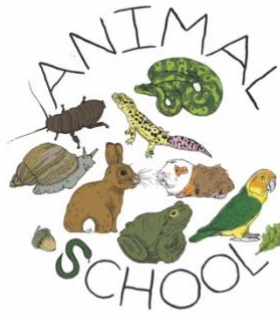


# Animal School Admissions Policy



## 1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines the process and criteria for admitting students to **Animal School**, an alternative provision centre that offers therapeutic and educational experiences through animal care, outdoor learning, and personalised support.

Animal School aims to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for children and young people who may not thrive in traditional educational settings.

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## 2. Our Ethos

We believe that all students deserve the chance to feel valued, respected, and supported. We focus on building confidence, emotional resilience, life skills, and positive relationships through hands-on, nature-based learning.

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## 3. Who We Support

Animal School accepts referrals for students aged [9–16] who may:

- Struggle with mainstream education
- Have social, emotional, or mental health needs
- Be at risk of exclusion or disengagement
- Require a short-term intervention, reintegration pathway, or part-time placement
- Have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) with or without an EHCP
- Benefit from a therapeutic, animal-assisted learning environment

We are a small provision and can only take a limited number of students at a time. We believe this gives our students a more personal service but unfortunately means that we cannot give a space to everyone who applies. We consider all applications fairly and individually, in line with our commitment to equality and inclusion.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer a place to any child or young person who has been permanently excluded from school. All students need to be on a school role.

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## 4. Referrals and Applications

Referrals can be made by:

- Schools
- Local authorities
- Parents or carers (with school/local authority involvement)
- Education, health, or social care professionals

All referral forms must include:

- Student's name, age, and contact details
  - Background information and reasons for referral
  - Behavioural, educational, or safeguarding concerns (if any)
  - Medical needs, allergies, or medication requirements
  - EHCP information (if applicable)
  - Emergency contacts and parental consent
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## 5. Admissions Process

1. **Initial Enquiry** – We welcome initial contact by phone or email to discuss suitability.
  2. **Referral Form Submission** – Referrer completes and submits the required documentation.
  3. **Review of Information** – We assess the student's needs, risks, and suitability for our setting.
  4. **Taster Visit / Meet & Greet** – Student and parent/carers are invited for a visit to meet staff, see the site, and ask questions.
  5. **Decision & Agreement** – If appropriate, a placement is offered, and a written agreement is drawn up.
  6. **Start Date** – A phased or full-time start date is agreed upon. Risk assessments and care plans are finalised.
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## 6. Placement Types

We offer one hour weekly placements for six week intervals. A further six weekly placement is then offered if the student is benefiting from it. We can also offer

- AQA qualifications
- long-term placements
- Respite provision
- Reintegration support
- Transition support between schools or settings

Each placement is tailored to the individual student's needs and the goals of their referring organisation.

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## 7. Admission Criteria

We consider:

- The student's ability to benefit from our environment
- Our capacity to meet their educational, emotional, and physical needs
- The safety of the student, other young people, staff, and animals on site
- Whether any additional support, training, or risk management is required
- Whether we have space to take on another student.

We reserve the right to decline a placement if:

- We cannot safely meet a student's needs
  - The referral lacks sufficient information
  - There is a high risk to staff, other students, or animals that cannot be mitigated
  - We do not have a space available.
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## 8. Equal Opportunities

Animal School is committed to fairness and non-discrimination. We do not exclude or treat applicants unfairly based on disability, race, gender, religion, sexuality, or background. Where accessibility challenges exist, we will make reasonable adjustments and work toward inclusivity wherever possible.

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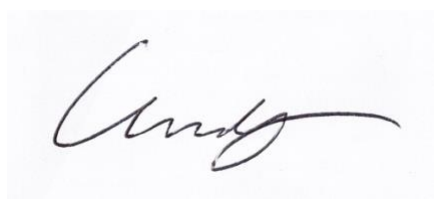
## 9. Safeguarding and Consent

All information provided during the admissions process is handled in line with our **Privacy Policy** and **Safeguarding Policy**. Written parental/carers consent is required for all placements.

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## 10. Review

This policy is reviewed annually or in response to relevant changes in guidance, legislation, or provision capacity.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Cross', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Lindsay Cross  
Manager

31/07/2025: