



# Admissions Policy

Next review: March 2026

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. G.', written over a horizontal line.

Headteacher

Date: 01/03/2025

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Proprietor

Date: 01/03/2025

**Legal Status:**

- Complies with Part 6, Paragraph 24 (3) (a) of The Education (Independent School Standards Compliance Record) (England) (Amendment) Regulations

**Applies to:**

- the whole school inclusive of activities outside of the normal school hours
- all staff (teaching and support staff), the proprietor and volunteers working in the school

**Other relevant documents:**

- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDA)
- Attendance and Absence Policy

**Availability:**

This policy is made available to parents, guardians, carers, staff and pupils from the school office and website.

**Monitoring and Review:**

- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the headteacher
- The proprietor undertakes an annual review of this policy and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines

## **Admission Policy**

At Darwin School we are registered to care for and educate children from the age of 11 years to 16 years covering Key Stages 3-4. No child is refused entry on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation. We require confirmation of the date of birth of a child.

## **Pupil Profile**

Our school provides for those with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH), as well as other needs or diagnoses. Most of our children are referred to us and funded through the local authorities. Some of our children will have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan. Others may be undergoing assessment.

All students without a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), Educational Health Care Plan or formal assessment of needs, will in their absence be treated with regard to Special Educational Need and Disability codes of practice (2015) until such time as referral for assessment is made.

Pupils enter our school via two routes, internal which are via our own care homes or external which are from Local Authorities.

### **Internal – placement from a Pebbles Children's Home**

Integral to the placement of a child in a Pebbles Children's home is the provision of education. It is incumbent on us to ensure that the educational placement in being fit for purpose is bespoke to the needs of the child. The decision for a child to attend our school is as an outcome of a multi-disciplinary agreement whereby a transition plan is agreed. Fundamental to this process is the quality of communication from the time when the local authority representative makes the initial contact with the care and education colleagues' right through to the child being admitted on to the school roll. High quality communication and transparency between the school and the children's home is essential to this process.

### **External – a referral is received from the Local Authority**

In line with the Special Education Needs Code of Practice, a multi-disciplinary decision is reached whereby the child with parents and/or guardians and/or carers visits the school. If it is agreed that the school is, in principle, the most appropriate educational setting for the child then a transition plan is implemented.

Parents or guardians/carers will also be asked to provide the school with any further information which they feel will enable us to provide their child with the best possible

education. If agreed, a place will be offered based on availability and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Schools, Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Part 4 and Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Where a child who has a Statement of Special Educational Needs joins our school, we will always consult with parents/guardians/carers and, where appropriate, the Local Authority to ensure that the required curriculum is provided for as set out in either the Statement or the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) including the full National Curriculum if this is specified.

We will also co-operate with the Local Authority to ensure that relevant reviews, including the annual review, are carried out as required by regulation and best practice. The school will make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of children with a statement of special educational needs. Any additional services that are needed to meet the requirements of the Statement or additional services such as dyslexic tuition, or provision of directed one-to-one support will be subject to charge. This will be either directly to the parents/guardians/carers, or the Local Authority if they are responsible for the fees and our school is named in Part 4 of The Statement or the relevant section of the EHCP.

Our school has a policy and procedures for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in line with the SEN Code of Practice (July 2014).

### **English as an Additional Language**

Our school will make provision for children who have English as an additional language, (EAL) in the assessment procedure. We do not regard children as having a 'learning difficulty' solely because the 'language or medium of communication of the home is different from the language in which he or she is or will be taught' (Education Act 1996, Section 312(1), (2) and (3). However, pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) will be provided with appropriate support, provided they meet our school academic criteria. They will be assessed to assess the support that may be needed, in order to ensure equal access to the curriculum along with all other aspects of life at our school.

Our school has a policy and procedures for students requiring English as an Additional Language (EAL).

## **Admissions Policy Appendix**

It should be recognised that the young person may be ambivalent at best about the school and that because of this they may well not take in all the information given – to this end, further information will need to be offered at a later date. Young people may be referred to Pebbles at any time during the academic year in one of two ways:-

- Via the Pebbles Group
- Via a local authority

As much information as possible will be sought at the point of referral to inform assessment as to whether the referral is appropriate and whether the school is able to meet the needs of the young person. Information sought should include:

- young person's name;
- age and date of birth;
- gender;
- ethnic background, cultural needs, religious needs/persuasion;
- health needs and history;
- educational history, needs, current provision, support received and required including whether there is a statement of special educational needs proposed educational plan;
- risk issues, level of supervision required, establish if any history of self-harm/suicide, history of volatile and aggressive behaviour, child protection issues, risks presented by third parties;
- expectations and requirements sought by the placing authority to need the young person's needs;
- the name, address and telephone number of the young person's case accountable social worker (if applicable);
- the young person's legal status;
- the young person's and their family's social history;
- any special issues e.g., restriction of contact, child protection and criminal history (if any) and whether any existing criminal proceeding are outstanding.

The information provided will assist the Headteacher in the assessment as to whether a school placement is viable and appropriate. The Headteacher will consider whether the school has sufficient staffing in terms of number and experience to manage such

admission both in terms of the individual young person's needs and respect of the potential impact that the admission may have on existing group dynamics.

Should a referral be accepted for admission, the school will notify the company's finance department as soon as practically possible in order that the appropriate contract arrangements can be administered with the relevant placing authority.

Measures of control, discipline and restraint and the requirement to search used by the school are made clear to the placing authority, the young person and parents/carer before the admission.

## **Admission**

The young person's details need to be entered into the admissions register and accompanying information filed. The young person will be shown around the school and introduced to the staff and other young people.

An individual timetable will be discussed, taking account of the young person's age, aptitude and ability. Initial assessments will be carried out within the first six weeks from admission and a copy of the results will be sent to the placing authority. First impressions count and the admission of the young person into our school is one of the key elements in determining the success of the school placements.

## **Placement move**

Where possible we intend for young people to be discharged in a planned and purposeful way. This may be to a mainstream school, college, or other educational establishment. The move should, wherever possible, be promoted as positive, progressive and in the young person's best interest. A discharge/transfer form will be sent out to the Finance Department. Any relevant documentation will be forwarded to the new establishment.