



Champion EDUCATION TRUST

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CROSSHILL SCHOOL

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A family of Schools

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CROSSHILL SCHOOL

The Governors are responsible for the admissions policy. The 2014 Children and Families Act places a duty on Local Authorities to arrange for the special educational provision which students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) need.

Crosshill School is part of Champion Education Trust and is an academy day special school for children between the ages 11-18 who mostly experience Moderate Learning Difficulties. The school also caters for students who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder which is significantly impacting upon their ability to access the curriculum, along with students who have physical, visual and hearing difficulties.

It is committed to providing equality of opportunities for all children, irrespective of race, culture or gender.

Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority (LA) is the admissions authority therefore all requests for places at Crosshill School are determined and made by the LA.

Admission will be made on the basis of a clear identification of the need of the child and the school's ability to provide an environment and curriculum appropriate to meeting these needs. The school will endeavour to provide opportunities for integration of all students into mainstream schools and settings where practically possible.

REQUEST FOR A PLACE

The referral route is through Blackburn with Darwen LA.

Requests for places may be made where the LA identifies that specialist provision is needed in the following circumstances:

- Following a Statutory Assessment or as a provision within an EHCP – where the evidence provided from the professionals involved clearly indicate specialist provision
- Following an Annual Review – where it is clear that the needs of the child have changed since the original EHCP was issued or last reviewed. The review would include input and reports from an educational psychologist and advisory teachers to evidence this change. The school must also demonstrate that they have done everything practicable to meet the child's needs
- On arrival into the LA having previously attended a specialist provision or special school
- On arrival from another country with little information, but physically displaying significant and complex needs
- In exceptional circumstances e.g. sudden trauma

WITHOUT PREJUDICE VISITS

'Without prejudice' visits are always arranged by the Local Authority in discussion with the school, usually after a review where there has been a consensus that a child would have their needs more appropriately met in a specialist setting. The 'without prejudice' label means that parents are not seeking a placement and that school is not offering one. The purpose of the visit is largely to allow parents to form an impression of the school and its facilities. Parents will be shown around all of the school and have the opportunity to see lessons in progress. The Local Authority recommends that parents initially visit the school without their child, as the placement is not confirmed at this early stage.

EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

All children will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or in exceptional circumstances be under assessment for an Education, Health and Care Plan. The LA will also have determined that the child's needs cannot be met in a mainstream school.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Following the LA decision to request a place – Crosshill School will consider the appropriateness of a placement which will include careful consideration of the child's assessed individual needs and whether these can be met within Crosshill

School. The school would also consider whether the placement would be compatible with the provision of efficient education of others.

The school will consider the above against the two criteria from Sections 33 and 39 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Whether:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
- the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources (SEND Code of Practice 2015 para 9.79)

The school will then provide a written response to the LA either offering a place or not. If Crosshill School is unable to offer a place it will provide the LA with full details as to why not and these comments may be shared with parents.

The LA will consider the school's comments very carefully before deciding whether to allocate a place and name it in the child or young person's EHC plan.

If the school is unable to offer a place and the LA agrees that this is the case, then the LA will inform the parent and a letter will be issued informing parents of their right to appeal. If a place is offered the LA will write to parents to inform them of this along with the start date. Crosshill school will then liaise with the child's family and current school (if applicable) to make the necessary arrangements for starting school.

TRANSITION

It is important that the SENDCo and pastoral teacher meets the student and parents before admission. Wherever possible they will contact or visit the child's educational provider e.g. school or home tutor and the student will be invited to attend for transition days if appropriate.

YEAR 6 INDUCTION DAY

A very comprehensive transition programme is provided at Crosshill School for all students starting secondary school and begins in the summer term prior to transitioning into Year 7. This also included the BwD local area induction day that is held each year for students transferring from Year 6 in mainstream schools. This provides the opportunity for students to meet their peers and staff and enable them to familiarise themselves with the building and some routines before transfer.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

The school currently has places for 92 students this will increase to 102 places from 1st September 2022.