



Northern College

1. Overview

Title	Additional Learning Support (ALS) Policy 2023/24
Who does the policy apply to?	This policy will outline the guidance and implementation of the Additional Learning Support Policy in its application to all students who enrol with the College. This policy should be read by all students, staff and governors.
Aims	<p>To set out the process for the provision of additional learning support for students where barriers to learning prevent them from reaching their full potential.</p> <p>To ensure that additional learning support systems are consistent, fair and transparent.</p>
To be read in conjunction with	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Safeguarding Adults Policy Fees Policy Financial Support Policy Complaints Policy and Procedures Admissions Policy Residential Admissions Policy Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
Further advice may be sought from	Assistant Principal Student Experience Head of Student Support Services
Review arrangements	<p>This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its continuing relevance and effectiveness. Further details regarding revisions and review cycle can be found at Sections 10 and 11.</p> <p>The College may review the policy prior to this date should operational and/or legislative/guidance matters require it.</p> <p>The policy, guidance and review arrangements can be viewed on the Northern College website, staff and student inductions and within the student handbook.</p>

2. Purpose

2.1. Northern College regards each student as unique in their own right and as such aims to provide a high quality, highly effective inclusive learning environment which is accessible to all.

- 2.2 The College aims to remove barriers to learning to enable all students to reach their full potential, including those with specific learning needs.
- 2.3 Equality and diversity are at the very heart of the College ethos and additional learning support is a key part of ensuring every student has an equal opportunity to succeed during their time at Northern College. This policy outlines the support provision and the legal obligations of the College.

3. Context

- 3.1 This policy supports the College Strategic Plan by enabling all students to achieve and enjoy a positive learning experience.
- 3.2 Additional Learning Support (ALS) is:

whereby funding is available to meet the cost of putting in place a reasonable adjustment, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, for learners who have an identified learning difficulty and/or disability, to achieve their learning goal.

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Funding Rules 2023-2024

- 3.3 It is a priority of the College to ensure early intervention takes place to provide reasonable adjustments, and ensure non-discriminatory processes are in place. This includes the removal of barriers to learning in so far as possible for students with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities that may affect their ability to access further education.

4. Scope

- 4.1 Learning support, in line with ESFA (Adult Education Budget and Advanced Learner Loans Bursary: ALLB), is available to meet the cost of putting in place a learning support activity for 'in-learning' support, such as support for in-class and out of class support, equipment or other reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.2 Students will not receive additional learning support to help with 'everyday' concerns and difficulties which are not associated with learning whilst at Northern College.
- 4.3 All students will be assessed in line with ESFA (Adult Education Budget, ALLB) guidance and funding rules. All assessments will be evidenced and reported within their Individual Learning Record (ILR) evidence pack.
- 4.4 This policy applies to all applicants including full time and part time courses.
- 4.5 This policy relates to all students who are:
- 4.5.1. aged 19 or over on 31st August of the academic year;
 - 4.5.2 enrolled on programmes funded by the ESFA (Education & Skills Funding Agency), SYMCA (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) and WYCA (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) or students in receipt of a SFE (Student Finance England) Loans Bursary

5. Policy

- 5.1. Northern College will administer an effective and timely admissions process to enable students to indicate, at the point of application, a requirement for ALS.
- 5.2 All students can complete an Additional Support Needs and Accessibility Questionnaire which details needs and specific adjustments. Students will be contacted where a more detailed assessment is required.
- 5.3 The College in line with funding guidance will record and evidence ALS given to each student within their Individual Learning Record (ILR) to ensure compliance with funding regulations.
- 5.4 The College will ensure that initial assessments identify specific ALS needs required to enable students to progress their learning journey; this information will be recorded and shared as required to ensure their learning needs can be met in a timely effective manner.
- 5.5 Northern College will endeavour to provide access to specialist equipment where it is deemed a student requires a reasonable adjustment to access learning or self-study.
- 5.6 The College will ensure that all students can study in a safe, tolerant and supportive environment.
- 5.7 Northern College will ensure, where a specific need has been identified, effective support can be facilitated, but not limited to:
- communication support;
 - interpreter;
 - specialist equipment;
 - assistive software;
 - dyslexia support;
 - support with mental health issues or signposting to external support agencies;
 - adapted class materials;
 - access arrangements for examinations.
- 5.8 The College will deploy ALS staff to ensure appropriate and needs led support for students whilst encouraging students to be as independent and resilient as possible to support their progression from College.
- 5.9 The College will ensure that budgets are managed effectively and within financial guidance requirements to ensure funding can be claimed to implement legally required reasonable adjustments to support students with learning difficulties or disabilities.

6. Review & Monitoring

- 6.1 Students accessing ALS will have their individual support plan reviewed regularly to ensure support is effective and appropriate throughout their study.

- 6.2 Lesson plans will be reviewed to ensure they are inclusive to those with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities and show clear involvement of ALS staff.
- 6.3 Tutors and ALS staff will be formally observed on a regular basis as part of the College quality assurance process to ensure that students receive a high-quality learning experience and to ensure compliance with Ofsted guidelines.
- 6.4 Northern College will review ALS through the annual Self-Assessment Review (SAR) process to ensure an effective, high quality, and efficient service.

7. Complaints

- 7.1 The Student Support Service Team will make available details of the complaint's procedure where appropriate.
- 7.2 All complaints will follow the College complaints procedure.

8. Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR (General Data Protection Rules)

- 8.1 Personal data will be processed in line with the College's Data Protection Policy and used for the purposes set out in the College's privacy notice for students, both of which can be found on the College website.
- 8.2 A student must consent to their information being shared for purposes of learning support and UK GDPR and other legal obligations must be met.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 9.1. Northern College aligns all of its practices to the Equality Act 2010 which prohibits unfair treatment, eliminating discrimination and advances opportunity of all its students. Within this context this policy aims to remove disadvantage and promote a culture of supporting difference and celebrating diversity.
- 9.2. Northern College will facilitate access to a range of lifelong learning opportunities, Compliant with the Equality Act 2010, to ensure students with specific learning needs achieve their learning goals

10. Policy sign off and ownership details

Document Name:	Additional Learning Support Policy
Version Number:	3.0
Effective from:	1 August 2023
Next scheduled review date:	August 2024
Policy owner:	Assistant Principal - Student Experience
Approved by:	The Board of Governors

9. Revision history

Version	Effective date	Revision description/summary of changes	Author
1.0	August 2020	Review	Assistant Principal Student Experience (Diane Lawson)
2.0	August 2021	Review - minor changes	Assistant Principal Student Experience (Diane Lawson)
3.0	August 2022	Review - minor changes	Assistant Principal Student Experience (Diane Lawson)
4.0	August 2023	Review - minor changes	Head of Student Support Services (Katie Tarrant)