

Transitioning into college

A guide for SENCOs & teachers of young people transitioning into college



Education
Partnership
North East

S **N** **H** **6**
Sunderland College Northumberland College Hartlepool Sixth Form College

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About EPNE

Education Partnership North East (EPNE) is a dynamic partnership between Sunderland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form College and Northumberland College. It is one of the largest college groups in the country with campuses across the North East region from Berwick-upon-Tweed to the Tees Valley. Our commitment to young people with SEND is intrinsic to our values and shapes our inclusive practices, ensuring equity for all.

Our transition approach

Ensuring a smooth transition is pivotal in preparing young people with SEND for college life. We work closely with schools, parents/carers, and other stakeholders to promote positive transitions.

Additionally, we value invitations to participate in EHOP reviews, pupil passport meetings from schools and welcome attending these settings to **foster positive relationships and experiences** prior to college enrolment, including regular visits to the college by both students and parents/carers.

What support is provided?

Every young person receives **personalised support** that caters to their unique needs. Our colleges specialise in Autism, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH), as well as Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), ensuring dedicated professionals work closely with young people, developing individualised plans to address their support needs effectively.

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 information are available on our college websites. These arrangements ensure **safe**, **convenient** and **reliable** transport options for learners attending EPNE campuses.

Key contacts

If you have any questions, our staff are more than happy to do all they can to support. You can reach out via email to one of the email addresses below or you can join us for our monthly coffee mornings, parental/carers engagement sessions and practitioner best practice sessions.

Strategic Lead for SEND: peter.monaghan@educationpartnershipne.ac.uk

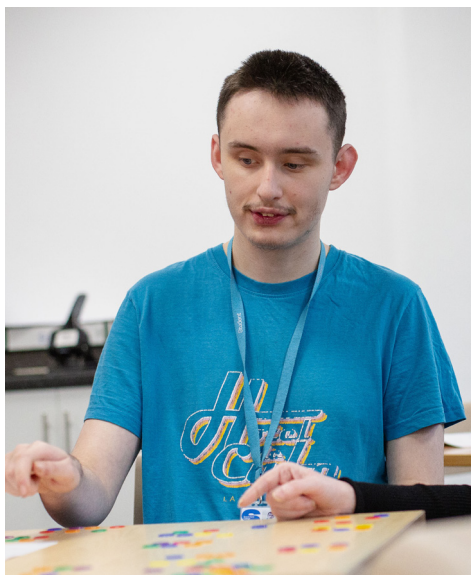
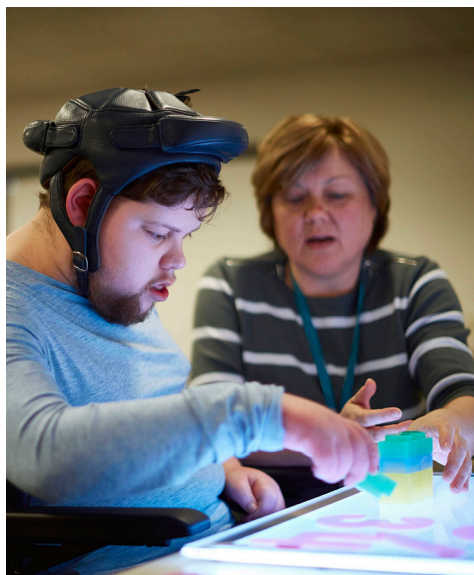
Other important email addresses:

sentransition@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk

sentransition@hartlepoolsixth.ac.uk

sentransition@northumberland.ac.uk

Join us for our monthly **coffee mornings** and parental/carers engagement sessions and practitioner best practice sessions. Please contact **Craig Dowell** (craig.dowell@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk) or **John Guy** (john.guy@northumberland.ac.uk) to find out more.



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



Open event dates

Open event dates this year are as follows–

Bede	
14 October	5pm-7pm
11 November	5pm-7pm
24 January	9:30am-12pm

City	
16 October	5pm-7pm
15 January	5pm-7pm
17 March	5pm-7pm

HICSA	
13 November	5pm-7pm
12 February	5pm-7pm
23 March	5pm-7pm

Kirkley Hall

20 November

5pm-7pm

3 December

5pm-7pm

7 February

9:30am-12pm

Berwick

13 October

4:30pm-6pm

9 February

4:30pm-6pm

Ashington

4 November

5pm-7pm

2 December

5pm-7pm

3 February

5pm-7pm

Hartlepool

15 October

5pm-7pm

14 January

5pm-7pm

11 March

5pm-7pm

SEND Promise

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

With our **SEND promise**, we strive to ensure that every learner with SEND receives the necessary adjustment, resources, and tailored support to thrive academically and personally.

By fostering a culture of understanding, empathy, equity and collaboration, we aim to empower every learner to progress, develop their independence, meet any development outcomes and achieve their full potential, as they prepare for their journey into adulthood.



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.