Alternative Provision Placements

Schools that have not arranged any placements during the academic year do not need to record and submit any information.

Definition of alternative provision

For the purposes of this data collection, we have defined AP as follows.

AP is full- or part-time education arranged by:

- local authorities, either directly or working with schools, for pupils who, because of permanent exclusion, illness, or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education.
- schools for pupils to improve their behaviour off-site, or during a suspension.

AP is not an out of school activity arranged in addition to a full-time education, including activities arranged primarily for recreational purposes or for SEN support. Nor is it educational home learning resources provided by a school for the pupils at home.

AP settings provide education for pupils who do not go to a mainstream school or special school full time. The education often takes place at a PRU, AP academy or free school, but placements can also be arranged in another mainstream or independent school that provides AP, or in an educational setting that is not registered with DfE.

Collection periods

Data should be submitted for pupils both on and off roll who have attended AP placements within the census period. This includes:

- AP placements that are taking place on census day
- previous placements, where the pupil has left the AP placement within the census period.

For the May 2025 census, schools are asked to submit data for all open placements and those that ended between 16/01/2025 – 14/05/2025 (inclusive).

1. Alternative provision for single-registered pupils

This module should only be completed by PRU or AP schools.

- pupil referral units (PRUs)
- AP academies
- AP free schools

2. Alternative provision placements arranged by schools

This module should be completed by any school that has arranged a placement including:

- primary schools

- middle-deemed primary schools
- middle-deemed secondary schools
- secondary schools
- all-through schools
- special schools
- PRU or AP schools

Alternative provision module for single-registered pupils

PRU and AP schools only should complete this module for all pupils who have been single-registered (those with an enrolment status of 'C', 'F' or 'O').

This includes all:

- single-registered pupils on roll on census day
- pupils who were single registered but who have been removed from the roll within the census period

If a pupil has been single registered in your school on more than one occasion within the census period, return the information for the most recent placement only.

If your school has arranged placements in other AP settings for these pupils, you should also complete the alternative provision placements arranged by schools module for each placement.

This section lists, in detail, the placement-specific data items required for this module.

URN of previous school

Record and submit the URN (unique reference number) of the establishment that the pupil attended prior to becoming single-registered at your school. You can find the URN on get information about schools (GIAS).

If no URN is available, for example because the pupil has recently moved to England from abroad, leave the URN field blank.

Alternative provision reason

Record and submit the primary reason why the pupil was placed in alternative provision.

Example: If a pupil that has been placed in AP has a mental or physical health need, but has also been permanently excluded, the primary reason for the placement would be the permanent exclusion which led to the arrangement of the AP placement.

This table provides examples of reasons for AP placements to help schools select the most appropriate category.

Reason for placement	Possible examples
Setting named on EHC plan	The AP placement is specified in the pupil's EHC plan
Medical condition (mental health need)	The placement is primarily intended to address a recognised mental health need

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Reason for placement	Possible examples
Medical condition (physical health need)	The placement is primarily intended to address a recognised physical health need
New arrival without a school place	The pupil has recently moved from another local authority or jurisdiction and has been temporarily placed by the local authority in the AP until they can be registered in another school
Returning to state education from elective home education	The pupil is returning from a period of elective home education and has been placed by the local authority in the AP
Awaiting an appropriate special school place	A place in a special school is specified in the pupil's EHC plan but there are currently no places available in the special school. The pupil is temporarily placed by the local authority in AP until a place becomes available in the special school
Permanent exclusion	The local authority has arranged the AP placement following the permanent exclusion of the pupil from another school
Other	Only use this option in cases where none of the other reasons are applicable.

Find an AP reasons code.

Alternative provision SEN provision on entry

Record and submit the pupil's SEN provision on the date of entry to your school.

If this data is already within your MIS, this data item should be automatically populated. If it has not been automatically populated, you can find an SEN code.

Alternative provision placements arranged by schools

This module should be completed by all types of school including:

- primary
- middle-deemed primary
- middle-deemed secondary
- secondary
- all-through
- special
- PRU and AP schools

Single-registered pupils in PRU or AP should also be included in the alternative provision module for single-registered placements.

If your school has not arranged any AP placements during the collection period, you do not need to complete this module.

Data should be submitted for pupils both on and off roll who have attended AP placements within the census period. This includes:

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- AP placements that are taking place on census day
- previous placements, where the pupil has left the AP placement within the census period

Where pupils have attended more than one AP placement within the census period, including multiple placements with the same AP provider, you should record and submit information on each placement separately. If the pattern of part-time sessions changes during the placement, you should only submit details of most recent placement.

Who submits the data

Registration arrangements for AP, and types of placements, are variable.

These examples specify who should submit the information in the most common scenarios.

Example 1: If a mainstream school arranges an AP placement for a pupil in any setting, the mainstream school should record and return the data items for this placement.

If multiple AP placements are arranged concurrently, the mainstream school should submit information about each placement.

Example 2: If a pupil is single-registered at a PRU or AP school which arranges additional off-site AP with another provider, then the PRU or AP school that arranged the additional AP placement should submit the placement information.

Example 3: If the local authority has arranged an AP placement at a PRU or AP school and the pupil remains on the roll of a mainstream school, then the mainstream school should submit the placement information as this data cannot be returned by the local authority.

This section lists, in detail, the placement-specific data items required for this module.

Alternative provision placement setting type

Specify the type of setting within which the AP placement has been arranged. You should select one of the following 3 options:

1. URN

Record and submit the GIAS unique reference number (URN), where available, of the establishment within which the AP placement has been arranged.

If the provider does not appear on GIAS, you should leave this field blank.

2. UKPRN

If the establishment does not have a URN, record and submit the UK provider register number (UKPRN) of the establishment within which the AP placement has been arranged. The UK Register of Learning Providers provides details of UKPRNs.

If the provider does not have a UKPRN, you should leave this field blank.

3. Alternative provision placement type of setting

The placement type of setting data item records, where the placement does not have a URN or UKPRN (left blank), for example because it is not a school or a registered further education institution and is the type of setting within which the pupil has taken up an alternative provision placement.

Allowable values are:
- NFE for non-maintained further education provision
- OOT for one-on-one tuition
- OTH for other unregistered provider

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- WBP for work-based placement

Where type of setting is completed, URN and UKPRN must be blank. If URN or UKPRN are completed, the type of setting must remain blank.

Where the type of setting is included, because the provider does not have a URN or UKPRN, then a Companies House company number and the setting's postcode must also be included.

Alternative provision placement Companies House company number

This data item records the [Companies House](#) company number for the setting in which the pupil has taken up an alternative provision placement.

This data item is only required for placements where neither a URN nor UKPRN are available and instead an 'AP setting type' has been recorded.

If the setting does not have a company number leave the field blank.

Alternative provision placement postcode

This data item records, the setting's postcode, within which the pupil has taken up an alternative provision placement.

This data item is only required for placements where neither a URN nor UKPRN are available, an 'AP setting type' has been recorded.

Placement reason

Record and submit the primary reason why the AP was arranged by your school.

Example: If an AP placement has been arranged for a pupil who has a mental or physical health need, but the pupil has also been suspended, the primary reason for the placement would be the suspension which led to the arrangement of the AP placement.

This table provides examples of reasons for AP placement to help schools select the most appropriate category.

Reason for placement	Possible examples
Off-site placement for behavioural support	The pupil has been directed off-site to an AP to address ongoing behavioural concerns
Medical condition (mental health need)	The placement is primarily intended to address a recognised mental health need
Medical condition (physical health need)	The placement is primarily intended to address a recognised physical health need
Suspension	The pupil has been suspended by a school and has been placed in AP
Permanent exclusion (where still going through the review process)	The pupil has been permanently excluded and the permanent exclusion is being reviewed. The pupil remains on the roll of the school that has excluded them and has been placed in AP until the permanent exclusion review process has been completed.

Reason for placement	Possible examples
Other	Only use this option in cases where none of the other reasons are applicable.

Find a reason for placement.

Alternative provision placement date of entry
Record and submit the date that each pupil began their AP placement.
If the pupil has had more than one AP placement with the same provider or different providers, within the same census period, record and submit the information for each individual AP placement.

Alternative provision placement date of leaving
Record and submit the date that the pupil left their alternative provision placement for each individual AP placement within the census period.
If the placement is still taking place on census day, leave this field blank.

Alternative provision placement SEN at date of entry
Record and submit the pupil's SEN provision on the date the placement began.
If this data is already within your MIS, this data item should be automatically populated. If it has not been automatically populated, you can find a SEN code.

Alternative provision placement SEN at date of leaving
Record and submit the pupil's SEN provision on date the placement ended.
If this data is already within your MIS, this data item should be automatically populated. If it has not been automatically populated, you can find a SEN code.

Alternative provision placement attendance pattern
Record and submit the pupil's attendance pattern at the alternative provision provider. If the attendance pattern has changed during the placement, only submit information on the most recent placement.
Use:

- FT if a pupil attends full-time
- PT if a pupil attends the placement part-time

Where the pupil is in part-time provision (for example, attending fewer than 10 sessions a week in the AP placement), record and submit the number of sessions the pupil is expected to attend each week.

For the purposes of this data item, a session is either a morning or afternoon in school.

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