

Admissions Policy



RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL
INSPIRE, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE



Partnership Learning

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1. Introduction

Riverside Bridge School is an all-through special school catering for pupils from 4-18 years-old pupils with severe, profound and complex learning disabilities. The school is a designated academy and is controlled by the Partnership Learning Trust. The admissions policy has been drawn up in order to ensure that children with severe, profound and complex needs are Admitted in a systematic efficient manner and that placement is made with confidence that the school can meet the special educational needs of each pupil.

2. Principles

The admissions authority for the school is that of local authority SEN admissions/placement teams.

The school admissions policy conforms to that of the DFE Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2015.

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits schools from discriminating against disabled children in respect of admissions for a reason related to their disability.

The school expects that all pupils referred to them for admission will have severe, profound or complex learning disability. In addition to a learning difficulty the child may also have other needs including:

- sensory Impairment
- physical disability
- autism
- communication difficulties

Admission to Riverside Bridge School is when the school is the named educational provision recorded in a pupil's Education, Health and Care plan (EHC).

The Local Authority will provide the school with any reports, assessments or documents relating to the child. The school will not be expected to consider the suitability of a request for admission without receiving all relevant paperwork outlining the child's needs.

Riverside Bridge School will agree to be the named school in a pupil's final EHC plan, except where we feel the following conditions may apply:

- the school cannot meet the child's SEND needs;
- the placement would be an inefficient use of resources;
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child will be educated

3. Assessment Placements

The governors of Riverside Bridge School recognise that it is not always possible when pupils are very young or new to the country to determine their level of special educational health and social care needs. Where necessary a Local Authority may request the school to admit a pupil for a period of assessment in order for the child's needs to be determined. If this is the case the school will produce a report in the timescales determined to inform the content of the EHC plan. This report will conform to The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2015.

4. Admission Criteria

A young person is eligible to be offered a place at Riverside Bridge School if they meet the following criteria:

- they have an Education Health Care Plan or are undergoing a statutory assessment of their needs.
- the needs of the learner could be met within our school's resources without adversely affecting any other learner currently attending;
- there is a consensus among professionals that the young person would benefit from our provision which is discussed by the EHC Team of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham panel;
- the young person referred has severe, profound or complex learning disability and in addition to a learning difficulty they may also have other needs including sensory impairment, physical disability, autism, complex medical needs and/or communication difficulties;
- the school has a vacancy.

We do not have a waiting list as all cases need to be considered by the EHC Team of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

5. Admissions Procedure

Parents/Carers of prospective pupils are welcome to arrange a visit of the school. A visit does not constitute acceptance of placement at Riverside Bridge School.

Parents/Carers of prospective pupils are invited to request a school prospectus to review the provision Riverside Bridge School is able to offer our pupils.

Parents/Carers of children wanting consideration to attend Riverside Bridge School must be processed via London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) EHC team.

Any children wishing to be considered from outside of LBBD need to contact the EHC team in the first instance. Where Riverside Bridge School is named to any 'out of borough' pupils the referring authority accepts financial responsibility for the placement funding alongside 'top up' funding of the place plus 5% administration fee from the date of admission.

Riverside Bridge School will receive a formal consultation from the EHC team with all the supporting paperwork.

Riverside Bridge School will assess the supporting paperwork to make an initial decision. Riverside Bridge School staff will decide with the child's current school to visit the pupil for observation and discussion about the pupil's needs and abilities.

The Senior Leadership Team will enter a discussion to see if:

- the child's needs can be met within Riverside Bridge School and
- if there is currently a space within a relevant class to meet the child's needs and abilities.

Riverside Bridge School will then notify the LBBD EHC team of their decision in writing within 10 days of the consultation being received.

Where the outcome response to the consult is positive, the EHC team will contact the parents/carers and the current setting to advise them of the outcome.

Riverside Bridge School will then contact the parents/carers to arrange a home visit to gather more information about the pupil. This usually takes place with the class teacher and the AHT for the pathway.

Riverside Bridge School will provide parents/carers with a new starter pack, which includes information about the school, how to apply for transport, how to apply for free school meals (if applicable), uniform details and documents such as emergency contact forms, permission forms, medication forms etc. for the parents/carers to return to school before the pupil is given a start date.

Once all the paperwork is completed and returned to Riverside Bridge School, we will contact the parents/carers and advise them of a start date.

Where the outcome response to the consult is negative, the EHC team will contact the parent/carers.

Children will not be admitted into school unless the documentation has been received.

To find more details about the Local Authority admissions procedure, please contact the LBBD EHC Team on 020 8227 2400 or email ehcenquiries@lbdd.gov.uk.