



JAMES MARKS ACADEMY ADMISSION STATEMENT

THIS IS A STATUTORY POLICY which must be published on the school website

This policy was devised in February 2023 in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and the Trust Board. It was last revised in September 2025.

It was ratified by the Trust Board on 15th October 2025

REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed annually

Introductory statement

The James Marks Academy is a day, co-educational special school for pupils whose primary, or main presenting needs, relate to their mental health as a result of high anxiety.

The James Marks Academy curriculum is based on a mainstream model. The justification for this is it provides our pupils with breadth of access to a range of subjects, which will then allow for a seamless return to mainstream, during years 7-9, should an individual pupil's mental health improve to the extent that they feel able too. Once a pupil starts year 10, the expectation is they will remain in the academy for at least the next two years, to provide them with the greatest chance of success, in examinations at the end of year 11.

Subjects taught will include English, maths, science, PSHE, geography, history, ICT, art, food and gym. A supportive curriculum runs alongside the traditional curriculum and can include: design, horticulture and counselling.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure we are able to address pupil's individual special educational needs; needs which are likely to have led to low self-esteem, high anxiety and poor previous attendance.

We believe our diverse, inclusive and targeted curriculum will support a smooth transition to employment, training or further education, as a result of equipping our pupils with the skills, knowledge and self-belief so they become happy, socially aware and economically active, successful young adults and reach their full potential.

Admissions to the School

The James Marks Academy is a special school which when full will provide 72 places for children of both sexes in the age range 11-19 with SEMH needs, with the emphasis on mental health and high anxiety. In the words of the LA 'those pupils for whom a traditional SEMH school would be inappropriate'.

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

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

A local authority can also refer a child to the school, to be assessed for an EHCP plan, or following a change in the child's circumstances for his or her needs to be assessed, or reassessed. Any assessment should be completed within the 20 weeks set out in the SEND Code of Practice.

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.

For further information please refer to the [Hertfordshire Requesting a Special School Place process](#).

Other school policies and further information can be found on the [school's website](#).

Some policies are held centrally on the [Trust website](#) e.g. complaints Policy.