



Admissions

The objectives of this policy:

- To ensure that places are allocated to those children and young people who are in need of our provision
- To specify the area of need the school specialises in and therefore can meet the need of these particular children and young people
- To outline how the school will implement the admission of a new child or young person.

Admission number

Planned admission number (currently set at 30) is subject to the prevailing registration, with Ofsted and the DfE, for the combined school and the children's home.

Essential Criteria for Admission

Prospective pupils will need to satisfy our Essential Criteria for Admission (ECA);

- severe learning difficulties,
- challenging / restrictive behaviours (those which reduce an individual's access to regular living and learning experiences) as described in the ECA document,
- have an Education, Health and Care Plan which identifies a need for 52 week residential provision in a special school.
- Prospective pupils may have been excluded from their previous school (day or residential), respite care facilities and clubs and will be a challenge to look after safely in their home environment.
- Prospective pupils will commonly have a range of additional needs such as autism, ADHD, OCD, LKS, epilepsy, Fragile X and other syndromes. Because of the nature of the peer group, Loddon School is not a safe environment for children who have physical disabilities which impair their mobility or require regular delicate medical interventions.

Other considerations for admission of students

Specific diets, whether for religious, cultural or health needs, can be provided by prior agreement. Ethnic, cultural or religious requirements are not a barrier to admission and the school considers itself to provide a multi-cultural environment, promoting diversity.

In consideration of which house a prospective young person will join, thought will be given to the learning and leisure preferences of the child, their developmental ability, age, sensory, communication and behaviour profile. These factors will be reviewed and considered in light of any future proposed change to the young person's house group. No child or young person will be admitted that will be detrimental to the well-being of those already at the school, although the school will work towards making reasonable adjustments where possible.

Method of applying

1. Parents or local authorities will contact the school with details of a child for consideration. (Email, phone call)
2. Where parents approach the school we will invite them to visit after a brief discussion to assess level of need and whether we will be appropriate.
3. Application referral form is completed and paperwork (EHCP etc) reviewed and decision to make formal assessment is made.



4. Assessment with school/ children's home or home setting is arranged.
5. Assistant Principal and/or DBAS team will visit the current educational or home setting and observe and discuss referred child.
6. Discussion of paperwork and assessment is held by admissions team and report written.
7. If place is offered, offer letter / contract is sent and a transition meeting and plan is set up.

Tribunals

If parents wish to exercise their right to a tribunal to request a place at our school which is not the choice of the local authority; and the school has assessed that they can offer a place as this is deemed to be the correct placement for this child, the school will work with any legal representatives, prepare any required paperwork and attend the tribunal.

In the case where the local authority select the school but this is against the wishes of the parents the school may decline to attend a tribunal as we believe it is essential in a 52 week placement to have strong relationships with parents. Each case in this category will be carefully considered.

Waiting lists

The school will keep details of children and young people on file while they await a place, this is held in agreement with the parents and where appropriate the local authority. Due to the flow of places we do not consider it sensible to hold a long waiting list, all names held should have a possible date and parents and local authority have suitable plans in place to await this place.

Reviewed September 2021