

# Mountjoy School

## Admissions Policy

**March 2024**



**This is a Mountjoy School Policy  
Reviewed by: Full Governing Board**

**Date: March 2024**

**Date of next review: March 2025**



## **Mountjoy School**

### **Admissions Policy**

The overriding aim of this policy is that it should work for the benefit of all pupils, parents and carers involved. It should be simple to use and assist parents and carers to make the best decision for the education of their children. It should contribute to raising standards for all children.

Mountjoy School is a Special School with 100 places, commissioned by Dorset Council. These places are allocated to pupils with complex learning needs and an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), following a special educational needs/disability (SEND) Admission Panel. An EHCP does not in itself mean that a pupil needs to be educated in a specialist setting.

Once Dorset Council and the SEND Admissions Team agree specialist provision, a consultation is received by Mountjoy. Further discussion takes place at a SEND Panel, with other Headteachers, SEND Provision Leads and Educational Psychology. This SEND Panel meets regularly to discuss and agree the placements most appropriate for each child.

Mountjoy School aims to provide for children who are aged between 4 and 19 years who require Special School provision. Children can be admitted at any point between 4 and 19 years. This may occur for any one of the following reasons:

- A child's needs may require a Special School placement.
- A child with SEN may move into the area, as part of a family unit.
- A child's needs may not be appropriately met in their current school.

Our aim is to ensure:

- Any pupil admission is compatible with the efficient education of others already in the school.
- Any pupil admission is compatible with the efficient use of resources.
- Any pupil admission is reliant on it being suitable for the pupil's age and aptitude.
- All pupils will have an EHCP before they are admitted.
- That there is a strong transition package including an initial visit with parents/ carers to meet the Headteacher and have a look around the school.

The Headteacher will set appropriate limits for class group sizes according to the needs of the pupils. The number of staff assigned to each group is agreed according to school organisation needs. One of these needs may include a reduction in the number of any pupils within a class group, if classroom organisation needs dictate that an existing resource is overcapacity or that the complexity of pupils reduces the scope for creating a responsive learning provision that contains a 'high' number of pupils.

Admissions are subject to constraints placed upon the school by the relevant authorities, including Dorset Council SEND Admissions Team.

Parents have the right to appeal to an independent panel against the decision of Dorset Council to refuse application for a school place. Details of the appeals procedure are available from Dorset Council upon request.