

Admissions Policy

Review Date	November 2024	Next Review by Date	November 2025
Reviewed By	Headteacher		
Approved by Governing Body	November 2024		

Rationale

Pathways Education is an independent day school for boys and girls aged 9-16 years old with a school PAN of 14. For a young person to be admitted, the school must be named by a Local Authority (LA) in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This generally follows an extensive consultation with the school. A young person will be considered for the school when it is clear that they will benefit from the provision, and they meet the admissions criteria. These arrangements are in line with the School Admissions Code 2021 and designed to ensure there is a fair admissions procedure for all applicants.

Aims

- To ensure that the selection criteria and procedures are fair to all applicants. No applicant will be treated less favourably during the application process or during assessment on the grounds of their skin colour, race, ethnic or national origin, gender, gender reassignment, religious faith or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic group, pregnancy and maternity, disability or special educational needs.

- To identify applicants whose academic and other abilities appear to match the ethos and standards of the schools and whose personal qualities suggest they have the potential to contribute sufficiently to the school's community and benefit from the many opportunities that are offered to them.
- To comply with the schools' obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Student Profile

Pathways Education is a school for young people who have emotional, communication and interaction difficulties and current low attainment due to being 'out of education'. They may:

- Frequently present with anxiety and/or avoidance behaviours which may limit their access to formal education.
- Have significant gaps in their learning and low attainment because of lack of engagement with education or a school setting.
- Have adverse childhood experiences due to poor/inconsistent educational experiences.
- Have 'severe' school attendance
- Be 'at risk' of becoming a NEET (Not in education, employment or training)

('Severe' attendance, categorised by the DfE, is when the pupil's overall absence rate is at 50% or higher. 'At risk' refers to the students whose absence falls below severe attendance)

All students must have an Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP).

Admissions Criteria

We can deliver therapeutic and educational outcomes for young people with one or more of the following needs:

- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- ASD
- Moderate learning difficulties
- Specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia
- Developmental co-ordination disorders
- Anxiety
- ADD
- Neurodevelopmental trauma
- Layered processing needs
- Attachment disorder
- Adverse Young Experiences
- OCD
- PTSD
- School phobia
- Emotional vulnerability
- Sensory Processing difficulties
- Perceptual difficulties

Conditions of Admission

- All applicants meet the selection criteria for admission.
- Any conditions of entry to Pathways Education are fulfilled.
- The applicant is of appropriate age.
- The school can adequately cater for and meet the needs of any disability and/or special educational needs.
- The school has the trust and confidence of parents/carers and can rely on their reasonable cooperation.

Due to the nature of the school day, size, and staffing levels. We are unable to cater for young people who require constant individual supervision or children with very aggressive, violent or sexualised behaviour. Examples of needs that cannot be met as follows:

- Complex physical and sensory needs.
- Complex ASD
- Are cognitively significantly below expected outcomes
- Severe levels of the above
- Schizophrenia
- Psychosis
- Severe personality disorders
- Require regular physical intervention to support their presenting needs

In-year admissions

- We accept admissions throughout the academic year in line with criteria above.
- The process is the same as illustrated in Appendix 1.

Admissions Procedure

- 1 Families or Local Authority can refer a young person via the school website or email (admissions@pathways-ed.org). Young persons, families and/or Local Authority Education case workers are welcome to visit Pathways or participate in an initial conversation with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
- 2 Once an official request has been made for consultation by the caseworker, Pathways will receive the relevant documents from LA. The Headteacher and/or Deputy Headteacher will then review all the information to determine whether the provision is suitable for the young person. Documentation may include: the young person's EHC Plan, medical information, reports from the previous school or professionals involved.
- 3 The school will complete a referral form for the LA regarding whether the young person's need can be met based on the initial consultation documents within 15 days of receipt. The caseworker will then need to confirm with the school to start the admissions process to determine suitability.
- 4 Pathways will contact the family to arrange visits to the school and/or home visits, if deemed more appropriate, and conduct an academic assessment, risk assessment, observations and therapeutic review as part of the admissions process. The DSL team and social care team are involved if the young person is Looked-After (LAC or P-LAC) or if there are any Safeguarding or Child Protection (CP) concerns.
- 5 Once all the documentation has been reviewed in a professionals meeting, families will be informed within 20 working days whether the Pathways' structure is suitable and can deliver outcomes against their EHCP. A formal offer with a suggested start date is extended to the LA and family via letter and email. The LA panel will then have to agree to the placement.
- 6 When the start date has been confirmed by the LA, we will request: a confirmation that Pathways has been named as the educational provision from the Local Authority and CTF or any other files from the young person's previous school. Parents/carers will need to arrange transport with the relevant council as appropriate. This can take up to 10 days with some councils.
- 7 We will require parents/carers to complete registration forms in order to create an account on our School Management System, and provide consent for activities/trips/medication/photos, etc. Meanwhile we will be working on a bespoke personalised transition plan for the young person to ensure their start with Pathways is as successful as possible.
- 8 Within the first week of admission into Pathways Education, each new young person will receive their computer login and email details so that they are fully prepared for their time with Pathways. (Transition timetables will be reviewed regularly in line with our Outreach and Transition Policy to work towards a full-time timetable.)

Special Needs and Disabilities

Pathways Education welcomes all applicants irrespective of any learning needs and/or disabilities. However, its facilities (physical and otherwise) for young persons with significant learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities are currently limited. Pathways Education will do all that is reasonable to comply with the Equality Act 2010 so that Pathways Education may accommodate the needs of applicants with physical needs for which, with reasonable adjustments, Pathways Education can cater adequately. Pathways Education will do all that is reasonable to ensure the application procedure and any information about the school is accessible and will make such reasonable adjustments as necessary. (See Accessibility Plan)

Parents must inform the school when submitting a Registration Form of any special circumstances relating to their young person which may affect their young person's performance in the admissions process and ability to fully participate in the education provided by Pathways Education. Parents of a young person with physical needs may be invited to a preliminary meeting with the Headteacher to discuss ways in which any disadvantages could be lessened or eliminated from the admissions process and to ensure that the applicant can be adequately catered for should an offer of a place be made. The school may request further information, such as a medical certificate or educational psychologist's report, and any associated correspondence from the young person's most recent school that Pathways Education considers necessary to make a fair assessment.

If, after reasonable adjustments have been considered, the school is unable to adequately cater for the needs of those young persons with disabilities, parents will be informed why an offer will not be made.

If an applicant's disability becomes apparent after admission, Pathways Education will consult with parents about what reasonable adjustments, if any, can be made in order to allow the young person to continue at the school. If, after reasonable adjustments have been considered, Pathways Education is unable to adequately cater for and meet the needs of the young person, the Headteacher may request parents to withdraw their young person.

Complaints

In the event of any dispute regarding admissions, parents are referred to the Complaints Procedure, which can be made available upon written request.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher.

This policy can be made available in larger print or more accessible format if required.