

Admissions Policy



Amended: September 2025

Review Date: August 2027

Responsible Person: Karen Holmes

Context

- More Than Ed Independent School is a special school with 25 places for children aged 5-16, specialising in provision for Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Trauma and Attachment. Some children may also have specific learning requirements such as an additional need but will not have significant learning disabilities.
- Prior to naming the school on a child's EHCP, the child must complete a visit and two trials, and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the school can meet the students needs.
- More Than Ed follows the Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2024)

Admission Criteria and Arrangements

- Places can be accessed at any time of the year. Admissions are only agreed if an EHCP has been completed and the needs of the child have been clearly defined in line with the school's designation.
- Places cannot be held till the beginning of a new term due to extremely high demand

Referral Routes

- Parents/carers who wish to consider a place at the school for their child should contact their LA SEND Team for guidance on relevant procedures.
- All EHCPs should incorporate clear and accurate description of needs, but the primary need must be SEMH
- As an Independent School, More Than Ed cannot be named on the EHCP without the Proprietor's permission, and this decision will not be subject to appeal through the LA.

Admission Eligibility Criteria

- The school is suitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude, disability and assessed special educational needs.
- The child has an EHCP indicating Social Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) as the primary need, but could include Cognitive and Learning needs, ASD, Global Development Delay.
- The child's placement in the school is compatible with the efficient education of others and the efficient use of resources.
- The commissioning LA provides top-up funding in line with the assessed needs of the child's educational, behavioural (including any additional supervisory requirements), medical and care needs and is relative to the cost to the school for delivering a support package which enables at least good provision to be in place

Admissions Procedure

- Parents, LA Send Teams, Virtual Schools, Social Workers etc may contact the Headteacher regarding a school visit, however, the LA will ultimately decide whether to commission a place at the school, therefore:
 - Parents wishing their child to be considered for a place are advised to contact their LA SEND service

- The commissioning LA will consult with the Headteacher regarding each student they consider potentially suitable for a place
- Parents/carers and the student must visit the school to discuss the young person's needs, and to consider the suitability of the school for the child
- The Headteacher/Proprietor will consider the suitability of the school's provision in addressing the needs of the child, whilst also giving consideration to the needs of existing students on roll
- The LA and the Headteacher will come to a decision about placement and any reasonable steps necessary to ensure the admissions criteria can be met
- The LA will make a decision as to whether they wish to fund the school placement
- Once the LA have agreed to fund the placement, the Induction process will begin, and the child will join the school roll at the earliest opportunity

The Admissions Register

The admission register must include:

- the child's legal name and the name normally used in school.
- the address of the child (formerly only mentioned the address of the parents).
- the pupil's start date (rather than date of admission).
- It must be kept for six years (previously three years).

Reasons for removing a pupil from the Admissions Register

A – the pupil has been registered at another school.

B – the pupil has not continued at the school following completion of nursery education.

C – the pupil is also registered at one or more other schools, and the other schools have agreed the deletion.

D – the pupil has a school attendance order which has been changed to name another school.

E – the pupil had a school attendance order which has been revoked.

F – the parent of a pupil has notified the school in writing that the pupil will be leaving the school to be educated otherwise than at a school.

G – the pupil no longer normally lives a reasonable distance from the school.

H – the pupil has not returned following a leave of absence.

I – the pupil has been continually absent from school for 20 school days unauthorized, or 10 school days absence after authorized absence, and reasonable steps have been taken to secure the pupil's attendance.

J – the pupil is detained under a sentence of detention.

K – the pupil has died.

L – the pupil will be over compulsory school age and will not continue into the sixth form.

M – the pupil is a boarder at a school maintained by a local authority or academy and their boarding fees have not been paid.

N – the pupil has ceased to be a pupil at an independent school or non-maintained special school.

O – the pupil has been permanently excluded from the school. at an independent school or non-maintained special school.