



Arrangements for the admission of children to Newfield School

Function/Aim

Newfield School is a maintained day special school for children aged 2-19 years. Children are provided with an appropriately paced and personalised curriculum. The school is accessible for wheelchair users and is on one level.

Size and staffing

Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority. The school currently has places for 180 children. Occasionally the school may be required to take additional children.

Staffing levels are enhanced so that children are usually taught in classes of up to 8 with a teacher and at least two education, health and care assistants (EHCA's) and an appropriate number of additional EHCA's to meet the needs of the class group.

The school receives advice from a range of health professionals in order to meet the needs of the children.

Funding

The school is funded on a place led basis by the LA.

Criteria for placement

All children will be under assessment or have an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP).

The children's identified needs will be complex and significant in at least two areas of need as described in the Special Educational Need Code of Practice. These will be in the areas of cognition and learning or communication and interaction). In addition children may have sensory or physical difficulties.

Criteria for placement - School for SEND

The School for SEND caters for pupils with PMLD (profound and multiple learning difficulties) and SLD (severe learning difficulties).

A child with PMLD will have a severe learning difficulty and other disabilities that significantly affect their ability to communicate and be independent. They may have severe difficulties seeing, hearing, speaking and moving.

A child with SLD will find it difficult to understand, learn and remember new skills. They may have sensory, physical, emotional and social difficulties. They may have difficulties with both the acquisition of skills and their application to new situations.

Criteria for placement - School for Autism

The School for Autism is a provision aimed at meeting the needs of pupils who are autistic and have severe learning disabilities.

The curriculum is designed and developed for learners who are attaining significantly below age-related expectations. They would be unlikely to reach standards expected by the National Curriculum; therefore our learners are not able to sit exams to gain qualifications like GCSEs.

A significant proportion of our learners are non-verbal and all access augmented communication. The provision is designed for learners where autism is the main barrier to their learning.

The learning environment is designed to reduce the impact of sensory differences that autistic learners may experience and there are high staff to pupil ratios as sometimes learners can demonstrate high support needs in relation their behaviour.

Children admitted to the School for Autism will demonstrate:

- Significant attention difficulties and difficulty to engage
- Limited independence and awareness of health and safety concerns
- Rigidity of behaviour and thought
- Language and communication difficulties which are enduring and impede learning
- Emerging intentional communication
- Limited communication with or interest in peers
- Rigidity and resistance to social interaction
- Limited expressive ability
- Receptive language processing difficulties

Newfield School for Autism does not meet the needs of children who:

- Have a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's Syndrome but are high functioning and demonstrate a potential to access learning at a mainstream level
- Demonstrate social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH) that are not a result of ASD
- Have a global developmental delay that restricts their access to a mainstream curriculum but who are socially confident and motivated to engage

EYFS Placements

Places will usually be offered from the beginning of the academic year in which the child turns 4. However, in a very few exceptional cases, where a child has the most severe and complex needs, places may be offered earlier. This may be when the child:

- has profound and multiple learning needs which are evident without a multi-disciplinary assessment and is unable to access early education outside of a specialist setting due to the impact of their difficulties
- has a life-limiting condition and is in receipt of palliative care
- has severe and complex needs including medical needs

Part-time/sessional places can be offered, following consultation with the Headteacher, dependent upon the needs of the individual child and the school's capacity.

Places will be offered from the start of the academic year in which the child turns 3.

In exceptional cases, a place may be offered from age 2.

Children who may require an early place will also:

- be supported through the BwD Early years supports service
- have a comprehensive assessment by a health and/or educational professional which confirms that they meet the above criteria

Once placed at Newfield, the child will be subject to regular monitoring and supported through the schools and LA processes for early years children.

Referral routes

Pupils may be considered for placements:

- Following a Statutory Assessment or as a provision within an EHCP
- Following an Annual Review
- On arrival into the LA having previously attended a specialist provision or special school
- Following a parental request
- In exceptional circumstances e.g. sudden trauma.
- Following a request from another LA

Evidence to support the need for a special school place

There will be evidence from a range of agencies that a special school placement is appropriate which will include an educational psychologist's opinion.

The views of the parent and the child will be considered.

Prioritising placements

If there are more children who meet the criteria than available places the following priorities apply;

- The child doesn't have a current school place
- The child is a Child in Care (CIC) and there is evidence that the placement will be appropriate to meet their needs
- The current placement is no longer successfully meeting the child's needs

Admission procedures

Once the LA has decided that the referral is appropriate the head teacher will be consulted at either a termly meeting with LA admissions officers or by the sending of individual papers. Following the receipt of papers, the head teacher will have 15 working days to consider the admission. When the admission(s) is agreed the LA will formalise this by notifying parents and the child's current school so that admission arrangements can be made.