



Admissions Policy Written: September 2023

Review date: September 2024 Admissions Policy

Bankside School is a specialist day School that caters for young people aged 11-18 with autism, complex needs and learning difficulties.

Bankside School offers a broad curriculum consisting of academic and vocational learning and life skills within a wide range of personalised pathways. With small class sizes, learners benefit from a holistic, person-centred approach and clinical support.

All our classes are delivered by specially trained teachers and are supported by teaching assistants, ensuring every individual receives the support they need to thrive.

Our curriculum follows the International Middle Years Curriculum at Key Stage 3. With the exception of Mathematics, all subjects follow a sequence of learning based around an identified theme. Mathematics will follow the White Rose curriculum.

We recognise the importance of opportunities outside of the School and supporting inclusion in mainstream services and the local community. Every pupil who attends Bankside School will be supported by an experienced, specialised team striving to enable them to fulfil their full potential and become confident, happy, independent members of society.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Bankside School admits, as far as is possible, those whose special educational needs can be met effectively and in doing, so ensure progress in all aspects of their development.

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are that:

- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the criteria used in assessing the appropriateness of a placement for individual students at Bankside School
- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the processes of judging the appropriateness of that placement
- Parents/carers, each student and representatives of LA's, social service departments and other interested professionals have a clear understanding of the opportunities on offer at Bankside School
- Parents/carers, each student and representatives of LA's, social services departments and other interested professionals understand all key aspects of school life at Bankside School and are prepared to play their part in ensuring the success of any placement

At Bankside School we support young people who present with a wide range of complex needs associated with Autism. A young person may be considered for a place at Bankside School if they

have an Education, Health and Care plan, a diagnosis of ASD or demonstrate behaviour and difficulties commensurate with a diagnosis of ASD and where a typical mainstream environment has not appropriately met the needs of the young person.

Some of the students have a long history of disturbed, difficult or delinquent behaviour of a serious kind that may include violence towards peers and/or adults.

Therefore, Bankside School acknowledges that our pupils may, from time to time, exhibit challenging behaviours that vary both in intensity and duration and our aim is to work with young people to reduce the frequency and intensity of these incidents.

Bankside School holds regular open evenings across the academic year as well as offers pre-arranged tours.

Admissions Process

Stage 1

Referrals made to Bankside School will normally be made by LA's directly. A range of detailed information concerning that student should accompany these referrals including an Education, Health and Care plan. Where this is not the case, Bankside School will seek access to as much information as possible, including information regarding the individual's education, health and social background. Senior staff will analyse all available information about the student to assess whether the student meets the admission criteria for Bankside School.

The Principal/Deputy Headteacher/Pastoral Manager/SENCO will assess whether or not Bankside can meet the student's needs and if so, arrange for a visit to Bankside School.

It may be necessary for Senior Staff to organise a visit to meet or observe the young person before they visit being organised at Bankside School.

Stage 2

Assessment will be organised on a bespoke basis to meet the needs of the pupil and their family. While it would be preferred that a child and their family visit Bankside School, it is understood that some assessment activities may take place at the family home or another setting.

Stage 3

If, following these visits and assessment session(s) all concerned are agreed that the student's needs can be met at Bankside School, that the young person can be adequately managed with the planned resources available and that the student and parents/carers are committed to the placement, Bankside School will write to the LA offering a place and arrangements will be made for admission.

A placement will be confirmed through the completion of a formal contract signed by the School and the placing authority.

Before this the School will request that the LA to update the EHCP, so outcomes reflect Further Education Study and the Preparation for Adulthood Agenda.

Admissions Criteria:

- The student will be aged between 11 and 18 years
- The student will have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- The Education, Health and Care plan will clearly specify the student's learning, educational, social, behavioural and medical needs
- The student will normally have been assessed as within the average ability range of educational functioning (In some cases, students' levels of ability as measured using psychometric tests may prove difficult. In these cases, Bankside School will base its judgements on its ability to meet needs)
- Students can present all prior learning from previous settings as well as reasons if placements have been ceased or broken down.
- The student may have one or more specific learning difficulties
- The student will express a commitment to the placement
- The students' parents/carers will express a commitment to the placement
- Where, despite a period of sustained reasonable adjustment strategies from the student's mainstream setting, the young person's needs continue to be unmet
- The student presents with other significant needs that require sustained specialist interventions, therapies and teaching approaches that can be more appropriately delivered within Bankside School.
- For all 'looked after children', there must be permanently named carers and a permanent home base for the student available at any time throughout the year. Bankside School cannot be the main residence for any child.

The Local Authority will:

- Provide Bankside School with all current advice and information relating to the student
- If deemed necessary, provide an update or amendment to the EHCP, so outcomes reflect Further Education Study and the Preparation for Adulthood Agenda.
- Nominate Bankside School in Section IV of the appropriate section of their EHCP
- Agree on contractual arrangements for transporting the student to and from Bankside School
- Make any arrangements for transporting student to and from Bankside School
- Fulfil the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice for 0-25 years 2014 and attend the planned annual review of placement meetings