

Admissions Policy

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[illegible]

Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this Admissions Policy is to outline the criteria and eligibility requirements for students wishing to attend Snowfields Academy. This policy ensures transparency and consistency in how applications are assessed. It also provides key contact information for Kent County Council (KCC) and details relevant admissions guidance to assist parents and guardians in making informed decisions regarding their child's educational placement.

Key Information

- **Local Authority (LA) Responsibility**

The Local Authority (LA) holds statutory responsibility for arranging educational provision for children with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs). The LA is the key decision-maker regarding the admission of students with EHCPs to special schools.

- **Admissions Criteria**

Each special school, including Snowfields Academy, has specific admission criteria. These criteria help assess whether the school can effectively meet the individual needs of a student with an EHCP.

- **Determining Suitable Placements**

The LA considers these criteria alongside the content of the EHCP to determine the most suitable school placement for each child. This ensures that students receive the appropriate provision tailored to their educational, social, and medical needs.

- **Choosing Snowfields Academy**

- If a child is currently in Year 5 or Year 6, parents or guardians who wish to request Snowfields Academy as their preferred secondary school should inform the LA.
- **In Year Admission** - If you are considering a place at Snowfields Academy for your child as an in-year admission, you must first inform your child's current school that you are requesting a change of placement. Following this, the Local Authority (LA) will be in touch with you to discuss your school preferences and provide guidance on the next steps in the admissions process.

- **Campus Placement Information**

Please note that when applying for a place at Snowfields Academy, your application will be considered for all of our campuses: Bearsted, Cranbrook, and Minster.

For **in-year admissions**, placements will be offered at the campus where a place is available at the time of application.

For **Year 7 admissions**, placements are determined based on the individual needs of the young person. While we aim to place students at the most appropriate site to meet their educational and support needs, we also take geographical location into consideration to ensure reasonable access to the campus.

Whilst we endeavour to meet these requirements, it may not be possible to accommodate parental preferences due to the varying needs and locations of the year 7 applicants, which change each year.

Snowfields retain the right to make the final decision in the best interests of the young person.

- **Annual Review Process**

The preferred way to notify the LA of your school choice is through the Annual Review process, which assesses the effectiveness of the child's current provision. During this review, you can discuss potential placements for the child's secondary education, including Snowfields Academy.

- **Timely Communication**

It is important to notify the LA as early as possible to ensure that your request can be properly considered before the secondary transfer process begins. Please follow the guidance provided by the LA regarding deadlines and required documentation.

Snowfields Academy Eligibility Criteria

- **Who Can Apply?**

At Snowfields Academy, we are committed to providing a specialist educational environment for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our admissions criteria ensure that we can meet students' needs effectively.

To be considered for admission, students must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with ASD as the primary identified need.
- ✓ Be working within a range age-expected attainment levels, up to four years below their chronological age.
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to engage with Snowfields Academy's structured learning environment, with reasonable adjustments where appropriate.

- **Admissions Considerations**


We assess each application individually to determine whether we can meet the student's needs, taking into account:

- The child's EHCP and identified needs.
- The level of support required and whether our provision can effectively meet those needs.
- Any reasonable adjustments that could enable the child to thrive within our setting.

- **Students Who May Require Additional Consideration**

Snowfields Academy may not be the most appropriate placement for students whose primary needs fall outside our specialist provision. These include:

- Students whose primary identified need is Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) rather than ASD.
- Students who present with complex co-occurring conditions (e.g., Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) or Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)) that significantly impact their ability to engage with Snowfields Academy's structured curriculum.

- Students with significant Global Developmental Delay (GDD) that prevents them from accessing the curriculum at an appropriate level.
- Students who regularly exhibit behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others, despite reasonable adjustments and intervention strategies.
-  **Individual Assessment:**
We understand that every child is unique. Therefore, all applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Where a child's needs may be complex, we work with families and the LA to explore whether our provision is suitable, considering whether adjustments may be possible.

Year Group Placement

Students who attend Snowfields Academy will typically be placed in their correct chronological year group, even if they have been previously deferred or advanced in another educational setting.

Commitment to Equal Opportunities

Snowfields Academy is committed to equal opportunities and complies fully with the Equality Act 2010. We strive to ensure that all decisions regarding admissions are fair, transparent, and based on individual needs. We welcome applications from all students who meet our admissions criteria, and we work closely with families to ensure that the best possible educational placement is provided.

You can contact the KCC [SEND enquiries hub](#) who can put you in touch with the relevant area team here.

Please click here to view [Kent SEN Guidance](#)

Snowfields Admission Policy Flowchart

