



Admissions Policy

The Bridge School

Ratifying Committee	Finance, Personnel, Premises and General Purposes Committee
Date	November 2024

Arrangements for the admission of children with SEN to Telford & Wrekin specialist provisions

Name of School: **The Bridge School**

Function/Aim:

This is a maintained day special school for pupils:

- from Reception to Year 11 who have profound/severe learning difficulties.
- from Reception to Year 11 who have profound and multiple learning difficulties with complex medical needs who are non-ambulant within specialist class provision.
- who have profound and multiple learning difficulties with complex medical needs who are non-ambulant from years 12-14 within specialist class provision.
- who have profound and multiple learning difficulties with complex medical needs who are non-ambulant when they are aged 3 years old or over within specialist class provision- part-time provision

Size and staffing:

The Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority. The school currently has places for 197 pupils plus 20 places in specialist class provision. Occasionally the school may be required to take additional pupils.

Staffing levels are enhanced so that pupils are usually taught in classes of up to 10 with a teacher and at least one level 3 teaching assistant and an appropriate number of additional teaching assistants to meet the needs of the class group.

The school receives advice from a range of health professionals in order to meet the needs of the students as assessed by the appropriate professionals.

Funding:

The school is funded on a place led basis by the LA.

Criteria for placement:

All pupils have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). In exceptional circumstances pupils may be under assessment for an EHCP. Exceptional circumstances include those newly arrived into the country or those with an acquired brain injury.

The pupil's identified needs will be complex and significant in the area of **cognition and learning** (severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties) as described in the SEN Code of Practice. The pupil may also have associated needs in the areas of **social, emotional and mental health** and **communication and interaction** (autistic spectrum disorder and/or speech and language difficulties). In addition pupils may have **sensory or physical** difficulties.

Referral routes

Pupils may be considered for placements:

- Following a Statutory Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment which identifies The Bridge School as an appropriate provision within an Education Health and Care Plan
- Following an Annual Review which identifies the Bridge School as an appropriate provision within an Education Health and Care Plan
- On arrival into the LA having previously attended a specialist provision or special school
- Following a parent/carer request with supporting professional advice
- In exceptional circumstances e.g. sudden trauma, permanent exclusion
- Following a request from another LA

Evidence to support the need for a special school place

There will be evidence from a range of agencies that a special school placement is appropriate. This will include an educational psychologist's opinion where possible.

The views of the parent/carer and the child will also be considered. Children will be placed at the Bridge School in accordance with parent/carers' wishes provided that the school is suitable to the child's age, ability and special educational needs and placement of the child is compatible with the efficient education of the other pupils and is considered to be an efficient use of public resources.

Prioritising placements

If there are more children who meet the criteria than available places the following priorities apply;

- The child is a Child in Care and there is evidence that the placement will be appropriate to meet their needs
- The current educational placement is no longer successfully meeting the child's needs

Admission procedures

Once the LA has decided that the referral is appropriate the head teacher will be consulted at **either** a termly meeting with SEND officers **or** by the sending of individual papers. Following the receipt of papers, the head teacher will have 15 working days to consider the admission. When the admission(s) is agreed the LA will formalise this by notifying parent/carers and the child's current school so that admission arrangements can be made and a start date can be agreed.

Local Authorities outside of Telford and Wrekin requesting placements are asked to send the papers to Telford and Wrekin LA who will then bring to the termly admissions meeting with the school.

Transport

Some Bridge pupils may be entitled to home to school transport in accordance with Telford and Wrekin Council's transport policy. This may involve specialist transport arrangements for some students with highly, complex medical needs.

Change of Placement

If a change of placement to another special school or mainstream school is being considered an LA officer **must** be consulted and a review of the child's EHCP will take place prior to any arrangements being made.

Monitoring & Review

Every child's progress will be reviewed at least termly and an Annual Review meeting will be held within 10 months of the current EHCP being issued or the previous Annual Review meeting. The child and his/her parent/carers will be involved in all reviews.

These admission arrangements will be reviewed as necessary, via the termly meetings between the head teacher and education officers.