

# Academy 21

The Online Alternative Provision Experts

## *Reintegration Guide for Schools*

Working in partnership with schools  
across the UK to support students'  
reintegration into mainstream settings.



# Ensuring every child has access to quality education

## Academy21 is the UK's leading, DfE-accredited online alternative provision.

We are proud to be the UK's leading, DfE-accredited online alternative provision specialist. Since 2011 we have been working alongside schools and local authorities nationwide, providing high-quality live lessons and interventions for students who need an alternative approach to learning. Combining proven pedagogical methods and expert teaching with a supportive, innovative environment, our mission is to help every student engage and succeed, preparing them for a bright future ahead through:

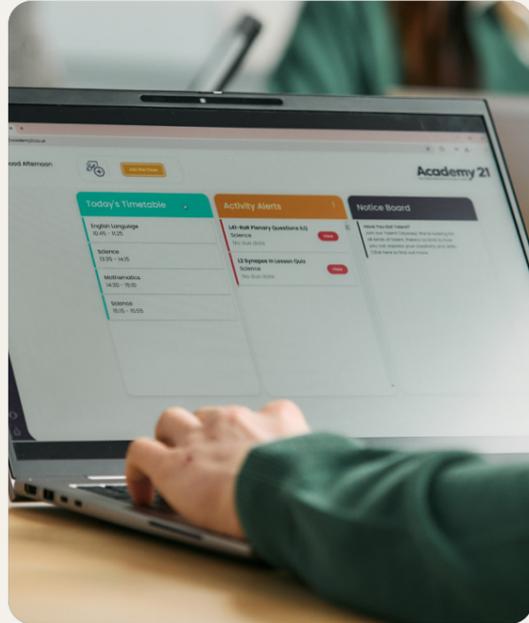
- ✔ Live, interactive lessons in virtual classrooms
- ✔ 40-minute classes on a flexible timetable
- ✔ Fully qualified, experienced teachers
- ✔ Small class sizes of up to 15 students
- ✔ Extra support for learning and wellbeing
- ✔ Accredited by the Department for Education
- ✔ Reintegration at the core of our approach



**95%**  
of students say that our technology features help them participate

*"Teachers establish a positive learning environment, welcoming pupils into class by name and encouraging them throughout lessons. This has a demonstrable impact on improving pupils' confidence and readiness to learn. Pupils' attendance improves, and evidence shows that the approaches taken enable pupils to make progress and, in many cases, successfully reintegrate back into their school or other educational placements."*

Ofsted Report 2024



**91%**  
of students say they feel confident enough to ask for help in their lessons

*"Academy21's core aim is to act as an educational bridge, supporting pupils to transition back into mainstream schooling or college."*

Ofsted Report 2024



## Supporting student reintegration to mainstream settings

### Our approach

Academy21 partners with hundreds of schools and educational institutions across the UK to ensure the seamless reintegration of students into mainstream classrooms.

Our tailored approach builds confidence, establishes routines, and fosters a positive mindset. This helps students return to school with fewer learning gaps and a brighter outlook—the foundation of lasting reintegration or transition.

### Our commitment

We are committed to helping young people overcome challenges and reconnect with education, whether in school, at home, or in an alternative setting. With a proven track record, schools trust Academy21 to facilitate successful reintegration and smooth transitions to new placements after an engaging and motivating online learning experience.

### Our teachers

Teachers establish a positive learning environment, welcoming pupils into class and encouraging them throughout lessons. This has a demonstrable impact on improving pupils' confidence and readiness to learn. Pupils' attendance improves, and the approaches taken enable pupils to progress and, in many cases, successfully reintegrate into their school or other educational placements.

**This guide outlines how Academy21 supports student reintegration and transition.**

# Successful reintegration through inclusive education

For more information visit:

[academy21.co.uk/  
resource/blog/  
successful-student-  
reintegration/](https://academy21.co.uk/resource/blog/successful-student-reintegration/)

Academy21 partners with schools and local authorities to offer an inclusive-by-design education to young people facing challenges in attending or thriving in mainstream education.

Our flexible approach ensures that students receive a tailored learning experience that supports their unique needs, helping them regain confidence, close learning gaps, and transition at a pace that works for them.

## Our approach at a glance



### 01. Reset

The speed of access, change in environment, and dedicated support from Academy21 teachers create an opportunity for students to reset. They can refocus and re-engage with learning in a structured, supportive setting by stepping away from previous challenges.



### 02. Maintaining connection

Students remain connected to their school community while using Academy21. We work closely with schools to integrate online learning with the student's support network, helping them maintain friendships and relationships with teachers.



### 03. Closing learning gaps

Our adaptive and personalised teaching approach helps students catch up by addressing learning gaps. With access to resources for revision and reinforcement, students find it easier to transition back into their physical school environment.



### 04. Building confidence

Through relational, live teaching, students develop meaningful connections with our experienced teachers, helping them regain confidence in their learning abilities. This trust and encouragement make them more open to reintegration and better equipped to handle challenges.



### 05. Full visibility and straightforward monitoring for schools

Our platform provides real-time insight into student progress, including attendance, engagement, and academic performance. Schools can monitor and assess when and how a student's reintegration should occur, ensuring a well-informed approach.



### 06. Aligned curriculum

Academy21's broad curriculum aligns with the national curriculum and exam specifications ensuring students stay on track with their studies. This consistency prevents additional learning gaps and facilitates a smoother return to in-person lessons.



### 07. A phased approach to reintegration

Academy21 allows for a gradual transition back to school by enabling students to continue some online lessons while reintroducing in-person learning. This flexible approach prevents a 'cliff-edge' return and can be tailored to individual needs.



### 08. Holistic support

Beyond academics, we provide guidance and support for reintegration planning. From teacher-led support in class to dedicated breakout spaces and tutorials, we prepare students to return to their school environment confidently.

## Hear from our partner schools

These stories from our partner schools highlight the significant difference Academy21 has made in supporting students' reintegration and personal growth.

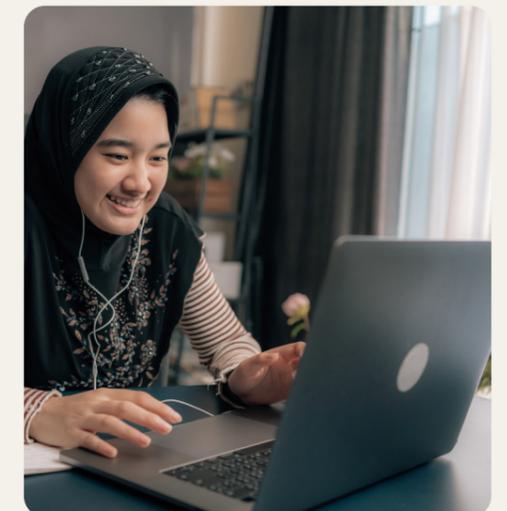


"Two students in Year 11 had not attended school in two years. The first engaged so well with Academy21, they started to attend school again and sit all of their exams. The second, was also able to sit their exams at home with an invigilator. Another success story is a Year 10 student who used Academy21 as part of their transition to a specialist provision while their EHCP was finalised and then there's a Year 7 who used Academy21 for six weeks and is now attending school following a phased return."

**B Sanderson Vice Principal, Leeds**

"Academy21 makes a huge difference to our students. For example, recently, a young boy joined us in Year 10 with very high levels of anxiety. He could barely leave his home without suffering panic attacks. This made schooling impossible, and he began to question whether school was a possibility for him at all. Despite this huge challenge, after just four months of learning with Academy21, he gained the confidence to join our onsite school for three or four hours a day. This is a huge win for us, and a giant step towards full-time onsite education! Academy21 has changed his perspective on education and given him a reason to study and pursue his passions."

**T Webb, Assistant Headteacher, Hampshire**



"Vishal' was a school refuser who struggled to communicate with others and make friends. We enrolled him on Academy21 at home, and encouraged him to speak directly with his teachers through the platform's online chat function. As he progressed and his confidence grew, he increasingly spent time on the platform and began to make meaningful friends. After just a few months he returned to school. When we settled back into classroom, he was able to make friends and even socialise with them outside school! This boosted his confidence and enjoyment both academically and in other areas of his personal life."

**Nathalie Ehlinger, Manager, Wiltshire**

## Our reintegration offer

Here, you'll find advice from the leaders and practitioners who successfully embed Academy21 into their settings.

Our team of fully qualified teachers shapes every pupil's learning experience at Academy21. In their virtual classrooms, they create a supportive and engaging environment, using a diverse range of strategies, tools, and activities tailored to meet each learner's unique needs. Through regular feedback, guidance, and encouragement, our teachers help students build confidence, develop key skills, and fully embrace the school experience.



## The right start

### Aligned curriculum

At enrolment, you can choose from our wide array of live lesson times and subject levels to select the right classes for your student. You can also pick the optimum time of day, learning level, and package to ensure your student learns in the most effective way for their success.

During enrolment, you can share detailed information about your student's prior learning, additional needs, and relevant contextual information. This is passed on to our class teachers, allowing them to understand your student's needs from the start and adapt their delivery, approach, and style accordingly.

### Inductions for staff and students

Use our mentor induction to ask any questions or opt for our non-live version to familiarise yourself with all the reporting tools and features on our easy-to-use platform. You'll learn how to change your student's programme, understand how they are taught, and know exactly what to do if you need assistance.

Use our student inductions! Let students and their parents know they can access our twice-weekly live inductions directly from their portal's 'SUPPORT' page. In these sessions, our enthusiastic teachers will welcome them, explain how our lessons work, and motivate them to start. These inductions focus on reassurance and creating a positive start, helping students reconnect with learning and get back on the path to rejoining lessons at your school. They can also access non-live induction material on the portal 'SUPPORT' page.

## Flexible contracts

Our classes are small and held in a fully virtual environment, offering the flexibility to adapt lessons around students' and schools' schedules.

This is especially important when planning a phased return. It allows us to align lessons with your school's timetable, so students can continue accessing Academy21, attend lessons on-site, and gradually reintegrate into in-school lessons.

We offer a range of contract lengths and the ability to swap students in and out of classes. This flexibility lets you choose the right programme length for your student's needs, whether short-term or more prolonged. When students are ready to return, the transition can be seamless and their place in Academy21 can be passed on to another student. This flexibility is invaluable for planning and managing your investment in this support.

## Parent guidance

A key part of your role will be working with parents and carers to help them fully understand how to make the most of Academy21. Our guidance equips you to explain that Academy21 is not just an educational tool, but an investment in their child's future—an opportunity to strengthen relationships and support their child's growth and success.

We ensure our communication is routed through you and your team to keep you fully informed. Additionally, we offer a range of resources to help you explain Academy21 to parents and carers.

Our dedicated parent webpage and parent pack can be accessed here and shared. These resources answer many of the questions you might receive and help you set up the support your student needs from home, ensuring they attend and thrive.

We've also made it easy for you to access our Department for Education accreditation report. This OFSTED report is a great resource for reassuring families and students about the quality of your choice.

"Academy21 is our primary provider of live online, face-to-face learning at Gloucestershire County Council. They have been instrumental in fulfilling our duty to provide Alternative Education Provision under Section 19 of the Education Act. In just the first twelve months of our partnership, Academy21 has played a crucial role in the educational journey and reintegration of nearly **200 pupils**. We are immensely proud of the positive impact this partnership has had on the lives of Gloucestershire's children."

**James Saunders,**  
Gloucestershire City Council's Strategic  
lead for Section 19 Education.



## Successful intervention in the classroom

### High quality adaptive teaching

Our teaching is adaptive. Our teachers take the time to understand your student's needs, ensuring that activities and delivery are tailored to support their learning journey.

We strongly emphasise helping students connect with learning while also improving their wellbeing and thinking skills - key factors that help them eventually return to another setting.

In addition to being subject experts, our teachers have extensive experience working with students with vulnerabilities or who require additional support to continue their educational paths. They utilise various technology tools to create interactive and personalised lessons that keep students engaged and motivated. This approach builds confidence, addresses knowledge gaps, and prepares students for reintegration. They will be equipped to keep up with their peers and develop the learning skills needed for a successful return.

### Relational teaching approaches

Teachers work closely with each student to create personalised learning pathways, considering their specific needs and goals. They build effective relationships through praise, consistency, and understanding.

This approach makes a significant difference. Students develop trust, and we actively encourage them to think about their next steps. We support them in identifying what they need to focus on in each subject to be ready for their next move.

Students can interact with their teacher and lesson content through various tools such as polling, quizzes, written responses in chat pods, audio on mic, or through whiteboards. They can also communicate directly with the teacher in private chat pods and speak with them in break-out rooms. We make it a point to offer multiple ways for them to participate, ensuring this becomes the norm. As a result, students are well-prepared to transition back into your classrooms, having built up momentum in their studies.

### Individualised feedback

All students receive regular feedback, helping them improve in each subject while feeling valued for their development and needs. This personalisation builds trust and enables them to address gaps in their learning, ensuring they are better prepared to rejoin their lessons in school successfully.

### An aligned curriculum

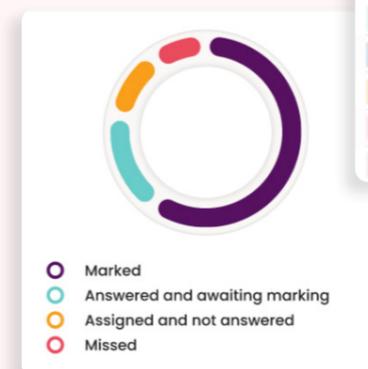
We ensure that the content covered aligns with the national curriculum and exam board specifications so that all learning is highly relevant, ensuring that students' progress translates seamlessly when they return to the physical classroom.

### Recognition

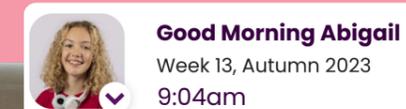
Recognition is a key part of what we do. We make it a priority to praise and celebrate students' achievements, including:

- Certificates for effort and improvement
- Lesson-by-lesson marks for effort and interaction
- Regular praise and positive reinforcement from our teachers
- Personalised feedback on work

We are intentional and consistent in our recognition, aiming to build resilience and foster a strong sense of self-worth in every student.



Subject	Average Mark
Mathematics	78%
English Language	4 (6%)
Combined Science	0 (0%)
History	13 (12%)
PSHE	10 (17%)
ICT	4 (9%)



## Continuing to impact beyond the classroom

### Additional courses

We're proud to provide a comprehensive and inclusive education that caters to each student's unique journey. However, we recognise that some students may require additional, specialised support to thrive.

To address this, we offer a range of additional services designed to help students overcome specific challenges that may affect their reintegration, including:

- Mentoring
- Counselling
- Anxiety Management sessions
- Social Skills sessions
- Literacy and Numeracy support
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) support

In addition, we offer academic support courses to equip students with essential study skills and pastoral courses focused on improving physical and mental wellbeing.

### 121 Tutorials

Students receive direct, personalised support from teachers and can share their questions and concerns in a private environment.

We also offer periodic 1-to-1 'tutorials' with the teacher, during which staff engage with the students to discuss their progress and focus on strategies for successful reintegration.

### Personalised revision content

Alongside their live lessons, students have access to a personalised pathway of learning activities tailored to their pace and progress. With lesson recordings and personalised revision generated from our InspiredAI platform, students receive targeted work that supports their learning, whether they are in class or not.

### Accessible resources 24/7

Our Student Portal provides everything a student may need, accessible 24/7. Students can find their class schedule, lesson recordings, and even interactive content all in one place.

All lessons at Academy21 are delivered live but are also recorded, ensuring students never miss out on learning, even if they are unwell.

This approach helps build momentum, allowing students to revisit content while preparing for reintegration. Any setbacks or absences during reintegration won't mean the student falls behind in their learning.

## Monitoring for reintegration

### Daily reports of student engagement

We provide lesson-by-lesson reports on each student's effort, interaction, and understanding in every lesson. In addition, teachers offer detailed reports each term, all of our feedback is fully viewable.

This allows schools to create a clear reintegration plan for each student, targeting their most successful times, the lessons they are likely to thrive in, and the optimal timing for their return.

Our feedback and data ensure you completely understand how the student's time with Academy21 is progressing.

Our scores also help your teachers to pinpoint areas where students may need additional support, enabling them to tailor teaching methods to best meet each student's needs.

### Viewable content for schools

Our lesson content, including schemes and lesson resources, is shared with schools, so your teachers and leaders can see exactly what the students have been engaged in during their time at Academy21. This transparency supports reintegration planning by enabling your team to recognise the student's effort, identify any gaps in knowledge, and seamlessly pick up where our Academy21 teachers left off.

# Academy 21

The Online Alternative Provision Experts

## Contact our partnership team!

For more information or to discuss how  
Academy21 can support reintegration at  
your school, get in touch:

[contact@academy21.co.uk](mailto:contact@academy21.co.uk)

+44 (0) 800 208 8210

[academy21.co.uk](http://academy21.co.uk)

