

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)-Alternative Provision

1. What is an Alternative Provider (AP)?

An Alternative Provider offers education and support for children and young people who may be out of education or a typical school setting does not work for them.. We create personalised learning programmes focused on sensory, communication, independence, helping learners reach their potential in a supportive, flexible setting.

2. Who do you support?

We support children and young people aged 5-25 who require 1:1 or 2:1 support across Greater Manchester and Cheshire East. To see the full needs that we cover, see our Assessment Admission Framework.

3. Do you work with schools or local authorities?

Yes. We accept referrals from local authorities, schools, and professionals, and we also support parents directly through private placements or outreach programmes.

4. What makes your approach different?

Our provision is built around individual needs rather than fixed timetables. We use evidence-based approaches such as sensory integration, positive behaviour support, and trauma-informed practice. Our small-group and 1:1 ratios ensure every learner receives the right level of attention and care.

5. What does a typical day look like?

No two days are the same, but activities often include communication work, sensory sessions, outdoor learning, creative projects, and life skills development—always paced to suit each learner's needs and interests.

6. Do you follow the national curriculum?

We use a bespoke curriculum that draws on the Q Skills Framework and the Autism Education Trust (AET) Framework, our curriculum combines structured learning with flexibility, allowing topics and targets to be streamlined around individual needs, strengths and desired outcomes.

7. How can my child access your provision?

To be assessed for our provision, a referral form needs to be completed and submitted to admin@accesssconsultancy.com. This should be done by either the local authority, education setting or family (if they are funding privately or have the permission of the commissioning body). A copy of our referral form is on our website.

8. Who can I speak to before making a decision?

We encourage families and professionals to have informal chats with us before starting any placement so families can get a true feel for our environment and approach. Just email admin@accesssenconsultancy.com or call us on 07711055427 to arrange a time that's convenient for you.

9. Where are you based?

We are located in the North West and work across several local authorities. Some of our training and outreach services can also be delivered in schools or at home.

10. What are your session times?

We offer flexible session times to meet individual needs, typically between 9:00am and 7:00pm, Monday to Friday. We only offer part-time and transition packages.

Q: How do you measure progress?

Progress is tracked through regular reviews, observations, and goal-setting against each learner's personalised plan. We celebrate both small steps and big milestones. Weekly reports are sent to families and other stakeholders alongside half-termly progress reports and keeping an open line of communication.