



Esteem North Academy

Thinking of returning to Mainstream?

A Guide for Pupils and their Families



The vast majority of pupils at Esteem North Academy have faced permanent exclusion from another school.

All pupils come to us for a fresh start.

For some pupils and their families, Esteem North Academy becomes ‘their school’ - a place where they feel they belong and wish to complete their education.

For other pupils and their families, they see Esteem North Academy as a bridge or stop-off point in the hope for another mainstream school.

Esteem North Academy will always be led by the pupil and their family on this matter. However, we will always urge for reintegration where suitable.

A person is climbing a tall stack of colorful storage bins (blue, purple, and pink) in a warehouse or storage area. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, black pants, and white sneakers. They are reaching up to touch one of the bins. The background shows more stacks of bins and a bright, slightly overexposed area at the top.

Moving towards 'mainstream ready'...

Staff will regularly assess suitability for reintegration to mainstream with our pupils. When a pupil wishes to return to mainstream, Esteem North Academy staff have to put their case to the Headteacher. Staff will then encourage and support parents/carers to apply for a new school place.

Parents/carers can apply for a new school place through the Derbyshire County Council Admissions website. Up to 3 schools can be applied for. Some Derbyshire schools need to be applied for directly.

If a place is not offered, then the day 6 IPT team will represent the pupil at "Fair Access" which is held every 2 weeks. From here a school will be named.

For pupils and their families considering mainstream, we ideally need the following evidence over at least 1 school term (at least 3 months):

- Improved attendance
- Good punctuality record
- No repetition of serious incidents
- Positives to share around social skills and managing own emotions
- Positive engagement in learning

Other considerations in thinking about a return to mainstream...

On considering mainstream, it is important to think about what kind of curriculum your child and you want.

At our primary site, Esteem North Academy offers 3 different pathways of learning and very small classes. Each class has at least 2 staff members and only around 5 pupils. There is rapid support available and also 1:1 support where required.

Pupils can be taught based on their stage, not age. They can also engage in learning via a continuous curriculum model.

Some lessons are planned to develop social and emotional skills which will aid in their ability to reintegrate in the future into larger groups with their peers.

There are only around 20 pupils on roll at this site.



Other considerations in thinking about a return to mainstream...

On considering mainstream, it is important to think about what kind of curriculum your child and you want.

At KS3 & 4 Esteem North Academy offers:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PSHRE
- Citizenship
- Futures
- Food
- Art

Years 7-9 all study Duke of Edinburgh weekly and have “think for the Future” lessons.

We offer English, Maths, Food, Art and Biology GCSEs.

In addition to this, we offer a more practical curriculum involving off site vocational APs and work experience. Although we do offer GCSEs, we also offer Functional Skills as alternatives and ASDAN Short courses.

For some pupils, this is the kind of curriculum they need - a fully academic, GCSE-based curriculum is a ‘turn off’. But for others, they do wish to study for more GCSEs in History, French etc.



Other considerations in thinking about a return to mainstream...

Other things to weigh up are:

- Larger student numbers in one place - this means there are more opportunities to have a broader range of friends but it can also mean there is more chance of conflict.
- Larger class sizes - some pupils do not mind this whereas others prefer the ENA class sizes of 8 -12 per class.
- Transport - many mainstream schools are easier to get to.
- When things go wrong - ENA, because it is a PRU and AP, tends to have a 'wider window of tolerance' and more staff on hand when pupils become angry, frustrated etc. Mainstream schools are supportive places. but they have a lower staff to pupil ratio.

None of the above is said to persuade you to make a decision one way or another - all we ask is you to consider the options.





If your application for mainstream is accepted...

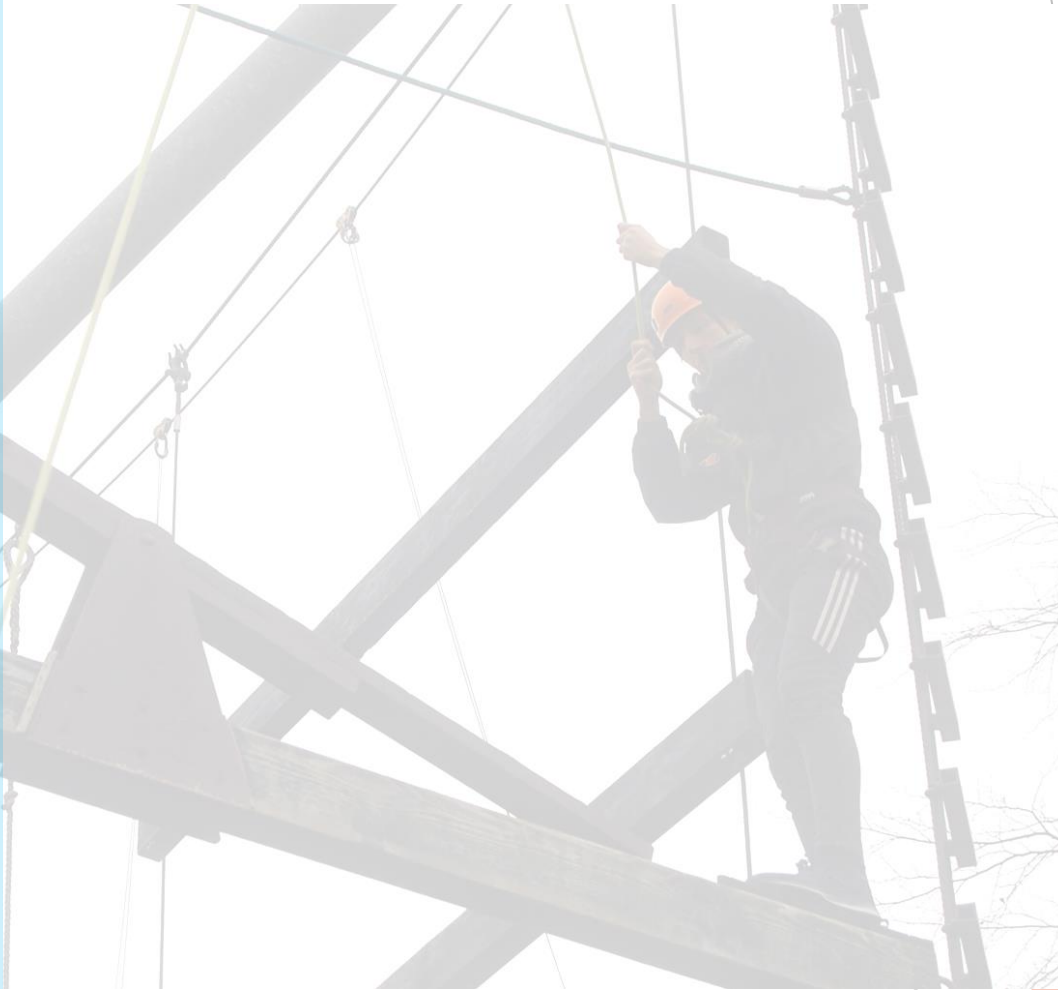
- A school will either offer a place, or one will be nominated by the Fair Access panel - your preferences will be listened to but not guaranteed.
- IPT will share all relevant paperwork relating to the pupil - this will include a profile of their strengths and needs in their pupil information pack
- The mainstream school will organise a 'welcome meeting' at the new school - the pupil will attend with a family member
- A timetable and start date will be agreed
- Plans for supporting the pupil will be agreed where appropriate and possible

If your application for mainstream is not accepted...

Parents/ carers do have the right to apply for a return to mainstream through the standard in-year admission process.

If this is refused, they would usually be offered representation at Fair Access panel. However, if the Headteacher at ENA does not feel that this is in the best interests of the pupil, then a reintegration will not be supported by Esteem North Academy.

We understand navigating the above can be stressful and will always seek to provide a listening ear. However, we will always work with integrity and honesty to ensure the most appropriate school place for a pupil.





If you are considering a return to mainstream school, please **get in touch** with your child's form tutor or site lead.

If you want to 'stay put' for now, that's OK too.