



Red Kite School

Admissions Policy

Version	Date	Updated By
1	May 2024	M. Slater
2	May 2025	M. Davis

The School Admissions Policy

Introduction

The policy supports the school statement of intent that every student should achieve their potential and develop an understanding of and respect for themselves and others.

Rationale

The School will be admitting students who have a range of social, emotional and mental health needs and also students who have been diagnosed with autism or demonstrate behaviours associated with autism. These students will have an EHC Plan which notes the nature of these difficulties. Such difficulties are often the cause or the result of other special educational needs. They may arrive out of difficult life experiences or be the result of some medical condition. Some of the students have a long history of disturbed or difficult behaviour of a serious kind that may include violence towards peers and/or adults. Therefore, the school acknowledges that our students may, from time to time, exhibit challenging behaviours that vary both in intensity and duration.

The range and nature of both the difficulties and needs our students' exhibit, have and continue to become more complex as does the assessment of these. Thus, it is important that the school seeks to ensure that the admission process accurately identifies the needs of students and whether it is possible for the school to meet these both effectively and efficiently.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the school admits, as far as is possible, those students whose special educational needs can meet effectively and in doing so ensure progress in all aspects of their development.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are that:

- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the criteria used in assessing the appropriateness of a placement for individual students at the School;
- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the processes of judging the appropriateness of that placement;

- Parents/carers, each student and representatives of Local Authority, social service departments and other interested professionals have clear understanding of the opportunities on offer at the School;
- Parents/Carers, each student and representatives of Local Authority, social services departments and other interested professionals understand all key aspects of school life at the School and are prepared to play their part in ensuring the success of any placement.

Admission Criteria

- The student will admit students aged between 11 and 18 years of age;
- The student will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- The EHCP will specify that the student has social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) or a diagnosis of autism or demonstrate behaviours associated with autism (ASC);
- The student will normally have been assessed as within the average ability range of educational functioning. (In some cases, student's levels of ability as measured using psychometric tests may prove difficult. In these cases the school will base its judgements on its ability to meet needs);
- The student may have learning difficulties and/or low attainment that are associated with their SEMH/ASC needs;
- The student may have one or more specific learning difficulties;
- The student will express a commitment to the placement;
- The student's parents/carers will express a commitment to the placement;

The LA will:

- Provide the school with all current advice and information concerning the student;
- Agree contractual arrangements for transporting the student to and from school;
 - Make any arrangements for transporting the student to and from school.
- Agree funding with Outcomes First/Acord Education.

Admissions Process

Red Kite School is an Independent school for students from ages 11 – 18 with special educational needs.

A significant aspect of the referral process is to ascertain that the school can address the *Outcomes* as described in the EHCP. This may relate to all four areas of need:

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health;
- Communication and Interaction;
- Cognition and Learning;
- Sensory and/or Physical.

In doing so, this should be without negatively impacting upon the efficient education for others.

The school has an Admissions Manager who is responsible for overseeing the referral process. It is through this staff member initial information is gathered and arrangements for admission are undertaken.

An admission will only be undertaken when the approval for funding is granted by the appropriate person who holds this authority, within the funding LA.

Red Kite School applies the statutory reviewing process (for EHCPs, as set out within the SEND code of practice) and will use this to inform the funding authority of any changes to provision. These changes can relate to the provision provided by Red Kite School and/or identify the type of provision that would better meet need. The reviewing process will also be used to identify the next phase of education placement (this could be, but not exclusively, a transfer to a maintained mainstream school, a different special needs settings, college of further education or employment).

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school only admits students whose Special Educational Needs can be met. To summarise, in all cases, students will only be considered for admission if:

- They have a current EHCP;
- Funding has been formally agreed with the respective Local Authority and an Individual Placement Agreement has been completed and signed by relevant parties;
- The special needs of the student, can be met by the school;
- All up to date information concerning the student, including the most recent reviews, reports and the EHCP will be provided by the funding authority;
- There is a place available in the appropriate teaching group;
- It is compatible with the provision of efficient education for others;
- The child / young person's attendance does not jeopardise the safety of others.

Transition Process into School

To ensure that we have the best start for any new starter, we have a structured transition process for all new students. This transition is important to get right so that when they enter the school, they can settle quickly.