



Admissions Policy

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| Date of last review by Local Governing Body | March 2026 |
| Review cycle | Annual |
| Policy due for review by Local Governing Body | March 2027 |

NORE Academy Statement of Provision 2024/2025 (January 25)

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| Name of School | NORE Academy |
| Address | Danley Road, Minster-On-Sea, Sheerness. Kent. ME12 3AP |
| School Type | Special Free School |
| Designation | SEMH |
| District Served | Swale |
| Area | East Kent |
| Age Range | 11-16 |
| URN | 150769 DFE 886/7007 |
| Website - School | NORE Academy - Home |
| Website - Trust | Home Alternative Learning Trust |

Introductory statement

NORE Academy is a Special Free School which is part of Alternative Learning Trust. It offers high quality educational provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, who may also have Autism Spectrum Conditions and/or Social and Communication Difficulties. NORE Academy offers a broad and balanced, stretching curriculum with an aspirational qualification offer. This is underpinned by specialist teaching within small groups, effective pastoral support structures and robust progress tracking and monitoring systems. Pupils leave NORE Academy academically and personally prepared for their next steps and have developed learning strategies to sustainably progress and thrive.

Admissions to the School

NORE Academy is a special school which will provide 120 places (see admissions plan for in-year places) for children of both sexes in the age range of 11-16 with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and who may also have Autism Spectrum Conditions and/or Social and Communication Difficulties.

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).

Before NORE Academy is named in an EHCP, the Local Authority will consult with the parents/carers of the child concerned and the Governing body of the school. In practice, this duty of the Governors will normally be delegated to the Headteacher.

Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to

name our school in their child's EHCP.

A local authority can also refer a child to the school to be assessed for an EHCP plan or following a change in the child's circumstances for his or her needs to be assessed or re-assessed. Any assessment should be completed within the 20 weeks set out in the [NORE Academy Assessment Only Policy](#)

Children being assessed for an EHCP will be dual registered and return, full time, to their mainstream school if the LA decides not to issue an EHCP.

Planning meetings take place with the Local Authority or other Authorities where possible to target pupils appropriately for the academy.

It is possible to arrange for an emergency placement, but these should be the exception and must be managed carefully and will not be common practice.

All pupils admitted to NORE Academy will have an EHCP.

Arrangements for date of admission, transport, etc. are made by the Kent Local Authority.

A pupil will be admitted to NORE Academy:

1. If he or she falls within the terms of the current approval for the Academy.
2. When the child has an EHCP and NORE Academy is named.
3. For the purposes of assessment when the Local Authority, parents/carers and the school and any relevant professionals who are involved in the assessment are all agreed that the child's needs are such that action should be taken immediately.

Consultation with parents/carers and school before naming NORE Academy:

1. Before NORE Academy is named in an EHCP, the Local Authority will consult with the parents/carers of the child concerned and the Governing Body of the school. In practice, this duty of the Governors will normally be delegated to the Headteacher.
2. Where the parent/carer of the child concerned has expressed a preference for NORE Academy as the school in which he/she wishes education to be provided for the child, NORE Academy will try to offer a place to the pupil unless:
 - a. NORE Academy is unsuitable to the child's age, ability or aptitude or to his/her special educational needs; or
 - b. the attendance of the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom he/she would be educated or the efficient use of resources.
3. Where an application is made for a place and there is a place available within the school as a whole, the following criteria will be applied in order of priority in deciding whether a place is able to be offered:
 - There is room within the year group that the pupil is in and adding another pupil to this year group will not adversely affect the provision of efficient education for the children with whom he/she would be educated or the efficient use of resources.
 - Offering this pupil a place will maintain a positive balance within the year group and School.

- The parents/carers commit themselves to the Home/Academy agreement and to working in partnership with the Academy for the pupils' overall development and independence.

4. Once NORE Academy has been named in the EHCP, the school has a statutory duty to admit the child. If the Academy and the Local Authority do not agree, then each party can complain to the Secretary of State for Education. Consideration would be given to (2) and (3) above, the terms of the approval of the Academy and the number in the particular year group or teaching group and the classroom arrangements at the Academy.

Admissions Pathway:

NORE Academy is approached by Kent Local Authority or another Local Authority, the SEN team or Parent Partnership Officer;

Parents/carers and pupils invited to an initial visit to the academy, if there are spaces in the year group and the paperwork submitted demonstrates that the pupil could potentially meet the criteria for NORE Academy;

If at this point additional funding is requested in order to meet the needs of the pupil, this will also be detailed in the placement offer letter to the LA SEN, in addition to the normal placement cost.

If agreed NORE Academy will be named as new academy in the EHCP;

Liaison and information with existing service providers,

Dates set for start. Academy admission information pack sent home with all relevant information, including Pupil Expectations and relevant Policies.

For further information on our school, and the process for obtaining a place here contact 01795

720747 For additional policies please see:

[Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Equality Statement](#)

[Data Protection](#)

[Complaint Policy](#)