Admissions Policy Statement

Our Vision

Achieving More Together

Our Mission

Working together passionately to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people in our specialist SEND and AP settings

Reviewed by:	CEO
Ratified by:	Board of Trustees
Ratification Date:	2nd July 2026
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Review Date:	July 2027
Related policies:	N/A

Enable Trust is a Specialist SEND AP Multi Academy Trust. Our settings are:

- **Culverhill School, Yate**: Complex Learning Difficulties (CLD)
- **New Siblands School, Thornbury**: severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- **Pathways Learning Centre, Downend**: Alternative Provision (AP)
- **Two Bridges Academy, Alveston**: severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)

All pupils attending New Siblands, Two Bridges and Culverhill have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Some pupils attending Pathways Learning Centre (PLC) have an EHCP, but PLC also supports pupils without an EHCP.

Pathways Learning Centre (PLC) is a specialist alternative provision (AP) school providing placements for young people who live in South Gloucestershire but are unable to attend mainstream school for a period of time, or who are waiting for long term specialist placements to be found for them. There are a variety of reasons why children or young people might need a placement at PLC, but these include exclusion from mainstream, significant medical needs, severe anxiety, mental health needs, or social and emotional difficulties. Those with EHCPs attending PLC may live in South Gloucestershire or Bristol.

Responsibility for the educational provision for children with EHCPs, or for those in Alternative Provision (AP) schools who cannot attend mainstream provision lies with the Local Authority.

The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to ensure that all special educational provision in Section F of an EHCP is delivered. This legal duty is set out in Section 42(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014, and resides fully with the LA, not the school.

The Local Authority (LA) also has a statutory duty to *'make arrangements for suitable education at school or otherwise for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, exclusion, or other circumstances, would not otherwise receive a suitable education'*. This legal duty is set out in Section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996 (Education Act 1996, s.19(1)) and is commonly referred to as the Section 19 duty. Pathways Learning Centre (PLC) supports South Gloucestershire LA to fulfil this duty via its commissioning arrangements. Admission and transition back to home schools is agreed via the LA Section 19 Panel, which meets with PLC leaders fortnightly to review capacity for admissions and to discuss pupils ready to return. Pupils attending PLC in Year 11 will remain at PLC and are supported to transition on to an appropriate Post 16 educational provider, or into employment or training.

When Enable Trust responds to an EHCP consult for a place at one of our schools, we will make it clear to the LA the funding we require in order to deliver Section F on the pupil's EHCP, and which will enable the LA to fulfil their legal duty under Section 42(2)

In the event of a pupil being placed with us with inappropriate funding this will impact on the nature and breadth of the placement we can offer, and we will notify the LA through formal Annual Review processes that they are likely in breach of their duty under 42(2), and we will be unable to fully deliver the provisions in Section F on their behalf. In relation to pupils with EHCPs attending PLC due to a Section 19 referral (ie. a 12-week placement), the full provision in Section F may not be delivered during this period, as suitable funding or resources may not be in place. However, if, after the 12 – week placement, or as a direct consult application, the LA request a longer-term placement at PLC, or for PLC to be named on a child's EHCP, then, as above, additional funding will be requested to ensure PLC can fully deliver the provision in Section F on their behalf.

This process considers the needs of the child as stated in their EHCP and the school's ability to meet that need. This includes consideration of the health and safety needs of the child and others within our school community. Where we do not feel that we can meet a child's needs for any reason, we will engage the Local Authority in active dialogue to resolve the issue. As a Trust we strive to deliver positive educational outcomes for every child through a high quality and holistic education.

To be considered for a place at one of our schools for a pupil with an EHCP, parents who live in South Gloucestershire must complete the South Gloucestershire Council admissions process:

https://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/school-admissions/

To be considered for a place at Pathways Learning Centre (PLC) for a pupil without an EHCP, please refer to the South Gloucestershire Section 19 guidance here :

https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=Zv_lTe2Bn40