

Transitioning into college

A guide for parents and carers of young people with **SEND** who are transitioning into college



Education
Partnership
North East



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Inclusive education at EPNE

Education Partnership North East (EPNE) ensures inclusivity for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by fostering an environment of support, understanding and equity.

Through personalised learning plans, specialist resources, and tailored support services, all learners, regardless of ability, receive equitable opportunities to thrive. Collaboration between educators, support staff, families, and external agencies ensure that **individual needs are comprehensively met**.

By promoting a culture of acceptance and respect, Education Partnership North East creates a **safe and nurturing** space where every learner can develop their unique talents, achieve academic success, and actively participate in the educational journey, fostering a truly **inclusive learning community**.

What support will my child receive?

Each young person receives personalised support, tailored to their specific needs. With specialist expertise in Autism, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH), as well as Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), the college ensures comprehensive support for each learner.

Through individualised plans, dedicated professionals collaborate closely with students, offering targeted interventions, resources, and guidance. This holistic approach fosters an environment where every student feels understood, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

What training do staff receive?

Staff receive rigorous training to effectively support learners with SEND. This includes **SEND Champions**, and highly qualified staff that hold **specialist qualifications**, including Masters Degrees in SEND.

Continuous collaboration with SEND forums and parent/carer groups ensures a holistic approach, fostering an **inclusive and supportive learning environment for all**.



Transport to college

Students can enquire with the relevant Local Authority for entitlement to taxi services or apply to the college bursary scheme for free or subsidised travel. Additionally, updated bus routes, timings and bursary application processes are available on our college websites. These arrangements ensure **safe, convenient** and **reliable** transport options for learners attending EPNE campuses.

Key contacts

For further information on whether our college is the right place for your son/daughter/ward or if you need help making an application please do not hesitate in contacting our transition team on the email addresses below:

sentransition@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk

sentransition@hartlepoolsixth.ac.uk

sentransition@northumberland.ac.uk

SEND Promise

Our **SEND Promise** represents our unwavering commitment to providing an inclusive and supportive environment for all learners.



We promise to provide high quality, personalised education in safe and inclusive learning environments.



We promise to involve all students with SEND in decisions regarding their choices, progress and next steps.



We promise to promptly identify any learning needs and support requirements, agreeing individualised goals and ambitions.



We promise to provide students with the necessary and required support, facilitating their journey to adulthood/independence.



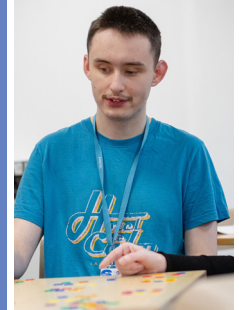
We promise to provide students with real life experiences within the college, local community and workplaces.



We promise to support the dual professionalism of our staff by providing targeted SEND training, development and support.



We promise to be an equitable employer and provide work opportunities and experiences for young people with SEND.



Our transition approach

Transition is a personal journey for any learner, and will be different for everyone, based on support needs, barriers and prior experiences.

At Education Partnership North East, we understand the change in educational setting can be difficult for learners and their families.

Our transition approach, set out below, ensures a scaffolded experience is provided, which ensures learners and their families feel informed, comfortable and happy ahead of starting college.

Our approach

Step 1: Apply

Young people with SEN can apply for the course of their choice via the college website or a paper-based application. If they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) they tick the box on the application form stating they have an EHCP.

Step 2: Assessment

The ALS team will invite the young person in for a meeting with our multi-disciplinary team to discuss their support needs before they start college.

Step 3: College place

15 days after the assessment, the young person will either be offered a place on their study programme, referred to a more appropriate one or recommended provision at another provider, if the young persons need cannot be met by our college.

Step 4: Personalised transition

SEN Officer will meet with the young person and their school to develop a robust and personalised transition plan.

Step 5: Enrolment

An invitation and enrolment pack will be sent out at the beginning of August giving the young person all the information they will need to enrol on their study programme at the end of August.

What we offer

From entry-level qualifications in our specialist provision at **Bede Campus** (part of Sunderland College) and **Kirkley Hall Campus** (part of Northumberland College), to T Levels, A-Levels, apprenticeships, supported internships, vocational qualifications and Higher Education, there are a range of routes which are underpinned by the preparation for adulthood framework, supporting **holistic development, independence**, as well as **academic growth**.



Scan the QR code below for more information regarding our specialist provision and course offer:

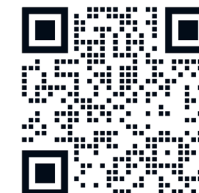
Directions

Sunderland College



Foundations

Northumberland College





Join us for our monthly coffee mornings and parental/carer engagement sessions for further guidance and information.

Contact **Craig Dowell** (craig.dowell@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk) or **John Guy** (john.guy@northumberland.ac.uk) to find out more.

Apply on our college websites, or by emailing the transition email addresses in this booklet. Alternatively, you can find out more by attending one of our open events or coffee mornings.

sunderlandcollege.ac.uk | northumberland.ac.uk | hartlepoolsixth.ac.uk

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