



Admissions Policy Aqua

Admissions Criteria

There are 30 places in Aqua opportunity base, with a maximum of 5 available in each year group, from year 7 to year 11.

Placement of a student in Aqua is the decision of the Local Authority in consultation with the school. Students will be considered for Aqua when it is clear that they will benefit from the provision and that they meet the following criteria:

- The student has a Statement of Special Educational Needs/EHC plan.
- The student's prime need on their EHCP is identified as Autism (ASD) .
- Any emotional and behavioural difficulties are not prime need and will not adversely affect the individual or the school community as a whole.

The range of needs will reflect the triad of impairments which are related to the autistic spectrum:

1. Impairment of social interaction. This can involve difficulty in making sense of, and using, all aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication.
2. Impairment of social communication. This includes a fundamental disability in understanding something from another's point of view or perspective and affects a student's ability to make relationships with others.
3. Impairment of social understanding and imagination. This includes difficulties with rigour of thought, literal understanding of situations, insistence on preservation of sameness, repetitive behaviour, having a lack of sensitivity to pain and limited sense of danger.
 - The student's level of attainment is within the full mainstream range.
 - The student has the capacity to benefit from access to a differentiated mainstream curriculum. This does not imply that access will necessarily be in a mainstream classroom, but there is an expectation that the student will access at least 90% of the curriculum in the mainstream setting.
 - The student uses verbal communication.
 - The student has the social skills to be able to cope in a mainstream environment, without disrupting the effective education of other students.
 - The student will need some adult direction or re-direction to remain on task, but will not require continuous 1:1 support.

If students meet the above criteria and are offered a place in Aqua, their placement would commence at the beginning of the following half term or the next academic year (whichever is applicable).

Visits

In cases where Aqua is a possible placement for a student, the family will be encouraged to visit the school and Aqua itself. However, there can be no comment about the student's suitability, nor an offer of a place, before the Local Authority has consulted the school and made a recommendation about placement and. If the parents/carers request a place at Aqua, they should be referred to the SEN Team.

Referral

All referrals need to be processed by the Sutton Local Authority SEN Team. When a referral is received from the Local Authority, the school will consider the request and respond in writing within fifteen working days. If a decision is taken not to offer a place, the Local Authority will be given the reasons for that recommendation. The reasons should be expressed in terms of the needs of the student and the efficient education of other students already at the school. If the Authority disagrees with the school's recommendation, they will provide the reasons for their disagreement.

All applications for places for students who are not Sutton residents should be made through the student's Local Authority to the SEN Team in Sutton. If the school receives a direct referral from another Local Authority, they should send the documents to the SEN Team at Sutton to be processed.

Assessment

When a referral is made, the Local Authority will attach the EHC plan, the most recent Annual Review, current school reports and attainment levels, EP report and any appended reports about the student from the professionals involved (where available). It is essential that reports and information supplied are as up to date as possible, to allow for a fair and proper assessment of the student's needs and future educational provision to be made. The school may wish to contact the SENCO at the student's current school to obtain further information.

The Headteacher will review the referral papers and request any additional reports required. If from the paperwork, he considers that the student does not meet the admissions criteria, he will explain his reasons to the Local Authority.

Transition

When placement has been agreed, the Head of Horizon will make contact with the student's current placement to arrange a transition programme with exchange of information and reciprocal visits where practical and appropriate.

Exit Criteria

A student will be referred to the Annual Review Panel / SEN Panel if:

- It is considered that he/she has gained in independence and can access the mainstream curriculum without specialist support from Aqua (the student may need other forms of support).
- The changing needs of the student indicate that alternative provision may be more appropriate.

Drafted by AB

Approved by Students Committee February 2019

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.