

Admissions Policy

2024/2025

ReFocus School



Approved by:	Paula Tucker Headteacher	Date: 25/04/2025
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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Explain how to apply for a place at the school
- Set out the school's arrangements for allocating places to the pupils who apply
- Explain how to appeal against a decision not to offer your child a place

2. Admissions Overview

Our school values are **Employable, Sociable, Ready**. Our values are embedded into our whole school approach and this begins at the very beginning of a student's ReFocus journey, at the admissions meeting. These values are foundations to achievement, strong peer relationships, social skills, a good work ethic and a safe lifestyle. This ethos is explained at the admissions meeting and both parents and students sign to say they will adhere and work towards these values.

- ReFocus School will consider referrals from a variety of sources and will not be exclusive to any one source.
- There are no formal entry requirements to access our programmes and every referral is considered on an individual basis.
- ReFocus School will consider each referral on a case-by-case basis. A placement will be offered if it is believed we can meet the student's needs.
- ReFocus School reserves the right to accept a student on a probationary basis to ensure it is the right setting for the student.

The student's welfare will take priority when considering if we can successfully meet the students' needs. ReFocus School will use careful consideration and professional judgement when making this decision.

3. Definitions

Currently not in full-time education / at risk of permanent exclusion

All students aged 14 – 16 that are currently not in formal education, are at risk of being permanently excluded or cannot meet their potential in their current setting can be referred either by their current place of education or the Local Authority Education/Inclusion team.

Managed Moves

ReFocus will consider taking students from other Alternative Provisions on a 'managed move' basis.

Bespoke Package

To meet a student's needs, ReFocus School may offer a bespoke package. This would be discussed and agreed before a start date. This for example could include: A short-term temporary placement. 6th day provision if suitable alternative placement is still being sought. The admissions process remains the same as full time applicants.

If, after the admission of a student who is not on a bespoke package, it is agreed a bespoke package is required we will contact the referring agency and a meeting will be held to discuss further.

Probation

ReFocus School reserves the right to accept a student on a probationary basis to ensure it is the right setting for the student.

4. How to apply

The same admissions process will be required for every student and our admissions contract will need to be signed by all parties.

The following documentation is required to be discussed at our two weekly admissions panel:

- Referral form [appendix 2]
- Risk Assessment
- Copies of any relevant documentation including SEND and EHC Plan
- Details of any outside agency working with the pupil or family
- Attendance
- Attainment – Including latest school report.
- Any other important documentation relevant to the student

Once this documentation is received it is discussed at panel. If it is felt we can meet the students' needs we will contact the parent and referring agency to arrange a meeting.

At the meeting we will:

- Have a tour of the school site
- Expectations and procedures explained
- Admissions contract discussed and signed
- Consent forms explained and signed
- Administration of medication form completed if required
- Acceptable use of IT equipment form signed
- School values explained and agreed

- Start date agreed

Managed Move admissions will be taken on a half-term package and a review will be held 10 days before the end date to discuss if the managed move was successful and the next steps. ReFocus will endeavour to make the move successful, communication will be required as a minimum on a weekly basis, daily if required. Any serious breaches of our expectations could lead to an early termination of placement. In the event of an early termination, we will communicate with all parties and the student will return to 'home provision' the next school day following any exclusion that may occur.

Where a student is being referred onto a block placement contract, we still expect to receive the documentation listed above prior to admission.

5. Refusing or terminating Admission

We may refuse admission in certain cases.

ReFocus School will not offer a placement to a student if any staff members are subjected to any kind of unacceptable behaviour such as but not limited to, threats, verbal / physical abuse or harassment from the student or student's family prior to admission.

ReFocus School will reserve the right to terminate a student's placement that is in admission process if any staff member is subjected to continued unacceptable behaviour such as but not limited to, threats, verbal / physical abuse or harassment by the student or their immediate family members.

6. Appeals

In the event of a student being refused a placement, appeals must be made to the Executive Head Teacher in writing within 5 working days of the placement being declined. A reply will be given within 7 working days of receipt of an appeal.

6 Knox Rd, Wellingborough, Northants NN81HW

Email: enquiries@refocus.school

7. Monitoring arrangements

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis unless circumstances arise requiring the policy to be reviewed earlier. This policy will be reviewed and approved by the executive Headteacher as delegated by the governing board

Appendix 1

Payment and Invoicing

Payment is broken down into packages and then broken down by pro-rata depending on the start date and the term a student is joining.

- ReFocus Package - The fee remains the same for any student joining on a full-time basis between September and December (until term end in July) Dual registration. Price on application

- Reset Package – short-term intervention, half-termly – Price on application

Once the placement has been agreed, ReFocus School will raise an invoice and send it via email (prior to the student starting) to the referring agent for full prompt payment. Payment must be made no later than 30 days.

If the 30-day invoice deadline is missed a 10% late payment fee will be incurred plus a one-off administration fee of £50.

If there is any problem with payment for the student ReFocus School should be made aware as soon as possible to ensure a resolution can be found.

ReFocus School do not offer termly invoice options, full payment is required when a student is initially accepted.

If repeated reminders for payment are still unsuccessful and payment for the student still isn't received, then regrettably ReFocus School may terminate the placement.