



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Last review:	March 2024
Next review:	March 2025
Prepared by:	Sotiria Vlahodimou, Headteacher
Approved by:	Curriculum & Staffing Committee

The following policy sets out the entry procedures to Slindon College. Slindon College is a single sex independent school for boys who may struggle to fulfil their potential in independent and mainstream schools due to Specific Learning Difficulties, Speech and Language/Communication Disorders, anxiety as well as other needs or diagnoses, for example, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, ADHD, ADD, ASC and other difficulties. We can't admit pupils whose primary need is SEMH, pupils with Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)/Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD) profiles and show violence to others. The College site is of an open nature and therefore not suitable for pupils who have a known history of impulsive behaviours, absconding or who may attempt to run away.

Many pupils are referred to the College and funded through local authorities. Our age range is between 8-18 years of age. Some of our pupils will have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Others may be undergoing assessment. Pupils enter our College via two routes: from independent applications, or referred and funded by Local Authorities. No pupil is refused entry on the grounds of race, gender reorientation, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Deciding on the right school for any child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that all prospective pupils and parents/carers or guardians will visit us. We hold a number of open events during the year, which give a general introduction to the College. These are detailed on the College website but we are very happy to welcome prospective parents/carers and their children at other times pending a review of the prospect pupils' paperwork. Visits can be arranged by contacting the College's Admissions Officer, registrar@slindoncollege.co.uk. Please see the Admission Process stages for more detailed information.

Aims

- To ensure pupils are fairly and appropriately admitted to the College community;
- To ensure pupils have a trial/taster period to assess suitability;
- To ensure we only admit pupils who we can fully support to progress and make a positive contribution to their lives;
- To ensure pupils feel safe, integrated and as harmonious as possible within our College community;
- To have a consistent clear approach to admissions thereby ensuring we comply with appropriate regulations.

Admission Profile

There is no standard admission profile for Slindon College; however, we are happy to admit pupils for whom the College can meet their current needs. This may include:

- Dyslexia;
- Dyspraxia;
- Speech, language and social communication difficulties;
- ASC/ASD;
- Pupils who cannot thrive in mainstream education or who are considered vulnerable.

Pupils can only be admitted to Slindon College if the College can meet their current needs. A child who needs a higher level of speech and language and/or occupational therapy than is available would be better suited to a school with a higher level of therapy provision.

Information Required for Admission

Information required by the College prior to admission for all pupils:

- name in full;
- age and date of birth ;
- sex;
- details of parents/guardians or carers and if necessary their relationship to the child;
- emergency contact details of parents, guardians or carers plus one other;
- ethnic background, cultural needs, religious needs/persuasion;
- home address;
- health needs and medical history;
- educational history, needs (boarding or day College), current provision, support received and required including EHCP and/or other professional reports;
- date of admission to Slindon College;
- year group to be entered.

For some pupils:

- risk issues, level of supervision required, establish if there is any history of self-harm/suicide, history of volatile and aggressive behaviour, child protection issues, risks presented by third parties;
- expectations and requirements sought by the placing authority to meet his needs;
- the name, address and telephone number of accountable social worker (if applicable);
- the pupil's legal status.

The information provided will assist the Headteacher and SENCo in their assessment as to whether a College placement is viable and appropriate. The Headteacher will consider whether the College has sufficient staffing in terms of number and experience to manage such an admission both in terms of the individual's needs and respect of the potential impact that the admission may have on existing group dynamics.

Parents/carers or guardians will also be asked to provide the College with any further information which they feel will enable us to provide their child with the best possible education. All of the information collected prior to admission will then be used as the pupil's registration details.

Admission Process

Stage 1 – Contact is usually made to the College by parent/carer or guardian. As much information as possible should be provided at the point of referral to inform a preliminary assessment as to whether the referral is appropriate and as to whether the College is able to meet the needs of the pupil. This is usually done by the Headteacher or SENCo. Although the final decision always rests with the Headteacher.

Stage 2 – Child and parents/carers are offered a tour of the College and informal interviews. Interviews are with the Headteacher or the SENCo. The pupil is encouraged to give their views on the school during the visit and their personal interests are also discussed. The Headteacher or the SENCo will then assess if a trial is to be offered. During interviews, prospective candidates and their parents/carers/guardians are informed of expected standards of behaviour and our Behaviour Management and Exclusion Policy.

Stage 3 – All prospective pupils are required to undertake a trial/taster period prior to any offer of a place being made. This is usually three consecutive days for a day place, and one week (including a Saturday or Sunday) for a boarding place. The College reserves the right to request an extension of the trial period if it is felt necessary. The purpose of the trial period is to assess mutual compatibility both academically and socially. Prior to any trial we require that emergency contact details, medical information and consents are signed and held by the College. All members of staff who have worked with the prospective pupil are asked their opinion on the individuals' suitability.

Stage 4 – If agreed, a place will be offered based on availability and take into consideration the Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Code of Practice for Schools. A date will be agreed for starting and necessary paperwork issued.

Stage 5 – All necessary paperwork will be completed, signed and filed and the registration process will be completed. A final date for admission will be agreed whereupon the pupil will be added to the College attendance register. All new admissions are subject to a one term probationary period which the College reserves the right to end at any time should it be concluded that Slindon College is not a suitable setting for the pupil.

Points of Entry - The usual points of entry are at age 8 for Year 4, age 11 for Year 7, age 13 for Year 9 and age 16 for Year 12. There may be circumstances when pupils are not placed in the chronologically correct year group. This will be discussed and advised on admission. Year 10 pupils may be considered for entry at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Admission of pupils with physical disabilities - The College welcomes pupils with disabilities providing we can offer them the support they require and cater for any additional needs they may have. Admission is also dependent on our site being able to accommodate said needs and requirements. Pupils with physical disabilities in addition to specific learning difficulties are admitted if they meet the criteria for entry. Every effort is made to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 (see SEND Policy and Accessibility Plan). However, pupils have to be sufficiently mobile to manage the stairs, since it is not possible to install a lift. In addition, boarders need to demonstrate their ability to manage their personal care, with age appropriate support.

Contact

Contact with the College regarding admission should be reasonable, justified and appropriate. During the admissions process, should it have been determined the College cannot meet the needs of the pupil, a review of the paperwork will be undertaken if there is new information such as professional reports or an updated EHCP. Repeated attempts made by a parent/carer/guardian to try to make the College re-consider existing paperwork will be considered unreasonable. In such an instance the College will write to the parent/carer/guardian to explain that their behaviour is unreasonable and ask them to change it. Should the behaviour continue it may not be responded to. We do not expect our staff to tolerate unacceptable behaviour and will take action to protect staff from that behaviour.

Religious Beliefs

Slindon College has a broadly Christian foundation; however, we do not admit on the basis of religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for other religions to practice their own faiths and endeavour to support this within our College

community. However, parents/carers/guardians and children should be aware that the College holds regular community worship or assemblies, some of which will take place in a local church.

English as an Additional Language

Our College will make provision for pupils who have English as an additional language (EAL) in the assessment procedure. We do not regard pupils as having a 'learning difficulty' solely because the 'language or medium of communication in the home is different from the language in which he is or will be taught' (Education Act 1996, Section 312(1), (2) and (3)). However, pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) will be provided with appropriate support provided they meet our College admission criteria. Any additional support will be charged separately to our basic fee. Pupils will be assessed for the support that they may need in order to access the curriculum along with all other aspects of life at Slindon College. (Refer to SEND policy for additional information).

Overseas Candidates

We welcome overseas pupils, provided that they have a relative or responsible adult such as a guardian, living in the UK with whom they can stay for some weekends, more details of which are contained in the College's Terms and Conditions. However, parents/carers of overseas pupils should appreciate that we do not run short-term study programmes and we expect overseas pupils to finish a complete course of study such as Years 7-11, Years 9-11, or Years 12 -13.

Additional Needs

When a child who has an EHCP joins the College, we will always consult with parents/carers/guardians and, where appropriate, the Local Authority to ensure that the required curriculum and provision can be offered by the College. We will also co-operate with the Local Authority to ensure that relevant reviews, including the annual review, are carried out. The College will make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of children with an EHCP. Any additional services that are needed to meet the requirements of the EHCP or additional services such as dyslexic tuition will be subject to charge. This will be either directly to the parent/carers/guardians, or the Local Authority if they are responsible for the fees and the College is named in Part 4 of the relevant section of the EHCP. The College has a policy and procedures for children with SEND which takes into consideration the SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (DfE and DoH: January 2015).

Emotional or Behavioural Difficulties

We do not admit pupils whose emotional and/or behavioural needs cannot be supported by the College and may impact on the education of others.

Equal Opportunities

We encourage applications from pupils with a diverse range of backgrounds. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. Bursaries are offered on a means tested basis in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the admission criteria to attend the College. Our provision for bursaries is set out in the Bursary and Scholarship Policy. Slindon College is committed to equal opportunities for all, regardless of a child's disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or social background. As we are a single sex College we do not offer places to girls.

Contractual Terms and Conditions

Parent/carers contract terms and conditions will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

Deletions from the Admissions Register

We are obliged to inform the local authority when a pupil is going to be deleted from the admission register on certain grounds. In summary, these are: when the child has been taken out of College to be home educated; when the family has apparently moved away; when the child has been certified as medically unfit to attend; when the child is in custody for more than four months; when the child has been permanently excluded. In addition to this, we must notify the local authority, within 5 days, when we add or remove a pupil's name from the admissions register at non-standard transitions, i.e. where a compulsory school-aged child leaves the College before completing the College's final year or joins a school after the beginning of the College's first year. Should a pupil have 20 College days unauthorised absence or a non-return within 10 College days after authorised leave of 10 College days or more, and then the College and local authority will jointly make reasonable enquiries as to the pupil's whereabouts.

Complaints About Admissions

The College hopes that we do not have any complaints about our admissions process; but copies of the College's Complaints Procedure are available on our website and can be sent out on request. The Complaints Procedure is not available for use by prospective parents or their agents. With regard to matters of admission, the Headteacher's decision is final.