

Admission Policy

Introduction

We work with young people who are disengaged from mainstream education; at significant risk of exclusion or out of school with a placement difficult to establish. This may include, but is not limited to, young people who have an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan and young people who do not have an EHC Plan but are undergoing an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. Typically they will be young people who have been isolated in their learning journey through a number of factors that have made them particularly difficult to place within schools, local authorities and for whom existing arrangements within "Education Otherwise Than at Schools" (EOTAS) do not provide the firm base of a school attachment at a time of significant uncertainty within a family and young person's educational journey. They are those who are at risk of becoming long term "Not in Education, Employment or Training" (NEET). In addition, they may have a range of associated difficulties such as:

- Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia
- Autism or Asperger Syndrome
- Moderate Learning Difficulties
- Severe Learning Difficulties
- SEMH

It is Pollyteach's aim to maintain learning within a young person's community, whilst engaging partner services, in order to enable a holistic approach to meeting their additional needs within their locality. The focus is towards re-integration into an appropriate mainstream provision linked to both age and ability that will enable young people to lead useful and enjoyable lives within their community.

Pollyteach is a creative development of strategically placed sites with linked, small community venues. These provide opportunities for supporting a dynamic approach to re-engagement through a curriculum model that is geared to re-establishing social opportunity for young people and their families/carers. We recognise our duty to embrace diversity and to work to overcome prejudice. We do not discriminate on grounds of ability, gender, ethnicity, race or religion. Admission is reliant on adherence to the school's admissions procedures as set out below:

Referrals

Pollyteach provides for boys and girls between the ages of 11 to 16 years (Year 7 to Year 11). Young people are referred to Pollyteach via their home, Local Authorities (LAs) and local schools although referrals will be considered from other LAs, and external agencies subject to funding being met directly from the referring body. On roll placements can be full time on a day provision basis, or dual placements will be considered on an individual basis if felt to be appropriate. Alternative Provision places must be part time and students attend two provisions or more per week. Learner's can attend Pollyteach a maximum of 3 days per week on Alternative

Provision basis. Admissions to the school can be made at any point in the academic year.

Admission Procedures

Following an initial inquiry, referral papers for completion are issued. We require to meet the Learner before offering a placement, a visit will be arranged between us, school/referrer, and parent/carer. On receipt of completed referral papers, dialogue and meetings may take place with parents/carers and relevant professionals involved with the child and family and further necessary information gathered. If the decision is not to admit the pupil, we will discuss other possible appropriate provision that could be made with the referrer. If the decision is to admit a Learner, the set-up procedures occur, and the pupil induction process begins when all paperwork is fully completed and is in place.

Inability to offer a placement

Decisions around admission to the school will be made following consultation with parents, the referring body and other relevant agencies. Should parents wish to appeal a decision made regarding admissions, they should follow the procedure as set out in the school's Complaints Policy. This is available from our website or a copy can be made available on request. Pollyteach retains the right to refuse the admission of a learner on the following grounds:

- The school feels that the learner's needs, as identified in their Education Health Care Plan and / or referral information, would not be met.
- The school feels that the learner's needs could be met by other LA services such as mainstream schooling or alternative provision and that a placement at Pollyteach would be inappropriate given the needs of the young person.
- The school has reached its capacity in terms of the number of placements.
- The attendance of the young person would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources or the efficient education of others.
- The referral is made from a LA which is not the young person's home LA, unless funding had been agreed and was in place accordingly.
- Any competition for placements would see a 'Child in Care' take precedence over other non-child in care.