

POST-19 ADMISSIONS POLICY

BeyondAutism Post-19 Admissions Policy

Policy Overview

BeyondAutism is a charity dedicated to empowering people with autism to lead fuller lives through positive educational experiences, training for people who work with them and support for their families and carers. BeyondAutism Post-19 is a DfE registered post-16 special institution: [DfE:205/7900].

We believe young people with autism should:

- Have a voice
- Be involved in decision making
- Be able to contribute to society as active citizens

1. All learners will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) maintained by their local authority.

(All statutory references below are to the Children and Families Act 2014.)

1.1 As part of the EHCP the student/parents/carers will have the right to request the Local Authority that maintains the Plan to name the provision of their choice (s.38 (2) (b) (ii)). The local authority will be required to consult with the proprietor of BeyondAutism (s.39 (2)) and to determine if the proposed placement is:

1. suitable for the particular needs of the named adulted (s.39(4)(a));
2. incompatible with the efficient education of other students (s.39(4)(b)(i)) and
3. an efficient use of resources (s.39(4)(b)(ii)).

1.2 We may also accept applications from privately funded sources, in exceptional circumstances and only with trustee approval, where these are supported by an institution or employer (e.g. foreign embassy). These will be considered on a case by case basis and state-funded students will be offered a place as a priority.

1.3 The service focuses primarily on developing student's functional communication and language acquisition and the four areas of preparation for adulthood:

- Health & Wellbeing;
- Independent Living;
- Community & Living;
- Training & Employment.
- Functional literacy and numeracy are embedded through our student's programmes.

1.4 Each student will have an 'ideal week' reflective of their outcomes, aspirations and interests. Each student will spend approximately 50% of their week in the community, learning new skills and generalising others.

1.5 Our teaching approach is underpinned by the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Verbal Behaviour (VB).

1.6 BeyondAutism Post-19 is a community-based provision and we have developed relationships with local authorities across London. BeyondAutism Post-19 complies with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

1.7 BeyondAutism Post-19 operate two Hubs. The Hammersmith Hub is located at 214-216 Goldhawk Road, London, W12 9NX. The Wandsworth Hub is located at 14 Enterprise Way, London, SW18 1FZ. However, the service does operate out of other locations as required.

Admissions Criteria

2.1 BeyondAutism Post-19 will admit students aged 19 to 25 with a primary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and who also have associated learning difficulties and where BeyondAutism Post-19 is named in the student's EHCP.

2.2 Each student has an individual, personalised programme of study which works towards the outcomes described in the EHCP. Students attend BeyondAutism Post-19 5 days per week (30 hours per week) for 38 weeks per academic year. Term dates are published in advance and approved by the Post-19 Advisory Board.

2.3 In most cases, admission will be at the start of an academic year. However, admission is accepted throughout the year.

2.4 Places are commissioned by the local authority in which the student resides and in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

2.5 Each application is considered on an individual basis. In each case, our admission process evaluates the needs of the individual young person and determines whether the service can meet their needs, as set out in 1.1

Additionally, the following will also be considered:

- The views of the student and their preference of a named educational placement.
- The needs of the student will be assessed to take into account the cohort and environment to enable the efficient education of others with whom they would directly come into contact with on a regular basis.

- The service may need to provide additional support for a student to facilitate the safety of staff and other students. The additional support would be determined by assessment with the cost of the placement adjusted accordingly.

2.6 For a September placement, the service reserves the right to delay the commencement of the place until after the start of the academic year, should the local authority name BeyondAutism Post-19 on an EHCP or confirm funding of the place after the 31 March in any given year.

Admissions Process

3.1 The student, parent or carer should complete the initial application form and send this to: Admissions@beyondautism.org.uk

3.2 A copy of the student's most recent EHCP should be submitted with the application.

3.3 It is recommended that the potential student, parent / carer should visit the main Post-19 Hub before making an initial application.

3.4 Following the initial application, Post-19 staff will complete an informal assessment of the potential student in their current setting. At this point BeyondAutism staff will indicate if needs can be met and the application should continue.

3.5 The student, parent/carer should request an annual review in their current setting. For September placements, this should ideally occur in the Autumn Term of the current academic year. During the annual review, BeyondAutism Post-19 should be requested as the preferred placement.

3.6 Following the annual review, the local authority should issue BeyondAutism Post-19 with consultation papers. BeyondAutism Post-19 will respond to consultation papers within 15 days as required.

3.6 More information regarding the admissions process can be found in appendix 1: Post-19 Info Sheets

3.7 The distance and time from the BeyondAutism Post-19 Hub and the student's home will be considered during the admissions process. It is the expectation that staff and the student will work in the student's home community, and ensuring this can be done appropriately and safely will be considered.

3.8 The Head of Post-19, with recommendations from the Admissions Panel will make the final decision in offering a place at BeyondAutism Post-19.

3.9 After admission, students are provided with a 6-week assessment period. This may require the student to attend the Hub on a daily basis for this assessment to take place. This process allows for risk assessments, care plans and learning programmes to be finalised and shared with students, parents/carers.

3.10 For new students, BeyondAutism Post-19 may arrange a transition phase to facilitate a smooth and successful transition to the service.

Date written: September 2018

Date reviewed: October 2019

Date of next review: October 2020

Review group: Advisory Board