



Admissions Policy

Flourish With Us would expect that all pupils referred to them for admission would be identified as having social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

In addition to this difficulty, the child may also have experienced barriers to accessing the curriculum in their current setting and will have experienced additional concerns, including but not exhaustively:

- sensory impairment
- physical difficulties
- autism
- dyslexia
- difficulties coping with groups in mainstream schools
- medical needs
- communication difficulties
- learning difficulties

This incorporates the four designated areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as identified in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years 2015, which are:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Social, Emotional and Mental Health
3. Cognition and Learning
4. Sensory and / or Physical Needs

Process

Children who are admitted to Flourish With Us may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the setting. Before any such EHCP is issued, the child or young person will have undergone formal statutory assessment, a process which centres on the pupil, his/her parents or carers and involves as many professional agencies as necessary, in order to determine that all the various elements of provision required are identified. After the assessment has been completed, parents/carers receive a draft EHCP and the following information to support their decision making over a school placement:

- List of maintained schools within the area
- List of special schools
- Information on 'expressing a preference'
- Information on the Local Authority's transport policy for pupils with special transport needs
- Information on independent advice

Parents/carers consider the information and are asked to express a preference for a school placement. In most cases, the Local Authority will comply with that preference and the school will be named on the EHCP.

When considering parental preference, the Local Authority needs to ensure that the proposed placement can best meet the identified SEND and that the placement is consistent with the provision of suitable education to other pupils already at the two school. The Local Authority also has to determine that any school placement is compatible with the effective use of available resources.

Before reaching its final decision on admission to Flourish With Us, the Local Authority will consult with the Headteacher to ensure that all needs can be met. The Headteacher will then make a decision as to whether admission will be in the best interests of the child and will also be without prejudice to the existing needs of others already in the school. This decision will involve the Headteacher considering:

- all the assessment paperwork provided by the SEND Locality Team;
- all the assessment paperwork provided by the commissioning local authority;
- a visit to the child within their previous educational setting, if applicable;
- a visit to the child within their home setting

Placements of pupils from other schools

It is not always possible, when pupils are very young, to determine their level of need. Where necessary, the Local Authority may request that the school admits a pupil on an assessment placement in order for the child's needs to be determined. If this is the case, the school will produce a report to support any EHCP assessment by the end of the first term in which the child attends the school. This report will outline the outcome of the assessments undertaken as well as the school's view on the suitability of its provision.

Occasionally, local schools express concern relating to their ability to offer the most appropriate provision for a pupil. As part of its 'school to school support' Flourish With Us works with Headteachers and parents/carers and professionals working with the child to undertake an agreed commissioned admission. Where it is felt that Flourish With Us might be the most appropriate alternative provision, the Headteacher of the existing school, having secured parental agreement, would contact the Headteachers so that the case could be discussed and a decision made as to whether Flourish With Us was best placed to offer support.

Over subscription

Where Flourish With Us is requested to take a pupil and the appropriate class group is full, but there are places available within the school, the school will enter into discussion with the LA or commissioning authority about the admission arrangements in the individual case.

Admission arrangements

Before taking up a place at Flourish With Us, pupils will have the opportunity to visit with their parents/carers.

Planned admission is seen as necessary to ensure:

- parents/carers are happy that the provision at the school best meets their child's needs;
- the school staff have met the child and the parents/carers and feel that they are able, on initial assessment, to meet the child's needs;
- a smooth transition into the school.

It might be necessary to plan for a phased and timed entry into school to meet identified individual and specific needs.