



Admissions Policy

Written: September 2022

Reviewed: July 2024 – AWO

Review Date: Sept 2025

Admissions Policy

Introduction

Longdon Park School is an independent specialist day school. We provide specialist education for young people aged 7 to 18, including children in care, who have a range of complex behavioural, communication and social difficulties associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Longdon Park School is committed to raising achievement and enabling pupils to recognise their potential; supporting them through a personalised, engaging curriculum. Our priority is to develop the foundation knowledge and skills required to make a manageable and smooth transition to the next life stage. We offer an outstanding therapeutic, supportive learning environment where our young people are supported enabling them to accept responsibility for their actions, make positive decisions and display pro-social behaviour. We aim to help each young person to become confident individuals and responsible citizens with a fundamental understanding of British Values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Our Mission

Longdon Park School is dedicated to providing outstanding education to young people with educational, social and communication, and emotional difficulties resulting from a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, incorporating a range of therapies to provide support for the sensory processing needs of our young people.

Our Vision

Longdon Park School harnesses passions, unlocks ability and realises potential through delivering individualised learning pathways to support pupils and their families.

Our school community strives to equip all pupils with a toolbox of skills, strategies, and knowledge to prepare them for their onward journey and realise the contributions they can make to the wider world.

Safe – Happy – Independent – Nurtured – Engaged

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Longdon Park School admits, as far as is possible, those pupils whose special educational needs can be met effectively and in doing so ensure progress in all aspects of their development.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are that:

- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the criteria used in assessing the appropriateness of a placement for individual pupils at Longdon Park
- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the processes of judging the appropriateness of that placement
- Parents/carers, each pupil and representatives of LA's, social service departments and other interested professionals have a clear understanding of the opportunities on offer at Longdon Park
- Parents/carers, each pupil and representatives of LA's, social services departments and other interested professionals understand all key aspects of school life at Longdon Park and are prepared to play their part in ensuring the success of any placement^[2]

At Longdon Park we support young people who present with a wide range of complex needs associated with Autism. A young person may be considered for a place at Longdon Park School if they have an Education, Health and Care plan, a diagnosis of ASD or demonstrate behaviour and difficulties commensurate with a diagnosis of ASD and where a typical mainstream environment has not appropriately met the needs of the young person.

Pupils may arrive out of difficult life experiences or be the result of some medical condition. Some of the pupils have a long history of disturbed, difficult or delinquent behaviour of a serious kind that may include violence towards peers and/or adults. Therefore, Longdon Park School acknowledges that our pupils may, from time to time, exhibit challenging behaviours that vary both in intensity and duration and our aim is to work with young people to reduce the frequency and intensity of these incidents.

Admissions Process

Stage 1

Referrals made to Longdon Park School will normally be made by LA's directly or through the parents/carers of the pupil. A range of detailed information concerning that pupil should accompany these referrals including an Education, Health and Care plan. Where this is not the case, Longdon Park will

seek access to as much information as possible including information regarding the individual's education, health and social background. Senior staff will analyse all available information about the pupil to assess whether the pupil meets the admission criteria for Longdon Park School.

The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/SENCO/therapy professionals will assess whether or not Longdon Park can meet the pupil's needs and if so, arrange for a visit to Longdon Park School.

It may be necessary for Senior Staff to organise a visit to meet or observe the young person prior to any visits being organised at LPS.

Stage 2

The initial visit will be offered to the pupil and his/her parents/carers and other appropriate professionals and will include:

- A tour of Longdon Park School
- An introduction to key staff
- A discussion with senior staff concerning such issues as: the curriculum, content of key school policies including Longdon Park expectations for good behaviour and discipline and the physical management of pupils and a discussion of the preferred forms of physical intervention with pupils, were this to prove necessary.
- An opportunity for each visitor to ask any questions they may have
- Visitors will also receive (if they have not already) copies of any policies that they request on the day or will be directed as to where to find them.

Stage 3

Assessment Taster Days:

- Following this the pupil will be invited to attend a number of assessment taster session(s) at Longdon Park School to assess how well suited LPS is to meeting the needs of the young person. A typical day would involve joining an appropriate class group and completing work and activities alongside their peers. In some circumstances the therapy team may complete assessments.

Stage 4

If, following these visits and assessment taster session(s), all concerned are agreed that the pupil's needs can be met at Longdon Park School, that the young person can be adequately managed with the planned resources available and that the pupil and parents/carers are committed to the placement, Longdon Park School will write to the LA offering a place and arrangements will be made for admission. A placement will be confirmed through the completion of a formal contract signed by the school and the placing authority.

Admissions Criteria:

- The pupil will be aged between 7 and 18 years
- The pupil will have an Education, Health and Care plan
- The Education, Health and Care plan will clearly specify the pupil's learning, educational,

social, behavioural and medical needs

- The pupil will normally have been assessed as within the average ability range of educational functioning (In some cases, pupils' levels of ability as measured using psychometric tests may prove difficult. In these cases, Longdon Park School will base its judgements on its ability to meet needs)
- The pupil may have one or more specific learning difficulties
- The pupil will express a commitment to the placement
- The pupil's parents/carers will express a commitment to the placement
- Where, despite a period of sustained reasonable adjustment strategies from the pupil's mainstream setting, the young person's needs continue to be unmet
- The pupil presents with other significant needs that require sustained specialist interventions, therapies and teaching approaches that can be more appropriately delivered within a complex needs school
- For all 'looked after children' there must be permanently named carers and a permanent home base for the pupil available at any time throughout the year. Longdon Park School cannot be the main residence for any child.

The Local Authority will:

- Provide Longdon Park School with all current advice and information relating to the pupil
- Nominate Longdon Park School in Section IV of the appropriate section of their EHCP
- Agree contractual arrangements for transporting the pupil to and from school
- Make any arrangements for transporting the pupil to and from school
- Fulfil the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice for 0-25 years 2014 and attend planned annual review of placement meetings