

AA1: Getting started in Alternative Education

**Purpose of Alternative Education (AE)** See chch.alted.org.nz

Placement in AE is a **short term intervention to** support 13-15 year old students who have become alienated from schooling. **The goal**s are to get students **engaged in learning** and **ready for the next stage in their education**. The learning programme is student goal-based including lifting literacy, numeracy and ability to interact with others; maintaining a healthy body and mind; regular attendance; and gaining credits towards NCEA. The next stage is moving (transitioning) from AE into one of mainstream schooling; tertiary training course; or employment.

**Eligibility for AE—The must be enrolled in one of the eligible schools[[1]](#footnote-1) prior to applying for placement in AE and either**

1. hasnot been attending school and thus showing in ENROL as a NEN case prior to being re-enrolled or enrolled in one of the 22 eligible schools,
2. **or** has been excluded from school but is back on the roll[[2]](#footnote-2) of one of the 22 eligible schools,
3. **or** has dropped out of Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu after enrolment as an at risk student,
4. **or** while on the roll of a school, attendance is such that there is no meaningful learning,
5. **or** has been suspended and is at risk of further suspension,
6. **or** is struggling with the school setting and needs time to address issues related to learning. The student is said to be ‘alienated.’

**Who is not eligible for AE?**

* Y9 students [[3]](#footnote-3)
* High & Complex Needs students
* Intensive Wrap Around Service students

**Applications can only be received by the Cashmere High School AE Manager from either**

* the Ministry in partnership with one of the 22 schools,
* **or** the AE Contact person employed by one of the 22 schools

**In the case of an excluded student (Eligibility Cat 2)** the Ministry will approach the most recent school seeking re-enrolment or approach an appropriate school seeking enrolment. The Ministry then make application to the AE Managing School. Note: the student is fully enrolled in the school.

**In the case of a Not Enrolled student (often referred to as a NENs or a NENNed student) (Eligibility Cat 1)** the school is required toprovide the student with a school-based programme.Should this not achieve the desired outcome then the school can apply to the Managing School for a placement in AE.

**In the case of a student previously in AE outside of Christchurch** the student needs to be enrolled in one of the 22 eligible schools and the school is required toprovide the student with a school-based programme.Should this not achieve the desired outcome then the school can apply to the Managing School for a placement in AE.

**The seven (7) Steps to getting started in AE are:**

1. **Preliminary assessment** (See statement below) of the student’s learning and wellbeing must be undertaken by the school or the school in partnership with the Ministry of Education where the student has been excluded.
2. **Application** to Cashmere High School (the AE Managing School) by the school’s AE Contact person or the Ministry of Education. See Application Form (T1)
3. **Initial assessment** undertaken on behalf of the Managing School by the AE Manager[[4]](#footnote-4) **and** the outcome is communicated by email to the school or Ministry of Education as appropriate.
4. **Conference Meeting scheduled** for a day and time negotiated by the AE Manager and the applicant. The parties (student, parent(s)/ caregiver(s), school and support personnel) are informed by the school’s AE Contact Person or the Ministry of Education as appropriate.
5. **Conference Meeting is convened** (see statement below) by the AE Manager at the student’s school or the Ministry of Education offices as appropriate As part of the Conference Meeting the AE Manager makes the **final decision[[5]](#footnote-5)** re placement into AE and assigns the student to a specific AE programme be that a Whanau or Vocational Pathways programme[[6]](#footnote-6).
6. **Induction Meeting**: The student, parent(s)/caregiver(s), support personnel and the school representative attend an induction meeting with the assigned AE Provider where the nature of the programme, the Kaupapa and other matters are explained and the start date is set.
7. The AE provider completes the **started date form** in the AE Database on the day that the student starts in their programme. (The Ministry of Education is informed directly from the AE Database)

**Preliminary assessment by the school**

The assessment team must include the school nurse (or substitute where there isn’t one); Counsellor; Dean; SENCO; ROCKON (Reduce our community kids offending now) team leader; RTLB; Learning Support Advisor from the Ministry of Education; Youth Aid Officer and/or YJ personnel; Social Worker; PCW; Youth Pathways personnel and Whanau.

The following education provisions need to be considered: Remain in or become part of a school-provided programme; Dual enrolment in one of the Southern Health School, Te Kura, a Trades Academy (Year 11 plus), Secondary Tertiary Pathways (Year 11 plus); AE placement

**Conference Meeting**

The school (or Ministry in the case of an excluded student) is responsible for the venue and getting the student, parent/caregiver, Birth Certificate or passport, and support personnel (such as K3, Ministry Learning Support personnel, RTLB personnel, Youth Justice, Police, Social Worker, Dean, Mentor) to the meeting.

**Applications need to be complete!** The student name needs to be as per ENROL. The school needs to have convened a meeting where the decision to seek a place in AE is discussed and agreed to. The principal needs to be part of the decision making process.

1. Avonside Girls’, Ao Tawhiti, Burnside, Cashmere, Catholic CC, Haeata, Hagley, Hillmorton, Hornby, Linwood, Marian, Mairehau, Papanui, Riccarton, Christchurch Boys HS, Rolleston College, Shirley Boys HS, St Thomas and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (Te Kura) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Through re-enrolment of enrolment [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. in exceptional circumstances they could be eligible in Terms 1 to 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In some cases advice and guidance is provided by the Ministry of Education [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Where the decision is negative the learning programme for that student remains the responsibility of the school. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **One of the Whanau AE Providers**: Te Kupenga o Aranui (TKA), Kimihia Adventure Programme (KAP), Youth Pathways (YP), Te Kaupapa Whakaroa (TKW), Tumanako; ***or*** **one of the Vocational Pathways AE Providers**: National Trades Academy (NTA), Vision College, NZ School of Tourism, NZ Management Academy (NZMA), NZ Institute of Sport, Hagley Intensive Literacy and Numeracy [↑](#footnote-ref-6)