

Southern Cross School	
<u>Admissions Policy</u>	
Date Completed	<i>May 2025</i>
Review Period	<i>1 year</i>
<u>Rationale</u>	Southern Cross School operates the admissions procedures set by Manchester City Council, Education Department. The school has the capacity for 165 pupils. The schools provide a specialised educational programme for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, specifically Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. The School operates this policy in order to ensure that places are awarded to those young people who are in most need of, and will benefit from the specialised education programmes provided.
<u>Policy Statement</u>	• Admissions to the schools are the responsibility of Manchester Authority in conjunction with the Headteacher of the School, acting on behalf of the Governors. • All young people will have an Education Health and Care Plan. • All young people at the school will access a broad and balanced curriculum comprising of the National Curriculum, Vocational, Life and Social Skills courses. • Visits to the school and meetings with the young person and parents will take place prior to admission. • Young people have an individual integration plan to allow them to integrate into school routine successfully. These plans are agreed in the presence of the young person, parents, care, education and other involved agencies such as social services and family support officers. • The first eight weeks of a young person's placement will be used to assess needs. This assessment will be based on information provided at admission, initial observations of staff and academic assessments and, if appropriate, Educational Psychologist. A more detailed admissions criteria is attached as an appendix.

Appendix 1 – Admissions Criteria

Admissions Criteria to Southern Cross School

The duty imposed on the LA by section 316 of the Education Act 1996 to educate the young person in a mainstream school is lifted.



Parents express a preference for a particular maintained school to be named in their child's statement.

Section 27 of the Education Act 1996 requires the LA to comply with parental preferences unless:

- The school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude, or special educational needs
- The placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children with whom the young person would be educated
- The placement would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources

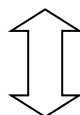


In considering the parental request for placement within a maintained special school for young people with social, emotional and mental health needs, the Local Authority must have regard to the following admission criteria:

The young person will benefit from a placement at a school committed to reversing patterns of failure associated with school and learning.

Prior to admission to the School, the young person will have displayed most of the following behaviours:

- Ease of distraction even with significant adult support and a personalised curriculum;
- Unpredictable and intense behaviours which significantly disrupt the learning of others;
- Behaviours which appear bizarre and /or self-injurious and/or endangers others, leading to an increased level of rejection by peers and social isolation;
- Significant unhappiness, stress, anxiety, or disaffection over a sustained period, often accompanied by long periods of absence associated with increasing negative feelings towards education.



Wherever possible, young people will be given opportunities to access mainstream inclusion with the percentage of inclusion being determined by the young person's individual level of functioning, social and academic. The amount of inclusion may well begin at a low level and build up through a phased programme of reintegration.

All of the above are subject to available places and the compatibility of needs within the current peer group. This will be discussed and agreed with the School Executive Headteacher and relevant Head of Centre.