



Admissions Policy

DRAFT



The Dunham Trust's Vision, Aims and Ethos

Together we will
Challenge the ordinary
Promote individuality
Be advocates for change

Across our schools we encourage cross-collaboration and the sharing of best practice. We believe that we are able to help our schools and their young people to aspire to, and achieve, success. We are committed to ensuring that every child and young person has a pathway to succeed and that:

- gives the best possible start in life
- equips them with creativity, spirit and confidence
- enables individuals to appreciate life and equip for further learning
- supports the child in becoming a responsible citizen and contribute to the local community
- celebrates the individual

The Dunham Trust aims to contribute positively to the self-improving school-led system in education across this locality. We believe in true collaboration; working in partnership, investing in people and building capacity for long term, sustainable success. There is both the expectation and opportunity for collaboration across individual Trust schools.

The five schools in The Dunham Trust are:

Acre Hall Primary School
Barton Clough Primary School
Elmridge Primary School
The Orchards
Lime Tree Primary Academy

The Dunham Trust is a growing Trust with very clear educational aims and expectations. One of The Trust's primary aims is to transform the schools within The Trust into sustainable learning communities. We want to create a community of good and outstanding schools with the highest aspirations. The skills and expertise that exist within The Trust will ensure that our academies and young people aspire to, and achieve, success. We achieve this through a well-structured School Improvement Programme which is supported by The Trust's two Teaching Schools.



1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how parents/carers should apply for a place at The Orchards School.
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating pupil placements following consultation.
- Ensure that both the children's and parent's introduction to the school is positive and leads to a partnership which brings success and happiness for our families.

2. Policy

2.1 The Orchards caters for pupils between the ages of 4 and 11 with additional needs. We also have a range of specialist provision for children and young people who may be on the autistic spectrum.

2.2 Each Local Authority is an admitting body and will take the decision to place pupils only after a full consultation with, and agreement of, The Orchards.

2.3 All requests for places MUST be emailed to The Orchards.

2.4 Admission to The Orchards will normally be by way of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) though we may admit a pupil without these if:

- a. The pupil is admitted for the purposes of an assessment of educational needs under Section 323 of the Education act 1996 and admission to the school is with the agreement of the local authority, the Dunham Trust, the pupil's parents/carers and any person whose advice is to be sought in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Education (Special Educational Needs (England) Consolidation) Regulations 2001;
- b. The pupil remains admitted following an assessment under section 323 of the Education act 1996; or
- c. The pupil is admitted following a change in his/her circumstances, with the agreement of the local authority, the Dunham Trust and the child's parents/carers.

2.5 All admissions must satisfy the criteria as follows:

- a. That the child being admitted has a significant degree of learning difficulty/autism
- b. That the learning difficulty or autism presents the main barrier to learning and that there is significant multi-professional evidence to that effect
- c. That the school can meet the requirements as set out in the EHCP.
- d. Teaching and learning strategies for pupils will be decided by The Orchards, in consultation with parents and other professionals.

2.6 Parents/carers may make representations for a placement at The Orchards however The Local Authority responsible for making the EHCP retains responsibility for deciding whether to name The Orchards in the EHCP, based on the individual needs of the child and any representations made by parents. The Local Authority is also required to consult with The Orchards before naming it in a child's EHCP and any proposed EHCP should be sent to The Orchards for consideration. The Orchards will notify the Local Authority in writing if they do not agree to be named in the EHCP within 15 working days of the receipt of a proposed EHCP.

2.7 Once The Orchards is named in a pupil's EHCP, the school is under a statutory duty to admit the child, unless admitting the child would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children

and where no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility. The school must have regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

2.8 The Orchards school will not agree an admission where admitting the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other children. This will apply in individual circumstances, following an assessment by the school of potential impact of admission and it will apply where our agreed and preferred maximum number of pupils in any one class is exceeded.

2.9 If a child without a EHCP has been admitted to The Orchards School for the purpose of assessment The Dunham Trust may allow the child to remain at that school:

- a. Until the expiry of ten school days after the local authority serve a notice under Section 325 of the Education Act 1996 that they do not propose to make a EHCP , or
- b. Until an EHCP is made.

2.10 Where the local authority intend to name The Orchards School in a EHCP, and have served a copy of the EHCP (or amended EHCP) on The Orchards School, the school must respond to the local authority's proposal within 15 working days.

2.11 The school must consent to The Orchards School being named. If the school determines that admitting the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education it must, within 15 days of receipt of the local authority's notice, notify the local authority in writing that it does not agree that The Orchards should be named in the pupil's EHCP. Such notice must set out all the facts and matters the school relies upon in support of its contention that

- a. admitting the child would be incompatible with efficiently educating other children until a EHCP is made.
- b. The Orchards School cannot take reasonable steps to secure this compatibility.

Where a local authority maintains a EHCP for a child under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996 and The Orchards is specified in that EHCP, the school must admit that child even if they consider that The Orchards should not have been named in the child's EHCP. Where The Orchards considers that the school should not have been named in a child's EHCP, they may ask the Secretary of State to determine that the local authority has acted unreasonably in naming the school and to make an order directing the authority to amend the child's EHCP by removing the name of the school.

Where the Secretary of State makes an order to this effect, the school will cease to be under an obligation to admit the child from the date of the Secretary of State's Order, or from such date as must take into account both the welfare of the child in question and the degree of difficulty caused to the school by the child's continued admission.

2.12 Where the Secretary of State determines that a local authority has acted reasonably in naming a school in a child's EHCP, The Orchards must continue to admit the child until the school ceases to be named in the EHCP.

2.13 If a parent or guardian of a child in respect of whom an EHCP is maintained by a local authority appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) either against the naming of the school in the child's EHCP or asking the Tribunal to name the school, the Dunham Trust agrees to be bound by the decision of the Tribunal on any such appeal even if the decision is different to that of the Secretary of State.