

Joseph Norton Academy is a popular special school catering for pupils in Key Stages 2-4 with severe and complex Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties. The school has 63 places and accepts new admissions from children who require long-term placements, usually upwards of three years. Both the needs of new applicants and the needs of current pupils are considered as part of the consultation process. Applicants moving into Kirklees from another Authority may require additional assessment to ensure Joseph Norton is best placed to meet all areas of need.

All pupils admitted to the Joseph Norton have undergone a statutory assessment and have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which identifies social, emotional and mental health difficulties that are significantly impacting on the pupil's ability to maintain emotional well-being in all aspects of their life. The pupil's complex needs will have been identified as requiring specialist support in relation to:

- Achieving emotional well being
- Working towards independent self-regulation
- Building relationships with significant adults in order to address attachment needs
- Developing positive social interaction
- Acquiring the skills that will lead to independent living and positive engagement in the community

Children and young people who attend Joseph Norton experience significant difficulties regulating their emotions in response to life challenges, change, and relationships with both peers and/or adults over the long term at home, in school and in the community. Their capacities to respond to educational opportunities and learn effectively are often impaired by the inability to understand and engage in social interaction and ongoing difficulties in relation to emotional well-being. However, despite their difficulties, our pupils attend well, are school ready and are able to operate as part of a designated nurture group. We are ambitious for our pupils and all have the ability to leave school with the skills required to make a positive contribution in the world of work and live successful, independent lives.

Pupils at Joseph Norton require a highly personalised programme of support, specific to their needs. Our curriculum is built around preparedness for adulthood and includes opportunities for pupils to learn about their own body; how to communicate effectively; how to stay safe; and the skills required for the world of work. In KS2 pupils may require therapeutic support such as art and play therapy and positive handling to help regulate their behaviours. By KS3 pupils are active participants in their self-regulation and have a good understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe. At KS4 pupils may access a specific range of qualifications accessed through discrete lessons and participation in activities in the school grounds and on the school farm. Joseph Norton is not an alternative education provision and is unsuitable for pupils who require a more vocational package.

Pupils who attend Joseph Norton often require support from a range of professionals. This might include speech and language specialists, counsellors, mental health professionals and/or educational psychologists. At Joseph Norton, we also recognise that the families of children who attend our school might benefit from additional support. This support is provided by our pastoral team, with additional support from other agencies. Our work with other professionals allows us to provide a holistic approach to all elements of a child's needs both within school and the home.

This criterion is due to be reviewed in April 2017.