



Admissions Policy 2021

Great Oaks College

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| Person Responsible: | Nickyie Thomas |
| Date of Policy: | Spring 2021 |
| Next review date: | Spring 2022 |

Great Oaks College is an Independent Specialist College co-located with Oaklands School and operating on the same site as the school within its own distinct area of the building. Great Oaks has been set up to meet the needs of students who have Severe or Profound or Moderate Learning Difficulties whose needs cannot be met in a Local Sector College, either because of the complexity or their needs, issues of social vulnerability or where a suitable course is not offered in another local provision.

Great Oaks offers six courses on three pathways of study as follows;

Sensory pathway (Sensory/Communication and Choice)
Life Skills pathway (Life Skills /Independent Living)
Vocational Pathway (Vocational Options/Vocational Choices)

In each pathway there are two x two-year courses. Each course has an identified entry criteria and qualification route. Courses are offered at pre-entry level, entry level 1 and entry 2. We expect that some students *on the vocational pathway only* may progress to entry 3 accreditation.

While we accept applications from students in the 19-23 age range on entry to the College, applicants who have previously attended a course in another college should not have taken the same, or a very similar course at the same level before. Students will usually be assessed below entry level 2 on application to the College.

Applications for post 19 courses will be made by completing an application form and submitting that form directly to the College for assessment. Applicants must also provide their most recent EHCP, Annual Review Report, their Behaviour Plan/Risk Assessment and a Medical Care Plan (depending on the needs of the young person). Applications made without the most recent paperwork may not be able to be assessed. Great Oaks College will also accept applications directly from Local Authorities where a parent is willing for an assessment to be made of their young person's needs.

Applications should be made from April to December year. Assessments will be carried out during January, this may include an invitation into College or staff visiting students in their current setting. The College admissions panel will meet during the first week of February to allocate places on each course. The admissions panel is made up of the Head Teacher, and the Assistant Heads.

Places in College will be offered to Local Authorities with the cost of that placement based on assessed needs and identified therapy needs.

Applications will not be accepted between 31st December and February 15th. Applications will be considered after 15th March where vacancies remain following the panel, or if all courses are full, once the LA have confirmed funding

Entry Criteria for Great Oaks College

Criteria for places on courses in Great Oaks College will be as follows;

- The applicant has an Education Healthcare Plan (EHCP) including outcomes which can be achieved by attending a course.
- The applicant's assessed level at application means that a course in Great Oaks does represent progress for them; they have not previously achieved qualifications at the same level.
- There is evidence that the applicant has continued to make progress towards their outcomes in the previous phase of education and that they will be able to make more progress by attending the course.
- The young person has engaged in education by attending as fully as they are able (usually considered to be a minimum of 90% *unless they have identified health issues which have prevented attendance*). Applicants must attend the full course. There are no Part time places.
- *Vocational courses only*; the young person should have demonstrated that they have an interest in being employed and that this is a realistic option for them.

Therapy and medical Needs

Great Oaks College will make an assessment whether therapy and or medical needs can be met within its ability to commission these services.

Most therapy needs will be met by commissioning therapy time as indicated in the EHCP or most recent therapy report.

Within the assessment period, therapists will examine students' EHCPs and explore costs of the equipment needed. They may liaise with the student's current setting, therapists and parents. This is to enable us to have a clear costing structure and to be able to order equipment as soon as the place is confirmed by the Local Authority. We do not accept second hand equipment from previous settings for Health and Safety reasons.

Great Oaks College does not currently employ a qualified nurse because the number of students with medical needs are low. An assessment of the College's capacity to meet medical needs will be made with the parents/carers during the assessment. If specialist services are required, then this will be requested from the relevant Local Authority as a condition of a placement offer. Where a student may need to be admitted to hospital during the College day it should be noted that they would usually be admitted to West Middlesex hospital and that this should meet the families' needs.

Students with Challenging Behaviour

Great Oaks College will assess whether the needs of students with challenging behaviours can be met. Whilst we expect to be able to manage some challenging behaviours, we would need to be satisfied that an applicant's challenging behaviour did not place other students or staff at risk of significant harm or that other student's learning would not be frequently disturbed by a student's behaviour.

Where there are strategies identified to meet behavioural needs the College would need to be sure that these strategies could be applied or delivered within the College's capacity and resources.

Where a student is identified as needing any element of 1:1 supervision as a result of behavioural needs this would need to be funded separately in addition to educational costs.

How places will be allocated in the case of oversubscription

Great Oaks College will assess applications received by the end of December in the year preceding the start of a course.

In the case of oversubscription priority will be given firstly to students who have themselves or whose parents have, on their behalf expressed a preference for Great Oaks College, and who have not previously stated that Oaklands provisions did not meet their needs. Secondly, priority will be given to students who live in the area closest to Great Oaks College, so that they are able to access the community facilities in their own home area.

Once a place is offered:

If a place is to be offered the Head Teacher will contact the SEN department and a start date identified. Students will join a course in September or very soon afterwards. Great Oaks does not usually accept in year applications.

Before beginning a course at Great Oaks College

An induction day will be held during July. All admissions paperwork must be completed before the young person will be able to come on site. Students with medical care needs will need to provide a medical care plan produced by their Doctor or community nurse.

The induction day will be an opportunity for students to meet those who will also be taking the same course, and to familiarise themselves with the building, staff and course requirements.

Late Applications

Any applications received after the closing date in December will not be assessed for a place until the College has assessed students whose applications came in by the closing date. Should there be vacancies after panel, the College will assess applications based on the order in which they were received. Should there be a situation in which a bulk of applications were received after the deadline, the College will make a judgement based on whose needs can be best met by the college and then who lives the closest to the College.

Appeals Process

Following a panel all applicants will be advised of the decision to offer a place. If a place is not offered applicants will be informed of the reason for the decision.

Where an applicant wishes to make an appeal they should write to the Head Teacher giving the reason for which they wish to make an appeal. An appeal panel of at least two members of the board will consider the appeal.

All appeals should be made within four weeks of decisions letters being received.