

## **Liberty Academy Trust**

### **Statement of Provision for Thames Valley School**

<b>Date</b>	September 2025
<b>Written By</b>	Executive Team
<b>Ratified By Trustees</b>	
<b>Review Date</b>	September 2026

## Introduction

Thames Valley School is a specialist school located in Reading, Berkshire, designed for autistic children and young people aged 4 to 16. 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 pupil's potential in a happy, inclusive setting. Pupils 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 music, art, sport, and enrichment activities. The curriculum has 3 domains which support personal, communication and academic development. There is a focus on independence and helping pupils to develop life skills for independent 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 a modified yet structured national curriculum content, with support from specialist staff within a specialist environment. This support includes a structured environment and high levels of targeted intervention and support throughout the school day. In addition to autism, the EHC plan may include similar presenting features such as language, sensory, behaviour or communication difficulties.

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. At TVS, we cater for pupils who can access a formalised curriculum, leading to external qualifications in the future. 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, pupils 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-level courses of study can be followed; however, these may be delivered through partnerships with other providers to ensure access to a wide range of subject areas that meets the needs and interests of pupils.

## Admissions to the School

Thames Valley School is a special school which provides 78 places for children of both sexes in the age range 4-16 with a diagnosis of Autism.

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 or carers 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).

A local authority may refer a child to the school as part of the process for assessing their need for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or to reassess their needs following a change in circumstances. Any such assessment is carried out by the local authority and must be completed within the 20-week timeframe set out in the CoP. Children being assessed for an EHCP will be dual registered and return, full time, to their mainstream school if the LA decides not to issue an EHCP.

Pupils placed at our schools get place funding through DfE and top up funding through the local authority. 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 the with 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 papers to the school for consideration.
- 2 If the Principal agrees that the school can meet the needs of your child based on the papers, the school will arrange an assessment visit.
- 3 The Principal, member of Senior Leadership Team, Family Support Worker or/and member of the Therapy team will arrange to visit and observe the child/young person in their present setting and talk to any relevant professionals about their needs.
- 4 If the school admission panel feel we can still meet those needs, they will inform the SEN department at the relevant local authority and admission is arranged
- 5 If the school admission panel decides we cannot meet the child/young person's needs, the local authority is advised of the reasons for this decision in a form that can be shared with parents / carers.
- 6 The local authority will arrange transport in accordance with its own Home to School Transport policy.
- 7 If the school is full, it cannot offer a place of as this would compromise the safe and effective education of the pupils already on roll. This would be discussed with the local authority.

For further information on our school or the process for obtaining a place here contact:  
[admissions@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk).

Other school policies and further information can be found via these links:

- Equal opportunities
- Curriculum Policy
- Complaints procedure,
- Safeguarding policy