

Mapledown School



Working and Learning Together

Admissions Criteria

Name of School	Mapledown School
This policy was reviewed on	10 th November 2020 September 2021 September 2022 September 2023 September 2024
The policy is to be reviewed annually in	September 2025

Mapledown is a Secondary School maintained by the London Borough of Barnet. We educate young people with severe and complex learning difficulties. Many of the students have additional needs including emotional regulation difficulties, autism and profound and multiple learning difficulties, which include sensory, physical, medical, social and emotional needs.

The school is divided into learning zones, which are further organised into classes catering for KS3 or KS4/5 students. We have two satellite provisions co-located on Cophall and Whitefield Secondary school sites.

On our main site, we currently have eleven classrooms and cater for up to 90 students. Our class groups are organised on the basis of identified needs, i.e. SLD (Zone One) ASC (Zone Two) , PMLD (Zone Three). There are usually 8 to 9 students in each class, but numbers can vary slightly according to individual needs. Each class is taught by a teacher and four to five teaching assistants.

Our @Whitefield satellite provision caters for up to 16 students. One cohort is part of Learning Zone Two and forms a class of learners with a diagnosis of Autism (KS5). The other cohort is part of Learning Zone One (KS5). In our @Cophall site (Learning Zone Four), we have two classrooms, catering for up to 16 learners who either have transferred into KS3 from primary schools and are able to engage in subject specific learning with fewer adjustments (their sensory processing or emotional regulation needs can be addressed without the extensive resources found on our main site), or KS4/5 students who have transferred from our main site, and who would benefit from accessing a less specialised setting, additional opportunities to engage in work related learning, and access the local community more functionally.

Admissions are managed by the London Borough of Barnet. Students must have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Referrals

- All students are placed via the special educational needs department of the Local Authority (Barnet SEN – 020 8359 7007).
- Transition from Oakleigh or Northway Schools
- Fixed Term assessment places upon request from Barnet SEN

Any placement will have been the decision of the Local Authority in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Application for places can be made from other boroughs providing that they do not jeopardise places for Barnet residents.

The provision for each student is considered every year at the Annual Review of their Education Health and Care Plan.

The admissions criteria for the school has been approved by the Governing Body of Mapledown and agreed with the Local Authority. They will be reviewed annually.

Cognition and Learning

The overriding needs of the students at Mapledown will be centred on their cognition and learning. Students will be working well below age related expectations. A small number of students may be working at pre-key stage 1 or 2 standards.

Communication and Interaction

All students attending Mapledown have significant communication needs which may be both diverse and complex. Pupils may need help and support in acquiring basic language, communication and literacy skills; using augmented and alternative means of communication, such as Touch Cues, Objects of Reference, PECS, Symbols, Makaton, PODD, and using a range of assistive technology. Communication is at the core of all learning; interacting, expressing likes and dislikes, learning to attract attention and to request are skills that are embedded in learning and practised throughout the day.

Sensory and/or Physical Development

Students experience a wide spectrum of sensory, multi-sensory and physical difficulties. Sensory difficulties range from profound and permanent hearing impairment and/or visual impairment; some students will have multi-sensory impairments and/or progressively degenerative conditions associated with deteriorating abilities and a poor long-term prognosis. Specialist support from LA advisory services for children with the above needs will be necessary.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Development

Some pupils may exhibit behaviour that may challenge their access to the service. There are also those pupils whose own needs are exceptional or who could prevent others from accessing the service or compromise the safety of others or themselves. For such students, additional human resources will be necessary.

Medical

Pupils may have recognised medical conditions.

The school has access to a specialist nurse practitioner who is based at Mapledown.

Some pupils may have medical needs that compromise their personal safety in school. Additional staffing may be necessary to support them.

We offer:

- Access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, which is differentiated and tailored to the needs of the pupils
- Small class groups – currently between six and ten pupils
- High staff/pupil ratios
- Assessment placement as described
- A Full time Specialist Nurse Practitioner and a Healthcare assistant
- Some opportunities for inclusive practice with mainstream peers, if and when appropriate
- Qualified support in Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy
- Music Therapists who work with specific students or groups
- Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired specialist visiting professionals
- Specialist resources, equipment e.g. hydrotherapy pool, sensory room etc.
- Specialist teaching methodologies as appropriate e.g. MOVE, TEACCH
- Augmentative methods of communication e.g. Makaton, PECS, PODD

Factors determining whether placement is appropriate

When assessing appropriateness of placement, the following is noted:

- Cognitive ability

- Additional needs
- Compatibility with needs and aptitude of other pupils
- Effective and efficient use of resources e.g. staff expertise, space, class numbers, can the school meet the pupils needs and staffing ratios, health and safety regulations.

Working with parents

We believe that parents and school must work together in partnership to ensure that students' needs are met. Our philosophy is that parents know their children best, while we can offer expertise in the education of their child.

Opportunities for working with parents are available throughout their child's life at Mapledown. These begin with the Starting School process and continue with Coffee Mornings, workshops, Annual Reviews, support in classrooms etc.

This Policy will be reviewed annually.