

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. Introductory Statement

- 1.1. Our vision is to provide an outstanding special school for students aged 11 – 19 years, with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and/or Social Communication Interaction Difficulties (SCID) as their primary need, who live in Swindon and its surrounding areas.
- 1.2. Churchward School will have a culture of inclusion, innovation and aspiration, putting our students and their families first, enabling us to help them achieve success.
- 1.3. Churchward School will be a positive choice for families with high ambitions for their young people with communication challenges. By recognising their strengths, it will offer a motivating personalised curriculum enabling them to make far greater progress than is currently expected.
- 1.4. Churchward School will equip students with the skills to enable them to build and maintain social relationships and therefore make a positive contribution to society. Students will feel enabled to actively engage in their learning and feel safe at the school. They will develop the skills to manage their sensory needs and reduce anxiety enabling them to understand the world around them and to maximise their capacity to achieve success.
- 1.5. Churchward School will recognise and acknowledge the social inclusion challenges our students and their families face. We will aim to improve social skills and self-esteem so that ASC learners can look to the future with confidence. We will promote social understanding through all we model and teach and as a result our students will develop a greater range of social skills. Therefore our learners will gain the skills to help them transition successfully into adulthood.

2. Admissions to the School

- 2.1. Churchward School is a special school which will initially provide 20 places for children of both sexes in the age range 11-19 with autism or social communication and interaction difficulties.
- 2.2. For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a local authority, in the child's education health and care plan EHCP.
- 2.3. Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to name our school in their child's EHCP.
- 2.4. A local authority can also refer a child to the school to be assessed for an EHCP or following a change in the child's circumstances for his or her needs to be assessed or reassessed. Any assessment should be completed within the 20 weeks set out in the SEND Code.
- 2.5. Children being assessed for an EHCP will be dual registered and return to their mainstream school if the LA decides not to issue an EHCP.
- 2.6. For further information on our school, and the process for obtaining a place here contact David Dearsley, Headteacher, Churchward School: ddearsley@churchwardschool.org.uk

3. Policy Review

3.1. This policy has been produced in consultation with staff, and students at Churchward School and has the approval of the Governing Body (GB). A copy of this policy is available to all who request it. It will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the aims, objectives and adopted strategies remain relevant to Churchward School.

Signed Headteacher

Signed Chair of Governors

Date