

Admission Arrangements for Ambitious College

It is essential to make the right choice when looking for a Further Education college that supports and safeguards young people with complex autism.

There are a number of important factors to consider including the content of the curriculum, the level of independence training, the safety of the environment as well as a clear focus on providing high quality person centred approaches. The College provides specialist support to enable young people with complex autism to access further education in their local community. The aim of Ambitious College is to enable young people with autism to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to make a successful transition to adulthood and to live, work and contribute as part of their community.

Who is Ambitious College suitable for?

Ambitious College is a specialist further education day college for learners with complex autism, aged 16-25 years. Ambitious College has a campus in North London, co-located with CONEL college Tottenham in the Borough of Haringey, and a campus in West London, co-located with West Thames college Isleworth in the Borough of Hounslow. The College admits young people who require specialist provision, but who may proceed to different levels of inclusion in mainstream further education.

Ambitious College can admit learners where the College is named on the Local Authority Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), however, in consultation with the Local Authority, we can also provide places for learners who do not have these documents.

Can learners start at any time of the year?

Places are usually taken up at the start of the academic year but can be accessed at any time of the year by arrangement with the Principal.

What is the admission process?

If a parent/carer makes a referral

- Parents / carers are welcome to attend our Open Days. These are advertised on our website.
- At the open day participants will be given information to take away to support them make an informed decision about the next step.
- If an application is to be pursued parents/carers ring our Admissions Team and confirm they would like to proceed with an application.
- Parents are sent two sets of forms to complete and return. They are also sent guidance on completing the forms. Parents and carers are also encouraged to submit any further supporting documentation e.g. Occupational Therapy assessments, Speech and Language Therapy assessments, Annual Review reports.
- At this point parents/carers should advise their Local Authority that they are considering Ambitious College.
- Appointments are made to visit the young person in their current educational establishment and, if possible, in their home setting.
- The observation data is compiled into a single document.
- A decision is made as to whether the College can meet need at the Admissions Panel. This is held every Wednesday morning.
- Parents/carers are informed of the decision via the Admissions Officer. Placements are conditional until funding has been approved.

If the Local Authority makes a referral

- Representatives from the Local Authority are welcome to attend our Open Days. They are advertised on our website.
- Normally the Local Authority would formally write to the college principal advising of a formal consultation to name Ambitious College on an Education, Health and Care Plan
- The College has a legal deadline to respond to consultations within 15 days (including weekends).
- Appointments are made to visit the young person in their current educational establishment and, if possible, in their home setting.
- The observation data is compiled into a single document.
- A decision is made as to whether the College can meet need at the Admissions Panel. This is held every Wednesday morning.
- Local Authorities are informed of the decision via the Admissions Officer. Placements are conditional until funding has been approved.

What factors do the College take into account?

To make sure that Ambitious College can meet the young person's needs, we take into account whether;

- The College is suitable for the young person's age, ability, aptitude and Special Educational Needs.
- Parents/carers have expressed a preference for the college (or in cases of dispute the Local Authority intends to name Ambitious College on the Statement/Education Health and Care Plan/139A or Learning Disability Assessment).
- The young person has a statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plan or Learning Disability Assessment indicating Autism Spectrum Disorder as the primary diagnosis.
- The young person's placement is compatible with the education of other young learners at the College.
- Additional supervision might be required for a young person whose safety or that of others is unusually at risk. This would be individually assessed.

Appeal Arrangements

The SEN Code of Practice entitles parents and carers to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal if their Local Authority refuses to name the College in their young person's Education Health and Care Plan. You can find out more about this process at:

<https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/first-tier-tribunal-special-educational-needs-and-disability>

If you have any questions about admissions, please do get in touch with our Admissions team and Linda Crewes or Jenny Robottom will be happy to help you.

Email: admissions@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8815 5428