

# Admissions Policy



Amended: 1st May 2024

Review Date: 31st April 2026

Responsible Person: Karen Holmes

## 1. Context

- More Than Ed Independent School is a special school with 25 places for children aged 7-16, 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, a Local Authority (LA) must fully consult with the school in line with its statutory obligations.

## 2. 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

## 3. 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 together with appropriate funding to meet those needs. However, when this does not occur the school will negotiate, with the commissioning Local Authority, for the appropriate level of bespoke funding for the placement to be viable and sustainable. A formal review of the EHCP will be requested if needed.
- 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.

## 4. 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

## 6. 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 Joint Resource Panel (JRP) will make a decision as to whether they wish to fund the school placement
  - Once JRP have agreed to fund the placement the Induction process will begin, and the child will join the school roll at the earliest opportunity