

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the College's practice for managing the admissions of students to the college. This includes appeals. The policy aims to provide a fair and consistent procedure for admissions. The policy is also linked with college publications such as the College prospectus, website, course leaflets and other marketing materials.

2. SCOPE

This policy covers admissions for applicants to all College courses and apprenticeships including those delivered at partner organisations.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. Responsibilities

- 3.1.1. The Head of Schools Liaison and Marketing is responsible for overseeing admissions to full-time and part-time courses.
- 3.1.2. The Head of Employer Services is responsible for overseeing admissions to apprenticeships and partner organisations.
- 3.1.3. The Schools Liaison, Marketing, Admissions and Employer Services teams are responsible for ensuring that the necessary procedures are followed to ensure that the College's entry requirements are applied correctly, consistently, and fairly for all applicants.
- 3.1.4. All staff involved in enrolment are responsible for following the College's entry requirements consistently and fairly with respect to all student enrolments.
- 3.1.5. Heads of School are responsible for overseeing any second stage interview processes relevant to their curriculum areas.
- 3.1.6. Students with complex backgrounds that may place themselves, other learners or staff at risk may be requested to complete the College's PCCS (Potential Cause for Concern Student) application that is managed through our Programme Management Team.
- 3.1.7. The Head of Inclusion and Learning Support and Programme Areas Leads for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are responsible for attending EHCP reviews, the EHCP consultation process and supporting curriculum areas with second stage interviews and planning curriculum and teaching adjustments.

3.2. Entry Requirements

- 3.2.1. The entry requirements for each course can be found on the Riverside College and Cronton Sixth Form College websites. Each course will have a course factsheet with details of entry requirements and course content. The prospectus will provide an overview of subject areas and progression.
- 3.2.2. Students aged 16-18 who do not achieve grade 4 or above in GCSE English and maths prior to starting College are required to study towards re-sitting these qualifications while on programme.
- 3.2.3. Entry criteria may be varied at the discretion of the Head of School particularly where experience may be deemed to stand in place of certification.

- 3.2.4. Existing College students applying to undertake a further programme of study are required to fulfil the relevant internal entry criteria, including an acceptable record of meeting College standards, attendance, and punctuality. Existing students will follow the internal progression process.
- 3.2.5. Existing students returning to college after a break in learning will be required to fulfil the relevant entry criteria and obtain a positive reference from their previous tutor or Head of School if the tutor is no longer at the College, and the relevant Programme Manager.
- 3.2.6. Further differentiation of admissions processes will take place where appropriate to:
- Identify inclusion and learning support needs to explore any adjustments required for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
 - Complete the consultation process for students with an Education and Health Care Plan to ensure the College is able to meet the needs of the applying learner.
Please note early applications are encouraged to ensure that sufficient time is available to review any EHCP documents and confirm offers in line with the SEN Code of Practice and naming of provision on the plan before March 31st in the year students intend to enrol (e.g. March 31st 2024 for August 2024 enrolment) and to inform transition planning.
 - Identify Inclusion and Learning Support and/or ESOL needs
 - Ensure the admissions process meets the exceptional circumstances of some applicants
 - Obtain references for school leavers and 17/18-year-olds who have been home schooled or educated in alternative provision
 - Identify wellbeing and pastoral needs

3.3. Advice and Guidance

- 3.3.1. The College offers unbiased advice and guidance on the College's courses to all prospective students. This may take place over the phone, during events held both at college and out in the community, and during admissions interviews.
- 3.3.2. Students will be offered places on courses if it is felt that the College can offer an appropriate course and that the student can reasonably be expected to achieve. This offer is based on the information given during a discussion and all applicants are expected to be open and honest. For all courses with formal entry requirements, students are expected to provide evidence that they meet those entry requirements at enrolment.
- 3.3.3. Applicants for whom there is not a suitable course available at Riverside College or Cronton Sixth Form College can be referred to the Advice Careers and Employability Team within the College and any appropriate external agencies and partners.
- 3.3.4. For courses requiring an interview, these interviews will be undertaken by the central admissions team to ensure a common approach and equal access. This is also vital for learners with an EHCP to ensure that their needs are well understood, can be met and suitable transition is planned.
- 3.3.5. The College has the right to refuse any application it considers inappropriate relating to subject choice and history. Any applications received that raise concern will be discussed and a response will be made to the applicant. This includes applications that may place other staff or students at risk.
- 3.3.6. For applicants with an EHCP, where consultation takes place and needs can not be met the College will inform the Commissioning Local Authority and the applicant.
- 3.3.7. Where appropriate the College's Fitness for Study Policy will be considered and applied when considering an applicant's suitability for a course.

3.4. Disclosure of Criminal Convictions/DBS Process

- 3.4.1. Any applicant or student who discloses a conviction will be asked to meet with the relevant Programme Manager who will decide if the applicant/student needs to be risk assessed. Those identified as needing this assessment will be considered by a panel consisting of the Senior Management Team, the College's designated Safeguarding person and a further agreed member of the management team. This could lead to a change of course, seeking appropriate references or withdrawal of the offer of a place.
- 3.4.2. Some courses require a DBS check. The DBS process will be explained to the applicant and the College will be responsible for checking the identity of the applicant prior to the DBS application form being submitted. If the DBS check discloses information of concern the College will discuss the appropriate next steps with each applicant. This could be a change of course, seeking appropriate references or withdrawal of the offer of a place.

3.5. Equality and Diversity

- 3.5.1. The College is committed to ensuring that the admissions process will be open and transparent and that no individual is subjected to any unlawful discrimination.
- 3.5.2. At all times, the College will consider and adhere to its duty under its commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in line with the College's Equality and Diversity Policy.
- 3.5.3. The College is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities, including those with learning difficulties, are treated fairly. All reasonable adjustments to provision will be made to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not disadvantaged. High need Funding applications and support needs will be discussed with all eligible applicants. Although an application to an applicants Local Authority does not automatically mean agreement and that funding will be provided.

3.6. Applicants with Health, Disability, Learning Support requirements or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

- 3.6.1. The Admissions Team receive annual training from the Head of Inclusion and Learning Support to allow them at interview to begin to discuss and record any support requirements or potential cause for concern. If the needs of the learner can be met by the College this information is then passed to the Inclusion and Learning Support team who will follow up with the students and any appropriate school or agency personnel to ensure support is in place when the student starts College. Any student who shares they have an Education and Health Care Plan is referred to the relevant Programme Area Leader for EHCPs to review if the College can accommodate their needs and secure funding.
- 3.6.2. Any student who shares a learning difficulty or disability at application or enrolment will be entitled to an assessment of needs with a suitably qualified member of staff. A support assessment is completed to create a student centered Inclusive Teaching Plan (ITP). This will be cocreated, agreed, signed and support needs record created. Recommendations will be discussed with the student and tutors and all responsibilities will be agreed. This will be reviewed throughout the course to enable independent learning.
- 3.6.3. The College will help applicants with learning difficulties/disabilities by helping to assess their learning needs and by providing learning support where appropriate.

3.7. Availability of Courses

- 3.7.1. Admission is subject to places on courses being available. Places on courses will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

3.7.2. The College reserves the right to withdraw an offer or close a course for operational reasons or if there are insufficient student numbers. Applicants will be informed as soon as possible, and refund will be made where applicable in accordance with the College's Fees Policy.

3.7.3. Any student who shares they have an Education and Health Care Plan is referred to the Programme Area Leader for EHCPs to complete the consultation confirming whether the College can accommodate their needs and secure funding.

3.8. Course Fees

3.8.1. Details of fees can be found:

- on the College website
- in the College prospectus
- by calling the Admissions Team or
- by attending an Open Event at the College.

3.8.2. Fees must be paid in accordance with the College's Fees Policy.

3.8.3. The College reserves the right not to admit a learner who has any outstanding debts to the College.

3.9. Responsibilities and Obligations of Applicants

3.9.1. Applicants are responsible for providing accurate information to Riverside College and Cronton Sixth Form College and their partners at all stages of the application process. Any applicant found to be providing fraudulent or false information will have any offer made withdrawn.

3.9.2. For students with an EHCP or SEN, SENCOs or parents and carers are encouraged to share any relevant documents, including annual review paperwork.

3.9.3. Applicants are expected to:

- inform the College directly if they decide to not to accept the offer
- provide information regarding their circumstances and declare criminal convictions
- treat all College staff and students respectfully
- agree to follow all College policies and procedures once admitted to college as a student.

3.10. Appeals Process

3.10.1. Applicants have the right to appeal against any decision taken during the application process.

3.10.2. An admissions appeal could be invoked as a result of a variety of decisions including in respect of:

- An applicant who has previously withdrawn from a college course and wishes to return.
- An application that may require a risk assessment, for example due to any previous record or behaviour, which could pose a threat to staff or students.
- The outcome of an interview.
- An applicant who it is considered presents an unacceptable safeguarding risk.

This list is not exhaustive or exclusive and other situations may arise which necessitate an Admissions Appeal.

3.10.2. Appeals should be made in writing addressed to the 'Assistant Principal Quality, Admissions Appeal Panel.'

3.10.3. Once an appeal has been received, the College will acknowledge the appeal in writing.

The admissions appeal panel will consider the appeal and respond in writing within three days of the conclusion.

4. MONITORING AND REVIEW

4.1. Monitoring of Admissions

All admissions activity is monitored regularly through SMT (Senior Management Team) Monitoring reports, Modelling Numbers Meetings, Enrolment Meetings, Progression Meetings, and activity is mapped against the Matrix standard for advice and guidance which is monitored in an annual review.

NOTE: THIS POLICY ALSO LINKS TO THE FITNESS TO STUDY POLICY