



Case Study

Organisation


Rotherham Aspire

Sector

Preparation for Work and Life

Qualification

Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development



Rotherham Aspire are an Alternative Setting and Pupil Referral Unit who also work with students that deal with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) challenges, have education, health and care plan's (EHCP) and are often excluded from main stream schools. These students are in the 14-16 age range, and it is a struggle to find qualifications that meet their needs at a suitable level, which depending on ability will range from Entry 3 to Level 2.

"We have found the ideal solution in NOCN's Skills in Employment, Training and Personal Development (SETPD) qualifications. Our Vocational Training facility delivers competence-based programmes in a range of vocational subjects, which are complimented by the NOCN Functional Skills Qualifications.

Currently, we deliver SETPD in our Construction programme and our Art programme. SETPD is a little reminiscent of a "Pick and Mix" that allows us to choose from a wide range of units in the chosen vocational area. For example, students can choose from bricklaying, joinery, decorating and tiling. Each course is underpinned with mandatory units which can be chosen to match the subject area and the student's individual needs. All our students participate in a workplace health and safety unit as a matter of course.

As part of our wider curriculum intent, we aim to provide students with a range of personal development skills that will help them progress to post-16 education or employment, while helping them to form adult relationships. We regard these as essential life skills and can include units such as teamwork, communication, preparing for work, personal career preparation, money management, leadership and equality. The choice is vast and diverse which allows us to develop a qualification that meets the needs of individual students if we choose to do so.

Pupil Referral units have a large cohort of transient students whose stay may only last 3-4 months. SETPD is an excellent tool to quickly engage this group and steer them towards short bite-size courses that result in them achieving a recognised NOCN unit certificate on completion. NOCN's policy to certificate individual units within the SETPD qualification is its greatest strength and allows us to operate a flexible approach to learning that really benefits some of the most vulnerable students in society."

