

IT: ADMISSIONS POLICY - SHEILING COLLEGE

Reviewed: SMT/MG Oct/Nov 2019 (Every two years)

Full Review date: October 2021

Ratified by Trustees: Dec 2019

EDI Assessment: SSET does not currently identify any EDI impact of this policy; should new information come to light, this will be considered at the next review.

1. Admission to Sheiling College

Prospective students, who have an EHCP and are identified as having moderate, severe or complex learning difficulties, in particular ASD, may be referred to The Sheiling Ringwood either by parents and Local Authorities or Social Services Departments, or through tendering consortiums of local authorities.

The stages for admission of students to Sheiling College are usually as follows:

(See Appendix A: Sheiling College Admission Procedures Flowchart)

1. Informal or Formal Approach:
 - **Informal Approach by Parents/Carers.**
Parents/Carers and, if appropriate, relevant professionals will be invited for an informal visit to the College.
 - **Formal Approach by Funding Authorities.**
Usually, the authority will provide the relevant Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and documentation on the student's education history for initial consideration by Sheiling College. In the case of tendering consortiums, this may have a strict timescale attached and parents/carers may only be invited to consider Sheiling College at a later stage of the process.
2. On receipt of an enquiry, the College will invite the parents/carers or funding authority (local authority) representative for an informal visit. If wishing to pursue a placement, parents/carers will be asked to complete an application form.
3. After receipt of a completed application form and relevant EHCP, documents, and records, a decision will be made by the Sheiling College Leadership Team with regard to furthering the admission process. This will be dependent upon the availability of places at Sheiling College and whether it is clear from the application and/or relevant documents/records that Sheiling College can meet the student's needs.
Furthering the admission process may involve a visit to see the student at their current school/college and/or at their home/residential setting. After this pre-assessment visit, the Sheiling College Leadership Team will decide if the student will be invited for an assessment day at Sheiling College (overnight if residential). This will be dependent on whether it is clear from the pre-assessment visit that Sheiling College can meet the student's needs.
4. During the assessment day, relevant staff, including therapists, will meet the student. It may be necessary to interview the parents/carers on this day too. Following the assessment day, the Sheiling College Leadership Team will determine if Sheiling College can meet the needs of the student concerned.

If it is determined by the Sheiling College Leadership Team that Sheiling College can meet the student's needs and that a place is available, then:

- A Proposed Education Plan will be written and submitted to the relevant local authority representative(s).

- Fees will be calculated and submitted to the relevant local authority representative(s).
- An offer of a placement at Sheiling College will be sent in writing to parents/carers and a copy sent to the relevant local authority representative(s).

If it is determined by the Sheiling College Leadership Team that Sheiling College cannot meet the student's needs, then:

- Parents/carers will be informed in writing that Sheiling College cannot meet the student's needs and therefore will not be offering a place.

If there is no current vacancy at Sheiling College, then:

- Parents/carers will be advised that there is no current vacancy at Sheiling College and will be offered that the student's name is kept on a waiting list.

5. In the event of a place being offered at Sheiling College, then:

- Parents/carers will be requested to confirm in writing their acceptance under the Terms and Conditions of Admission.
- The funding authority (local authority) or private funder will be requested to confirm in writing their acceptance under the Terms and Conditions of Admission at the stated fee level.

After receipt of confirmation, and no later than two weeks prior to the admission start date, the college will send the parents/carers an information pack. This will include details of the student's Teacher and House Manager as well as a clothing list for residential students.

The Sheiling Ringwood will comply with the terms and conditions of the ESFA Contract and/or other specific contracts with the funding authority (local authority) once these have been signed by both parties.

Every student is admitted on the understanding that the first 12 weeks at Sheiling College is seen as a trial and assessment period. In exceptional cases, it may be necessary to extend the assessment period. A First Term Review will be held in the first term. In some cases, amendments to the first year fee levels may be requested at/promptly after the First Term Review.

Sheiling College reserves the right to postpone or cancel the process of admission of a student if circumstances change, e.g. the student's needs or behaviour change or if there is no longer space and appropriate facility for that particular student.

In most cases the placement will be over three years, subject to annual review and with some flexibility if students start mid-term during the Academic year

2. Terms of Admission

2.1 Fee Structure

Once a place has been offered and it is accepted by the funding authority, an invoice will be sent out and fees become due within 30 days of receipt. Charges may apply for late payment.

Every student is admitted on a 12-week trial and assessment basis. An assessment fee will be charged for this period which may differ to the agreed annual fee, for example it may include additional waking night support hours. At the assessment review, the full annual fee will be confirmed and subsequently reviewed annually.

Fees are payable termly in advance.

- Fees will be invoiced for 30 days in advance of the start of each term, and will therefore be due for payment at the commencement of each term.
- Fees are based on a 38-week academic year.
- If any sum payable under a contract is not paid within the 30 day period, then a charge may be applied. The sum will bear interest at the applicable rate under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, accruing on a daily basis.
- Fees include food and lodging appropriate to the attendance type, education, life skills, and some off site visits.
- Fees exclude personal expenses, pocket money, transport costs other than included off site visits, which will be charged as extra when appropriate. Also excluded are costs for additional staffing and other items where particular difficulties or unusual circumstances have been identified. In such cases, additional fees will be applied following negotiation and agreement.
- LAs will be notified of increases well in advance and in line with the NASS or current mutually agreed contract.
- It is our policy to make it clear at the Assessment Review whether the initial fee quoted in our offer letter is confirmed and that all relevant parties are aware of the current fee level.

2.2 Policy of Review

After initial assessments, Individual Study Programmes are formalised in consultation with teachers and House Managers/Deputies working directly with the student. All ESFA/Local Authority Funded students have an annual review. Parents/carers of privately funded students are encouraged to follow the same procedure.

Every student admitted to the College is offered a place on the understanding that this will cease no later than in the July after turning 25 years of age.

2.3 Exclusion and Withdrawal

Exclusion:

Please see the separate Sheiling policy document 1B Exclusion Policy which can be accessed via our website.

Withdrawal:

If a student is withdrawn by parents/carers or authorities, a term's notice is required in writing or a term's fees are expected to be paid. The College reserves the right to charge interest at 5% per month on accounts overdue by more than two months.

In the event of temporary or permanent exclusion, it shall remain the absolute responsibility of the placing authority to provide for the needs of the student who is excluded from the College. The placing authority is also responsible for expenses as may be incurred.

When an Emergency Review has been called, the placing authority will be notified and will be expected to send a representative. It may be necessary to make decisions in an urgent Review in the absence of a representative from a placing authority if such a representative cannot attend.

Appendix A: Sheiling College Admissions Procedures

