



Admissions Policy

To be reviewed: September 2022

Admissions Policy

The Bridge is an Independent School for secondary aged students, whose Social Emotional Mental Health issues have directly impacted on their education, and subsequently their school attendance. Therefore, students who are referred to The Bridge are more likely to have been out of formal education for a significant period of time, which is often directly associated with their social, emotional and mental health illness. The aim of the school is to re-engage students with education and the wider community, with the view to re-integrating the young person back to mainstream school, after a period of intervention and support.

The purpose of this document is to outline the school's admission policy and to provide clarity that all student admissions to The Bridge, is fair, honest, transparent and all students will meet the school's criteria, as well as the criteria set out in the schools Service Level Agreement with the London Borough of Havering.

This policy will:

Offer students access to The Bridge via the Local Authority (Havering) Referral Gateway Process, providing there is the necessary evidence from CAMHS or other medical professional bodies, and in accordance with the Service Level Agreement the school has entered into with Havering Local Authority.

The school can offer places to students outside of Havering, providing the student meets the threshold for admission, which is; all students who are referred to The Bridge, must have supporting evidence from a medical professional, confirming the students medical condition, and confirmation the young person has been out of mainstream education as a direct impact of their social emotional mental health condition.

The key aim of The Bridge is to provide students with an education in a highly supportive and nurturing environment, which will help re-engage students with learning within a formal educational setting. For KS3 students, the aim of the school is to support students to return to mainstream education. However, in all cases the school must endeavour to provide sufficient evidence to support the decision that the student is emotionally equipped to make the transition to return back to mainstream education.

For those KS4 students, longer term placements are made available, and where it is made clear a return to mainstream education during Year 11, would be inappropriate, and deemed detrimental to student outcomes, students can transfer on to The Bridge school roll, providing parent permission has been granted and the referring school has been consulted and is in agreement.

The Bridge admits students in the line with our admissions policy, and following a referral from a maintained school, Special Educational Needs Department of Local Authorities as well as Local Authorities Inclusion Departments, outside of Havering.

The Bridge does not accept referrals or applications direct from parents or carers, or self-referrals from potential students.

The Bridge Independent School will be run in accordance with the equalities law. It will admit students aged between 11 and 16 years who have been referred via one of the following routes detailed below:

- Referred by Havering Local Authority via their Alternative Provision Gateway Referral Process
- Referred by Local Authority Special Educational Needs Department and in consultation with the Head of School of The Bridge, before the school has been named.
- A Local Authority other than Havering Local Authority has identified a student who has been out of mainstream education for a period of time due to the young person's SEMH condition, and is in need of intervention and support, which their mainstream school is unable to provide.

Student Capacity

The Bridge has a pupil admission number of up to 50 full time equivalent places. Part time places are available, however, each case is considered on an individual needs basis following consultation with other professionals, the student and family, prior to the student attending The Bridge. The school always aims to encourage and support each student to work towards attending on a full time basis, in order for the student to benefit from the support the school is able to offer, make the necessary academic progress and transition back to mainstream school, or alternatively secure a Post 16 placement.

Admissions Procedures

The referral procedure is as follows:

Applications for a placement is made via the Havering Local Authority Inclusion and Gateway Referral Process, for those students who reside in, or attend a Havering School. For students who do not reside within the Borough of Havering and attend a Havering School, The Bridge referral form must be completed and submitted to the Head of School. Referrals will not be considered unless they are accompanied by supporting medical evidence, and the on roll school Registration Certificate. The referral form can be located on the school website.

Student registration and information sharing

The Bridge will ensure that all students are registered accordingly and in line with Section 434 of the Education Act 1996. Those students who remain on the role of the referring school will be dual registered. The Bridge will submit a Registration Certificate to the on roll school at the end of each week. School reports will also be submitted to the referring school for monitoring purposes.