Pace Provision

The Pace Centre (Pace) is a registered Independent Special School for children with special educational needs relating to a motor disorder, aged 3-16 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 broad academic curriculum are taught within our 9-part integrated curriculum from the Early Years to the end of Key Stage Four (See curriculum statement). The curriculum and therapy input is delivered by a specialist transdisciplinary 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/school-hub/

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

Pace's staffing, facilities and therapeutic provision are planned to support its registered capacity safely and sustainably.

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 disorders including a range of associated problems, e.g., sensory, perceptual, auditory, visual*
- *Brain/head injuries*
- *Genetic disorders resulting in some motor impairment*

The specific nature of our programmes means that we do not usually 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.

Capacity and Placement Planning

Pace manages admissions with regard to its registered pupil capacity, currently set at 42 pupils (49 subject to DfE approval). All admissions decisions consider the safe and appropriate use of available classroom, therapy and hygiene facilities, as well as clinical and staffing resources.

Class grouping is reviewed annually and is based on the complexity of pupils' physical, medical and therapeutic needs, manual-handling requirements, sensory needs, learning profiles and peer group. The size and composition of each class group is determined to ensure continued compliance with the Independent School Standards and to maintain the school's established staffing ratio of 1:1 plus one or two additional support staff depending on group needs.

Each prospective pupil undergoes an individual multidisciplinary assessment, including risk assessment, to confirm that their needs can be safely met within the school's resources, environment and staffing structure. Admission is only confirmed where it is determined that Pace can meet the pupil's educational, therapeutic and medical needs safely and sustainably within the registered capacity.

Admissions procedure

Following initial enquiry or referral, a tour may be offered based on the Pace admissions criteria. Following the tour, and as long as the young person meets Pace admissions criteria, an admissions visit will be arranged with the family. During this visit, one or more senior Pace staff will meet and assess the young person's suitability for a Pace school placement and consider whether a placement at Pace school will meet their needs as per their EHCP. A report is not generated from this visit.

If the outcome of the admissions visit is 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 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 stage.

Transition from nursery into school provision

Most Local Education Authorities (LEA's) 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 Education Health Care Plan (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 Early Years onwards.

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

School Services 01296 614287

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 2026**

Review Date: **October 2027**

To be reviewed by: **Headteacher**