

Dawlish Federation of Special Schools

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ADMISSIONS POLICY STATEMENT

Although Oaklands and Ratcliffe are part of the Federation of Special Schools, they will both have individual admissions processes that follow the L.A.'s admission arrangements. In doing so the Executive Head will endeavour to ensure there is an appropriate balance of pupils; this refers to sex, age, ability levels and levels of difficulties and needs at each school.

The types of difficulties children have on admission will include:-

- ◆ Inability to engage in a Mainstream situation including sensory/interaction/communication difficulties.
- ◆ Whole school communication needs
- ◆ Unable to relate and/or co-operate with peers effectively re social interactions
- ◆ Past traumatic events
- ◆ Challenging behaviour or disengagement or disruption related to their specific needs.
- ◆ Vulnerable, i.e. Being a victim of abuse

Dawlish Federation of Special Schools will endeavour to admit all children referred to the school by the L.A., but will reserve the right to advise the L.A. that a child would not be suitably placed.

The reasons for this decision being made will include:-

- ◆ the school is full

- ◆ the balance of needs and appropriate levels of support and resources within the school at the time
- ◆ the lack of provision within the school to meet a specific need as expressed within the child's statement. E.H.C.P or other documentation
- ◆ the potential for the child to be a significant danger to other pupils
- ◆ the need for a different type of special needs provision
- ◆ the child has been engaged in criminal activities and appears highly likely to continue such activities.

All pupils put forward for admission will be considered equally under the DDA. Following the placement (on roll date) the pupil will undertake a six week assessment period. When completed a placement review meeting is convened to endorse the placement. However, if, during the assessment period, the placement is considered not to be in the best interests of the pupil, alternative provision will be sought, following consultation with the Local Authority.

Any concerns with regard to admissions will be referred by the Executive Principal and to the Personnel Committee of the Governing Board.

Parents have the right to appeal by following Local Authority Guidelines and appeal process.

Both Oaklands Park and Ratcliffe Schools are

- ◆ Trust schools funded by the LA.
- ◆ Schools for children and young people who have Autism and associated needs, severe, complex, learning difficulties and social developmental needs.
- ◆ Day, weekly or termly residential schools for children and young people

Student Referrals

Students are referred to both schools by Devon's 0-25 team, based upon individual needs as identified in statements and EHCP'S.

The school will normally admit new students at the earliest opportunity when all the parties, including parents and carers, have been consulted and are in agreement.

Every student who is admitted to Oaklands Park School should have been identified by educational psychologist and other professionals as having severe, complex learning difficulties.

The school will admit children and young people who have autistic spectrum conditions, provided that their educational need has been defined as within the severe, complex, learning difficulties range.

At Ratcliffe, students must have a primary diagnosis of Autism or is being assessed for Autism via the neuro-developmental pathway.

School Governors will seek to organise resources available to them by the LA in such a way as to meet the needs of all the students who attend the schools.

Challenging Behaviour

Historically, Oaklands Park School and Ratcliffe schools have provided an education for a significant number of students who have challenging behaviour in addition to Primary diagnosis. The Governing Body and staff recognise that specific teaching and care methods need to be employed in offering educational opportunities to such children. Currently, the approved training programme is PIPs at Oaklands and Team Teach at Ratcliffe. Consequently staff will be provided with appropriate training.

Residential Admissions

Residential provision will only be offered after an assessment process has identified the need for this level of provision. The assessment will be undertaken by the social care team at DCC.

The Role of School Leaders (including Governors)

In considering the appropriateness of referrals to the school, school leaders will bear in mind:

- ◆ The EHCP needs of the individual in relation to this Admissions Policy
- ◆ The availability of a place in the necessary age group and/or living area
- ◆ The ability of the student to participate in relevant courses (e.g. the 14-19 Programme)
- ◆ The impact on other students of the presence of the individual in question in class or residential area.
- ◆ The advice of the LA in respect of funding Arrangements for the individual

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