Admissions Policy



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Responsible Person: Debbie Wyld

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**1. Context**

* More Than Ed Independent School is a special school with 50 planned 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 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 generally 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.
* In exceptional circumstances, and in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2015), the school may consider assessment placements in order to support a Statutory Assessment.

**3. Referral Routes**

* Parents/carers who wish to consider a place at the school for their child should contact their Local Authority SEND Assessment 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.

**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 Communication and Interaction Needs, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) needs, Cognitive and Learning needs.
* Parents and/or the child have expressed a preference for the school or in cases of dispute, the local authority has agreed with the school to name it in the EHCP.
* The child’s placement in the school is compatible with the efficient education of others and the efficient use of resources.

The commissioning local authority 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

**5.** **Admissions Criteria/Priorities for when Placements are Limited**

* The placement allows for efficient use of school resources;
* The placement is appropriate for the designation of the school;
* An EHCP is in place which fully assesses the child and quantifies required provision.

**6. Admissions procedure**

* Parents, SEND assessment teams or Educational Psychologists from Local Authorities, Headteachers from other schools, or Alternative Provision/ Resource Heads may contact the school directly to arrange a visit; however, it is Local Authorities who assess needs and commission places at the school, therefore:
  + Parents wishing their child to be considered for a place are advised to contact their Local Authority SEND service;
  + The commissioning Local Authority will consult with the Headteacher regarding each pupil /student they consider potentially suitable to request a place for;
  + The Headteacher will consider the suitability of the school’s provision in addressing the needs of the child and also give consideration to the needs of existing students on roll;
  + The Local Authority and the Headteacher will come to a decision about placement and any reasonable steps necessary to ensure the admissions criteria can be met.
  + Once a placement has been agreed new pupils/students will receive a visit from our Induction Team at home, and the Induction Process will begin (including an admission register).