



Admissions Arrangements

Introduction

Priory School is a maintained Community Special School for students aged 11-19 with moderate to severe learning difficulties and/or disabilities as well as students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

All students attending Priory School have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The exception to this is if a student is newly arrived in Croydon, most likely from overseas and has been recommended to attend Priory for a period of assessment, on the expectation that they will be receive an EHCP following such assessment.

Priory School will consider all applications for admission in accordance with national and local policies and will base its decisions solely on the criteria of eligibility, capacity and appropriateness in terms of existing cohort.

Application Process

All admissions to Priory School are through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities team at Croydon Local Authority. Initial expressions of interest can be made directly to the School via the Headteacher.

The School welcomes interest from parents and carers and ensures there are opportunities for parents and carers of prospective students to visit and to attend scheduled Open Events.

Priory will maintain clear and up to date information about the School through its website, prospectus and its Local Offer statement

Priory has strong links with all of its feeder schools and develops effective transitions for new students.

In the event of further referrals being made in for the next academic year than places available, Priory School will prioritise offering places where we are the parental first choice in line with the code of practice. Where the number of parental first choices exceeds the places available, the local authority will make the decision of named students based on their knowledge of the area offer.

Priory School accepts referrals from out of borough places and will allocate in line with legislation, however, where possible, priority will be given to children in Croydon Borough.

In-year applications

If a place becomes available within the academic year, offers will be made according to the vacancy in the class / pathway. This may mean places are not offered despite being suitable for the school but not where the vacancy exists in year. It should be noted that classes are formed in pathway rather than year groups.

Waiting List

Priory School will hold the details of applications who are suitable for a place, but are currently without an existing school placement due to capacity. When places become available, the school will confirm that those already out of school have secured appropriate education before offering to new referrals who are already in education. This is to ensure fairness of placement allocation.

Offers and Appeals

Priory School supports students with a wide range of learning needs but there will be occasions when it realises that the School is not a suitable provision. On such occasions the School will make their reasons clear for not offering a place and will make suggestions to parents and the SEND team as to where might be a suitable alternative.

Reasons for not offering a place will take into account security of the School site in meeting a student's needs, levels of challenge that exceed the School's capabilities and compatibility with the existing cohort.

Parents and Carers who are unable to obtain a place or, conversely, who do not wish their child to attend Priory School, should contact the SEND team at Croydon and enquire about the Appeals process. Priory School will pro-actively engage in all forms of positive mediation to resolve appeal situations before they reach Tribunal stage.

Contact details

London Borough of Croydon
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon
CR0 1EA
Telephone: 020 8686 4433

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions/how-to-apply/faqs/sa-sen>

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