



SUITABILITY TO BOARD POLICY

Staff member responsible	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Reason	Frequency of review
Deputy Rector	Sept 2024	SSG	Sept 2024	New policy	36 months

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Links to other Dollar Academy policies

This policy has links with the following Dollar Academy policies:

- Admissions Policy

Introduction

Dollar Academy is committed to creating a warm and welcoming environment for all our students, particularly our boarding students who, during term time, live on the campus full time. We place student well-being at the core of all we do, and the purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to allow individuals to thrive as members of our boarding community.

Boarding Application Process

In order for a decision to be made on the suitability of a student to board, the Academy undertakes the following:

- An interview with both the student and the student's parents, which includes the opportunity for each child to be present without their parent/carer;
- Information from the applicant's present school and/or previous school where the candidate is not currently at school or has recently changed school;
- Consideration of any other information that the parent/carer of the applicant may wish to provide to support the applicant's application or which may be provided at the request of the parent/carer by another person;
- Information provided by a Local Authority where relevant.

Suitability to Board Guidance

In determining whether or not a candidate is suitable to board, Dollar Academy has regard to the following questions:

- Does the student wish to board? Do they show a willingness to full engage with all that Dollar has to offer?
- Does the student have experience of staying away from their parents/carers whether or not they are currently a boarder?
- Does the student show evidence of self-reliance and independence?
- Does the student show evidence of understanding and relishing the challenges of a communal life?
- Does the student show understanding of the responsibilities of being a member of a boarding community?
- Is there any medical or psychological reason why boarding would not be appropriate, or any need that could not be met by reasonable adjustment to the boarding accommodation, routine and practice?
- Does the student have a sufficient level of understanding of English to allow them to access the education at Dollar, including being able to work with staff who are looking to support them?

Decision on Suitability to Board

The decision is determined by the following two considerations;

1. Does the child present a serious health and safety hazard to other boarders?
2. Will the child be able to cope with and benefit from a boarding environment?

In relation to a. the Academy may find the child unsuitable for boarding if there have been major behavioural difficulties (particularly involving refusal to follow rules around safety, physical violence or aggression, bullying, sexual misconduct, arson or vandalism), or if the child has been excluded from schools two or more times.

In relation to b. the Academy will make its own assessment as to whether the child would cope with the specific boarding environment it provides.

A final decision on suitability for boarding will be made by the Rector.

Ongoing assessment

The School reserves the right to reassess suitability for boarding at any time during the pupil's time at the school.

The same process as above will be used to make the assessment.

If a child is determined to be unsuitable for boarding after a reassessment, the boarding place will be taken away, either temporarily or permanently. The pupil in question may then be considered to be suitable to attend the school as a day pupil only. This decision will be made through a separate decision-making process.