



Admission Policy



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Date	10.09.2026
Approved by Chair (vice) of Governors Signature and date	Hana Bailey  22.09.2026
Next Review	22.09.2027
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1. Our Commitment to Pupils' Safety and Well-being

At New Barn School we respect and value all children. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment where all pupils feel able to access education. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm.

This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at New Barn School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. Our curriculum promotes this culture for safeguarding across all subjects and activities we provide for pupils.

2. Our Commitment to Supporting Autistic Pupils

At New Barn School we aim to provide an environment where Autistic children thrive. We recognise and celebrate the individuality of our pupils and use personalised approaches, allowing pupils with autism to feel supported during the school day. We believe that autism is not a disability, but a different ability. We strive to provide our pupils with the same opportunities and experiences that pupils would have received at a mainstream school, believing passionately that in the right environment, with the right support, our pupils will flourish in education. We do this by focusing on an autism friendly environment, adapting our curriculum and developing personal development.

3. Vision Mission and Values

Diverse Minds – Infinite possibilities

Vision: Empowering young autistic people to live happy and successful lives

Mission: To educate and nurture young autistic people to achieve their full potential and thrive in the community.

Be Kind

We are respectful to each other, always polite and we keep each other safe.

Be Brave

We are resilient, embrace new opportunities and we are accepting.

Be You

We are individuals with a sense of belonging and we are ambitious.



The school, which is co-educational, provides places for up to 120 young people aged 7 to 16

The school is non-denominational and has a secular ethos but respects the cultural needs and religious beliefs of all.

Young people with autism will be aged between 7 and 16 years.

Young people will be referred to the school through the local authority.

Admission into the school is generally via a referral from a local authority.

Introduction

New Barn School is committed to providing outstanding educational provision to academically able students with a primary diagnosis of ASC and associated needs including anxiety, social communication difficulties and sensory processing difficulties. As such, it is very important to us that students, parents and families have a good understanding of the admissions process.

New Barn School creates learning programmes based on the individual needs of our students. All our students follow the national curriculum through to Year 11 but within this structure, there is a built-in flexibility that aims to meet the various and complex needs of our students. This approach allows us to admit students at any age from KS2. When a student is referred to us, we work closely with parents, families, the feeder school, and associated agencies to assess whether our environment can meet the needs of the young person.

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Parents & carers

It is central to the school's ethos that we work in co-operation with Parents or Carers and therefore we encourage there to be a clear understanding about how the school operates in a supportive nature of the school's ethos and character. New Barn School believes that partnership with families is an essential tool in the development of our pupils socially, emotionally, and educationally.

Process

Once we receive the referral documentation, our Admissions Manager will strive to respond to the Local Authority within 15 working days to ensure an efficient process. We request the most current information about each referred student to clearly understand their needs. The Referrals Panel, made up of members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will then review and assess whether we can meet these needs based on the referral paperwork. This initial evaluation is tailored to each individual referral and may include one or more of the following steps:

- **Referrals Panel Meeting:** An in-depth review of the consultation documentation provided by the Local Authority among specific members of the SLT.
- **Consultations with Previous Placements:** Engaging with the student's previous educational settings.
- **Home Visits:** If deemed necessary, a meeting with the student, parents, and family at home is arranged.
- **School Tour/Informal Visit:** Providing an opportunity for parents or both parents and the student to visit the school.

After completing this first stage, we will make a decision on the best way to proceed with the referral. The following steps may be part of this decision:

- **Taster Sessions:** A week long informal assessment comprised of half and full-day sessions for the student to experience life at New Barn School, allowing staff and senior leaders to evaluate our ability to meet the student's needs.

Once the Taster week has been completed the Referrals Panel will reconvene to review the feedback of all staff that interacted with the student to get a full picture as to whether we can meet needs or not. We will endeavour to provide verbal feedback at the end of the taster week regarding whether it has been successful or not and the Admissions Manager will provide an initial summary email advising of the decision.

- If the placement is declined, the Admissions Manager will advise the Local Authority case worker, provided evidence as to why we feel that New Barn School is not the correct setting for the student in question. The Local Authority will then contact the parents to advise of the next steps and discuss the evidence provided by the school.
- If the taster Week is successful and we decide to offer a placement, the Admissions Manager will provide the Local Authority of a Formal Offer of Placement (FOP) confirming the student details, year group, start date and fees. She will also email the parents to advise them that this has been submitted. It will then be up to the Local Authority as to whether they will fund the placement or not. The placement will be held for the student until a final decision is made and New Barn School will provide assistance and support to the parents of the student should the case be required to go to tribunal.

Once a referral is accepted, we will collaborate with the school, parents, and the Local Authority to create a customised transition plan.