



Admissions Policy

The Unicorn School is a co-educational, independent, specialist school for pupils aged 6 to 16 who have Specific Learning Difficulties: dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, often with Speech, Language & Communication Needs as secondary needs.

The School is licenced by the Department for Education for up to 96 pupils. Pupils can join the School at any time of the year. Applications will be considered for admission to the School on the basis of the School's Admissions Policy and in accordance with the School's Equal Opportunities policy.

The objective of this policy is to ensure that children applying for a place at the school are assessed fully and fairly, and that, given all the information available to the School, the School would be likely to be able to meet their educational needs.

Equal Treatment

The School's aim is to encourage applications from prospective pupils with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A number of bursaries are available for pupils whose parents could not otherwise afford to meet the full cost of fees. **Please see our Bursaries Policy which can be found on our website.**

The School is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background.

Religious Beliefs

The Unicorn School welcomes applications from prospective pupils of all faiths and of no faith. The School does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief.

Special Needs

The School does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. We welcome pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, providing we can offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them.

The School will discuss thoroughly with applicants the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the School.

The Entry Procedure

1. School visit and Educational Reports

When we receive an admissions enquiry, we will ask for full disclosure of any relevant reports on the child such as Educational Psychologist's report, Dyslexia report, Occupational Therapist's report, Education and Health Care Plan and school reports.

We will review these reports in order to assess whether the child's primary need appears to be a specific learning difficulty that we are likely to have the expertise to meet. We may also ask for permission to visit or contact the child's school, or other people involved with the child's education.

If, at this stage, we have grounds to believe that we would be able to meet the child's needs, we would invite parents to visit the school, if they have not done so already.

If, at this stage, we have grounds to believe that we would be unable to meet the child's needs, we will discuss with applicants why we are unable to take the application further at this time.

2. Pupil's Assessment Visit

The next stage of our admissions process is to invite the child to spend two consecutive trial days at The Unicorn School. A non-refundable fee will be charged for this and must be paid before the first day of the assessment.

The School's specialist teachers will assess the child's educational needs. This will take place individually, as well as in a classroom and social environment, with reference to any Educational Reports supplied.

Following the child's visit, parents will be invited to meet with the Head and/or Specialist Assessor to discuss the results of the assessments. We may make an offer for an immediate start, for an agreed future start date (which may be subject to availability), or a place on our waiting list. Sometimes we may request further time or information to inform our decision. Very occasionally, and in agreement with applicants, we may offer a trial period of admission for a fixed term. If we do not believe that we are the appropriate setting for the child, we will be unable to offer a place.

Subsequent to the assessment, the School will provide applicants with the results of any formal testing carried out during the child's visit.

3. Acceptance of a Place

The Unicorn School operates a strictly first come first served basis, and a waiting list for full year groups. Any offer made must be accepted and a refundable deposit and non-

refundable enrolment fee paid within 14 days, after which time the place will be made available to other children.

4. Appeal Procedure

If an applicant believes that the child has been unfairly rejected by the School, they should write first to the Head outlining the reasons for concern. The Head, or a senior colleague nominated by him or the Registrar will then provide an explanation and/or reconsider the earlier decision. The Head will write to explain his final decision. Whether or not the child currently has a sibling at the School, in respect of a child who is a new applicant, the parents and School are not in a contractual relationship at this stage, so this reconsideration does not take place as part of the School's Complaints Policy.

School's Terms and Conditions

Copies of the School's Terms and Conditions are available on request and will be forwarded to applicants with any offer of a place.

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