

Admissions Criteria for Free School

Children attending the Free School will have SEND that falls within the SEMH category in line with the COP

They may have the following needs:

Young people with autism and/or social, emotional and mental health challenges. Children and young people placed in this type of provision will primarily have difficulties including:

- Disrupted / unusual emotional or social development.
- Autism.
- ADHD, ADD, ODD or similar medically diagnosed disorders.
- Diagnosed mental health conditions and difficulties.

Anxiety that is pervasive and prevents them accessing curriculum in a mainstream setting

School phobia/persistent absence

May use extreme behaviours to avoid demand or an environment that they find overwhelming – behaviour at these times could be aggressive or extreme and lead to shut down and withdrawal

Pupils may need constant monitoring, high intensity intervention and calming, sometimes involving more than one adult.

Their severe and complex needs may give rise to life-threatening situations including self-harm. Without appropriate support and interventions, they are a danger to themselves and others; this is due to the environment, once in a place where they feel safe these behaviours dissipate

Young people's ability range is often wide, as is their functioning range, covering a cognitive span from low ability to gifted and talented. Some of the young people will have been permanently excluded or at risk of permanent exclusion from mainstream, special or out-county schools. Others have not yet thrived in other settings, having associated anxiety levels and/or mental health concerns.

Typically pupils would join when support from a range of specialists has failed to have the desired impact on their learning and or social and emotional well-being.