

Time-Limiting Placements Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how Liminal Education East Anglia Ltd manages the length of placements to ensure they remain short-term, focused, and in the best interests of pupils. Our provision is designed to provide temporary support, intervention and re-engagement with education, not as a permanent or long-term placement.

2. Principles

We believe placements should:

- Be time-limited and clearly defined at the point of commissioning.
- Be individualised, based on the needs and circumstances of each pupil.
- Be reviewed regularly to ensure progress is being made.
- Support pupils to transition back into their mainstream school, another provider, or a suitable long-term placement.
- Avoid creating dependency on the provision.

3. Placement Duration

Placements are typically commissioned for a set period (e.g. 6–12 weeks) but may be shorter or longer depending on the pupil's needs and commissioner's agreement.

Extensions may be agreed only where there is a clear rationale, and in consultation with the commissioning school or local authority.

4. Placement Agreement

Before starting, each placement will include:

- A clear referral form from the commissioner, setting out the purpose and expected outcomes.
- A placement plan, agreed with the commissioner, outlining timescales, goals and review points.
- Agreement about how progress will be measured and reported.

5. Review Process

Reviews will be held with the commissioner (and parents/carers where appropriate) at agreed intervals, usually at the mid-point and end of placement.

Progress towards goals will be discussed, alongside the pupil's wellbeing and engagement.

A decision will be made on whether the pupil:

- Returns to mainstream education.

- Moves to another provider.
- Requires a short extension with clear goals.

6. Transition and Exit Planning

From the start of placement, planning for transition back to school or onward provision will be in place.

Support for reintegration may include liaison with schools, attendance at meetings, and sharing reports or strategies.

Exit summaries will be provided to commissioners and/or schools, setting out progress made and any recommendations.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre – ensures placements are time-limited, reviews are held, and records kept.

Staff – contribute to reviews and support pupils' progress towards agreed outcomes.

Commissioners (Schools/LAs) – agree placement length, monitor outcomes and hold responsibility for long-term planning.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in commissioning expectations or best practice guidance.

Approved by: *Richard Henwood* (Head of Centre)

Date: 01/09/25

Next Review: September 2026