

Freedom of Information – Response – 27479

Please treat the following as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting information about the banding or categorisation system used by Suffolk County Council to classify pupils requiring out-of-school tuition, including Section 19 provision, EBSA/SEMH support, and medical-needs tuition.

This request concerns policy definitions only, not individual pupils or providers.

Suffolk County Council does not have in place any Banding arrangements for young people accessing Non School Alternative provision. (NSAP) However, we do have High Needs Funding Bands that are available for schools to access additional support which could include schools directly commissioning Alternative Provision. Details of our High Needs Funding can be found here: [High Needs Funding – Suffolk Learning](#)

Suffolk County Council offers 7 funded High Needs Funding Bands

1. Band names and structure Please provide:

- The names or titles of any bands, levels, categories, or tiers used by Suffolk County Council to classify pupils requiring out-of-school tuition.

SCC has interpreted your request as those pupils who are using Non-School Alternative Provision (NSAP)

These providers do not have a banding or categorisation system that is used but rather they operate within a contract for the provision of the support required by an individual pupil.

SCC will make decisions on a case-by-case basis for what support an individual pupil make require when considering out-of-school tuition, including Section 19 provision, EBSA/SEMH support, and medical-needs tuition.

For Alternative Tuition Services (ATS) referrals where there is evidence of medical need we categorise as - Medical, or where there is not medical evidence but there is evidence that the circumstances are such that an immediate return to school is unlikely without education support, we classify as – Otherwise.

- The number of bands or categories currently in use.
- Please see above.

2. Definitions and criteria For each band, level, or category identified above, please provide:

- The definition or description of the band.

Please see above.

- The criteria used to place a pupil into that band (e.g., need type, complexity, risk, attendance history, medical evidence, or other factors).

ATS follow a guidance of :

Provide tuition for children that are permanently excluded from the sixth day
Provide tuition for children after 15 days or more of authorised absence
Please note NASP are not placed within bands/categories.

- *Any descriptors relating to EBSA, SEMH, medical needs, or reintegration.*
- ATS - We only use the two descriptors above.

3. Decision-making guidance Please provide:

- *Any internal guidance, policy documents, or criteria used by officers when determining which band a pupil should be placed in.*
- *Any flowcharts, decision trees, or threshold documents used in this process.*
- *Any guidance issued to schools regarding how banding decisions are made or what evidence is required.*

ATS follow the following guidance

[Alternative Tuition Service – Suffolk Learning](#)

[Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK](#)

Please find below considerations when caseworkers are exploring the use of Non-School Alternative Provision:

Finding Non-School Alternative Provision

We must only use approved NSAP's, Provider Services maintain a list of providers we can use who have met set minimum standards.

This is the primary directory: [2026-04-01 Unregistered Alternative Provision Directory](#)

How to find a good fit NSAP

- Age: Does the NSAP meet needs of the age of the young person, check 'Key Stage'.
- Location: Check the base of the NSAP they will work from is it within 45 mins travel distance for primary school age or 75 minutes for secondary school + of the young person's address. Any travel time restrictions for the child?
- Vocational/Therapeutic: Does the young person need qualifications or therapeutic approach from the NSAP.
- GCSE's: If the young person is 15/16 must think about whether NSAP can offer examinations if appropriate.
- Interests: Does the NSAP have an offer in line with young person's interests?
- Needs: Does the NSAP show they would be able to meet the needs of the young person; security, profile of support, 1-1 etc.
- Variability: Does the total package offer variability of offer?

Timetable: Does the NSAP have availability for full days (this is the preference if making a full-time package of education). Can the NSAP offer days/times that will work around young person's other education or what's on offer from another NSAP?

Blank templates or redacted versions are acceptable where appropriate.

4. Relationship to commissioning Please provide:

- *Whether each band is linked to a particular commissioning model (e.g., hours, session type, or level of support).*
- *Whether each band corresponds to a particular level of provision, intensity, or expected frequency of tuition.*

In terms of Non-School Alternative provision we operate a contract, within this contract we operate a lot system where providers deliver a range of services including Tuition Services, Vocational Services, Virtual Learning Services and Early Intervention / re-engagement services.