

## **Admissions Policy Written: September 2023**

### **Review date: September 2024 Admissions Policy**

Bankside College is a specialist day college that caters for young adults (16-25) with autism, complex needs and learning difficulties.

Bankside College offers a broad curriculum consisting of academic and vocational learning and life skills within a wide range of personalised pathways. With small class sizes, learners benefit from a holistic, person-centred approach and clinical support.

All our classes are delivered by specially trained teachers or vocational instructors and are supported by learning support mentors, ensuring every individual receives the support they need to thrive.

Our pathways include vocational skills, independent living, academic subjects and supported work. We also offer work placements and a supported internship programme. Where appropriate, learners will gain nationally-recognised qualifications and maths and English certification up to Level 2.

We recognise the importance of opportunities outside of the college and supporting inclusion in mainstream services and the local community. Every young adult who attends Bankside College will be supported by an experienced, specialised team striving to enable them to fulfil their full potential and become confident, happy, independent members of society.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Bankside College admits, as far as is possible, those whose special educational needs can be met effectively and in doing so ensures progress in all aspects of their development.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the policy are that:

- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the criteria used in assessing the appropriateness of placement for individual students at Bankside College
- All concerned will have a clear understanding of the processes of judging the appropriateness of that placement
- Parents/carers, each student and representatives of LA's, social service departments and other interested professionals have a clear understanding of the opportunities on offer at Bankside College
- Parents/carers, each student and representatives of LA's, social services departments and other interested professionals understand all key aspects of school life at Bankside College and are prepared to play their part in ensuring the success of any placement



At Bankside College we support young people who present with a wide range of complex needs associated with Autism. A young person may be considered for a place at Bankside College if they have an Education, Health and Care plan, a diagnosis of ASD or demonstrate behaviour and difficulties commensurate with a diagnosis of ASD and where a typical mainstream environment has not appropriately met the needs of the young person.

Students may arrive out of difficult life experiences or be the result of some medical condition. Some of the students have a long history of disturbed, difficult or delinquent behaviour of a serious kind that may include violence towards peers and/or adults.

Therefore, Bankside College acknowledges that our students may, from time to time, exhibit challenging behaviours that vary both in intensity and duration and our aim is to work with young people to reduce the frequency and intensity of these incidents.

Bankside College holds regular open evenings across the academic year as well as offers prearranged tours.

## **Admissions Process**

### **Stage 1**

Referrals made to Bankside College will normally be made by LA's directly. A range of detailed information concerning that student should accompany these referrals including an Education, Health and Care plan. Where this is not the case, Bankside College will seek access to as much information as possible, including information regarding the individual's education, health and social background. Senior staff will analyse all available information about the student to assess whether the student meets the admission criteria for Bankside College.

The Principal/Pastoral Manager/SENCO will assess whether or not Bankside can meet the student's needs and if so, arrange for a visit to Bankside College.

### **Stage 2**

The initial visit will be offered to the students and his/her parents/carers and other appropriate professionals and will include:

- A tour of Bankside College
- An introduction to key staff
- A discussion with senior staff concerning such issues as: the curriculum, content of College policies, including Bankside College expectations for good behaviour and discipline and the physical management of students and a discussion of the preferred forms of physical intervention with students, were this to prove necessary.
- An opportunity for each visitor to ask any questions they may have
- Visitors will also receive (if they have not already) copies of any policies that they request on the day or will be directed as to where to find them.

### **Stage 3 Assessment**

- Following this, an assessment is offered to the young person that ideally takes place in their current setting whether this be in an educational setting or a young person's home

The purpose of this assessment is to make sure that we are able to meet need effectively and support the young person holistically.

At this time, we will talk with the educational setting to ask additional questions before making a more formal offer.

### **Stage 4**

If, following these visits and assessment), all concerned are agreed that the student's needs can be met at Bankside College, that the young person can be adequately managed with the planned resources available and that the student and parents/carers are committed to the placement, Bankside College will write to the LA offering a place and arrangements will be made for admission.

A placement will be confirmed through the completion of a formal contract signed by the College and the placing authority.

Before this the college will request that the LA to update the EHCP, so outcomes reflect Further Education Study and the Preparation for Adulthood Agenda.

### **Admissions Criteria:**

- The student will be aged between 16 and 24 years
- The student will have an Education, Health and Care Plan with a formal diagnosis of ASD
- The Education, Health and Care plan will clearly specify the student's learning, educational, social, behavioural and medical needs
- The student will normally have been assessed as within the average ability range of educational functioning (In some cases, students' levels of ability as measured using psychometric tests may prove difficult. In these cases, Bankside College will base its judgements on its ability to meet needs)
- Students can present all prior learning from previous settings as well as reasons if placements have been ceased or broken down.
- The student may have one or more specific learning difficulties
- The student will express a commitment to the placement
- The students' parents/carers will express a commitment to the placement

- Where, despite a period of sustained reasonable adjustment strategies from the student's mainstream setting, the young person's needs continue to be unmet
- The student presents with other significant needs that require sustained specialist interventions, therapies and teaching approaches that can be more appropriately delivered within Bankside College.
- For all 'looked after children', there must be permanently named carers and a permanent home base for the student available at any time throughout the year. Bankside College cannot be the main residence for any child.

**The Local Authority will:**

- Provide Bankside College with all current advice and information relating to the student
- If deemed necessary, provide an update or amendment to the EHCP, so outcomes reflect Further Education Study and the Preparation for Adulthood Agenda.
- Nominate Bankside College in Section I of their EHCP
- Agree on contractual arrangements for transporting the student to and from Bankside College
- Make any arrangements for transporting student to and from Bankside College
- Fulfil the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice for 0-25 years 2014 and attend the planned annual review of placement meetings