



## **Admissions Policy**

### **Introduction**

The admission procedures of Bale's Farm fall outside the two 'Codes of Practice' for maintained schools. However, the institution takes into account the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the rules of natural justice, when implementing the admission policy and procedure.

Bale's Farm is designated as an Alternative Provision with a focus on SEMH and ASD provision. There are 30 places across the school sites specifically for KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 and POST 16 learners.

### **Admissions Criteria**

Admissions to Bale's Farm will be based on referrals from the Local Authority and subject to the commissioning agreement held between the 0-25 team and Bale's Farm as the proprietors of the school.

Parents wishing to request placements with Bale's Farm are welcome to visit the site and, where appropriate, will be signposted to the Local Authority to make a request for a place. Typically, the Local Authority will commission places for learners who have EHC Plans and/or SEN and who have not been able to cope within a mainstream setting.

Priority will be given to Local Authority referrals when places are agreed upon. However, this does not mean Bale's Farm will not consider private arrangements.

Priority will be given to learners with EHC Plans, identified SEN or ASD and/or who have presented within the mainstream setting with school phobic tendencies, high anxiety or other SEMH attributes such as behavioural issues.

There is no priority given to school places based on age or ability.

Although all learners will be considered, it is important that Bale's Farm has a clear understanding of needs and abilities before a place is accepted. This will require our referral forms to be completed including a review of any relevant paperwork such as, TAF Review paperwork, Risk Assessments SEN Reports and EHC Plans. It is also important for learners and their parent/guardian to visit the site to ensure that it will be suitable for the learner. Bale's Farm operates almost exclusively outdoors with a varied terrain, meaning it may not be suitable for all learners if mobility is difficult (for a comprehensive idea of the site conditions and practical steps taken in line with the Equality Act please refer to our accessibility plan).

### **Start dates**

The Outdoor School operates a termly start date process, where learners who accept a place can start at the school on the first day of any given term. Our term dates are available on the website ([www.balesfarm.org](http://www.balesfarm.org)).

Date Reviewed: 05/03/2025

Next Reviewed: 05/03/2026

