

Merrydale Junior School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Admissions

The School Admission Code 2014 sets out the mandatory requirements relating to admission to all maintained schools in England, except maintained special schools.

Academies are required to comply with the Admissions Code and the law relating to admissions under their funding agreements

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Merrydale Junior School is required by SECTION 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the school children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (now an EHC plan) that names the school. Under Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 the school named in the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must admit the pupil. This is not an over subscription criteria. Schools must admit such children regardless of whether there are places available.

Children with EHCP's are not admitted through the admissions arrangements and are placed in schools through the Statutory Assessment and EHCP process with parents being able to request their choice of school.

This means that Merrydale Junior School is required to admit any pupil from the moment that the school is named on the EHC plan. Any specific arrangements to cater for the pupil's needs would be put in place as soon as possible and as a school would not delay admitting the pupil in order to make these arrangements unless it impacted on their safety in school.

However Merrydale Junior School must be consulted before it is named on a pupil's plan. If as a school there are any concerns about accommodating a specific pupil's needs or preparing for his or her transfer to the school, these concerns would be raised during the consultation period.

Children with SEND but no EHC Plan

It is not lawful for an admission authority to refuse admission to a pupil who has SEND but has no EHC Plan on the grounds of the pupil's challenging behaviour (Except in limited circumstances) or because it believes the pupil requires a Statutory Assessment or requires additional support.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, children with disabilities are not to be treated less favourably than other children in the admission process. Merrydale Junior School would therefore make reasonable adjustments to prevent discrimination.

If you believe your child may have SEND or additional needs which may require additional strategies and support, the school would welcome parents and carers to contact us about this so we can work together to ensure your child makes the best progress possible.