

Children and young people are admitted to Lincolnshire Special Schools with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), which names the special school.

Before an EHCP is issued, the child or young person will have been formally assessed. After the multi-professional assessment, parents will receive a draft statement describing the child's / young person's special educational needs and the various elements of special educational provision required. Accompanying the draft statement will be a pack of written information including:

- Assessment reports
- Lists of mainstream schools in the area
- List of special schools in the area
- Information on 'expressing a preference'
- Information on the LEA's transport policies for children and young people with special transport needs
- Information on the Parent Partnership Project

Parents will consider the information and are asked to express a preference for a school. In most cases, the LEA will comply with the parent's preference and that school will be named on the statement. When considering a parent's preference, the LEA will need to be sure that the school named by parents can meet the pupil's special educational needs and the placement is consistent with the provision of suitable education to other children and young people already at the school. The LEA also needs to be sure that the placement is compatible with the efficient use of available resources.

Before reaching its final decision on admission to a special school, the LEA will consult with the Executive Headteacher of the special school to ensure that all needs can be met.

The Executive Headteacher shall base their decision to recommend a placement on whether he/she feels the school can successfully meet the individual's needs without jeopardising the needs of others already on roll. He/She shall base this decision on three factors:

- Paperwork provided by Additional Needs
- Initial assessment of pupil in school
- Home assessment.

The Executive Headteacher will make available for the scrutiny of the Chair of Governors all information relating to any proposed admission. After the decision has been made to admit a child or young person to the Priory or Garth School every effort will be made to support the prospective pupil through the initial stages of the placement, staying in close contact with the parents / carers so that concerns or problems can be ironed out without unnecessary formality.

In addition:

All pupils will be admitted to either The Garth or Priory Schools in accordance to Annex 1 to the Supplemental Funding Agreement as follows:

1. Except where paragraph 2 applies, CIT may not admit a child to the school unless an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) is maintained for that child and the Academy is named in the child's EHCP

2. CIT may admit a child without a EHCP to Garth or Priory if:

(i) he/she is admitted for the purposes of an assessment of his educational needs under section 323 of the Education Act 1996 and his/her admission to the Academy is with the agreement of the local authority, CIT, the

child's parent and any person whose advice is to be sought in accordance with regulation 7 of the Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001;

(ii) he/she remains admitted following an assessment under section 323 of the Education Act 1996; or

(iii) he/she is admitted following a change in his circumstances, with the agreement of the local authority, CIT and the child's parents.

3. If a child without a EHCP has been admitted to Garth or Priory for the purpose of an assessment, in accordance with paragraph 3(i), CIT may allow the child to remain at that Academy:

(i) 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

(ii) until a EHCP is made.

4. Where the local authority intend to name Garth or Priory in an EHCP, and have served a copy of the proposed EHCP (or amended EHCP) to the Academy, CIT must respond to the local authority's proposal within 15 days.

5. The Academy must consent to being named, except where admitting the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other children; and where no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility. In deciding whether a child's inclusion would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children, the Academy must have regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State to maintained schools.

6. If CIT 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 Academy should be named in the pupil's EHCP. Such notice must set out all the facts and matters the Academy relies upon in support of its contention that: (a) admitting the child would be incompatible with efficiently educating other children; and (b) CIT cannot take reasonable steps to secure this compatibility.

7. Where a local authority maintains an EHCP for a child under section 324 of the Education Act 1996 and the name of the Academy is specified in that EHCP, CIT must admit that child to the Academy even if they consider that the Academy should not have been named in the child's EHCP.

8. Where CIT considers that the Academy 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 Academy and to make an order directing the authority to amend the child's EHCP by removing the name of the Academy. Where the Secretary of State makes an order to this effect, CIT 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 the Secretary of State specifies. In specifying a date, the Secretary of State must take into account both the welfare of the child in question and the degree of difficulty caused to the Academy by the child's continued admission.

9. Where the Secretary of State determines that a local authority has acted reasonably in naming the Academy in a child's EHCP, CIT must continue to admit the child until the Academy ceases to be named in the EHCP.
THE FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY)

10. If a parent or guardian of a child in respect of whom a EHCP is maintained by a local authority appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) either against the naming of the Academy in the child's EHCP or asking the Tribunal to name the Academy, CIT 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 under paragraph 9 or 10 above.

11. Where the Academy, the Secretary of State or the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) have determined that it should be named in a child's EHCP, CIT must admit the child to the Academy notwithstanding any provision of this policy.