

Application and admissions process for parents and carers

Admission to our college

We are a specialist further education day college for young people with autism aged 16-25. Ambitious College has two campuses, co-located with mainstream partner colleges. One is the Pears campus at The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CoNEL) in Tottenham, located in the London borough of Haringey. The other is the Pears campus at West Thames college in Isleworth, located in the London borough of Hounslow.

We can admit young people who require specialist provision, when Ambitious College is named on their local authority Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) plan. Some of our learners may also proceed to different levels of inclusion in mainstream further education as offered by our mainstream partners, or to our **Supported Internship Programme**.

Who can apply?

You have the right to request a place at Ambitious College when you receive a draft Education Health and Care plan or a notice amending an existing Education Health and Care plan. An example is, when a young person's Education Health and Care plan is being redrafted or amended when they move from school to college. The local authority must then apply to us in line with your preference.

Read our blog for more information on **how to request a place at a specialist school or college and knowing your rights**.

Applying for a place

Places are usually taken up in September, but we will consider admission for a young person at other times, with the agreement of the Head of College.

If you wish to apply, please email the Admissions team at admissions@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk and a member of the team will contact you within one working day.

There are two types of application:

1. Application from parents and carers

Parents and carers are welcome to apply for a place at Ambitious College for a young person after speaking to our Admissions team. Please email admissions@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk to request the two forms that together make up a parent or carer self-referral. The two forms are:

- **Parent/carer Pre-Entry Assessment Form**
Parents and carers are asked to provide as much information as possible about the young person and current documents about them including their Education Health and Care plan.
- **Professionals Assessment Form**
Parents and carers must ask a professional at the young person's current school or college to complete this form and to return it to us with related current documents including their Education Health Care plan.

***Important:** We strongly recommend that you talk to your local authority if you decide to apply, we are happy to help you do this.*

2. Application from a Local Authority

Parents and carers can ask the local authority to apply to us for a place at Ambitious College, whether or not a parent/carer application has been made. We will respond to all local authority requests within 15 days.

Pre-entry assessment

The college Admissions Panel's decision is made on the basis of the information we get and by an assessment with the young person at their current school or college, or a home visit.

We are currently unable to carry out face-to-face assessment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we may request additional documents and contact professionals at the current school or college to help the Admissions Panel to make a decision.

Decisions

The college Admissions Panel meets every week during term time to consider parent/carer applications and applications from local authorities. This panel decides on who will need assessment and makes decisions on those already assessed.

What the Panel considers

- Is the college suitable for the young person's age, ability and Special Educational Needs?
- Is the college able to deliver all the special educational provision in Section F of the young person's Education Health and Care plan?
- Have parents or carers expressed a preference for the college? (Or in cases of dispute does the local authority intend to name Ambitious College on the Education Health and Care plan?)
- Would the young person's attendance be incompatible with the education of other learners at the college that they would come into contact with on a regular day-to-day basis, or with the use of college resources?
- Is there a place available for the young person?

Making an offer

- If an offer is made, we will inform parents or carers and the local authority. The offer will be conditional until local authority funding is approved and subject to the place being available at that time.
- If an offer is not made, the decision of the Head of College is final, but we will always explain our reasons.

Appealing to the SEND Tribunal

Parents and carers are allowed to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal if their local authority refuses to name the college in their young person's Education Health and Care plan. You can find out more about this process on the [GOV.UK website](#).