ADMISSIONS POLICY

Reviewed By: Mr Dan Blundred (Headteacher)

Review Date: Summer 2025

Approved by The Axis Academy Support and Scrutiny Board (LSSB): Summer 2025

Date for Policy review: Summer 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Axis Academy is a specialist school for pupils aged 4 – 18 with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and difficulties. It brings together the vision of The Yes Trust with that of Cheshire East Local Authority, aiming to provide an excellent specialist school for students with SEMH, including those with neurodivergent needs.

Pupils who attend The Axis Academy have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), requiring adherence to the admission arrangements specified within the SEND Code of Practise.

1. AIMS

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way. This policy aims to:

- Explain **how to apply** for a place at the Academy
- Set out the academies **arrangements for allocating places to learners** who apply
- Explain **how to appeal** against a decision not to offer your child a place

Legislation & Statutory Requirements:

This policy is based on the following advice from the Department for Education (DfE):

- SEND Code of Practise
- School Admissions Code 2021
- School Admission Appeals Code 2022

As an Academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

2. OFFER

We offer bespoke education places to students who fall within the terms of current approval for a place within the school. This is currently when a pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), identifying a need for a specialist provision, and has a Social, Emotional, Mental Health need or diagnosis. Our pupil admission number (PAN) is 68.

3. HOW TO APPLY

Consultation with parents and schools before naming a school :

- Before specifying the name of a particular school in an Education Health and Care Plan, the Local Authority (LA) will consult with the parents of the child concerned and may also consult with the school on an informal basis.
- Where the parent has a preference, the LA will name the school, unless:
    - The school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability or aptitude or to his or her special educational needs; or

- The attendance of the child at the school would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom he or she would be educated.
- The LA will give due consideration to the views expressed by those consulted but the final decision lies with the LA. Once a school has been named in an Education Health and Care Plan, that school has a statutory duty to admit the child.
- When considering admission, the Headteacher, or those with delegated responsibilities will meet the child, ask parents to visit the school if they have not already done so, will review their needs with due consideration of the provision required, including the curriculum offer and the accreditation pathway available (if relevant) ensuring that there is a progression route for each pupil.

Legal processes:

Note. If a pupil is refused admission then the LA could complain to the Secretary of State that the governing body have failed to meet its statutory duty. However, if the school governors felt that there were strong grounds for not admitting, they could complain to the Secretary of State that the LA had acted unreasonably.

As part of its consideration the LA will consider the grounds listed above. In so doing it will be mindful of:

- the terms of the approval noted by The Axis Academy during the formal consultation process,
- the number in the particular year or teaching group and classroom arrangements in the school.

Appeals:

If your child's application for a place at the school is unsuccessful, you will be informed why admission was refused and given information about the process for hearing appeals. If you wish to appeal, you must set out the grounds for your appeal in writing and send it to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team. This will happen via the Local Authority SEND team.

All Students attending The Axis Academy must have an EHCP (or equivalent Applications for admission are made via the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team on behalf of the Local Authority. The school is not able to agree an admission unless the school has been consulted by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team.

Admission Arrangements:

Once a place has been agreed, the following operational arrangements will be made:

- SEN Transport team will organise transport, if required, and the pupil is eligible for it.
- School Office staff will arrange for a welcome/admission pack to be given to parents/carers.
- A start date will be proposed, and transition/taster sessions will be arranged.
- A pre-admission meeting will be held
- Parents, School and the multi-disciplinary team will liaise, to ensure appropriate plans are in place to ensure the Health & Safety of a child. If a child's needs are such that specialist training or equipment are required this can delay admission. Occasionally pupils require specifically trained and appointed staff. Recruitment to such a post

can also delay admission. In some circumstances it is mutually beneficial to have a phased transition into school. This will be considered at the pre-admissions meeting.

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES

The Academy has an agreed admission number of 68.

5. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

In the event that the school receives more applications than the number of places it has available, places will be given to those children who meet any of the criteria set out below, in order until all places are filled.

1. Highest priority will be given to looked after children and all previously looked after children who apply for a place at the school.

2. Priority will next be given to children on the basis of social or medical need. The school defines social and medical need as those students at risk in their social context as identified by professional bodies, and students whom are heavily involved with CAMHS for mental health support. The school requires further evidence from these professional bodies as supporting evidence if you are making an application on the basis of social or medical need.

3. Priority will next be given to children who attended one of the other trusts alternative provision, or other specialist provisions.

6. IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS

The Local Authority can enquire about a place for your child at any time outside the normal admissions round.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the YES Trust board.

Whenever changes to admission arrangements are proposed (except where the change is an increase to the agreed admission number), the Trust board will publicly consult on these changes.