

Empowering Futures – Birmingham Site Prospectus

Alternative Provision & SEND Education (Ages 11–18)

Site Overview – Birmingham

Empowering Futures’ Birmingham site delivers high-quality, trauma-informed **Alternative Provision for learners aged 11–18**, supporting young people who are unable to access or sustain mainstream education. Provision is designed for learners with **SEND, SEMH needs, anxiety, EBSA, risk of exclusion, or disrupted educational histories**.

Delivery aligns with **Local Authority commissioning expectations**, SEND statutory guidance, and safeguarding requirements, with a strong focus on **engagement, progression, and positive outcomes**.

All programmes are: - Trauma-informed and SEND-aware - Relationship-led with clear routines and expectations - Delivered in small groups (typically 2–6 learners) - Personalised to individual needs and outcomes - Supported by qualified vocational tutors and SEND-trained staff

Maths, English, and Digital Skills are **embedded across all programmes**, contextualised through vocational and real-life learning.

Creative Media & Arts – Birmingham (Ages 11–18)

ASDAN Expressive Arts & Media Pathway

Overview

The **Creative Media & Arts** programme is a predominantly practical, industry-informed pathway for learners with creative interests in **music, media, performance, and digital production**. The course provides an engaging alternative curriculum that builds confidence, communication skills, creativity, and employability through real-world application.

Course Leadership & Industry Input

The programme is delivered in conjunction with **Rena Sparks, Multiple Business Owner Award-Winning DJ, Music Video Producer, and Media Presenter**, who brings extensive industry experience into direct delivery and mentoring.

Learners also benefit from **guest speakers and contributors from the BBC**, providing insight into broadcasting, media careers, and professional creative practice.

Curriculum Focus

Learners will explore: - Performing as an artist (DJing, live performance, stage presence) - Lyric writing and creative songwriting - Music production and audio creation - Video production (filming, editing, visual storytelling) - Media presentation and digital content creation - Creative project planning and evaluation

The course is **mainly practical**, with **embedded theory elements** covering creative processes, media roles, health & safety, professional practice, and reflective skills.

Live Events & Real-World Learning

Learners will plan, promote, and deliver **live creative events** at a **professional venue located directly across the road** from the Birmingham base. This provides meaningful experience in performance, technical setup, teamwork, audience engagement, and working to briefs and deadlines.

Evidence & Assessment

- ASDAN portfolio evidence
- Audio, video, written and performance outcomes
- Observation and engagement tracking
- Reflective reviews and evaluations
- Attendance and participation monitoring

Awarding Body / Framework

- **ASDAN – Expressive Arts Short Course**
- **ASDAN – Personal & Social Development (PSD)**
- **ASDAN – Employability & Life Skills Units (where appropriate)**

Progression Outcomes

- Further ASDAN programmes (including CoPE where appropriate)
- Post-16 creative or vocational pathways
- Apprenticeships, traineeships, or supported employment

Nails & Beauty – Birmingham (Ages 11–18)

ASDAN Hair, Beauty & Nails Pathway

Overview

The **Nails & Beauty** programme at the Birmingham site offers a structured, age-appropriate introduction to the **beauty and personal care industry**, designed for learners who engage best through practical, hands-on learning.

The course supports learners with SEND, SEMH needs, or low engagement in traditional classroom settings, helping them to develop confidence, routine, and vocational awareness.

Curriculum Focus

Learners will explore: - Personal presentation and self-care routines - Nail art techniques and creative design - Basic beauty treatments (age-appropriate) - Hygiene, health & safety, and salon standards - Client care and communication skills - Professional behaviours and employability

All practical activities are delivered in a **safe, supervised, and developmentally appropriate** manner.

Teaching Approach

- Predominantly practical delivery
- Clear routines and expectations
- Small group learning
- Embedded Maths, English, and Digital Skills (e.g. measurements, communication, pricing, digital portfolios)
- Confidence and independence building

Evidence & Assessment

- Practical task evidence (photographs, observations)
- Learner reflections and reviews
- Portfolio-based assessment
- Attendance and engagement tracking

Awarding Body / Framework

- **ASDAN – Expressive Arts Short Course** (creative nail design)
- **ASDAN – Personal & Social Development (PSD)**
- **ASDAN – Vocational Taster: Hair, Beauty & Nails**

(Progression to Focus Awards qualifications is considered **post-16 only**, subject to age, suitability, and commissioning.)

Progression Outcomes

- Further ASDAN vocational pathways
- Post-16 Hair, Beauty or Nails training
- Apprenticeships or supported employment routes

Delivery Model & Commissioning

- Age Range: **11–18 years only**
 - Small group delivery (2–6 learners)
 - 1–3 days per week commissioning model
 - Full safeguarding oversight
 - Regular progress reporting to Local Authorities and referrers
-

Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

- Designated Safeguarding Lead on site
 - KCSIE-compliant policies and procedures
 - SEND-trained staff
 - Qualified vocational tutors
 - Ongoing CPD, observations, and quality monitoring
-

Programme Length & Flexibility

All Birmingham programmes are **fully flexible in length**. Courses may run for **short-term interventions or longer-term placements**, depending on learner need, commissioning requirements, and agreed outcomes.

Units and challenges can be **added or removed to reflect the agreed programme length**, allowing provision to be tailored to: - Engagement and readiness levels - EHCP outcomes (where applicable) - Reintegration or transition planning - LA commissioning timeframes

This flexibility ensures learners complete **meaningful, achievable ASDAN evidence** without being restricted by fixed course durations.

Birmingham Site Pathways Summary

✓ Creative Media & Arts (ASDAN) ✓ Nails & Beauty (ASDAN-aligned) ✗ Sports / Fitness / Football (not delivered at this site)

For commissioning enquiries, referrals, or further information: **Empowering Futures** 
www.empowering-futures.co.uk