

Beaumont Hill Academy Admissions

1. Purpose

Beaumont Hill Academy is a specialist provider for children with special educational needs aged 2 - 19. Children who attend this school will usually have an Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

2. Scope

This policy is relevant to all governors, staff, parents, carers, pupils and local authority representatives who are involved in the admission of a student to Beaumont Hill Academy.

3. Introduction

The school will work in partnership with local authorities and parents / carers to assess the suitability of students for a place at the school.

4. Equal Opportunities

The admissions policy will promote equally the rights of all students regardless of disability, ethnic background, language, culture, faith and gender.

5. Our Admissions Criteria

We accept referrals from Local Authorities (LA). Whilst parents are welcome to visit the school and can be provided with information about the school, the school cannot proceed to the admissions stage without local authority support.

All students must have an Education, Health and Care plan or in a small number of cases be admitted for an assessment place.

6. Information on the types of Provision

The school strongly believes in finding the right school for the individual and in all communications will be honest with parents and the local authority in relation to this.

The school will have two types of provision:

Provision for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan: for students who have identified SEN and which details Beaumont Hill Academy in their Education, Health and Care Plan.

Provision for students who require an assessment of their difficulties: for students referred by a local authority, with agreement from the Academy Trust, students' parents/carer and any person whose advice is to be sought in accordance with

7. Admissions Process

7.1 We are able to give parents information regarding our assessment and admission process on enquiry. We encourage parents to engage in a dialogue with their local authority and to make a joint application.

Note: the school will take referrals and organise admissions assessments at any point in an academic year. Intake is not restricted to September only.

7.2 Once a referral has been received from an LA, the paperwork will be read by the senior leadership team.

7.3 If, from the paperwork it is clear that the student would be suitable for the school then the school will invite parents in for an admissions interview. If it is not clear from the paperwork whether the school would be suitable then a designated member of staff will arrange to observe the student in either their current school or in the home setting. The parents / carers and the child will then be invited in for a tour of the school and presentation about the provision.

7.4 Following this meeting in most cases the senior leadership team will be able to make a decision over the following few days. The school acknowledges that parents have often been through lengthy processes in the past and in recognition of this, the school will aim to advise parents of the outcome as quickly as possible. However, in a small number of cases, if the decision is uncertain then rather than make the wrong decision it may be more appropriate to delay a decision whilst more information can be obtained and school / home visits are carried out.

7.5 If Beaumont Hill Academy is able to meet the child's special educational needs, an offer of a place and a start date will be sent to the LA and parent/carer. The proposed fee will be suggested to the LA. When the LA confirms that the offer of a place is going to be taken up, the school will send contracts to the LA.

7.6 The pre-placement process will typically consist of:

7.6.1. A member of the senior leadership team meeting with parents / carers to

Obtain up to date information, including but not exclusive to the following areas:

Previous placement Behaviour Academic ability Religious and cultural needs Parents' aspirations for the future / what they want the school to do Current multi agency involvement Family organisation.

7.6.2. Perspective pupils are encouraged to visit the school but this is very much done on a case by case basis.

7.7. A member of the senior leadership team meeting with the child's mainstream school to gather information to include-

Whether the child is looked after and if so the name of the contact person and key personnel in the placing authority; Education, Health and Care Plan; Current care, health, educational plans or relevant personal needs if available; Details of any matter

which makes the child particularly vulnerable or a danger to others; Attendance certificates; Details of any fixed term exclusions; Lead person details if a Team Around the Family is in place; NC levels - End of Key Stage Teacher Assessments; and Evidence of all NC assessments.

7.8. Beaumont Hill Academy must agree to being named in a student's final statement of SEN, except where they feel the following conditions may apply:

- The school cannot meet the child's SEN
- The placement would be an inefficient use of resources. The placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child will be educated

7.9. The school must also be satisfied that the parents / carers of the child are supportive of the placement.

7.10. The parent or LA is responsible for making transport arrangements and will inform the school accordingly.

7.11. Transition plans will be made with the LA, the current school placement and the parent/carer. Transitions are often difficult for children who have SEN. It will be essential to consider mechanisms/strategies that may make the process easier for the child. Students may be invited in for one or more transition visits. These should be planned with parents / carers and should be bespoke to individual needs.

7.12. The school will send out an admissions pack that will include information about the school for both parents and student.

7.13. Prior to admission, the Transition lead will ensure that all relevant information has been collected.

7.14. A baseline assessment will commence as soon as a student starts school. The length of time required to complete this assessment will vary, but it is usually completed within two months. Parental information, teacher observation and assessments carried out by appropriate professionals will contribute to this process. Individual Educational Plans will then be drawn up and discussed with parents prior to implementation.

7.15. All children undergo annual reviews as laid down by the SEN Code of Practice.

8. Tribunals

Although parents can indicate to their local authority the school of preference to be named at part 4 of their child's statement of SEN, the authority may not agree with the placement identified. In such circumstances, parents have the right of appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (SEN & Disability).

9. Private Funding of Places

Beaumont Hill Academy is unable to offer places to families who wish to independently fund the placement.

10. Communication and Confidentiality

All decisions relating to the proposed placement of any individual are confidential. There will be open and regular communication with relatives, carers and advocates, which acknowledge and respect the needs of each user.

The school will liaise with the local authority to ensure they are kept up to date.

11. References

Department for Education (2001) Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

More information can be found on the Darlington Borough Council's Admissions Department website.

Parents or carers seeking a place in our school outside of the September admissions round should contact the school direct on the number shown below. We are extremely keen to talk with any parents or carers who may be considering seeking a place for your child at our school.

If after visiting our website you require any further information or wish to arrange an appointment to visit the school please contact

SEND Admissions Officer: Jo Bates jbates@educationvillage.org.uk

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County Durham,
DL1 2AN

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