

Admissions Criteria

Great Oaks Small School is a small independent school providing a unique education for VI Form students aged 16 – 18 years, with a wide range of abilities who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Social Communication Disorder, with or without high anxieties.

We are a co-educational community, supporting VI form students in gaining qualifications that are appropriate to their individual needs and aspirations.

Our School selects VI Form students based on:

- the necessary GCSE qualifications:
 - to enable study at A level absolute minimum GCSE B grade will be required
 - preceding qualifications must relevant to the subjects e.g. English or mathematics
- having the necessary educational background
 - to enable study to move on to GCSE's following study at Entry level
 - further improve GCSE grades e.g. resits
- a record of meeting coursework deadlines
- evidence of self-discipline (e.g. in attendance, punctuality, engagement and attitude to peers and authority via academic reference from previous or current school)

No student will be admitted with a record of behaviour detrimental to the school community

Internal candidates will take precedence over applicants with the similar profiles to external candidates

Home/school meetings will be held to discuss options and entry requirements

Grounds on which the offer of a place can be withdrawn:

- if the parent fails to respond to an offer of a place within a specified time
- if a place is obtained through a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application.

Great Oaks Small School will ensure that the admission arrangements (including the application process and admissions criteria) do not discriminate on the grounds of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Young people have the right to appeal against refusal of admission to the sixth form

In the case of an appeal where the child did not reach the specified entry requirements, the panel must not make its own assessment of a child's ability, but must decide whether the decision that the child was not of the required standard

was reasonable in light of the information available to it. In doing so, the School will consider whether any process in place considered a case as exceptional circumstances (for example, where a student had not been studying in England and therefore did not have GCSEs) was carried out in a consistent and objective way.

Admission appeal panels will deal with claims of disability discrimination in relation to admissions. However, discrimination claims in relation to the other protected characteristics will be dealt with by the courts. Appeal panels cannot hear disability discrimination claims about admissions arrangements or about terms being placed on a person's admission; these are heard by the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Timescales are dependent upon the type of offer:

- Where the offer of a place would have been conditional upon exam results, appeals must be heard within 30 school days of confirmation of those results
- Where the place would not have been conditional upon exam results, appeals must be heard within 40 school days of the deadline for lodging appeals