

## Admissions Policy

### Rationale

The Castle School is a maintained Community Special School. The admissions process is managed by West Berkshire Local Authority.

### Aims

- To clarify the school's admission criteria
- To clarify the school's admission procedures

### Admissions Criteria

Students who attend The Castle Special School must have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a statement of special educational need.

The Castle School caters for students with a wide range of learning needs and disabilities. Primarily students attending the Castle School:

- Will have significant difficulty accessing the National Curriculum
- Will present as having complex learning difficulties and communication difficulties
- Will require structured support to develop more age appropriate social, behavioural and independence skills
- May, in addition to the above, have profound and multiple difficulties including medical needs.
- May also have a diagnosis of autism

All students at The Castle School will have a degree of vulnerability that will make attending a mainstream setting inappropriate. This could include:

- Physical vulnerability
- Emotional vulnerability
- Social vulnerability

Additionally their needs will cause them to require provision that may include:

- Access to trained specialist staff
- A curriculum based on communication
- Individualised teaching based on multi-sensory approaches
- Intensive speech and language support
- A highly structured school day
- Access to a personalised programme of support

## Admission Procedures

The Castle School very much welcomes visits from parents who wish to see our facilities and find out what we do.

Admissions to The Castle School are managed by West Berkshire Local Authority.

In order to apply for a place the following procedure should be observed:

At the annual review Parents make a request to have Castle School named in their child's EHC Plan



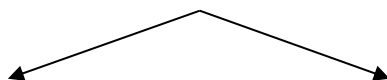
The annual review paperwork is then passed to the Local Authority



The paperwork is discussed by the panel team at an SEN Panel meeting



The Local Authority will make a decision against the admissions criteria



A place is offered at The Castle School



The Castle School will liaise with parents to arrange visits and to discuss starting dates

A place is not offered at The Castle School



The parents have rights to challenge the decision.

## Equal opportunities

The school welcomes all applicants who meet the Admissions criteria regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, social circumstances, disability or sexuality.

## Rights Respecting Schools

This policy adheres to the principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) specifically articles: 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 16, 23 and 28.

**Last review: January 2018**

**Next review: January 2019**