

SOUTH BROCKWELLS — FARM SCHOOL —



Admissions Policy

education@southbrockwellsfarm.com



EXPLORE

INSPIRE

RESET

DEVELOP

1. Introduction

South Brockwells Farm School (SBFS) is an East Sussex approved Alternative Provision, where we offer a distinctive farm-based learning opportunity for vulnerable children and young people who are struggling or currently unable to access mainstream/specialist education and/or are at risk of social or academic exclusion.

SBFS is committed to providing a supportive and therapeutic learning environment for all students. Our admissions policy aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and equality of opportunity for all applicants.

SBFS is an alternative provision and not a registrable independent school within the definition of the Education Act 1996, since it does not offer 'full time education' and does not preclude the possibility that full-time education could be provided elsewhere. Indeed, our provision supplements and supports students' wellbeing and education, whether they are in mainstream or specialist school or under the responsibility of the local authority, while awaiting a new school placement.

2. Admissions Criteria

Admission to SBFS is determined by the following criteria: _

- Students must be between the ages of 7-18 years old
- Referrals are accepted from Schools, Academies, Local Authorities, and other professional agencies such as Social Workers, Virtual School, Doctors.
- 'Looked After Children' (LAC)
 - Priority will be given to LAC as defined by the Children Act 1989.
- Children do not have to have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) to be referred to SBFS
- Children should have an Additional Needs Plan (ANP) to be referred to SBFS
- Students may be referred to us for one or more of the following:-
 - Whilst awaiting specialist provision
 - A lack of engagement in school
 - Low attendance and attainment
 - Poor mental well-being and self-esteem issues
 - Anxiety

- Underdeveloped life-skills
- A lack of pro-social behaviours
- A pattern of negative relationships with adults and peers.
- Strategy to avoid permanent exclusion
- Exceptional Circumstances
 - Consideration will be given in to exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis, subject to availability of spaces and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

3. Application Process

Referrals must be made by completing the SBFS 'Referral Form' and 'Medical Consent Form' (available on our website www.southbrockwellsfarm.com), attaching the requested documentation, and emailing them to education@southbrockwellsfarm.com.

- Referrals will be responded to within a maximum of 10 working days, though often sooner.
- Referrals are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the academic year.

4. Assessment and Selection

- If it is determined through scrutiny of the referral that SBFS could meet the student's needs, an induction session will be offered.
- The induction session takes place on a 2:1 staff:student ratio and serves to meet the student, assess their needs, challenges, barriers, and risks, allowing for an informed decision on whether SBFS is an appropriate alternative provision for that student.
- The induction session also provides an opportunity for the student to tour the farm, meet the animals, meet the team, ask questions, and express their interests.
- Parents/carers/supporting agencies are welcomed to attend the induction session to ease any initial anxiety, where appropriate.

5. Appeals Procedure

Parents/carers do not have the right to appeal if their child is not offered a place at SBFS.

6. Offer of Placement

- Upon completion of the induction session, the commissioning/referring body will receive a personalised feedback log with confirmation that SBFS CAN or CANNOT offer a placement.
- Placement terms are agreed between the Director of Education and the commissioning/referring body which will agree:-
 - A placement for a minimum of 1 x 3-hour session (3hrs) per week to a maximum of 4 x 3-hour sessions (12hrs) per week.

- Placement duration
 - An initial 6-week block which is reviewed by the Director of Education and the commissioning/referring body towards the end of the placement to assess student progress and placement outcomes.
 - If deemed appropriate, in the interest of the student and with the agreement of the parent/carer and student, the placement may be extended.

7. Waiting List

Where oversubscription occurs, places will be allocated based on the aforementioned admissions criteria and a waiting list held which shall be reviewed regularly.

8. Relevant policy, procedure & guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2023)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1161273/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2023_-_statutory_guidance_for_schools_and_colleges.pdf
- Children Acts 1989 and 2004
- Education Act 1996

9. Review and revision:

This admissions policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with legal requirements and best practices.

Any revisions to the policy will be communicated to all stakeholders and made publicly available on our website.

SBFS is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all students, regardless of background or circumstance. This admissions policy reflects our dedication to providing a fair and transparent process for all applicants.

10. Policy status and review

Written by:	Director of Education
Owner:	Director of Education
Status:	V1 = 15/12/2023 Submitted to Board of Directors, SBF School.
Approval date:	V1 =17/01/24
Date reviewed	
Next review date:	January 2025