



SPORTING STARS ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Current Version Valid From 5th January 2023

To Be Reviewed In January 2024

Reviewed by The Directors

January 2023 – January 2024

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Introduction

Sporting Stars Academy is an Independent School and, therefore, responsible for setting its own admission requirements. However, the admission policy encompasses guidelines set out in the School Admissions Code, September 2021.

Students will be admitted into Years 9, 10 and 11, with a bespoke Post-16 provision on offer, without reference to ability or aptitude. The published admission number for the Academy for the year commencing 1st September 2022 is 62 full-time equivalent.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher and Administration Manager will manage referrals and visits to the Academy. The Executive Headteacher and Directors will support them.

Stage One

At Sporting Stars Academy, we carefully assess all the information provided to us before determining if we are able to meet the needs of the student and identifying the most suitable class for them. However, as we strive to create a well-balanced cohort, we cannot guarantee a place for every applicant.

Applications to the Academy may originate from:

- Authorities who refer permanently excluded students or students referred to them as being at risk of permanent exclusion by schools
- Authorities who refer students who are in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Authorities who refer students who have transferred to the locality either for an interim placement whilst a mainstream school is found or for children who have been taken into care
- Secondary schools that refer students who they feel would benefit from an education at the Academy directly
- Parents who apply for places directly where they feel that their child would benefit from an education at the Academy. Please note that parents will be responsible for covering the fees attached to the placement

Those applying for a place must complete the enquiry form, which is available on the Academy's website www.sportingstarsacademy.com and/or be in receipt of a referral form completed by the school, Local Authority or Fair Access Panel.

At Sporting Stars Academy, we maintain regular communication with the relevant Local Authority and funding bodies throughout the referral and consultation process. In order to secure a place, a formal application must be submitted, and written funding agreements must be obtained from the appropriate agencies, such as those in education, social care, and/or health. Once these requirements are met, we will send a formal offer letter to the funding authorities and a copy.

Stage Two

A formal consultation of a place is usually done with the support of an individual's Local Authority/Referring Body. An Initial Placement Consultation will involve meeting members of the Sporting Stars Academy team with the Headteacher and SENCo in a relaxed and informal setting, sharing information about education, interests, skills, and challenges, as well as clarifying the best management of health conditions and behaviours. It is beneficial that the student attends Sporting Stars Academy with their parents/carers to see what makes Sporting Stars Academy so different from other educational establishments. The process does include some questions regarding safeguarding, specific health issues, and previous educational experience. If preferable, this can be requested to be discussed away from the young person.

We require all up-to-date information, including relevant documents such as the most recent Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), previous school reports, medical information, any previous support plans including behaviour management plans, risk assessments, care plans if applicable, education psychologist reports and other clinical assessments to assist in our initial assessment.

Information regarding the child's likes, dislikes, and interests is also helpful. The more information we have, the better prepared we can be.

Stage Three

Following agreement of the place with the relevant commissioners within the Local Authority, parents and the young person will be invited in for an admissions meeting. During this meeting, we will check that all past information shared is still relevant, e.g., allergies etc. and seek clarity regarding key information on the EHCP.

All inductions are carefully planned and personalised, with the student's needs and wishes taken into consideration to ensure a smooth transition, which may take place over a few days to build relationships and trust.

For students who have more complex needs or who have been out of education for an extended period of time, the Sporting Stars Academy team may make contact or undertake assessments and observations and, if necessary, work with external agencies to prepare transitions and devise support strategies to reduce anxiety and manage behaviours appropriately. These initial assessments allow us to determine the student's needs and evaluate the staffing levels required.

This policy will be reviewed annually and should be considered in collaboration with all other school policies and procedures.