with a low number of students to allow us to establish if the use of this alternative provision would be suitable for our students and in their best interests.

We began having discussions regarding their alternative curriculum offer (including staffing & timetabling), how Safeguarding procedures would operate, what the managed move process would look like for students and what additional behavioural and emotional support Aspire could provide for students. All of these conversations focused on what was in the best interests of the students.

Initially the students travelled to Hull, at a cost to Headlands School, in agreement with parents. This worked in principle - however was very costly and involved a “travel to school” time of approximately 1 hour each way. We therefore decided that rather than ask the students to travel to Hull a viable solution would be to bring “The Aspire School” to Headlands.

These discussions led to the establishment in September 2018 of “The Aspire ARC” - an Alternative Provision Aspire “satellite” based within Headlands School catering for students initially in Years 10 and Year 11. The provision was led by The Aspire Academy, Hull.

In January 2020 this Alternative Provision expanded to include the establishment of curriculum provision catering for students in Years 7 & 8. In January 2021 the provision expanded again to include Year 9.

In May 2021 Governors and the Senior Leadership Team reviewed the onsite The Aspire ARC following a successful Subject Review of the ARC and consideration of the financial cost of the expanding, much needed alternative provision. The decision was made to approach Aspire Academy and request Headlands School take complete “ownership” of the onsite alternative provision and revert back to commissioning a small number of places at the site in Hull, should this be in the best interests of students.

Aspire Academy agreed to this revision of our partnership as a way forward on the basis that:

- Headlands School staff are now suitably trained in the delivery of an alternative provision curriculum offer
- Headlands School staff are now suitably trained in the delivery of alternative provision behaviour management techniques and strategies
- Headlands School has established a successful partnership with Aspire Academy who will continue to support external reviews of the onsite alternative provision and provide staff CPD where necessary

As such only students who travel to the Aspire Academy Hull site will be dual registered from 7 June 2021. All other students remain single registered at Headlands School.

Rationale for Managed Moves

These decisions are always made in the best interests of students for two principle reasons: Safeguarding & Outcomes. Experience tells us where students remain either single registered to Headlands School and or / dual registered to Headlands School, there is no accountability on the part of the alternative curriculum provider in terms of Safeguarding students and supporting positive student Outcomes and destinations.

A managed move is a *voluntary* agreement between schools, parents/carers and a student, for that student to change school or educational programme *under controlled circumstances*. We know managed moves can be used as an alternative to permanent exclusion; the result is that no exclusion is formally logged on the student's school record. We also know a managed move can only be done with the consent of all those involved.

Department for Education Guidance stipulates a managed move may be suitable in the following situations:

- ✓ where a student refuses to attend school;
- ✓ where a student is at risk of permanent exclusion from school;
- ✓ where a student is posing a risk to the welfare of others at school;
- ✓ where we are unable to meet the student's emotional, social or intellectual needs.

Furthermore, a managed move can include the following options for the student:

- ✓ complete transfer to a new school or college with an amended learning programme (single registration);
- ✓ part-time attendance at the current school, with an individual learning and therapeutic programme elsewhere (dual registration);
- ✓ full-time attendance at an Alternative Provider with a view to the student returning to Headlands School or moving to a new school or college (dual registration);

- ✓ part-time attendance at an Alternative Provider combined with a home and community learning plan (dual registration);
- ✓ home-based learning to cater for the student's Special Educational Needs (dual registration)

As managed moves are voluntary agreements, there is no statutory scheme governing their use.

In partnership with Aspire Academy we are of the view our experience tells us that there should be a number of clear stages as detailed below:

1. The school appoints a "facilitator" to oversee the managed move process. At Headlands School this is the Lead Practitioner for The Headlands Aspire ARC.
2. The Lead Practitioner for The Headlands Aspire ARC meets with parents / carers to discuss the proposal for a managed move. These meetings frequently involve the Deputy Head from The Aspire Academy.
3. The managed move should be agreed to by all parties at this stage to be able to progress. If parents & students do not agree the student remains in mainstream lessons at Headlands School.

Trial period:

All managed moves start on a trial basis. The trial period is between 8 - 12 weeks and will be reviewed on a weekly basis by the Lead Practitioner of the Headlands Aspire ARC and the Deputy Head from The Aspire Academy.

The managed move is also reviewed weekly with parents & students by the Lead Practitioner of the Headlands Aspire ARC.

When the decision is made as to whether the managed move becomes permanent (student becomes single registered with The Aspire Academy) the decision will usually be within the 8 - 12 weeks of the agreed trial start date.

As the managed move is not as an alternative to permanent exclusion, the student is entitled to continue to attend the Headlands School whilst arrangements are being made.

Students remain on-roll at the Headlands School during the trial period and is Dual Registered. On the date agreed for the managed move to be complete the student moves to be Single

Registered the Aspire Academy, the student will be removed from the register of the Headlands School and admitted to the register of Aspire Academy where he/she will enjoy the same rights of tenure to a school place as any other student.

Any remaining school records are transferred to Aspire Academy within 2 weeks.

If the trial period at the Headlands Aspire ARC is unsuccessful (i.e. the student / parent changes their mind and / or the student's behaviours significantly improve) the student returns to Headlands School mainstream lessons.

Ongoing support:

During the trial period at the Headlands Aspire ARC the Lead Practitioner for the provision and the Headteacher from Headlands School are jointly responsible for monitoring levels of support through Line Management Meetings.

Key Stage 4 Alternative Curriculum Provision:

All students undertake the following core curriculum -

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE ICT
- GCSE Art
- VCert in Craft
- Princes Trust Award
- ECDL
- Functional Skills Level 2 Maths
- Functional Skills Level 2 Literacy

Additional curriculum options students can choose one from:

- City & Guilds Hair & Beauty (takes place at Headlands Aspire ARC)
- IMI Motor Vehicle (takes place at Aspire Academy)

How are “Managed Move” students identified?

Through SLT 1-2-1 termly Academic Progress Meetings with students, meetings with parents, weekly Subject Progress Meetings and fortnightly Tutor Briefings, students from Headlands School are identified who

- specifically ask to undertake a managed move process to “The Headlands Aspire ARC”
- are at risk of permanent exclusion from Headlands School and are on a Pastoral Support Plan;
- are posing a safeguarding risk to the welfare of others at school;
- are not having their emotional, social or intellectual needs met through a mainstream curriculum offer;
- refuse to attend Headlands School despite extensive support;

Since the opening of “The Headlands Aspire ARC” we have also seen an influx of parents / students requesting that their child is taught in this alternative provision when they apply to Headlands School.

It is important to note:

- Not all recommendations by Headlands School for a managed move into this alternative provision are agreed by parents / carers. Students can therefore remain as they were in terms of curriculum offer within Headlands School mainstream.

Registration Arrangements

The primary aim of The Headlands Aspire ARC is to successfully re-engage young people with their learning and to provide them with personalised therapeutic support.

Students are identified for a wide range of reasons, but all have in common the fact that they are not succeeding in mainstream education. Almost all have been subject to a large number of fixed term exclusions, the majority have challenges over attendance, and many are totally disillusioned with education and their hopes for the future.

In line with The Aspire Academies Free School application - which was fully approved by the Department for Education and supported by Hull Local Authority we do, where it is considered to be in the best interests of the young person, move students onto the roll of The Aspire

Academy during Key Stage 4. This is done in full consultation with all stakeholders connected to the individual students.

At the heart of that process is the student themselves. The Aspire Academy is very clear, in partnership with the Department for Education, as to why moving students onto the roll of The Aspire Academy is an important characteristic of the school.

Students moved onto The Aspire Academies roll during Key Stage 4 because of two main principles as outlined above - Safeguarding & Outcomes. Experience tells us where students remain either single registered to Headlands School and or / dual registered to Headlands School, there is no accountability on the part of the alternative curriculum provider in terms of Safeguarding students and supporting positive student Outcomes and destinations.

It is important that The Aspire Academy produces its own examination outcomes for which it is held accountable by Ofsted and the Department for Education. More importantly, those outcomes and results are understood by parents, students, employers and colleges with whom we have our most important relationships.

Furthermore, the following reasons were also a contributory factor:

- ✓ Many students have a strong sense of feeling detached and unwanted. Feedback from them tells us how proud they are to be students of The Headlands Aspire ARC and the difference it has made to their lives;
- ✓ Providing the opportunity for Key Stage 4 students to move onto the Aspire Academy roll permanently supports students through the exceptionally challenging processes around Key Stager 4 examinations. They know where they will sit those examinations and the support that will be provided.
- ✓ Students also want to feel a part of the success of the institution that has meant so much to them on their journey of success during their GCSE's;
- ✓ The Aspire Academy has a "Good" reputation with post-16 College's and training providers in Hull, North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Colleges and employers appreciate the clarity of single registration for students engaged in important application processes;

Quality Assurance

The quality of teaching and learning taking place in “The Headlands Aspire ARC” is monitored by the Leadership teams from Aspire Academy & Headlands School.

We have also put in place the following to assess the quality and safety of the students based in “The Headlands Aspire ARC”:

- Lead Practitioner for Student Welfare meets with students, discusses teaching & learning, progress & attendance once per term as part of The Headlands Aspire ARC’s Student Council.
- The Aspire Academy to monitor and check attendance daily of students. Where necessary liaise with Police, Social Services, Education Welfare Team, Senior Members of Staff, in particular DSL’s from both schools.

The Future

The Vision: as a “Good” school Headlands School would be in a position to establish an appropriate Alternative Provision School based centrally in Bridlington - for students from Key Stage 2 through to Key Stage 5. There is certainly local and regional demand and Headlands School was recently visited by the DfE as a facility “showcasing” what can be done in partnership with the Alternative Provision Free School Academies. This model has now been adopted by several schools in North Yorkshire.