



## **The Avenue School Admissions Policy**

July 2025

Approved	July 2025
Review date	July 2026

## **The Avenue: Statement of Provision**

### **Introductory statement**

Our Admission Policy adheres to the DfE's Schools Admissions Code 2021.

The Avenue School is part of The Rise Partnership Trust (RPT).

We seek to provide an outstanding safe, positive, encouraging learning environment within a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. We cater for pupils with Autism and complex learning difficulties.

The Avenue School fosters a culture that is positive, collaborative and which values and respects every member of its community equally. The school builds positive relationships with parents/carers and encourages their full involvement in their child's education.

Our school aims to ensure that pupils have the maximum number of opportunities to participate fully in society, thus enhancing their life chances. Staff support pupils to thrive and help give them the confidence to learn independently.

Our mission is for every child and young person to be successful in their future lives. For this to happen we must champion the unique potential of every pupil. We know that an excellent education underpinned with opportunities to love, learn and laugh is transformative, and we are committed to this motto.

We take into account pupils' varied life experiences and needs, providing equal opportunities for all pupils, whatever their age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender / gender identity or socio-economic background, to ensure that every child really does matter.

We aim to be a centre of excellence for our students, parents/carers, staff, the Local Authority (LA) and the wider community.

The Avenue is an inclusive special school for children who have Autism and additional complex needs. Our educational provision is based upon the principals of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) and uses Verbal Behaviour (VB) teaching methodology.

### **Provision**

The Avenue School is a 104 (PAN) place special school (Reception to Key Stage 4). Pupils at The Avenue will benefit from a highly personalised curriculum that effectively prepares them for adult life. All pupils will be stretched and challenged within our highly positive, safe and happy school environment. Through our approach to teaching, coupled with our high expectations and effective partnership with parents, pupils who have a range of emotional and learning needs will make rapid progress. Whilst there are high levels of adult: pupil ratios, The Avenue does not offer 1:1 support for a pupil unless this is specifically identified on the child's EHCP and appropriate funding made available for this from the placing LA.

The purpose of the curriculum and every interaction with and between pupils, at The Avenue is:

- To ensure that all pupils have an equal right to access all parts of the curriculum at a stage that is relative to their developmental level
- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all pupils
- To use scientifically proven behavioural interventions targeted at clearly defined goals for each individual pupil, ensuring progression, continuity and coherence in learning

- To enable each pupil to become as independent a citizen as possible and to actively promote and increase public understanding of all those interested or involved in education within the school community.

Our curriculum will embrace all areas of academic learning at a level that meets each pupil's EHCP. It will also address the personal, social and health development of each individual as a matter of priority. The curriculum will be underpinned by SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) which will be delivered via activities within formal teaching sessions and via enrichment activities within the personalised programme for each pupil.

## **Admissions to The Avenue**

The Avenue School is a special school which provides 104 places within the age range of 4 to 19 years who have a diagnosis of Autism and additional complex needs.

### **Admission criteria**

The admission process is overseen by The Avenue Head Teacher in liaison with RPT's CEO.

A child is eligible to be offered a special school placement at The Avenue School if they meet the following criteria:

- The child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or is currently undergoing a statutory assessment of their needs under the 1996 Education Act that will result in an EHCP.
- The child presents within the aforementioned pupil profile.
- There is evidence from professionals that the child will benefit from access to a VB, highly modified, personalised curriculum within a special school environment.
- The child's profile is banded at Brent's Band 6 (or above if additional funding is agreed with the placing LA).
- A place is available in an appropriate class group that will offer a suitable peer group to meet the child's personal, social and learning needs.
- The child's parent is in agreement with the idea to place their child within a special school setting

In exceptional cases a child who does not fully meet the criteria may be considered for a placement at The Avenue School. Individual cases will be discussed by the Complex Panel and the Head Teacher in liaison with the Executive Head/CEO.

The school can only admit a child:

- If there is a vacancy in an appropriate class group;
- If the child's needs can be met by the school;
- If the child's needs can be accommodated without adversely affecting the education of the other children in the school;
- If the placing LA agrees to the Band 6 (funding) identified by our Trust

The school will not be able to admit pupils over our number of PAN of 104 except in exceptional circumstances for example where they are at risk of exclusion.

Admission over number can only be agreed with the consent of the CEO in liaison with the Head Teacher and Trust Board. If consent is agreed to place a pupil over number the placing Authority must agree to Band 6 funding and support level requested by The Avenue School.

We can offer places to children and young people who have complex learning difficulties and significant medical need only when Band 6 is agreed with the placing Local Authority.

We can/will only agree to admit a child if their needs can be accommodated without adversely affecting the education of the other children at The Avenue School.

The level of therapy support - speech & language therapy and occupational therapy - is determined on an individual basis and is subject to negotiation with the placing local authority. Any individual physiotherapy requirements will need to be provided for separately by the placing Local Authority. If the therapy input defined in Section F of a pupil's EHCP is increased or significantly changed by a Local Authority without prior agreement from school, the placing Local Authority is responsible for commissioning and delivery.

Individual physiotherapy requirements will need to be provided for separately by the placing LA.

Please note that we always admit pupils into their actual age identified Year group and are unable to offer any pupil a placement that is out of their year grouping i.e. Reception = a child who will have their 5th birthday in that academic year etc.

To ensure fairness to all we only consider admission for pupils who are seeking an admission to the school in the current academic year, for in year admissions, or for September starters in the next academic year in which that September falls.

We are unable to reserve places for future academic years.

**Admission procedure for families:**

- Parents / carers should phone the school office (0208 968 3160) to arrange a school tour. Parents / carers should inform the office which year group their child is currently in and whether they're looking for an "in year" admission;
- If parents / carers would like their home Local Authority to formally consult with The Avenue School, they should speak to the SENCo (current setting) and speak to the relevant SENAS Case Officer.

**Admissions procedure:**

All admissions are co-ordinated via Brent's SENAS team.

For pupils living out of borough, the placing Local Authority should send consultation papers via Brent's SENAS Team.

The Headteacher will review the EHCP and any additional information about the pupil and arrange for a colleague to visit them in setting. Following this, the Headteacher will inform the placing Local Authority about whether or not The Avenue School can meet needs.

If needs can be met, and a space is available, the Headteacher will inform the placing Local Authority of the funding (banding) necessary. This will be done in writing. Once banding agreement is in place, the placing Local Authority will formally inform parents and transition work will commence at an appropriate time.

If needs can't be met, or if a space is not available, the Headteacher will inform the placing Local Authority of this within 15 days.

Please note, The Avenue School does not operate a “waiting list”.

It should be noted that the majority of our vacancies will be at Reception age as vacancies in older age ranges only occur if a child moves.

**Questions or Comments:**

Any questions or comments can be passed on, in writing, to: Penny Doswell (Headteacher) The Avenue School, Christ Church Road, Brondesbury, London, NW6 7BH

Other school policies and further information can be found on The Avenue’s website or by visiting the school site:

- EDI policy
- Complaints procedure
- Safeguarding policy