

Highfurlong School

'Inspire, Challenge, Believe'



Admissions Policy

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| Completed by: | Nicola Cassidy |
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All pupils at Highfurlong School have Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability. Pupils have a wide range of complex learning disabilities and/or medical conditions and all have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Highfurlong School provides education for children from ages 2 to 19 years across all key stages: EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5.

The EHCP indicates the pupil's primary needs and the provision required to meet their learning and additional needs. It may be necessary for school to provide an alternative, modified or differentiated curriculum to meet the specific needs of the pupil. This curriculum will follow the National curriculum; it will be broad, balanced and personalised to meet the needs of the individual.

The needs of our pupils may include pupils with:

- complex medical needs;
- speech and/or language and/or communication difficulties;
- physical/sensory/severe learning difficulties;
- a wide range of medical and neurological conditions;
- sensory impairments;
- attention control problems;
- coordination and/or perceptual difficulties;
- immature social/emotional behaviour;
- learning and social behaviours often associated with autistic characteristics.

Internal class organisation

The needs of the pupils and specialised facilities demand small class sizes.

To allow for a broad and balanced curriculum the school aims to organise its classes as follows:

- Classes are organised by Year Groups or Key Stages, depending on class cohort size.
- In the mornings, pupils are placed in classes based on the Pathway best suited to their academic ability, sensory needs and maturity to ensure an appropriate cohort and follow a personalised curriculum.

Visits of interest / Non-Prejudice Visits (VoI & NPV)

Highfurlong offers both types of preliminary admission visits in line with the LA policy. Senior school staff will view the EHCP and supporting documents to ascertain if we can meet the needs of potential new admissions and provide the right social cohort. School then respond to the LA formally following any admission visits.

Highfurlong are unable to offer visits of interest requests direct from parents and/or carers. Visits of interest are arranged via Blackpool SENDIASS team or following a request for consultation.



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Admissions to school

As a school, we do not manage our own admissions; they are managed and coordinated by Blackpool SEND team. If the local authority chooses to name Highfurlong on a child's EHCP plan, Highfurlong will admit the child or young person.

- As part of the consultation process, we respond to the local authority in writing as to whether we feel as a school we are able to meet the needs of the young person and whether we are able to offer a school place.

The local authority can refuse the request to name Highfurlong in a child/young person's EHCP if:

- Highfurlong is unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or special educational needs ("SEN") of the child or young person; or
- The attendance of the child or young person would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for others; or
- The attendance of the child or young person would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

In-year admissions

If a pupil is allocated a school place in the middle of a school term, the local authority will agree a suitable start date for the pupil with the Headteacher, giving consideration to the wider needs of the cohort of pupils they will be joining.

Dual placements

On request by the local authority, pupils may attend Highfurlong as part of a dual placement. This enables children to have support from both a mainstream and a special school. This can help to prepare children for mainstream education and enable mainstream and special schools to share and develop their expertise in supporting children with different types of SEN.

Arrangements for pupils under statutory school age

- Pupils who have Highfurlong named on their EHCP are entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday.
- Parents can defer the date their child is admitted until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made.
- Parents can have the child attend part-time until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admissions when school has reached their published admission number (PAN)

- In this circumstance, the local authority will consider the number in the class to which the child would be admitted rather than the total for the whole school.



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Assessment place

- In exceptional circumstances, the local authority may place a child or young person in Highfurlong as part of the statutory assessment of their needs; this does not automatically mean a child or young person has a school place if an EHCP is issued.