

Admissions to Shorefields School & Nursery

The admitting authority is the Local Authority so all requests for a place must be made through Essex County Council's Special Educational Needs Department. Sarahe Harris leads the team in the North East Quadrant.

Shorefields School is a special school that caters for children and young people aged 3 to 19 years, all of whom have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Shorefields School works with the local authority to provide education for children and young people aged between Nursery 1 – yr.14 (EYFS to KS5).

Following a statutory assessment the local authority will make a judgement as to where the needs of a child with special educational needs can be met. If the criteria for severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties provide the best fit, then Shorefields School may be consulted and a request for admission made, or for an assessment place (this is usually just for our younger, nursery age pupils who may not yet have a formal diagnosis)

The school will consider the consultation paperwork to ensure it is an appropriate referral and that we can meet the needs within our defined provision. This is currently considered at a monthly panel meeting facilitated by SENDOps. It is advised that parents/carers visit the school to understand the provision being offered and the context of the school and most importantly to help them decide whether Shorefields can provide the specialist provision that is right for their child.

Shorefields School & Nursery provides a curriculum and specialist provision designed for children and young people with a range of severe and profound learning difficulties, for which it is provided with an identified level of funding by the local authority. The school is not intended for pupils with other categories of difficulty. Many of the young people who attend Shorefields School have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder with global delay.

In considering a referral, the Headteacher, on behalf of the Governing Body will decide firstly whether or not it is educationally appropriate and secondly when the young person can be admitted based on the capacity within the school. The school currently accommodates 153 (plus 12 at the Nursery site in Mistley, from Easter 2024) young people.

We work closely with parents/carers to ensure a smooth transition into the school. Once we have notified Statutory Assessment Service at Essex County Council to say that a school place is being offered, an admissions meeting will be arranged with parents/carers and health and school staff.