Admissions Policy

More Than Ed | Independent School

Date: September 2026
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Responsible Person: Karen Holmes

1. Context

- More Than Ed Independent School is an independent specialist school registered for 29 places for students aged 7–16, specialising in provision for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), and trauma and attachment. Some children may also have specific learning requirements or an additional need but will not have significant learning disabilities.
- Prior to the school being named on a child's EHCP, the child completes a 1.5-day trial, and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the school can meet the child's needs.
- More Than Ed follows the statutory guidance Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, 2024).

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 until 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 local authority (LA) SEND team for guidance on the relevant procedures.
- All EHCPs should incorporate a clear and accurate description of needs, but the primary need must be SEMH.
- As an independent school, More Than Ed cannot be required to admit a child. Admission is at the discretion of the Headteacher/Proprietor.
- More Than Ed cannot be named on a child's EHCP without the Proprietor's consent, and this decision is not 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; this could also include cognitive and learning needs, ASD or global developmental 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 pays the school's placement fee in line with the assessed educational, behavioural (including any additional supervisory requirements), medical and care needs of the child, relative to the cost to the school of delivering a support package that enables at least good provision to be in place.

5. Admissions Procedure

- Parents, LA SEND teams, virtual schools, social workers and others may contact the Headteacher regarding a school visit; however, the LA will ultimately decide whether to commission a place at the school.
- 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 child they consider potentially suitable for a place.
- Parents/carers and the child must visit the school to discuss the young person's needs and to consider the suitability of the school.
- All children complete a 1.5-day trial before the school will consider offering a place.
- The Headteacher/Proprietor will consider the suitability of the school's provision in addressing the needs of the child, while also giving consideration to the needs of existing students on roll.
- Matching is central to this decision. Every student at More Than Ed carries significant trauma, and the school is small and open, so one student's sustained dysregulation is heard and felt by everyone and can seriously retraumatise others. The Headteacher/Proprietor will therefore consider not only whether the school can meet the child's needs, but how the child will sit alongside the students already on roll, and whether the placement is safe for them and for everyone else. A place will not be offered where the Headteacher/Proprietor is not satisfied that the match is right.
- 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 decide whether they wish to fund the school placement.
- Once the LA has agreed to fund the placement, the induction process will begin and the child will join the school roll at the earliest opportunity.

6. Ending a Placement

As an independent school, More Than Ed is able to end a placement, on one calendar month's notice, for example where the school is no longer able to meet a student's needs. The grounds and the process are set out in full in our Ending a Placement Policy and Statement, which is the authoritative statement of them. Where the school decides to end a placement, it will:

- call an early review of the child's EHCP;
- inform the local authority, parents/carers and any other relevant professionals of the decision and the reasons for it; and
- work with the local authority to support a planned transition to suitable alternative provision.

The student's name will then be removed from the admission register on the ground at regulation 9(1)(n), the student having ceased to be a student at the school. The consent of the placing local authority is not required (see section 8).

7. The Admissions Register

The school keeps an admission register in line with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. Registers are kept electronically, and every entry is retained for at least six years. The admission register includes:

- the child's legal name and the name normally used in school;
- the name and address of every person known to be a parent of the child, and which parent the child normally lives with;
- the address of the child;
- the pupil's starting day.

8. Reasons for Removing a Pupil from the Admissions Register

A pupil's name may only be deleted from the admission register on one of the grounds set out in regulation 9 of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. For a pupil of compulsory school age, these grounds are that:

- (a) the pupil has been registered at another school (unless a school attendance order names this school, the pupil is a mobile child whose main school this is, or dual registration has been agreed);
- (b) the pupil was admitted for nursery education, has completed it and would transfer to a reception or more senior class, but the proprietor has no reasonable grounds to believe they will attend again;
- (c) the pupil is registered at one or more other schools, the proprietor has no reasonable grounds to believe they will attend again, each other school has consented to the deletion, no school attendance order names this school, and the pupil is not a mobile child whose main school this is;
- (d) a school attendance order naming this school has been amended by the local authority to name a different school;
- (e) a school attendance order naming this school has been revoked because arrangements have been made for the pupil to receive suitable education otherwise than at school;
- (f) a parent has notified the school in writing that the pupil will be educated otherwise than at school from a certain day, that day has passed, and no school attendance order names this school;
- (g) the pupil no longer normally lives a reasonable distance from the school, is not a boarder, and the proprietor has no reasonable grounds to believe they will attend again;
- (h) the pupil has not returned within ten school days after an agreed period of leave, is not believed to be absent through sickness or unavoidable cause, and the school and local authority have jointly made reasonable efforts to locate the pupil but have not succeeded, or agree there are no reasonable grounds to believe they will attend again;

- (i) the pupil has been continuously absent for at least twenty school days, none of the relevant exceptions applies, the pupil is not believed to be absent through sickness or unavoidable cause, and the school and local authority have jointly made reasonable efforts to locate the pupil but have not succeeded, or agree there are no reasonable grounds to believe they will attend again;
- (j) the pupil is detained under a sentence of detention and is not expected to attend the school after that detention ends;
- (k) the pupil has died;
- (l) the pupil will be over compulsory school age by the next time the school meets and either is not expected to attend again or does not meet the academic entry requirements for the sixth form;
- (m) the pupil is a boarder, the school is maintained by a local authority or is an Academy, and board and lodging charges remain unpaid at the end of the relevant term;
- (n) the pupil has ceased to be a pupil at the school (where the school is not maintained by a local authority or an Academy); or
- (o) the pupil has been permanently excluded from the school.

More Than Ed is an independent school. It is not a special school within the meaning of section 337 of the Education Act 1996, which defines a special school as one specially organised to make special educational provision and approved by the Secretary of State under section 342. The school does not hold that approval and is not approved under section 41 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The additional restriction at regulation 9(2) of the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, which requires the consent of the placing local authority before a student's name may be deleted, therefore does not apply to this school.

Where a placement is ended under our Ending a Placement Policy and Statement, the student's name is deleted from the admission register on the ground at regulation 9(1)(n), the student having ceased to be a student at the school, and a deletion return is made to the local authority under regulation 13(4) stating the ground relied on. Deleting a student from the register does not amend their EHC plan: the school remains named in Section I until the local authority amends it, and the authority's duty under section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to secure the provision in Section F is unaffected.

Different grounds, set out in regulation 9(3) of the Regulations, apply to pupils who are not of compulsory school age.

9. Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside the school's other policies, including:

- SEND Policy and SEND Information Report
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Equality Policy
- Accessibility Policy

- Relational (Behaviour) Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices
- Statement of Provision and the Limits of the School's Offer
- Ending a Placement Policy and Statement

10. Legislation and Guidance

In drawing up this policy, the school has had regard to the following, applying them as appropriate to an independent school:

- Children and Families Act 2014 (Part 3: special educational needs and disability, including sections 41 and 42)
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years (2015)
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024
- Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, 2024)
- Equality Act 2010
- Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- Education Act 1996 (section 337: meaning of special school)