

## The Grove School Admissions Policy

The Local Authority, Northumberland County Council, through its Statementing Panel, is the Admissions Authority for all special schools in Northumberland, which includes The Grove School.

From September 2013 The Grove School will be able to provide places for children from two years old up to nineteen years of age. Some assessment places within this age range will become available through liaison with the Local Authority but generally all children/young people who attend The Grove School must have a statement which is a written legal document that details the child's/young person's Special Educational Needs.

The Local Authority Statementing Panel decides whether a child/young person needs a statement to support his/her special educational needs by considering assessments made by a number of professionals as well as through contributions from parents.

At the point when it has been agreed by the Local Authority that a child/young person needs a Statement to support his/her education a written referral detailing specific information about this individual child/young person's needs and what provision is considered by the LA to most appropriately support these is forwarded to a school. It is only when this stage in the process is reached and if the LA considers The Grove School to be the most appropriate placement that a child/young person's papers will be received by us. When a written referral is received it is at this point when The Grove School is able to consider a child/young person's additional needs and whether the school is able to offer a place. By this stage in the process it is usual that parents have been in contact with the school, have visited at least once and have confidently expressed their preference for a Grove School placement to the Local Authority.

Whilst The Grove School has been oversubscribed for a number of years through recent developments there are now some available places.

If families are resident in the Scottish Borders area their first point of contact is Scottish Borders Council who will carefully discuss with parents the local options available to them. Children living in Scotland who currently attend The Grove School are usually supported by a Co-ordinated Support Plan, CSP, which is different to but has many similarities with a Statement.

We warmly welcome contact from parents requesting to look around our school, to share with you the educational opportunities we are able to provide and to openly discuss with you your thoughts and considerations about what we may be able to offer your child.