

Admissions Policy

Stretton Shires School



Admissions Policy

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1.0 Placements

Stretton Shires School is an Independent Special School (Day) for pupils aged 11 to 19, who may have a primary diagnosis of Autism/ADHD and/or other additional needs that may include moderate to severe learning disabilities.

- The published admission number (PAN) for Stretton Shires School is 32.

2.0 Admissions Criteria

Stretton Shires School accepts enquiries from parents/carers, Local Authorities and their partners for prospective pupils who would benefit from specialist education designed for those who may have a primary diagnosis of Autism/ADHD/Moderate to Severe Learning Disabilities. Referrals should be directed to placements@ofgl.co.uk or alternatively please contact our Admissions Manager: Lisa Attwood – 01204 522667 - Lisa.Attwood@ofgl.uk.

- The school caters for pupils with primary diagnosis of Autism/ADHD that may have additional moderate to severe learning disabilities or other complex needs.
- The school provides education for pupils who are functioning significantly below Age Related Expectations (ARE) upon entry.
- We would expect any prospective pupil to be able to be educated alongside other pupils within small groups, therefore the school would not expect to cater for pupils whose levels of behaviours that challenge are likely to put at risk the well-being of other pupils. However, it is recognised that pupils are likely to exhibit behaviours that challenge as a result of their Autism and/or Learning Disability.

3.0 Referrals

Responding to Referrals

1. When a referring agency or agencies approaches Stretton Shires School they will be dealt with promptly, courteously, and effectively.
2. Stretton Shires School will seek to establish the status of the enquiry, distinguishing between:

- a) requests for information about referrals, fees and the availability of places,
- b) a request to ascertain in principle if the school would be able to consider a referral regarding a specific pupil,
- c) formal referral for a place,
- d) a request from a Special Education Needs Tribunal to establish if the school could provide a place that would meet a young person's needs.

3. Where the enquiry is for information or to whether in principle Stretton Shires School could consider a referral, the school will respond in writing with the required information.

4. Where a formal referral is being made, the school will commence to gather the initial information. This will include ensuring that the referring agency or agencies has up-to-date information about Stretton Shires School, its fees, and the availability of places, that they are aware of the referral process and the provision currently being made for the prospective pupil.

- a) Once all the required information has been provided, Stretton Shires School's admission panel will consider the referral and all supporting documentation. This will be done within 10 working days of the information being provided to Stretton Shires School. The admission panel can decide that: i) the school cannot meet this young person's needs ii) more information is required before a decision can be made iii) That it appears that Stretton Shires School can meet this pupil's needs.
- b) Stretton Shires School will then complete its referral process by arranging for school staff to carry out a pre-admission assessment of the young person; this will be at Stretton Shires School's expense.
- c) Stretton Shires School's pre-admission assessment will include meetings with the pupil, their parents or guardians and the service currently or most recently supporting the pupil. The assessment will build on the referral information and will cover the following areas:
 - The young person's primary need is for a service catering for pupils with Autism/ADHD alongside learning difficulties and other additional needs.
 - Consider issues around significant risk and dangerous behaviour, in particular any history of arson, sexualised assault, self-harm and physical attacks on others. Particularly for young people who are aged 15 or more, evidence that previous placements have failed to meet the young person's needs and whether Stretton Shires School would have the time necessary to provide the stability and continuity required to meet their needs.
 - Whether conflicts between the young person's family and providers have undermined previous placements, if so what arrangements have been made to resolve the underlying roots of the conflicts.

d. The report of this assessment will then be considered by the admissions panel who will decide whether or not to make a definite offer of a placement to the referring agencies. Stretton Shires School aims to complete its assessment and to decide on a definite placement offer within 10 working days of starting the process.

4.0 Supporting the admissions process

1. Once the placement of a child/young person at Stretton Shires School has been agreed, then the admission process begins. This is a flexible process that is designed to:
 - a) be led by the needs and wishes of the young person, enabling them to have the familiarity they require about the school to reduce any anxiety and to help them understand where they will be moving to.
 - b) support the school to make the necessary arrangements to promote the child/young person's successful placement at school.
 - c) support the family or guardians to develop the trust and confidence required for them to support and promote the placement.
 - d) ensure that all administrative details of the placement have been agreed and that contracts have been agreed between the school and the funding agencies.
2. The timing of each admission will be individually tailored to the needs for the young person but the school will actively work to promote timely placements and will seek to ensure that the admissions process is not unduly extended.
3. The admissions process will require staff to visit the child/young person where they are currently being educated (where possible), unless it is agreed that this would not be in the best interests of the prospective pupil.

5.0 Contact Information

For any placement enquires please contact the referrals team via placements@ofgl.co.uk or alternatively contact our Admissions Manager: Lisa Attwood – 01204 522667 - Lisa.Attwood@ofgl.uk.



Outcomes
First Group