



Meadow View Farm School
excellence as standard

Admissions policy

Adopted: 25th August 2011

Reviewed and updated: April 2018

Reviewed and updated: August 2024

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2026

1. Aims

Meadow View Farm School is a specialist independent school for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). We cater for children whose primary area of need is **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)** and/or **Communication and Interaction**.

This policy aims to:

- Explain the admission criteria for the school.
- Set out the admissions and appeals processes.
- Ensure admissions are conducted fairly, transparently, and in line with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Make clear our commitment to equality, inclusion, and safeguarding.

We are committed to ensuring that admissions decisions are made without discrimination, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

2. Legal Framework

This policy complies with and is informed by:

- *Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014* (Part 6: Provision of information; Part 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils).
- *SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2015)*.
- *Children and Families Act 2014*.
- *Education and Inspections Act 2006*.
- *Equality Act 2010* (including the Public Sector Equality Duty).
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)*.

3. Admissions

3.1 Admission Number

The school is registered to accept **up to 50 pupils** aged **5–11 years**, although we only have capacity to meet need for 45 children presently.

3.2 Admission Criteria

A place will be considered for a child where:

- The child is aged between 5 and 11 years.
- The child has an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.
- The EHCP specifies **SEMH and/or Communication and Interaction** as the primary needs.
- The school, through consultation, is satisfied it can meet the child's needs and that placement is appropriate and, in the child's, best interests.

- The school environment is assessed as being safe and suitable for the pupil, and the pupil's admission would not compromise the safety and learning of others.

We welcome all pupils who meet these criteria regardless of **race, religion, sex, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy/maternity status, or socio-economic background**, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

3.3 Oversubscription and Waiting List

If the school is oversubscribed, places will be allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis** from Local Authority referrals.

3.4 Admissions Process

- Pupils are referred by their **Local Authority (LA)** following statutory consultation.
- The school reviews the EHCP, reports, and supporting information to determine whether needs can be met.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will visit the pupil in their current setting (where possible) to assess compatibility.
- Parents/carers are invited to visit the school, meet staff, and review policies.
- Liaison with external professionals (e.g. social workers, CAMHS) will be sought where appropriate.

3.5 Induction

Once a place has been agreed:

- A bespoke induction programme will be arranged, tailored to the child's needs.
- This may involve phased integration (short visits leading to full-time attendance) or immediate full-time placement, depending on what is deemed most appropriate.
- Induction planning will be agreed with the family, LA, and other agencies.

4. Appeals

If a place is not offered:

- Parents/carers will be informed (by their Local Authority) of the reasons for refusal.
- They have the right to use the **statutory SEND disagreement resolution and mediation process**, and ultimately to appeal to the **First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability)** if they disagree with the LA's decision not to name the school in the EHCP.

5. Safeguarding and Welfare

Admissions decisions will always consider the **safety and welfare** of both the applicant and the wider school community. The school reserves the right to decline an admission where placement would be unsafe, unmanageable, or detrimental to the wellbeing of other pupils or staff, even if the pupil meets the criteria.

6. Monitoring and Review

- The Headteacher monitors all admissions annually and reports trends to the Proprietary Body.
- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated in line with statutory guidance.
- The Proprietary Body will ensure it remains compliant with current legislation and best practice.