

**Policy No. 16 Admissions**

**May 2024**

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# **Statement**

The admission of children with Education, Health and Care Plans to schools is a matter for the Local Authority who has statutory responsibility for arranging their provision.

There are admissions criteria for each Kent special school that are applied in order to determine if a particular special school would be a suitable placement. A link to the admissions criteria for Kent special schools can be found below:

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/sen-admission-criteria>

The SEN Assessment and Placement Service fulfils Kent County Council's statutory duties in relation to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), particularly in relation to SEN assessments

The service:

* Monitors the Child and Young Persons progress via annual review within Specialist placements.
* Is responsible for issuing and updating EHC Plans
* Where an EHC Plan is issued it will monitor the progress of the child or young person via annual review
* Where a statutory assessment is conducted it will make a decision as to whether an EHC Plan is issued.
* Makes decisions about whether to conduct a statutory assessment, ensures annual reviews take place.

Since September 2014, the service has been responsible for fulfilling duties arising from the Children and Families Act 2014 and the revised SEND Code of Practice.

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# **Description of the School**

St Anthony’s School is a co-educational secondary school for students with significant Social Emotional, and Mental Health Needs. Many students may, in addition, be diagnosed (or have undiagnosed traits of) Autism, ADHD, OCD, and Anxiety, sensory processing and social communication needs. Prior cognitive assessments place students with low cognitive functioning on entry, with significant attainment gaps. Students are capable of achieving a limited number of GSCEs and are able to engage with, and access, a broad academic curriculum (5 GCSEs or equivalent) with a small number of tailored Vocational Courses on offer at Key Stage 4. Students are taught in class sizes of 9-12 with 1 teacher and 2 LSAs. St Anthony’s works with central class teachers teaching the majority of subjects which supports our pupils social and emotional needs and limits the pupils needs to move classes. We do have 4 subject specialist teachers for PE, Art, Food Technology and Design Technology.

# **School Admission Arrangements**

All students at St Anthony’s School need to have an EHCP in place naming a specialist provision in section I. Students are aged between 7 and 16 on admission; with Primary needs identified being SEMH or Autism.

St Anthony’s School is a designated co-educational provision for 98 students, through annually agreed Local Authority arrangements.

The 2015 SEND Code of Practice defines Social, Emotional and Mental Health as:

*6.32 Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.”* (Department for Education & Department for Health, (2015)

All arrangements for referrals are through Kent County Council SEN Departments. Admission to St Anthony’s School is the responsibility of the Local Authority through consultation with the Headteacher.

The Local Authority refers students whose EHCP identifies needs that meet the School’s Admission Criteria.

What kinds of special educational need does St Anthony’s provide for?

Most of the students attending have medical diagnoses which may include Autistic Spectrum Condition, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or Oppositional Defiance Disorder. In addition, many students have other types of need, including but not limited to:

* Autistic Spectrum Condition
* Speech and Language Needs.
* Attachment Difficulties.
* Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
* OCD
* Anxiety

Most students will join St Anthony’s at natural transition points. However, it is possible that students may join at other times in the school year, as long as their year group is not full and their needs would not be detrimental to the effective education of the other students in the cohort

# **The Admissions Process**

1. The Local Authority Area Special Educational Needs Department will make formal referrals for placement to St Anthony’s School. A named SEN Caseworker will send sets of relevant paperwork (Consultation Documents) to the Headteacher, requesting a response within 15 days of consultation.
2. The Headteacher and Senior Leaders will consider very carefully whether St Anthony’s School is likely to be able to meet the needs of the student, and also assess whether there is space available for them in their year group. SEN will be notified as soon as possible if it is felt that our setting is incompatible with the needs of the child/young person; in order that an appropriate alternative provision can be sought at the earliest opportunity.
3. If the decision is made that the school can potentially meet individual needs, the Headteacher or nominated senior leader will invite the parents/carers into the school for a tour and informal meeting. These meetings will enable the school to fully assess whether St Anthony’s is an appropriate setting to accommodate the specific needs of each student who is referred. They also give parents and carers the opportunity to look at facilities and what can be offered for their son/daughter, and to ascertain whether they also feel that St Anthony’s School is the correct learning environment for their child. If parents/carers and school feel that St Anthony’s is the correct provision the child will be invited for a visit of the school.
4. Senior Leaders will make recommendations based on these visits/meetings, and the Headteacher will make the final decision regarding admission.
5. The Headteacher will notify the Local Authority SEND department to confirm an offer of placement and advise of the start date. Any transitional arrangements will be discussed with parents/carers/settings as appropriate on a case-by-case basis

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