

Alternative Education Provider - Organisation Profile

Provider Name	Starting Point Studio
Address	Starting Point, The Mustard Tree Foundation, 90 London St, Reading, RG1 4SJ
Telephone	0118 995 2160
Contact	Romy Biscoe
E-mail	startingpoint@themustardtree.org
Website	www.startingpoint.org.uk

Summary of provision provided (please tick as appropriate)

Full Time Alternative Provision	
Part Time Alternative Provision	X
Tutoring	
On-line Learning	
Bespoke Provision delivered off-site	
Additional Interventions delivered on-site	
Full or Part-Time Alternative Provision for Post 16 Students	
Key Stage 1	
Key Stage 2	
Key Stage 3	
Key Stage 4	
16 Plus	
English Tuition	
Maths Tuition	
Science (including IT) Tuition	
Core Curriculum	
Vocational Training	
Physical activities – such as sports	

Additional Provision Information

Starting Point Studio: A young person led initiative that co-produces real-world creative projects

An opportunity for young people to work in a design team as part of the Starting Point Studio creative agency. Young people will be working with local partners in the voluntary sector, health, police and social services to have their voices heard and shape local strategy.

Creative activities within each project include:

- Graphic design & layout
- Logos & branding
- Photography & video production
- Social media & marketing
- Creative research & communications

Previous projects include 'Young Voices', in partnership with young people from Reading FC Community Trust and No5 Young People. Young people created their version of the One Reading Extra Familial Harm Strategy, feeding into conversations with decision makers in the Reading area about what it's like growing up in Reading and their suggestions for helping people feel safer. See the project here: <https://startingpoint.org.uk/uncategorized/the-young-voices-project/>

So that young people can make the most of this unique experience, it is important that they have an interest in any of the above areas and are willing to actively contribute to the projects.

Current timetable for sessions

When: Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30-12

Where: Starting Point Mentoring Hub, 90 London Street, Reading, RG1 4SJ

Tuesdays (Years 7 to 11)

Fridays (Years 9 to 11)

Some sessions are off-site, and permission is gained for this during the enrolment process. Previous venues for sessions have included the Select Car Leasing Stadium and the Museum of English Rural Life.

NB: We will have activities in the summer, however Starting Point Studio alternative provision runs in term-time only.

Pastoral Support Offered – please provide a summary of the pastoral care you provide

Starting Point also provide mentoring for young people who face disadvantage, including supporting young people to engage positively at school (e.g. if they are struggling with attendance or are at risk of exclusion).

This means our staff are well-placed to provide pastoral support to young people at our Starting Point Studio alternative provision sessions.

- Each session has 2 Starting Point staff members present, including the Session Lead and a support. This means the second staff member is on hand to support with any pastoral issues and spend more 1:1 time with a young person if they need.
- There is always a break-out space in one of our mentoring rooms if a young person needs time away from the group.

All immediate safeguarding concerns are reported to our DSL, who is CEO of The Mustard Tree. Other concerns are promptly reported and recorded with our Deputy DSL, Project Director of Starting Point. Staff must update their safeguarding training every 2 years, but regularly go on courses in between, e.g. on areas such as mental health and exploitation, to ensure they are well equipped to run sessions and support young people in a safe and trauma informed way.

Service Provider Benefits – please list the main benefits of your provision

1. Expanding Reading's offer of creative alternative provision – enabling young people to learn creative skills, such as design and video production, and have experience of what it's like working in a creative agency.
2. Enabling young people to co-produce real-world projects – influencing local decision makers and shaping local strategy.
3. Smaller group sizes (max of 10 young people), enabling more 1:1 time with practitioners and ensuring it is more accessible for young people who might struggle with larger groups.
4. Sessions delivered by expert practitioners – sessions are led by Starting Point's Creative Lead who has over 20 years of experience in both graphic design and working with young people.
5. Opportunity for young people to gain an Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

Provider Outcomes – please list the main outcomes

1. Increased confidence and wellbeing
2. More able to express views and share opinions

