



John Watson School

Admissions arrangements for John Watson School

Signed by *Lynn Wong*
Chair of Governors

Date issued: February 2022
Review date: February 2023

This policy will be reviewed as per the review schedule set by the Governing body or in accordance with policy updates issued by Oxfordshire County Council (whichever is sooner).

John Watson School is an Oxfordshire County Council Community Special School for children with severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties, aged between 2 and 19 years. It serves Oxford city and its environs, rural South Oxfordshire, including Thame and draws some children from further afield.

Procedures

All admissions to the school follow the Local Authority processes and procedures.

Following the agreement of a Local Authority multi-agency panel to undertake a statutory assessment process, if a specialist provision is deemed appropriate, John Watson School is consulted, in accordance with its indicators for admission.

Referrals are then considered at an admissions panel.

The school will declare its position to the admissions panel based on:

- The capacity to successfully admit the child within a class consisting of their age range without impacting in a negative way upon the education of those children who are already in the school;
- The capacity to meet the needs of the child as identified in their Education, Health and Care Plan and/or professional reports within the school's existing systems, structures and practices;
- The number of children already in the relevant academic year group, so that a maximum number for each year group is not exceeded.

Criteria for Admissions:

The Local Authority publishes Admission Indicators for Specialist Provision in Oxfordshire.

In relation to teaching and learning, pupils attending John Watson School would need:

- A caring, stimulating environment where all pupils are valued and fully supported with consistent approaches to behaviour management;
- A highly structured curriculum based upon clearly defined Individualised Learning Plans delivered in very small groups, or on a one to one basis;
- A small class, typically of 7-9 pupils with a teacher, plus an appropriate number of classroom support staff;
- A balance of individual and small group specialist teaching;
- Specialist resources (e.g. adapted teaching equipment and facilities, individual seating and furniture);
- Additional support from other professionals (e.g. school nurse, physiotherapist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and, if appropriate, specialist advisory teachers).

Admissions Additional Points

In an emergency, admissions may be made by prior agreement directly between the Local Authority and the school. The school is funded for a set number of planned places. The school's PAN is currently 107.

If the composition of admissions looks likely to exceed the number of planned places, or that:

- class sizes will become too large and unmanageable;
- health and safety procedures are likely to be breached;
- the financial resources to provide specialised equipment or additional support become totally inadequate;

Then the Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher and LA, will decide which pupils should be admitted. The Governing Body will make its views known immediately to the Local Authority who ultimately has the responsibility to provide an appropriate education for all children.

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