

**Outcomes
First
Group.**

Admissions Policy



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Headteacher: Lauren Gibbs

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Implementation: It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that staff members are aware of and understand this policy and any subsequent revisions.

Compliance: This policy complies with all relevant regulations and other legislation as detailed in the *Compliance with Regulations & Legislation Statement*.

2.0 REFERRALS

1. We accept referrals from Local Authorities (LAs)
2. We are able to give parents/carers information regarding our assessment and admission process; however, we encourage parents/carers to engage in dialogue with their local authority and make a joint application

3.0 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. Once a referral has been received from an LA, the documentation is received by the admissions and referrals manager. If the pupil does not meet the Admission Criteria (4a) or there are no places available, a letter will be sent to the Local Authority to inform them that the referral is not going to be followed up
2. The admissions and referrals manager sends the paperwork to the Headteacher and SENDCo for initial assessment. At this stage, a member of the clinical team may be asked to review clinical requirements
3. The Headteacher, after reading the paperwork, will either ask that an initial visit is booked or give a reason why they believe the school would not be able to meet a child's needs

In the case of the former decision, the assessment will typically consist of:

- An initial visit with the relevant Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo (Therapy team may need to accompany)
- Meeting with parents/carers to discuss the child's educational needs and school history
- Taster sessions offered to the child (where appropriate)
- Observations in class and during unstructured times in the school day (where appropriate)

The school can end assessment periods at any point if unable to fully meet the needs of the pupil.

4. This assessment will be evaluated and a final decision on suitability of placement made by the Headteacher.

The decision will be made in line with the Code of Practice:

- Special Educational Needs – can the school meet the child's needs?
- Resources – would the placement be an efficient use of resources?
- Current pupils – would the placement be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child will be educated?

6. Depending on the source of the referral, the LA and/or parents/carers will be notified in writing of the outcome of the assessment within 10 working days of completion of the assessment process. Please note: the process is deemed to be completed when all information is gathered.
7. If The Tower School can meet the child's special educational needs, an offer of a place and a start date will be given to the LA. When the LA confirms that the offer of a place is going to be taken up, The Tower School will send a letter confirming this to the LA and to the parents/carers.
8. Parents are responsible for making transport arrangements with the SEN transport teams relevant to their boroughs. Please inform the school accordingly.
9. If the decision is that a placement cannot be offered, the reasons will be passed onto the admissions and referrals manager who will liaise directly with the LA.

4.0 CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

For consideration for admission to the School:

- The child's primary need must be identified as being on the Autism Spectrum diagnosis or traits similar to Autism
- The child will have an Education and Health Care Plan issued by their Local Authority (LA)
- The Local Authority (LA) will accept financial responsibility for the pupil's education at The Tower School
- The child will have the commitment and support of their parents/carers to the educational approaches used at The Tower School through parents/carers agreeing to the Home-School Contract (Appendix 1)
- The school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude
- The child's attendance at school would be compatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom the child would be educated
- The attendance of the child at the school would be compatible with the efficient use of school resources
- Admissions are made on the basis of availability of placements, taking into account the above factors, plus a child's level of functioning, learning difficulties and age

5.0 APPENDIX 1 – HOME / SCHOOL CONTRACT

HOME/SCHOOL CONTRACT

This contract outlines the school's commitment and expectations for effective communication and teamwork between home and school. When you have read it, please sign where indicated and return it to the School Office.

Our Mission Statement:

'At The Tower School we support pupils in achieving their full potential by putting learning and well-being at the heart of everything that we do.'

We promote learning by encouraging:

- Enquiring and curious minds that research independently.
- Learning in diverse and contemporary fields of interest.
- The pupil's special interest areas and strengths.
- A culture of life-long learning.
- A school ethos of safety in being wrong or making mistakes as this is how we all improve.

We promote well-being by encouraging pupils to:

- Have fun and be happy.
- Be resilient and use their coping strategies when they are anxious.
- Participate in activities that promote self-esteem and self-confidence.

To achieve this:

- We will provide all pupils with opportunities to learn and achieve, by supporting them with a curriculum which makes explicit connections between areas of learning and concepts so that they can progress to their full potential
- We will teach appropriately to the abilities of the pupils, using specialised strategies which are communication focused
- We will work with the pupils in an inclusive, equality-based manner
- We will use positive behaviour support strategies
- We will support our pupils to take responsibility for improving their behaviour by encouraging them to use identified strategies
- Our school will try to raise the self-esteem of all who attend.
- We will provide a safe environment and will make sure that all pupils know who to go to if they feel anxious or unsafe.
- We will provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- We promote inclusive, positive and healthy relationships between all members of our community.
- We will keep you informed of your child's progress and the school activities.
- We will set homework in accordance with our school policy and in discussion with you about individual requirements.
- We will monitor and liaise with you about lateness and attendance.
- We will treat you with courtesy and work towards meeting shared ambitions for your child.

In addition, you will receive:

- Regular and transparent communication from your child's teaching team via your preferred method of communication
- Positive praise and good news items
- Invitations to parent workshops covering current key themes
- Annual Reviews
- End of Year reports
- Clinical team reports

As a family, you will

- Give your child every possible support to achieve the highest standards.
- Work with the school towards meeting your ambitions for your child.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour.
- If behaviour at home or at school is presenting challenges, then it is essential to work together by sharing information and agreeing strategies. Use emails/ Class Dojo/ phone calls, etc.
- Support and encourage your child to complete their homework and discuss difficulties in this area with the teacher concerned.
- Ensure regular attendance and good punctuality, telephoning the school on a daily basis to explain any absence (for further information, please see the Attendance Policy).
- Attend school consultations and Annual Reviews and take an active part in monitoring your child's progress by filling in parental contributions for the meetings.
- Communicate changes in home circumstances to the school.
- Provide up to date contact telephone numbers for yourselves and three emergency contacts.
- Follow the Complaints Procedure if you are not satisfied with any aspects of the school.
- Read and sign all forms and return them within the required time.
- If required, pay for specific activities promptly e.g. swimming, trips out, cooking and snacks.
- Read and comment regularly on your child's home activities and behaviour, in the Home School Contact book, especially after weekends and long breaks.
- Agree regular medication administration requests, prior to any medication being sent into school.
- Collect your child from school upon request if they have a temperature, stomach upset, injury causing concern or any contagious/infections condition.
- Liaise directly with transport companies if there are any problems, issues or changes to arrangements.
- Monitor computer and video games, TV, DVDs and magazines which may confuse your child's interpretation of reality.
- Up to age 16, ensure all pupils come to school in school uniform, which is clearly labelled.
- Treat members of the school community with courtesy.

If you have difficulties in fulfilling this agreement, please do not hesitate to contact the school and have a discussion with the class teacher/form tutor or make an appointment to see a member of the SLT.

I have read and agree to the Home/School Contract

Signed: _____
(Parent signature)

Date: _____

Name: _____