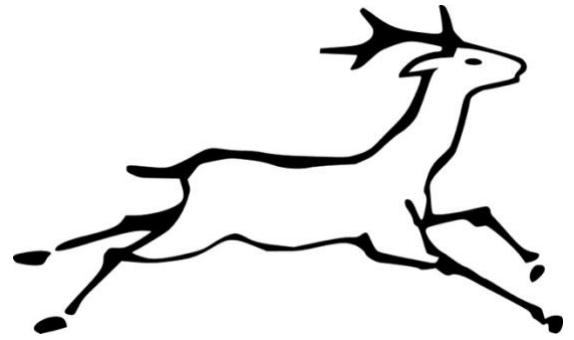




Admissions Policy

Reviewed: 15/05/2026 | Next date for review: 01/05/2027

General Statement of the School's Admissions Criteria

At Running Deer ('the School') we have the space for young people with Special Educational Needs to express themselves without the confines of a traditional classroom environment. Nature is one of our biggest therapeutic tools and Butterdon Wood is perfect for young people to learn, develop and participate in activities, even if they do not engage with nature directly.

The School will require information of any disability or special education needs which may affect a child's ability to participate in the admissions procedure and take full advantage of the education provided at the School, so that the School can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to ensure that the application procedure is accessible for the candidate and that the School can cater adequately for the pupil should the offer of a place be made.

Running Deer School, the Board of Directors, and members of staff, are all subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, to ensure that there is no discrimination or harassment on the grounds of gender identification, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, race, ethnicity, religion or beliefs and pregnancy or maternity.

Full Time, On-Roll, Admissions

The Admissions Process:

- Running Deer School receives a referral from a Local Authority.
- The Head of School / SENCO reads the referral paperwork to ascertain if the student's needs can be met through Running Deer's Core Offer.
- The Head of School / SENCO and the Senior Leadership Team also consider whether admitting this young person would have an impact on the other students, and whether this impact might be detrimental, in which case a place would not be considered.
- If it is established that a child's needs can potentially be met, the Head of School / SENCO liaises with the Local Authority, with any outside agencies, and with the student's current or previous setting to discuss and establish the unique needs of the individual student.
- The Head of School / SENCO then invites parent/carers to visit the school, ahead of a second visit with the young person attending as well. The purpose of this visit is for parents and carers to

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establish whether Running Deer is the right setting for their child, and for Running Deer to establish whether the young person would thrive in our outdoor environment.

- If all are in agreement that Running Deer can meet the student's needs and that Running Deer is the right environment for the student, the Senior Leadership Team consider a risk assessment for the young person, to establish whether they will need to work with one adult or two adults alongside them all day, and whether this level of supervision is appropriate, manageable and proportionate.
- If the Head of School / SENCO and SLT agree that Running Deer can meet the student's needs and that Running Deer is the right environment for the student, the Head of School / SENCO will formally respond to the LA with a completed Assessment of Need form which details Running Deer's core offer and how it can be adapted to meet the student's individual needs.
- Once the LA have agreed to fund a place for the student the Senior Leadership Team will together agree a transition plan, which will be unique for each student.
- Once the student starts on roll at Running Deer, the school will request all remaining necessary paperwork from the student's current/previous settings.
- The Head of School / SENCO will produce an individual SEND Provision Plan, risk assessment and interaction plan which will be shared with all necessary staff.
- The Head of School / SENCO will host a Transition Review for parent/carers, students and staff, during the first half term, to establish that the students' needs are being met and that parents and carers are receiving the support they need from the school. If necessary, this review is repeated at the end of the first term.

Running Deer Interventions Service

Working closely with professionals and schools we can provide an individually tailored programme for young people aged 8 -16 years with Special Educational Needs that may be part of a reduced timetable, or to support them whilst they transition into a new school.

Referrals are accepted on a part-time basis from other schools, subject to a trial period to ensure suitability for all parties.

Parents or guardians with prospective students are encouraged to visit our Interventions Service to assist their decision-making process. Personal visits can be arranged by appointment for information and to view facilities.

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Contact Running Deer School

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Website: <https://www.runningdeerschool.org.uk>

Running Deer Interventions Services

3 Court Street, Moretonhampstead, Devon, TQ13 8NE

Running Deer Family Centre, 16 Station Road, Moretonhampstead, TQ13 8NQ

Telephone: 01647 279332 | Email: ifs@runningdeer.org.uk

Website: <https://www.interventions.runningdeer.org.uk>

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