

# Admissions Policy

## Pace Provision

The PACE Centre (Pace) is a registered Independent Special School for children with special educational needs relating to a motor disorder, aged 0-16 years of age. Pace is also a registered charity.

Pace School Services deliver a carefully planned and highly personalised specialist integrated curriculum which incorporates academic, motor, sensory, communication and independence skills learning (See curriculum statement, teaching and learning policy and planning and assessment policy.) The Early Years Foundation Stage and a full academic curriculum are taught from the Early Years to the end of Key Stage Four. The curriculum and therapy input is delivered by a specialist team of teachers and paediatric therapists. Health care is provided by two onsite paediatric nurses via an NHS contract.

Full time and part time provision is available within school services.

The range and severity of the educational needs of children at Pace varies, from those who require intensive work on basic foundation skills such as looking and listening to those who are working age-appropriately, but who would benefit from fine-tuning of independent mobility and functional living skills.

We are open 38 weeks per year, term time only broadly in line with Buckinghamshire County Council's published term dates. Our term dates are available on our website:

<https://thepacecentre.org/pace-school/policies-information/>

Children attend school at the following times: 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday – Friday.

### **Criteria for Admission to Pace School Services (ages 3–16)**

Our integrated educational programmes are highly specialised and appropriate for those with:

- ◆ *Cerebral palsy or motor disorder including a range of associated problems, e.g. sensory, perceptual, auditory, visual*
- ◆ *Head injuries*
- ◆ *Genetic disorders resulting in some motor impairment*

The specific nature of our programmes means that we do not normally accept children who have the following conditions:

- ◆ *Learning difficulties but no motor disorder*
- ◆ *Behavioural problems but no motor disorder*
- ◆ *Autistic Spectrum Disorders with no motor disorder*
- ◆ *Rapidly progressive degenerative disorder*

**N.B. Younger children who are admitted to our early years provision may not yet have a diagnosis, but may have developmental delay.**

### **Admissions procedure**

Following initial enquiry or referral, an admissions assessment will be arranged with the family and will be carried out by Pace's team of specialist teachers and therapists.

If the admissions assessment team believe that the child's needs can be met at Pace, and a place is available, parents (and placing local education authority, if applicable), will be informed that a provisional place can be offered either for a Nursery place within the Early Years Provision, or within school services (Reception – KS4).

If the child's place at Pace is not yet confirmed as funded by the local authority, the funding arrangements and process will be explained to the parents at this assessment stage.

### **Transition from nursery into school provision**

Most Local Education Authorities (LEAs) review school placement at the end of Nursery as a child is entering Reception at statutory school age.

**It is important to highlight that school placement does not automatically follow a nursery placement** for the following reasons:

1. The EHCP process often results in a LEA initially placing a child for nursery and then reviewing this placement when the child approaches school age.
2. Children's needs can change rapidly, and so a separate Pace admissions assessment may be required to assess suitability of placement from reception onwards.

Further information about admissions can be found on the Pace Website or by phoning the administrator:

School Services 01296 392739

### **Policy for Pupils of School Age Whose Place at Pace is Unfunded by their Local Education Authority (LEA)**

#### **Prior to Statutory Assessment**

PACE will provide access to initial independent legal guidance and support for all parents whose child is going through the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment process. Following this initial advice, parents will be informed about the options for ongoing advice and advocacy services from the provider.

Families are free to opt for alternative legal advice at their own expense, or to deal directly with their local education authority and advisory services (SENDIAS).

The trustees acknowledge that application for statutory funding and the EHCP process can take some time to complete and that appeals are sometimes necessary. Therefore, during this period, whilst Local Authority funding is not available, and if an appeal is unsuccessful, parents will be asked to self-fund their child's place at a rate equivalent to the LEA fee, currently between £53,061 – £63,098 for a full-time place or pro-rata for a part-time place. The level of charge is based on the degree of complexity of the child's needs

**Please note that these charges are subsidised by Pace and that the true cost of our specialist provision is substantially higher than the fees charged.**

Our Fundraising and Finance Teams are able to advise parents who are self-funding about sources of charitable funding that might be available through trusts and grant making organisations and on methods of staged payments.

**Pace welcomes applications from families wishing to place their child privately without going through the statutory assessment process. Fees for privately funded children are available on request.**

**Date: October 2021**

**Review Date: October 2022**

**To be reviewed by: Headteacher/Chief Executive**

