



Inspire Academy

Admissions Policy

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1. Aims

- 1.1 Inspire Academy is an Independent Special School that is a specialist in working with young people who are at risk of exclusion from school and/or have Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties (SEMH). The provision is predominantly for pupils who attend a school in Excel Learning Trust (ELT). The admission procedure is controlled and administered by the Head of School and Director of SEND and Safeguarding for the Trust.
- 1.2 Schools who are not within ELT can apply for a placement through the Local Authority. Inspire Academy has a maximum admissions number of 40 pupils in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Each class has 1 teacher or HLTA with the support of 1 teaching assistant. Currently there is a Key Stage 3 class, year 10 and year 11 class.

2. How to Apply

- 2.1 Where schools feel that they are unable to meet the needs of a pupil and they are missing out on a quality education, a referral to Inspire could be explored. Pupils who are at risk of being excluded, have SEMH needs or other SEN can be referred. Where a school feels that a pupil meets this criteria and all other interventions have been tried and failed, (providing evidence of this), then the following procedure should be followed:
1. School's must complete an Inspire Academy referral form that will provide further information on a pupil's attendance, progress, assessments and intervention impact in their primary need, behaviour, attitude to learning, personal strengths and areas for development, pupil and families opinions, thoughts and ambitions.
 2. Schools will receive confirmation of receipt and any outstanding or further information may be requested at this time by Inspire. The referral will either be accepted or denied. Should any referral be denied, the commissioning school will be contacted immediately.
 3. Following acceptance of a referral, the pupil, family and commissioning school representative will be invited for a meeting and a tour of Inspire Academy. During the meeting the following agenda will be followed:
 - a. What Inspire will offer the pupil. Both personal and academic outcomes will be discussed.
 - b. Inspire curriculum – outline of the curriculum, core and vocational subjects on offer.
 - c. Structure of the day and week – how Inspire will fit into the commissioning school's overall weekly timetable and how the day will be planned and delivered.
 - d. Pupil opinion – how they feel, what they want and how they are going to achieve their objectives. Any potential barriers to learning to be discussed.
 - e. Family views. Families will give their opinion, aims and objectives.
 - f. Inspire values and expectations.

- g. Rules and procedures that enable pupils to succeed and make progress in all areas. Behaviour & relationships policy (inc bullying), attendance, mobile phone & searching, screening & confiscation.
 - h. Pupil and family to meet any key staff that the pupil may work with.
- 4. If the referral is accepted and the induction meeting has been successful then the pupil, family and host school will be given a start date.
 - 5. As an Independent Special School, we understand that situations and individual circumstances surrounding often complex and challenging cases will change. We are adaptable and will work with all parties to provide a safe and supportive environment where young people can flourish and make progress in line with their mainstream counterparts.
 - 6. Pupils from school years 7-11 will be accepted for referral into Inspire. When admission numbers have reached a maximum of 40 then we will operate a waiting list. We will work closely with the York Secondary Heads and Fair Access process to provide as many pupil places as possible, with Trust schools taking priority. No pupil will come onto the roll of Inspire Academy and will remain on their original school roll until the end of their placement.

3. Allocation of Places

3.1 Admission number

The school has an agreed admission number of a maximum of 40 pupils per day for entry in Y7-11 for 2025-26.

3.2 Place Funding

Place funding arrangements will always be a preferred option for Inspire and commissioning schools who offer place funding will always be given priority over other schools. Place funding allows Inspire Academy to budget manage and plan provision and staffing effectively, allowing for a greater level of services provided. This model also allows the school security and flexibility to plan their own provision effectively, knowing they have a place(s) secured. Schools can commission places and fill those places however they see fit with different pupils if necessary. All place funding agreements will be discussed with each individual school. All schools must agree to the Terms and Conditions of Business.

3.3 Oversubscription Criteria

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be held on a waiting list and individual schools will be kept updated on their referrals case by case.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the Board of Trustees.