

Flexibility

In one school, the learning support unit provided both a secure base and an alternative curriculum for students who experienced a range of difficulties with learning. This unit then met the needs of young people aged 12 to 16, but staff hoped in future to extend their provision to offer post-16 opportunities. From this base, students could attend mainstream classes on a subject or sessional basis, accessing as many standard National Curriculum lessons around the main school as was thought appropriate. Other learners remained in the unit for their entire timetable, benefiting from the adapted curriculum that was on offer there and that provided access to the full National Curriculum. The flexibility of the school's approach also enabled the unit to teach skills for living and independence. The unit had recently resourced the creation of a teaching 'flat', designed to enable students to learn how to look after themselves and their homes. This development reflected the high profile given to life skills in the unit.