

The Village School Admissions Policy 2013

Aims

The Village School has a strong focus on inclusion and entitlement and adopts a multidisciplinary team approach to supporting the community of pupils, parents and carers that we serve. We have robust partnerships with the local authority and other special and mainstream schools. We believe that all our pupils will make progress and are entitled to have access to a full range of personalised learning pathways supported by our trans-disciplinary team.

Provision

This all through special school has a total capacity of 235 pupils. There is designated provision for pupils between the ages of 2 and 19 years. Pupils at The Village School have a range of complex learning difficulties and disabilities.

Pupils are organised into three 'villages':

- Village 1 (2-7 years)
- Village 2 (7-14 years)
- Village 3 (14-19 years)
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Classes reflect and respond to the needs of our community. We are able to offer discrete learning environments, as well as fully integrated class settings if appropriate to the needs of the child. For example, we have discrete learning environments available for pupils on the autism spectrum, however some of our pupils with autism learn best in more integrated groups so these are offered too.

Class sizes tend to be within a range of 7 – 9 pupils. Staffing ratios are high and staff members are deployed in accordance with the needs of the pupils. As pupils move through the villages they have access to new opportunities in an age-appropriate and meaningful context.

Specialist staff employed by The Village include both a qualified teacher for the visually impaired and a qualified teacher for the multisensory impaired; speech and language therapists; occupational therapist; PRICE trainers (behaviour intervention); manual handling trainers; ICT assistive technology and alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) advice and support; family workers.

The Village also hosts the following teams: an onsite team of paediatric nurses employed by the NHS; highly experienced physiotherapists and physiotherapy assistants; visiting NHS consultants for school based clinics and medicals; orthotics clinics; wheelchair clinics and courses; dietician advice and appointments; 'team around the child' support meetings; Connexions and health transition support; apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

Pupils also have access to a range of inclusion opportunities in mainstream settings which include: inclusion satellites for example that based at Queens Park Community School; individual and bespoke access; group activities and access; access to accredited courses; access for social integration and interaction; enrichment activities and planned projects.

Outreach can be provided as followed: support for mainstream schools and colleges; advice around meeting the needs of individual children; a range of available training; parent support including courses.

From September 2013 the school will occupy exceptional purpose-built facilities.

Pupil Profile

The school meets the needs of children with the following profiles:

- Profound and multiple learning difficulties
- Severe and moderate learning difficulties
- Normal cognitive development with highly complex needs
- Sensory impairments including hearing and visual impairments
- Communication difficulties
- Children on the autism spectrum
- Physical and medical disabilities and impairments

Children's levels can range between P1(i) to NC7.

Admission Criteria

A pupil is eligible to be offered a special school placement at The Village School if s/he meets the following criteria:

- The child has a statement of SEN or is currently undergoing a statutory assessment of their needs under the 1996 Education Act.
- The child presents with the aforementioned pupil profile.
- There is evidence from professionals that the child will benefit from access to a modified national curriculum within a special school environment.
- The child's profile is banded within the range 4-6

In exceptional cases a child who does not fully meet the criteria may be considered for a placement at The Village School. Individual cases will be discussed by the Complex Panel and in such cases the final decision will rest with the local authority who will explain the basis for such a decision.