



# Blue Skies School: Admissions Policy

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| <b>Reviewed by:</b>        | Carrie Myhill  | <b>Date:</b> March 2026 |
| <b>Approved by:</b>        | Lauren Higgins | <b>Date:</b> March 2026 |
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## **1. Introduction**

At Blue Skies School, we are dedicated to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for children and young people with special educational needs. Admission to our school is carefully considered to ensure that we can meet the individual needs of each pupil effectively. We accept referrals from Local Authorities (LA). Whilst parents are welcome to visit the school and can be provided with information about the school, the school cannot proceed to the admissions stage without local authority support.

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## **2. Admissions Criteria**

To be considered for admission to Blue Skies School, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1) 1. Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP):

- Pupils must have an active EHCP in place, identifying specific educational, social, and developmental needs.

2) Special Educational Needs:

- The pupil may have traits of Autism or a diagnosis of Autism.
- May have other identified needs such as ADHD or Social, Emotional, Mental Health needs.
- May have specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.
- Will benefit from the school's small, therapeutic and relational approach to education and learning.

3) Age Range:

- Blue Skies School caters to pupils aged 11-25.

4) Placement Suitability:

- Our Senior Leadership Team will assess whether the school can provide the appropriate level of support, resources, and interventions to meet the pupil's individual needs upon receiving the consultation.
- This includes consideration of the pupil's ability to benefit from the inclusive learning

environment and their compatibility with the needs of other pupils.

### **3. Admissions Process**

#### 1. Referral:

- All referrals should be made directly to the school, via the Local Authority.

#### 2. Review of EHCP:

- The EHCP and supporting documentation (such as professional reports, assessments, or medical diagnoses) will be reviewed by the school's admissions panel.

#### 3. Consultation and Assessment:

- Families and pupils will be invited to visit the school to meet staff, view facilities, and discuss the pupil's specific needs.
- Additional taster sessions (known as Observation and Assessment (O&A) visits) will be booked with the family and conducted by the school's team to ensure suitability.

#### 4. Decision:

- Decisions are made in collaboration with the Local Authority, parents/carers, and professionals to ensure Blue Skies School is the most appropriate placement for the pupil.
- If the assessments indicate the school can meet the child's needs, a report will be sent to the Local Authority with placement details and a start date.
- All decisions relating to the proposed placement of any individual are confidential. There will be open communication with relatives, carers and advocates, which acknowledge and respect the needs of each user.

This procedure also applies to children whose referral is subject to the SEN Tribunal process. However, in this event, where the parents have received notification of the date of the Tribunal Hearing, the school will endeavour at the request of the parent's advocate or solicitor, to undertake an assessment prior to the date of the Hearing. This is to ensure that the parents are able to state at the Hearing that the school can meet their child's needs as laid down in the EHCP and that a placement is anticipated from a given time.

#### 5. Transition Planning:

- Once a placement is confirmed, a personalised transition plan will be developed to support the pupil in adapting to their new environment

#### **4. Exclusions from Admissions**

Blue Skies School is unable to offer placements to pupils whose needs fall outside the expertise or resources of the school, such as:

- Pupils without an EHCP.
- Pupils whose needs require a different specialist provision that Blue Skies School cannot provide.

#### **5. Further Information**

For detailed information about the admissions process or to arrange a visit, please contact our admissions team at:

- Phone: 01634 357 770
- Email: [admissions@blueskiesschool.uk](mailto:admissions@blueskiesschool.uk)