



DevonPathways

Induction Pack

for parents and carers



Welcome to Our Alternative Provision

We are pleased to welcome your young person to our provision. This guide gives an overview of what we offer and how we support young people and families.

Our Approach

We provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment for young people who may have found mainstream education challenging.

Our provision focuses on:

- Emotional wellbeing and regulation
- Positive relationships
- Re-engagement with learning
- Personal development and life skills

We work at the young person's pace and focus on progress, not perfection.

What Sessions / Planned Activities / Learning Looks Like

- Small groups and individual support
- A balance of academic, practical, community-based and outdoor learning
- A 'stage-not-age' approach
- Flexible timetables where needed
- Clear routines and expectations

Our sessions begin at 9:30am, when the mentor will come and collect your young person from home. Planned activities / learning during the session is tailored to support wellbeing, engagement and confidence and meet the individual needs of the young person. This can take place through outreach mentoring in the community, at our field farm and forest site and/or at The Hub. At the end of the session, your young person will be dropped off at home by the mentor at 2:30pm.

Behaviour and Wellbeing

We use a trauma-informed and relational approach.

This means:

- Supporting and guiding young people to make safe, respectful choices
- Understanding behaviour as communication
- Teaching emotional regulation and coping strategies
- Clear boundaries with consistent, calm responses
- Restorative conversations rather than punishment

Expectations

We have consistent expectations for all young people attending DevonPathways and ask for your support in maintaining these.

This includes:

- Being kind and respectful
- Listening to each other
- Communicating with supporting mentors
- Maximising shared engagement, participation and learning
- Being prepared for the weather and for planned activities/learning (dressing appropriately, having the necessary equipment)
- Respecting and following DevonPathways no smoking/vaping policy
- Understanding and following rules that are in place to keep everyone safe
- Following the agreed rules around mobile phone use during sessions (this will be discussed and agreed with you and your young person during your initial home visit)

Safeguarding and Safety

The safety of our young people is our highest priority.

- Staff are trained in safeguarding and behaviour support
- Bullying and discrimination are not tolerated
- Risk assessments are in place for all activities, including outdoor learning

If we have concerns about a young person's safety, we may need to share information with other professionals to keep them safe.

Communication with Parents and Carers

We value strong partnerships with families.

You can expect:

- Regular updates and communication
- Opportunities to discuss progress and concerns
- Collaboration around behaviour, wellbeing and next steps

Please do let us know ahead of time about anything that may affect your young person's day.

Who to Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

- Your young person's mentor – each mentor will have an individual contact number
- The Head of Operations and Designated Safeguarding Lead (Tania Mayes: 07546 744072 / tania.mayes@devonpathways.co.uk)

A Final Message

Starting an alternative provision can feel daunting.

Our aim is to help your young person feel safe, supported and successful.

We look forward to working in partnership with you.