



# **Admissions Policy and Protocol**

## **Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee School**

**Reviewed by PPP Committee: Jan 2019**

**Next Review: Jan 2021**

## **1. Introduction**

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee School (QEII School) is part of the Federation of Westminster Special Schools. It is an all-age (4 - 19) community special school for pupils with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties. This is defined as pupils who present with:

- complex, profound and multiple learning difficulties where the majority of pupils are not engaged in subject specific learning;
- highly complex medical needs including some pupils with life-limiting conditions; and/or a range of severe physical disabilities; and/or complex mental health needs.
- severe speech and language disorders resulting in very limited or no verbal communication;
- high level of anxiety associated with their learning difficulties which may result in a range of challenging behaviour;
- highly complex sensory processing and sensory integration needs.

Further details on entry criteria are available in the school's SEN Information Report.

## **2. Designated capacity**

The current agreed roll of the school is 75 pupils. Pupils are placed into classes according to their chronological age and, in certain circumstances, appropriate to their physical and medical needs. Classes currently range in size from 6 to 10 pupils. Staffing and resources are allocated to individual classes according to the severity and complexity of the learning and behavioural needs evident within the class group.

## **3. Admissions criteria**

The admissions procedures for special schools do not conform to the same enrolment and admission procedures applicable to mainstream schools.

Westminster Local Authority (LA), or the pupil's home authority where this is not Westminster, acts as the Admissions Authority to the school, in consultation with the school's Governing Board. The pupil's home authority has the responsibility to request a placement for a pupil, according to procedures detailed in the SEND Code of Practice (Department for Education, 2015). All placements at the school are offered according to the criteria set out in the school's SEN Information Report and in Westminster's Local Offer.

The following statutory guidance should be noted in consideration of admissions practice at QEII School:

- Pupils admitted to QEII School will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). QEII School will be named in the EHCP with the support of the parents / carers and the home authority where the young person lives.
- The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements for children and young people with medical conditions. Where a young person has severe medical needs, the school will work with parents and health care professionals to ensure the needs of the young person are met, through a health care plan linked to their EHCP.
- Pupils will only be admitted into QEII when a vacancy occurs (unless exceptional circumstances apply). The number of vacancies will be dependent on the number of pupils leaving the school. New pupils can be admitted into any of the class groups, providing there is an appropriate peer group and capacity is available in the relevant year group.

- Pupils can be admitted into QEII at any time of the academic year. However, most admissions will take place in September.

The Governing Board has currently delegated responsibility for responding to the referral from the pupil's home authority to the Executive Headteacher. The Executive Headteacher has delegated this responsibility to the Head of School, with the following recommendations:

- The placement is appropriate to the pupil's age, ability and special educational needs.
- It is compatible with the efficient education of other pupils in the school.
- It is an efficient use of available resources.

#### **4. Admission process**

The formal admissions procedure will adhere to agreed protocols and guidelines as follows:

- The Bi-borough's SEN Casework and Commissioning Team, on behalf of Westminster LA, will consult with QEII and, as part of the consultation, send a copy of the proposed EHCP to QEII, together with supporting advice. Where the pupil's home LA is not Westminster, that LA will refer the consultation to the Bi-borough's SEN Casework and Commissioning Team and the school.
- The Head of School will make a preliminary decision on the basis of the information received and in light of the Governing Board recommendations.
- The Head of School or other member of the school's senior leadership team will contact the existing provision to observe the child or young person in their current setting, wherever possible.
- The Head of School will respond to the Bi-borough's Casework and Commissioning Team regarding the proposed placement of the pupil and give the reasons for their response.
- The final decision as to whether to name the school is the responsibility of the pupil's home authority.
- When a placement at QEII is agreed, the home authority will inform the pupil's family. The school will then contact the family to arrange a formal visit and to discuss transition arrangements.
- In the event that the Head of School concludes that the proposed placement is inappropriate, the child's home authority may wish to challenge the Head of School's decision. In this situation:
  - The Head of School will consult with the Federation's Executive Headteacher, who will decide whether or not to seek further advice.
  - The Executive Headteacher may decide that admission will only be offered on a fixed-term assessment placement. This will be followed by a multi-agency review meeting to consider the suitability of the placement.

#### **5. References**

SEND Code of Practice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

School Admissions Code:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

Children and Families Act 2014:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted>