

Liberty Academy Trust

Statement of Provision for Church Lawton School

Date	September 2025
Written By	
Ratified By Executive Team	
Review Date	September 2026

Introduction

Church Lawton School is a specialist autism school located in Alsager, Cheshire. It provides publicly funded educational day places for autistic children and young people aged 4–19. The school is part of Liberty Academy Trust.

Our vision is to deliver an exceptional education that equips autistic learners with the skills, confidence, and independence to thrive. We believe every pupil should be prepared effectively for adulthood through a curriculum and provision tailored to their unique strengths and needs.

The school provides small class sizes, a structured learning environment, and access to a multi-disciplinary team, including specialist teaching staff and therapeutic support. Our curriculum combines academic achievement, communication development, and personal growth, with a strong emphasis on independence, life skills, and preparation for adulthood.

Our Provision

Church Lawton School provides autism-specific provision which is tailored to meet social, sensory, and communication needs. All pupils must have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that makes clear reference to a diagnosis of autism (SEND Code of Practice, 2015, paras. 9.79–9.80).

We admit pupils whose academic levels on entry suggest they are:

- working towards age-related national curriculum standards, or
- may in the future be able to work towards age-related expectations.

In our Early years setting pupils will follow the EYFS curriculum and staff will ensure they assessed against the EYFS Baseline assessment. In Primary and Middle, pupils follow the appropriate key stage curriculum and will predominately be based in their form classroom for most of their lessons. Pupils will also complete their statutory tests around phonics screening, and Multiplication Tables Check. Pupils in year 6, where appropriate, will be entered for their SATS exams. In secondary, students follow a typical timetable and are expected to transition between classes independently within an academically focused setting. Pupils follow individualised pathways that support progress towards qualifications appropriate to their ability, including Functional Skills, BTECs, and GCSEs/Level 2 courses. In sixth form, pupils access vocational programmes, supported internships, and where appropriate, and depending on ability, qualifications up to Level 3.

Many of our pupils present with additional needs, such as ADHD, OCD, sensory/physical challenges. These are supported within our autism-specific environment where structured teaching, targeted intervention, and therapeutic support are embedded throughout the school day.

Admissions to the School

Church Lawton School has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 84 pupils across the 4–19 age range.

In line with the SEND Code of Practice (2015), the Children and Families Act (2014), and the School Admissions Code (2021):

1. The child will have an EHCP which documents a diagnosis of autism.
2. The local authority must agree to fund the placement.
3. Attendance at the school must be compatible with the efficient education and safety of others (SEND CoP 2015, para. 9.79).
4. Attendance must be compatible with the efficient use of resources.

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named in their EHCP by their local authority, in line with Section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Parents wishing their child to benefit from our provision should request their local authority to name Church Lawton School in the EHCP.

The school may also admit pupils without an EHCP on a time-limited assessment placement, at the request of the local authority. These placements will not exceed 20 weeks, in accordance with the DfE Special Free School Admissions Guidance (2016).

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Our admissions process

1. The local authority sends the EHCP and supporting documentation to the school for consultation.
2. The Principal and Admissions Team review the paperwork to establish whether the school can meet the pupil's needs.
3. If appropriate, members of staff visit the pupil in their current setting, and/or invite the family for a school visit, to observe and gather further information.
4. A compatibility assessment may be conducted to ensure the placement supports both the individual and the wider pupil group.
5. The school provides a formal response to the local authority within 15 calendar days, either:
 - an offer letter, if the school can meet need, or
 - a decline letter setting out reasons why the school cannot meet need (DfE guidance, 2016).
6. If a place is agreed, the local authority amends the EHCP to name the school and arranges transport in line with its Home to School Transport policy.

All placements are subject to a planned transition process, led by a designated staff member, to ensure a smooth start for the pupil.

Withdrawing Places

In exceptional circumstances, and only following consultation with the local authority, the school may withdraw a place if:

- Parents/carers fail to respond to an offer after repeated attempts.
- The application included fraudulent or intentionally misleading information.
- An offer was made in error.

Policy and Legal Framework

This Statement of Provision is underpinned by:

- Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 43)
- SEND Code of Practice 2015 (particularly Sections 9.78–9.80 on naming schools in EHCPs)
- School Admissions Code 2021
- Special Free School Admissions Guidance (DfE, 2016)

Further Information

For enquiries about admissions and provision at Church Lawton School, please contact:

Email: office@churchlawtonschool.org.uk

Phone: 01270 877601

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