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# Admissions Policy

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Reviewed	March 2012
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## **Northgate School Arts College Academy Trust** **Admissions Policy**

Northgate School Arts College (Academy Trust) is a school for pupils between the ages of 11 and 18 years with moderate or severe learning disabilities (MLD or SLD), alongside physical handicap (PH), sensory impairment (HI and VI) and autistic spectrum disorders (ASD). The school admits any pupil where it is named in the Local Authorities (LA) Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and is specifically organised and resourced to meet those needs.

The Academy Trust, working with Northamptonshire LA, has developed a specification outlining the needs of the pupils for which they are best able to provide, a description of the provision and its particular characteristics, the support that is in place and the structure of the school day.

Prior to naming the school in an EHCP, the LA will have consulted fully with the Executive Head Teacher in line with their statutory obligations and set out in accordance with the 'SEN and Disability Code of Practice', to ensure the placement is appropriate to the needs of the child.

### **Criteria and Arrangements**

Pupils will normally join Northgate School Arts College at the start of the school year in Year 7 but can access places at other times of year.

Pupils joining The Bee Hive would normally start at the beginning of Year 12 (aged 16 years) but can by arrangement join at other times.

The Northgate School Arts College and The Bee Hive PAN (Published Admission Number) is currently 200.

Prospective pupils will be referred to the school by the LA SEND team following the Education, Health Care Plan (20 week process) or following an EHC Plan review as part of the transition to secondary education.

### **Access prior to entry**

- The LA commissioner will visit the school at least annually to review the commissioned provision. The commissioning LA will consult the Executive Head Teacher before naming the school in an EHCP and will determine placement following consultation with the school.
- Professionals wishing to visit the school should make contact with the school.
- A visit by the child and parents/carers would also be considered appropriate. Parents/carers should contact the school.

### **Referral to the school**

Children will be admitted:

- Permanently, when an EHCP names the school..

Places will not be offered to independent applicants.

- Parents wishing their child to be placed at the school should contact their LA in the first instance.
- Placement at the school will be by the school being named in an EHCP by a LA. Before the plan is finalised the LA will consult the school through the Executive Head Teacher, acting on behalf of the Academy Trust and Governing Body.
- The Executive Head Teacher will use the information within the EHCP and attached papers to consider the suitability of the child for placement at the school taking account of the factors below and will inform the LA SEND team within 15 days of receipt of the referral.

Relevant factors are whether:

- The school can meet the child's special educational need and disability.
- The child's placement is compatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom the child would be educated.
- The placement is an efficient use of resources.

### **Appeal arrangements**

The SEN Code of Practice entitles parents to appeal the decision of the LA to the 'First Tier Tribunal (Special Needs and Disability)' should a placement not be made available.

### **Funding of Places**

The Department for Education directly funds the initial placement costs for a pupil. Additional funding comes from the LA and is negotiated when a placement is commissioned.

### **Access/Travel**

Transport is usually provided and funded by the pupil's LA for eligible pupils. (See NCC website for eligibility criteria.)