

The Link Secondary School Admissions Procedure 2018-19

CRITERIA

There are currently 54 places at the School for children and young people aged 11 - 18. The decision to name placement of a student at the school is ultimately the decision of the Local Authority (LA); however, this generally follows extensive consultation with the School. Students will be considered for the School when it is clear that they will benefit from the provision and that they meet the following criteria:

- a) Applicants will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to make an emergency placement. Examples of exceptional cases when it may be necessary to make an emergency placement include:
 - i. the child's medical circumstances have changed suddenly, causing a rapid and serious deterioration in the child's health or development
 - ii. where a child arriving unexpectedly in the LA exhibits such significant difficulties as would normally warrant an EHCP.
- b) Applicants will have a range of additional needs, some of which may be complex special needs. In addition, this may include one, or a combination of the following:
 - i. Autism Spectrum Condition
 - ii. Speech and language and social communication difficulties
 - iii. Mild sensory impairment and/or physical disabilities
 - iv. Additional medical needs

VISITS

In cases where the School is a possible placement for a student, the family will be encouraged to visit. However, there can be no binding comment about the student's suitability, nor an offer of a place, before the LA has made a recommendation about placement. If the parents/carers request a place at the School prior to any formal contact by the LA with the School, they should be referred to the SEN Team.

REFERRAL

When a referral is received from the LA, the School will consider the request and respond in writing within the time limit set by the LA. If a decision is taken by the school not to offer a place, the LA must be given the reasons for that recommendation. The 2 reasons should be expressed in terms of the needs of the student, whether a place is available at the school within the appropriate provision (e.g. year group or key stage) and/or the efficient education of other students already at the School, so that it is clear why the School considers that the child does not meet the published Admissions Criteria.

ASSESSMENT

When a referral is made, the LA will always attach the EHCP, the most recent Annual Review and any appended reports about the student from the professionals involved. The Principal will review the referral papers and request any additional reports required. At this stage, the School will contact and visit the current education provider to assess suitability. Following this, an assessment day(s) will be organised at The Link.

EXIT CRITERIA

A student will be referred to the Annual Review / SEN Panel if:

- a. It is considered that he/she has progressed and developed such that it is the view of the School that he/she may be able to access a differentiated mainstream curriculum.
- b. Other changing needs of the student indicate that alternative provision may be more appropriate, including more specialised provision.

THE LINK SECONDARY SCHOOL POST 16 ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- 1) Priority will be given to students already on roll at the School.
- 2) Students will have an EHCP that defines their primary additional needs as related to ASL or SLCN.
- 3) The Local Authority will have supported the identification of The Link Secondary School as the most appropriate placement.

Documentation that could be used to provide evidence of need (this is not exhaustive):

- EHCP
- Annual reviews
- Transition plans
- Medical reports
- Therapy reports
- Other (e.g. educational psychology)

APPEALS (The First-Tier Tribunal – Special Educational Needs and Disability)

If a parent or guardian of a child in respect of whom an EHCP is maintained by a Local Authority appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) either against the naming of the School in the child's statement or asking the Tribunal to name the School, the School agrees to be bound by the decision of the Tribunal on any such appeal. Where the School, the Secretary of State or the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) have determined that it should be named in a child's statement, the School must admit the child to the School.