



ALFA
part of Keys Education

Welcome from the Head of ALFA

At Alternative Learning For All (ALFA), we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive in education, regardless of the challenges they may have faced in the past. Our programme is designed to support children who have been unable to access traditional schooling due to social, emotional, mental health issues, anxiety, or other barriers they may have encountered.

ALFA is not just a programme – it’s a partnership. We work closely with each learner and their family to create a bespoke learning journey, tailored entirely around their individual needs. Whether it’s through introducing local tutors, providing online lessons with our subject specialists, or incorporating outdoor activities at PEAK activity centres, we are committed to helping our learners re-engage with education in a way that suits them best.

Beyond the core curriculum, we also offer enrichment opportunities for learners to explore their hobbies and interests, further enhancing their educational experience. ALFA is here to nurture not only academic growth but also personal development, ensuring that every learner feels valued, supported, and ready to succeed.

We look forward to welcoming you to our community, where learning is shaped by the individual, for the individual.

Mitchell Rose
Head of ALFA



ALFA leadership team



Alternative Learning For All by the specialists behind it. If video doesn’t load, please [click here](#).



Introducing ALFA

Alternative Learning for All or ALFA, is Keys’ innovative, hybrid learning solution tailored to help children who face challenges in engaging with traditional education. Whether through online lessons or in-person activities, ALFA adapts to each learner’s unique needs, helping them rediscover the joy of learning. We offer learners a part-time programme ranging from 2-18 hours a week to re-ignite a love of learning. ALFA provides learners with offers of vocational learning, tutor-led sessions, adventurous activities or enrichment opportunities or a hybrid mix of all.

Why ALFA?

For over 28 years, Keys’ specialist schools have helped children gain confidence and achieve qualifications. Yet, with increasing numbers of children struggling to access education due to emotional, physical, or mental health challenges, school avoidance, or repeated exclusions, we knew something had to change. That’s why we developed ALFA — to provide an inclusive, flexible, part-time learning option for every child and to re-engage them back into an appropriate education environment.

Bespoke Education

Before a child begins working with ALFA, we will work with them, their families, carers and the professionals around them to gather the information we need to best meet their needs. Using that information, we will develop an individualised timetable which supports their interests and abilities as well as their ambitions and goals.

UP TO
18 HOURS
A WEEK

2

OPERATIONAL DATES 25/26

3

Aug 2025						
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Jul 2026						
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School Holiday
INSET / Training Days



Who can ALFA help?

ALFA is designed for children struggling with emotionally-based school avoidance, exclusions, or those who find it difficult to thrive in traditional school environments. Whether they have an Education, Health and Care Plan or not, ALFA provides an adaptable learning experience to meet their needs.

ALFA is for children in Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.

Children can be referred to ALFA by local authorities, schools, academies and educational providers, children's homes and parents and families. Places can also be privately funded. ALFA will work alongside schools and local authorities to organise a bespoke programme for each and every child.

Where known trigger points for disengagement may be known, support from ALFA can be scheduled in for a learner (for example, immediately after the longer school holidays) to potentially prevent reduced attendance or disengagement by 'getting ahead' of the issue.

Our Aim

To help all children access education in a way that meets their needs.

ALFA's unique approach helps learners who struggle with traditional schooling rediscover the joy of learning and receive the education they deserve.

How ALFA is Delivered

● Vocational Learning

At ALFA, we recognise the importance of providing children with a broad range of learning experiences that prepare them for future careers. Our vocational learning programme offers learners the opportunity to gain hands-on, practical skills that are directly relevant to the world of work as well as participating in work experience.

● Tutor-led Sessions

At the heart of ALFA's bespoke approach are our tutor-led sessions, offering personalised, one-to-one or small group instruction tailored to each child's individual needs. Our tutors work closely with learners to ensure they receive the guidance, encouragement, and academic support required to make meaningful progress. The education team at Keys is supported by clinical team, including educational psychologists.

● Adventurous Activities

As part of ALFA's holistic approach to education, we incorporate a range of adventure activities designed to re-engage children with learning in dynamic and exciting ways. Delivered in partnership with Peak, a leading provider of outdoor education and adventure, these activities give learners the chance to develop essential life skills while having fun and staying active.

● Enrichment Opportunities

ALFA goes beyond traditional classroom learning by offering a wide range of enrichment opportunities that are designed to inspire creativity, nurture personal growth, and support emotional well-being. These activities are integrated into each learner's bespoke timetable, providing valuable experiences that complement their academic development.



Peak

Bringing Adventure to ALFA - The Outdoor Education Experts

Through our partnership with Peak, ALFA offers adventure activities that are carefully designed and delivered by experienced professionals in outdoor education. Peak's team works closely with ALFA to ensure each activity is tailored to the specific needs of our learners, offering a balance of challenge, enjoyment, and personal growth.

How Peak Supports ALFA's Adventure Activities:

Expert Instruction: All activities are led by qualified, highly experienced instructors who understand the diverse needs of children who may have faced educational barriers.

Safety First: Peak ensures the highest standards of safety, creating a secure environment where learners can participate in activities such as climbing, mountain biking, and water sports with confidence.

Personalised Approach: Just like ALFA's academic programme, the adventure activities are adapted to suit each child's individual abilities and interests, helping them develop at their own pace.

Skill Development: Whether it's building resilience on a climbing wall or utilising teamwork through group activities, Peak's adventure programmes are designed to instil essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom.

By working in collaboration with Peak, ALFA offers more than just an educational experience—it provides young people with the opportunity to grow, build confidence, and discover new passions through adventure.



Third Floor, Maybrook House, Queensway, Halesowen, B63 4AH

01782 722226 • www.peak.co.uk • [@peak.eta](https://www.instagram.com/peak.eta)

EDUCATION THROUGH ADVENTURE



FAQ's

Is ALFA a school?

No, we do not offer full time education to children. Some children may only access two hours a week of academic tutor-led sessions. Other children may access a day of adventurous activities alongside their tutor-led sessions. ALFA will work with providers, families and local authorities to increase these hours. However, if a child is able to sustain full time education, at ALFA we assume and will encourage them to attend a more suitable registered school setting.

Can a child be referred from a school?

Yes, ALFA is a positive choice for any child who is struggling to engage in education, including those on roll at a school but who routinely do not attend. ALFA offers an opportunity to re-engage children through a carefully assessed and adapted programme and timetable which can build over time. Schools can refer a child to ALFA rather than continually pay for high cost alternative provision. ALFA's bespoke approach will allow them to re-engage at a pace which meets their needs, with the ultimate aim of helping them return to school.

Can ALFA support looked-after children?

Yes. ALFA offers looked-after children the opportunity to maintain learning or re-engage with education. This may be particularly helpful when a child may have moved to a new area at short notice, or where a suitable educational placement has yet to be identified for them.

How will ALFA be accessed?

ALFA's online content can be accessed via a laptop or desktop computer. Some children will access ALFA through face-toface interactions. Each child will have an identified tutor with our subject teachers conducting lessons in English, Maths and PHSE. The curriculum will be adapted to meet individual needs. ALFA's Head will quality assure teaching and learning and offer support where required.

Can ALFA benefit the professionals supporting a child?

ALFA is a 'one-stop' solution where commissioners can engage with one provider, where one risk assessment is needed and there is only one contract to manage. Where a child is successfully supported from ALFA to school attendance at a Keys school, this offers great consistency for the child and minimises the risk of further disengagement or placement breakdown.

How will the programme be created?

Before a child begins working with ALFA, we will work with them, their families and carers and the professionals around them to gather the information we need to best meet their needs. Using that information, we will develop a timetable which supports their interests and abilities as well as their ambitions and goals.

What if the ALFA delivery model doesn't seem to suit my child's specific needs?

Even if your child's situation doesn't exactly match the criteria mentioned, our highly flexible and individualised timetables are designed to adapt to the unique needs of each learner. Please get in touch with us to discuss your child's circumstances, and we'll work together to create a personalised solution that supports their education journey. Referrals can be made by schools, local authorities, children's homes, or directly by families.

Referral Process: How to Access ALFA

Referrals can be made by local authorities, schools, children's homes, or even parents. ALFA is also available for privately funded placements. We also work with schools to provide short-term support to prevent disengagement during challenging periods like post-holiday transitions. **Here's how it works:**

1

Initial consultation

The first step involves a consultation between our Head, the local authority, and the key adults involved in the child's care.

This meeting ensures a clear understanding of ALFA's approach and gives ALFA the opportunity to learn more about the child's unique needs and challenges.

2

Assessment

Following the consultation, the Head will meet with the child face-to-face to gain a deeper understanding of their individual needs.

During this meeting, the child and their carers will have the opportunity to discuss a personalised learning plan and explore potential pathways to re-engage in education.

3

Access to the ALFA Programme

Once the assessment is complete, the Head will design a bespoke programme and timetable tailored to the child's specific needs, interests, and goals.

This timetable will be regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure progress, with agreed-upon targets and a clear pathway in place to help the child successfully re-engage in education.

Ready to Make a Referral?

We're here to help you start the ALFA journey. Here's how to reach us

Email

mitchell.rose@keyseducation.ac.uk

Phone

07354 902177

ALFA

part of Keys Education

VIEW OUR POLICIES

Safeguarding Policy

Complaints Policy

ALL OTHER POLICIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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Proprietor: Keys Group
Proprietor Representative: David Manson
Education Director: Nicola Kelly 0121 728 7800