



Admissions Policy (Ignis)

Admissions Criteria

There are 56 places available in Ignis, with a maximum of 8 available in each Year group. Ignis opened in September 2011 with 8 places in Year 7 and is building by an 8 additional places in Year 7 each September, reaching capacity in September 2017.

Placement of a student in Ignis is the decision of the Local Authority in consultation with the school. Students will be considered for Ignis 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 primary need is identified as Autism (ASD).
- 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 requires a more specialist structured environment with access to a differentiated curriculum, not having the social skills to cope in a mainstream setting, even with 1:1 support.
- The student uses verbal communication.
- The student will need frequent adult direction or re-direction to remain on task.

If students meet the above criteria and are offered a place in Ignis, their placement would commence at the beginning of the following term or the next academic year (whichever is applicable). The placement would not commence partway through the term.

Visits

In cases where Ignis is a possible placement for a student, the family will be encouraged to visit the school and Ignis itself. However, there can be no comment about the student's suitability, nor an offer of a place, before the Local Authority has made a recommendation about placement. If the parents/carers request a place at Ignis, 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 child 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 Statement of Special Educational Needs / 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 child'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 Ignis / Head of Horizon will make contact with the student's current placement to arrange a transition programme with exchange of information and reciprocal visits.

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, albeit with specialist support from Aqua or other provision.
- The changing needs of the student indicate that alternative provision outside of Stanley Park High may be more appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

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