



Admissions Policy

Approved: January 2023

Review: January 2024

Our Mission

To provide innovative, personalised and exciting learning opportunities that ensure our students are happy and successful in life.

Our Vision

To be the highest performing and first choice provider for young people aged 14-18 years, with social, emotional and mental health difficulties and autism.

Our Values

- Respectful – we are respectful of all views and personal circumstances, whatever they may be.
- Honest – we are open and transparent in all we do.
- Kind – we treat everyone with kindness and the care they need.
- Committed – we are focussed on meeting all our students' needs.
- Independent – We think for ourselves and work towards our goals
- Creative - We are imaginative, passionate and playful

Our Ethos

We are a therapeutic school where we use a trauma informed approach and together we improve the safety, learning, mental health, physical health, and wellbeing of all our children, young people and staff.

Our Mantra:

A passion for education. A vision of Excellence. A mission to succeed.

The Copper Academy for learners with special educational needs and disabilities. Our specialisms are autism and social, emotional and mental health difficulties. We recognise that all learners may also have experienced trauma and we are working towards accreditation as trauma informed practitioners.

Our learners come from Devon and Cornwall and many travel up to an hour to attend our school.

We offer full-time programs for learners who have difficulties with:

- Anxiety, worries and fear
- Anger, and frustration,
- Self-esteem and wellbeing
- Socialising, for example, they struggle to make friends
- Communicating their feelings or understanding others feelings
- Verbal or physical aggression
- Withdrawing, self-harming
- Mood changes and emotional outbursts
- Concentrating and engaging with learning

Each application will be handled personally by our Headteacher Emma Hosie

A Quick Guide to the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Process & Admission to The Copper Academy

A parent or professional can request an EHCP. The Local authority will consider this request. If they agree to go ahead with the assessment, the process should take 20 weeks to the final plan being issued. Information about the level of need associated with an EHCP is available on the LA websites. When parents receive the draft EHCP they have 15 days to respond to say if they want any amendments. This is when they can name a school. They can name The Copper Academy if it is their preferred school, as we are registered with the DfE and Ofsted.

The Local authority must consider this request, unless the school named is believed to be

- *unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person*
- or
- *the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others or the efficient use of resources*

The Copper Academy is an independent school and charges fees to the local authority. The level of fees is agreed on a case by case basis, depending on the level of needs of each child. Local authorities will only usually agree to place children who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where it has also been agreed that a special school is necessary to meet the child's needs. The decision about whether a special school placement is appropriate is made by the local authority in conjunction with health colleagues. This is the due legal process and is made at the conclusion of the statutory assessment or via the annual EHCP review process.

Advice about school placements can be sought from the SEN Assessment & Provision Team at Cornwall County Council, 0-25 SEND Team at Devon County Council or Special Educational Needs or Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDiass - previously known as Parent Partnership). If parents do not agree with the local authority's decision they have the right to go to mediation or appeal to a tribunal.

www.cornwallsendiass.org.uk

sendiass@disabilitycornwall.org.uk / T: 01326 331633

www.devonias.org.uk

devonias@devon.gov.uk / T: 01392 383080

If a child already has an Education Health and Care Plan and parents want a move to The Copper Academy, they need to do this through the annual Education Health and Care Plan review process. At this annual review meeting school staff, parents and any other professional involved would need to provide evidence that the current school cannot meet the child's needs, as set out in the EHCP and that even with additional top-up funding that they could not do this. The school have 2 weeks to write up the recommendations from the meeting. The Local authority will then consider if they will agree to a change of school.

If the local authority agrees to consult with The Copper Academy, they will send the Headteacher the pupil's Education Health and Care Plan and ask the Headteacher to

write a report detailing how we would meet their needs. The Headteacher would need to meet the child, family and previous school and then detail the timetable, curriculum and therapies that we would offer, staffing levels, specialist equipment, monitoring processes etc. This would take approx. 1 week. The local authority would then have 2 weeks to consider our response. They may also consult other schools at the same time and then consider all responses. If they agree to place with us, they would then organise transport.

Leaving The Copper Academy

We work with local authorities, pupils, parents, carers and other providers to plan this through the annual review of the Education Health and Care Plan.

If we feel that we are unable to meet a pupil's needs and that another school placement needs to be considered, we will plan a managed move through the annual review of the Education Health and Care Plan.

It is not our policy to issue fixed term or permanent exclusions. However, the school maintains the rights to do this in response to extreme circumstances.

Transitions in and out of The Copper Academy

Many of our learners have been out of education for extended periods before starting at The Copper Academy. Others have anxieties about school, learning, or about developing trusting relationships with adults and/or peers. As part of re-introducing learners to school and introducing them to us we plan an initial transition. The aim is for the learners to attend full-time as quickly as possible.

As our learners move on to other educational settings we will support them in a similar way. We will work with other schools and colleges by supporting learners to visit their establishments and spend time getting to know them. We will plan transitions with the learner and their family so that the next stage is prepared for. A portfolio will be prepared for learners to take with them as a record of their achievements and successes.