

Ashford Colour



Ashford Colour offers excellent quality, fast turnaround printing for books, magazines & journals, brochures and other publications.

Respecting Tradition

Embracing Innovation

Driving Excellence



The markets we compete in on price / quality / service and innovation in the following sectors:

- Educational
- Academic
- Trade book printing
- Cooking
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Children's books
- Travel
- Sci-Fi & Fantasy
- Graphical Novels
- Non-Fiction
- Special Interest
- History
- Journals

About Ashford

Ashford Colour was founded in 1981. We have been trading for 44 years.

The primary business focuses on 4-colour, 2-colour and mono book production.

Our main clients for trade / academic / educational publishing, commercial are:

Pearson PLC, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Cengage Learning, Harper Collins, Scholastic, Sage Publications and Hachette.

Contact Us



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Customer Service Expectations

Each publisher is allocated an experienced Customer Services Manager.

Each is skilled in handling both volume and bespoke products.

Where it is required, we will allocate and additional customer service manager to assist on any account.

FSC and the Environment

We are committed to the conservation and improvement of the environment and to minimising negative environmental impacts arising from its activities.

We comply with the FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) Chain of Custody requirements and sourcing paper from responsibly managed sources

Our full Quality and Environmental policy statement confirms our aim to actively protect the environment. To this end, we are fully FSC certified.

Unique Selling Points

Ashford's operate a tri-brid approach: automated zero inventory / POD, ASR (Auto stock replenishment) and traditional purchase ordering for either litho or inkjet work.

Working with our large traditional litho presses (B0 4-colour, B1 mono and B2 5-colour), we also have inkjets, and lots of them!

There are 4 large inkjet presses on site with 50% utilisation, one of which is the largest platform on the market, we have a lot of capacity available to us.

All our production is done on one 90,000 square foot of factory floor space. We have 7 perfect binding lines, 2 saddle stitching lines, 1 casing line and 2 wiro binding lines. Our factory workflows are hybrid to provide the most cost-efficient options to our clients.

Our printing capabilities

Litho in mono, 2 and 4 colour
Standard inkjet in mono, 2 and 4 colour
HDNA inkjet in mono, 2 and 4 colour
Digital toner in mono, 2 and 4 colour

Print Runs

Our print runs start from 1 copy and will go up to 10,000 copies.

Our binding options

Perfect Bound
Saddle-stitched (2 wire or safety stitched)
Cased - PPC in house with flat backs
Rounded back cased
Wiro bound
Spiral bound
Loose-leaf and drilled and shrink-wrapped

Formats

The formats we offer are wide ranging, the most competitive formats are as follows

Small:

171 x 119, 174 x 111, 186 x 123, 198 x 129
204 x 138, 210 x 135, 210 x 148, 216 x 138
229 x 152, 234 x 156

Medium:

210 x 170, 216 x 185, 232 x 186, 235 x 178
235 x 195, 242 x 170, 245 x 210, 242 x 172
246 x 189, 254 x 178, 265 x 210, 265 x 195

Large:

273 x 216, 276 x 216, 297 x 210

Extra-large:

220 x 220, 270 x 219, 276 x 219, 295 x 240

Spines

We bind from 3mm spines to 60mm as standard
Options to bind up to 75mm are available on request

Zero Inventory

Zero Inventory Production allows publishers to have stock always available in a virtual warehouse.

We hold PDFs for back list and deep back list titles that may or may not print but will always be available when ordered and can be delivered anywhere.

This approach reduces the burden on existing warehouse space, takes away obsolescence, keeps revenue coming in for out of print titles and massively reduces admin overheads.

Zero Inventory or ZI, differs from POD as we batch at scale on large inkjet presses. Books are bound on state-of-the-art binding lines at speed in a completely automated process

Multi title orders in their 1000's can be despatched from Ashford's to the UK and to a global customer base within 72 hours of orders arriving.

Auto Stock Replenishment

Ashford's have been running Auto Stock Replenishment for over 10 years.

We can accept daily stock level reports from your warehouse and automatically reprint agreed quantities and replenish stock levels.

This is available in Perfect Bound, Wiro Bound, Saddle stitched, and Printed paper cased products.

Typical Turnaround Times

Standard lead times are 2-3 weeks from PO and files for perfect bound, stitched and wiro.

Cased work is 3-4 weeks.

For Zero Inventory and POD work we offer 3 days for perfect bound product and 5 days for stitched and wiro

For ASR product, we produce in 2 weeks - delivered into your warehouse.

Inkjet options

Standard inkjet is ideal for educational, academic, trade, graphic novels, and children's books.

HDNA is perfect as an intermediary print quality between litho and standard inkjet. It is more cost effective than toner-based printing and can be run from 1 copy to 1000

Non-Fiction colour, colour trade for example, it allows you to keep books in stock without having to over order for litho quantities. It can also be used in POD/ASR and ZI



Zero inventory
Reduce costs
Increase flexibility
Expanded availability
No 'out of print' books

Ordering options

Fully automated system to system XML ordering and invoicing

Excel/CSV spreadsheet ordering with automated invoicing

Web based Portal ordering (with shopping cart)

Emailed Purchase Orders to your customer services manager.

Certification

We hold FSC accreditation, ISO 9001, and ISO 14001.

ISO 9001 is a wide-ranging standard that is used as a framework to encompass all of our working practices and procedures.



We are signed up with SMETA and have been using this framework for the last 3 years. Our policies have been included with our submission.

Ashford Colour Press recognises the responsibilities we have to our employees, customers, suppliers, and the wider communities in which we live and work as well as the environment.

We support, within our sphere of influence, a set of core values outlined in The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact, the UN standard for responsible business in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anticorruption.



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The Books Chain Project and Ecovadis

Ashford's are full members of both the Book Chain Project and Ecovadis. The details are fully available for review on both websites.



Paper

We purchase our paper either directly from mills or through well-established paper brokers.

This is limited to ensure we receive the best service and continue with trusted partnership that produce or source through an ethical supply chain. There are also merchants that we will reach out to for spot buys when required for FSC graded stock.

Ashford's only work with FSC graded stocks and our stock lines, which are as follows, we are happy to provide samples for any of the following and FSC certificates if required.

We have a paper warehouse onsite and have wharf stock that we call on as and when required.

The supply chain in place is very well matured and we order our stock lines 4-5 months in advance to cover and flex to all our production needs. Paper is called off from wharf stock whenever required in full trucker loads and will arrive on site within 72 hours