

## Admissions Policy 2018

### Applications to Oaklands School Great Oaks College post 19 courses

Great Oaks College is an Independent Specialist College associated with Oaklands School and operating on the same site as the school within its own distinct area of the building. While we expect that many of the students applying to take a course at Great Oaks College will have previously attended Oaklands School, places are also available to applicants leaving other specialist schools and Colleges who have an Education Healthcare Plan.

Great Oaks College is due to open in September 2018. A prospectus of courses will be published in the Autumn Term 2017 describing three course pathways for young adults who have Education Healthcare Plans;

Sensory pathway  
Life Skills pathway  
Vocational Pathway

Courses are offered at entry levels 1,2 &3. Applicants should not have taken the same, or a very similar course at the same level before. While we aim to be able to meet the majority of young people's needs whose learning difficulty is moderate, severe or profound, each course will have an identified duration of two or three years and a separate entry criteria.

Applications for post 19 courses will be made by completing an application form and submitting that form directly to the school for assessment. The school will make an assessment of whether the young person meets the criteria of the course and, if they do so, will offer a place to the Local Authority, with the costs of that placement. The Local Authority will then consider the application and confirm whether funding is available for the place before a place is offered to the student. Great Oaks College will also accept applications directly from Local Authorities where a parent is willing for an assessment to be made of their child's needs.

#### Entry Criteria for Great Oaklands College

Criteria for places on courses in great Oaks College post 19 courses will be as follows;

- The applicant has an Education Healthcare Plan including outcomes which can be achieved by attending a course.
- The applicant can demonstrate that they have 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 may not attend only part of a course by attending on only some days.
- *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 more recent therapy report.

Great Oaks College does not currently employ a qualified nurse because the number of students with medical needs will be low in the first two or three years. An assessment of the College's capacity to meet medical needs will be made with the parents 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.

### Students with Challenging Behaviour

Great Oaks College will assess whether the needs of students with Challenging behaviours can be met. While 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 the 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 January in the year preceding the start of a course. Individual assessments will be carried out and Local Authorities informed by 14<sup>th</sup> February annually.

In the case of oversubscription priority will be given 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.

If vacancies remain after 14<sup>th</sup> February applications will be assessed as they arrive until the course is full.

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. Most students will join a course in September or very soon afterwards.

**Before beginning a course at Great Oaks College**

An induction day will be held during July. Parents or carers will need to attend with young people who are not able to complete admissions forms themselves including medical and personal care information.

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.