

**Outcomes
First
Group.**

Admissions Policy



Dibden Park
SCHOOL

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. Dibden Park School's vision is to provide the best education for every child.

Rationale

Dibden Park School admits students with a range of special educational needs. Many will have social and emotional difficulties and associated mental health issues. Many of our children have conditions that have made it hard for them to be successful in a mainstream environment including ADHD, autism and attachment difficulties. Student will have an Education and Health Care Plan that 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 safely, 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 be met 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 Dibden Park 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 LA's, social service departments and other interested professionals have a clear understanding of the opportunities on offer at Dibden Park School
- Parents/Carers, each student and representatives of LA's, social services departments and other interested professionals understand all key aspects of school life at Dibden Park School and are prepared to play their part in ensuring the success of any placement

Admissions process

Stage 1

Referrals made to Dibden Park School will normally be made by Local Authorities (LA). A range of detailed information concerning that student should accompany these referrals. Where this is not the case, the school will seek access to such information as soon as possible including information regarding the individual's Education, Health and Social background. SLT will analyse all available information on the student to assess whether the student meets the admission criteria for the school.

The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher will assess whether the school can meet the students needs.

Stage 2

If it is felt that Dibden Park may be able to meet the needs of the student based on information received, the family will be invited to visit the school for a tour and meeting. This will include

- A discussion around the successes and challenges experienced by the child to date
- A discussion with parents/carers regarding their hopes and expected outcomes from the proposed school placement.
- A discussion with the young person regarding their hopes and expected outcomes from the proposed school placement.
- A tour of the school
- An introduction to key staff
- A discussion with staff concerning such issues as:
 - The school curriculum
 - The content of key school policies, including the school expectations and behaviour policy
 - An opportunity for each visitor to ask any questions they may have

Visitors will also receive (if they have not already) a copy of the student handbook and/or other relevant information e.g. complaints procedure or school prospectus.

Stage 3

If, following these visits, all concerned are agreed that:

- the student's needs can be met at Dibden Park School
- the young person can be adequately managed with the planned resources available

- that the student and parents/carers are committed to the placement,

the school will write to the LA offering a place and arrangements will be made for admission.

Admission Criteria

- The student will aged between 8 and 16 years of age (KS2 – KS4)
- The student will usually have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- The EHCP will usually highlight that the student has social, emotional and mental health issues (SEMH) and/or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) resulting in difficulties in communicating & socialising and regulating emotions.
- 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 the needs highlighted on their EHCP
- 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.
- For all children who are looked after by the local authority, there must be permanently named carers and a permanent home base for the student, available at any time throughout the year.

The Local Authority will:

- Provide the school with all current advice and information concerning the student
- Nominate Dibden Park School in Section i of an EHCP
- Agree contractual arrangements for transporting the student to and from Dibden Park School
- Make any arrangements for transporting the student to and from Dibden Park School.

We are part of the Outcomes First Group
Family, by working together we will build
Incredible futures by empowering children,
young people and adults In the UK to be
happy and make their way in the world

Policy Owner: Jessica Wrigley
Policy: Admissions Policy



Date of Publication: October 2025
Acorn Education And Care
Next Review Date: October 2026
National Fostering Group
Options Autism