

Liberty Academy Trust

Statement of Provision for Vanguard School

Date	September 2026
Written By	Director of Education
Ratified By Executive Team	August 2026
Review Date	September 2027

Introduction

Vanguard School is a specialist school located in Lambeth, London. It is designed for autistic children and young people aged 11-19. It is part of the Liberty Academy Trust.

Our vision is to deliver an exceptional education for our children that meets their needs, aspirations and interests, and which prepares them well for adulthood.

The school is committed to nurturing each student's potential in a happy, inclusive setting. Students benefit from small class sizes and staff are trained specifically to support autistic learners. The school offers a balanced curriculum that includes traditional academic subjects alongside creative arts, sport, and enrichment activities. The curriculum has 3 domains which support personal, communication and academic development. There is a focus on helping pupils to develop life skills for in preparation for adulthood.

The school provides an education for pupils who require autism specific provision which is tailored to meet their social, sensory and communication needs, as well as providing support to enable them to manage levels of anxiety. These pupils are those identified as requiring adapted teaching and high levels of targeted intervention and specialist support throughout the school day. In addition to autism, which must be the primary need identified within the EHC Plan, children may also present with associated features such as language, sensory, behaviour or communication difficulties, alongside co-occurring challenges including high anxiety, Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The school caters for pupils whose academic levels on admission indicate that they are either currently capable of working towards the age related expected standard National Curriculum or may in the future be able to work towards age related expectations. Our pupils follow curriculum pathways that are suitable to their ability level and wherever possible pupils will work towards broadly age-related levels of attainment.

In secondary, students follow a typical timetable and are expected to transition between classes independently within an academically focused setting, where we anticipate that they will gain a range of qualifications, including functional skills, and GCSEs/Level 2 courses. Sixth form options include a range of qualifications, including at Level 3, depending on ability. Where appropriate, A-levels course of study can be followed; however, may be delivered through partnerships with other providers to ensure access to a wider range of subject areas.

Admissions to the School

Vanguard School is a mixed specialist school for autistic children and young people. Our school provides 78 places for pupils between the age of 11-19.

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a local authority, in the child's education health and care plan (EHCP).

Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to name our school in their child's EHCP.

If the local authority intends to name the school in an EHC plan, the school will carry out an admissions assessment. When deciding whether to admit the pupil, the school will be

informed by the [Children and Families Act \(2014\)](#) and follow guidance provided in the [2015 Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 0-25 years](#) (CoP).

Pupils awaiting a diagnosis, who have been referred to the relevant diagnostic body, and are recognised by professionals as being likely to receive a diagnosis of autism may also be accepted in consultation with the Director of Education. Placements for pupils who meet these criteria will only be considered if suitable placement numbers allow and priority may be given to pupils who already have a confirmed diagnosis. In exceptional cases, where a pupil does not go on to receive a diagnosis and the school determines they are not able to meet needs then the school may need to call an emergency annual review and request a change of placement.

Students placed at our schools are funded through DfE with a top up funding through the LA. The local authority is responsible for commissioning the placement, agreeing the top-up funding, and ensuring that the provision specified in the pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is delivered in accordance with statutory requirements.

In certain circumstances the school may decide to withdraw a place, following consultation with the Local Authority, if one of the following circumstances occurs:

- Where a parent/carers has not responded to the offer of a place, even after additional communication via a different means.
- Where fraudulent or intentionally misleading information is used as part of the application; or
- Where the offer has been made in error.

The offer will only be withdrawn following written agreement from the Local Authority.

Our admissions process

- 1 The Local Authority will send a copy of the pupil's EHCP and supporting documents to the school for consultation.
- 2 If the Principal agrees that the school can meet the needs of your child based on the documentation, the school will arrange an assessment visit.
- 3 The Principal and the Admissions Team will arrange to visit and observe the young person in their present setting and talk to any relevant professionals about their needs.
 1. If the internal Admission Team agrees needs can be met, they will inform the Local Authority by way of an offer letter.
 2. If the Admissions Team, decides the school is unable to meet need, the local authority is advised of the reasons for this decision by way of a decline letter stating the reasons.
- 4 The local authority will arrange transport in accordance with its own Home to School Transport policy. The school is not involved in arranging this.
 3. If there are no available places within the school, further discussions would take place between the school and the Local Authority.

For further information on our school or the process for obtaining a place here contact :

admissions@vanguardschool.org.uk or 0208 0596 310

Other school policies and further information can be found on our website and in the following policies:

- Equal Opportunities
- Curriculum Policy
- Complaints Procedure,
- Safeguarding Policy