

Admission and Continued Placement Guidelines for Wincheap Resourced Mainstream Provision for Pupils with Speech & Language and Communication Needs.

Wincheap Speech and Language Department is a provision within Wincheap Primary School for an identified group of speech and language disordered children from year R to year 6. The criteria for admission are as follows;

1. The child must have an Education, Health and Care Plan, indicating a primary need as Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) - specific speech and/or language disorder.
2. There should be evidence of a significant discrepancy between verbal and non-verbal abilities, with the non-verbal abilities falling within the average range.
3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties should not be a significant cause for concern, (although it is recognised that sometimes these may occur as a temporary result of the underlying communication disorder). Where frequent and intensive behavioural difficulties arise, particularly where the pupil is posing a danger to him or herself and/or others, it is unlikely that such a pupil will be able to continue attending this provision.
4. If it seems that a child's language difficulties include mild traits of Autistic Spectrum Disorder then placement within the Department may still be appropriate. If however, the child's ASD is causing a barrier to the development of communication and learning, it may not be possible to meet their needs.
5. Each child's profile will be continually monitored by teachers and Speech and Language Therapists in the Department and will include on-going collaboration with other professionals - for example Educational/Clinical Psychologists and CAMHS. If significant changes to a child's profile become apparent, it may not be possible to continue to meet their needs within the Speech and Language Department and alternative provisions will need to be considered.
6. Pupils will be expected to access a programme of mainstream inclusion, in order to experience opportunities to apply and generalise communication and social skills, and self-help strategies - in line with Inclusion Guidelines (as described in the Staff Handbook.) Where a pupil has been unable to access inclusion opportunities in their initial year or during any subsequent year, the appropriateness of the provision will be reconsidered at the pupil's Annual Review.
7. Pupils' potential for projected attainment by the end of Key Stage 2 is expected to fall within commensurate progress between 'emerging' Y2 and 'expected' Y6.
8. Referral for a placement at Wincheap Speech and Language Department can be made at the time of writing the child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or during the child's Annual Review of a EHCP or Statement.

The decision to place a child at Wincheap Speech and Language Department is made by Kent County Council with the Headteacher, Teacher in Charge of the Department and Specialist Speech and Language Therapist being involved. Requests for placement consideration will be screened in the first instance for potential appropriateness.

If a place is available or expected to become available, then procedures for admission will follow for an appropriate child. School staff will review reports and arrange to observe the child at their own school/setting. They will also liaise with colleagues familiar with the child in order to fully inform their response to the Local Education Authority. Numbers on roll for each year group and current/predicted cohorts will be taken into consideration to ensure that provision needs can be fully met, through shared social and learning objectives with peers.