

Daventry Special Academy

Admissions Policy

Daventry Special Academy will be a school for 175 pupils between the ages of 4 and 18 years of age with a wide range of learning difficulties from moderate to severe. All pupils will have additional needs that may include: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Physical Needs (PD) or Sensory Needs (HI/VI). The school will admit any pupil where it is named in a Local Authority (LA) Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and is specifically organised to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The Academy Trust, working with the Northamptonshire LA, has produced a designation outlining the needs of the pupils for which they are best able to provide, the curriculum to be offered and structure of the school day. Prior to naming the school in an EHCP, the LA will have consulted with the Head of School in line with their statutory obligations to ensure the placement is appropriate to the needs of the child.

Criteria and Arrangements

Pupils will normally join the school at the start of the school year but can access places at other times of year.

Access prior to entry

- The LA commissioner will visit the school at least annually to review commissioned provision.
- The commissioning LA will consult the Head of School before naming the school in an EHCP and will determine placement following consultation with the school.
- Professionals wishing to visit the school should contact the school.
- A visit by the child and parents/carers would also be considered appropriate. Parents/carers should contact the school.

Referral to the school

Children will be admitted:

- Permanently, when an EHCP names the school.
- For a limited period of up to 20 weeks while a LA assesses a child's SEN and whether to make an EHCP.

Places will not be offered to independent applicants.

- Parents wishing their child to be placed at the school should contact their LA in the first instance.
- Placement at the school will be by the school being named in an EHCP by a LA. Before the plan is finalised the LA will consult the school through the Head of School, acting on behalf of the Academy Trust and Governing Body.

- The Head of School will use the information within the EHCP and attached papers to consider the suitability of the child for placement at the school taking account of the factors below and will inform the LA SEND team within 15 days of receipt of the referral.

Relevant factors are whether:

- The school can meet the child's special educational need and disability.
- The child's placement is compatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child would be educated.
- The placement is an efficient use of resources.

Having taken the school's views, and those of the parents into account, the LA will decide whether to name the school in the EHCP. If the school is named in the plan, it will admit the child.

Appeal Arrangements

The SEN Code of Practice entitles parents to appeal the decision of the LA to the 'First Tier Tribunal (Special Needs and Disability)' should a placement not be made available.

Funding of Places

The Department for Education directly funds free schools. Special free schools negotiate additional funding from the LA commissioning a school place.

Access/Travel

Transport is usually provided and funded by the pupil's LA.