

Admissions Criteria

Introduction

Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of Reading Borough Council (RBC) and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have identified a gap in local specialist provision for the increasing numbers of pupils with SEND (particularly those with complex needs, including ASC and/or SEMH). As a result, significant numbers of pupils are being sent to out of area provision, in some cases causing children to be separated from families and communities.

Oak Tree School is a collaborative project, operated by the Maiden Erlegh Trust (MET), intended to provide a safe and happy learning environment for 150 pupils (shared equally across RBC and WBC) from Year 1 to Year 13, with an Education Health and Care Plan.

The impetus for this project has been a partnership between Brighter Futures for Children on behalf of RBC and WBC as part of their commitment to providing additional special school places for local pupils close to their own communities.

Aims

At the heart of Oak Tree School's provision, will be a rich and stimulating curriculum, specialist personal development education and targeted therapeutic programmes delivered by talented and specialist staff.

The specific aim for Oak Tree School is to provide a high-quality local school to support children and families with multiple complex needs to:

- Become confident and independent young adults
- Gain the best qualifications and learning experiences possible
- Take their place in local communities and the world of work as appropriate

Community, inclusion, and respect are key MET values, and they underpin the vision for Oak Tree School. Places will be filled by those pupils who are currently, or who would otherwise in the future, be educated out of borough at significant additional expense.

This document sets out the general criteria used in the admissions decision-making process and is intended to provide information about the type and level of need the school caters for. However, all pupils will have an Education, Health and Care Plan and any potential changes to the pupil roll will be managed via the annual review process.

Primary and Secondary Provision

Whilst this document sets out general criteria for admissions to Oak Tree school for pupils across all year groups, it is acknowledged that there may be occasions where there is limited information available regarding individual pupil needs. This is likely to be most prevalent for those pupils of primary age where opportunities to fully assess need have not been available. In these circumstances the admissions process may take longer than usual to allow time for additional assessment as required.

Typical Profile of Admissions

- Provision is for children presenting with speech language and social communication needs who have a diagnosis of ASD.
- Pupils with complex needs who are managed temporarily in mainstream schools but unsuccessfully with school and psychological advice suggesting the need for more specialist placement.
- Pupils are not able to access majority of mainstream courses and as such a mainstream environment is not currently appropriate.
- Students may have adverse trauma related to unmet needs in educational provision.
- Primary- Mainstream is unable to provide a safe and appropriate learning environment and are unable meet their needs outlined in their EHCP- SLD/PASC.
- Secondary - MLD/SLD but focus on less formal qualifications supporting vocational subjects.
- All accepted admissions - working at least 3 years below age expected outcomes.