

Cultivate School Admissions Policy (2025/26)

Last updated October 2025

Cultivate is a small, nurturing independent school rooted in Nonviolent Communication (NVC) principles. Our admissions arrangements combine care for individual needs with open, transparent criteria, in full accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and all UK statutory guidance for independent schools.

Application & Assessment Stages

1. **Application Form**
Families provide background information on their child's interests, habits, and support requirements. Here, applicants may also state if they wish to be considered for fee relief or bursary places; all families are welcome to apply for support.
 2. **Phone Conversation**
We schedule a call to discuss family hopes, answer questions, and share how Cultivate's ethos and learning model work.
 3. **Meet the Child and Family**
Coaches will meet the child in a comfortable, familiar setting - usually at home, or observing them at a group or club that they attend - to gain a holistic sense of strengths and needs. Compatibility with other pupils and safety/wellbeing of all will be assessed, with willingness to explore reasonable adjustments wherever feasible.
 4. **Paid Trial Period**
Families are invited to participate in a paid trial, lasting between 5–15 days, on mutually agreed dates (including options in school holidays).
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Admission Offer and Fees

- If both family and school wish to proceed, a formal offer is made.
 - A non-refundable deposit equal to half a quarter's fees is required to secure the place (and returned when the child leaves the school, subject to our deposits policy).
 - Actual fees payable will be clarified at this stage and will always include any applicable VAT or extra charges in accordance with UK law.
 - Means testing for reduced fees or bursaries is conducted by a trusted third party; fee status is just one of several balanced criteria.
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Selection Criteria

Places are limited and, when oversubscribed, applications are prioritized as follows (always subject to compliance with equality law):

Criterion	Description & Rationale
Fee Level	Full-fee-paying families prioritised; enables bursary/relief to others
Sibling/Family/Staff Links	Siblings or children of staff/families take priority to enable community links
Gender/Age and Balancing needs	Seeks healthy classroom mix; never excludes; all reasonable adjustments considered
Locality	Preference to local children where practical, to support local community links and increase stability;
Attendance Patterns	Part-time/flexi-schooling places match up for group viability; applied fairly

SEND Provision and Individual Needs

Cultivate is designed to support children who may have experienced mental health challenges or sensory overload in larger settings. Our one-room model offers a calm, close-knit group, but places limits on how diverse needs can be successfully accommodated in a single environment.

- We do not have direct access to local authority SEND resources.
 - Requests for specialist support or accompaniment by an additional adult will be considered thoroughly; where support is needed beyond our regular staffing, it can only be provided if fully funded by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or the family themselves. All reasonable adjustments will be explored, regardless of EHCP status.
 - Admission decisions based on compatibility with existing pupils' needs will reflect the welfare, safety, and best fit for all children, never operating as a blanket refusal policy.
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Reasonable Adjustments & Complaints

Cultivate will always consider reasonable adjustments for children with SEN/disabilities and hold transparent discussions with families. If a child's individual needs exceed what can be safely delivered, this decision will be reached collaboratively and clearly.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Statement

Cultivate welcomes applications from families of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate on grounds of disability or special educational needs, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other protected characteristic. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to our provision wherever possible and always assess the needs of each child individually and transparently, aiming to find solutions before concluding we cannot meet a particular need.

Commitments

- All applications are treated fairly, openly, and with respect to diversity and equality.
 - Children and families can request reasonable adjustments and support at any stage.
 - Admission criteria are applied with regard to the best interests, wellbeing, and safety of all children.
 - Our process is regularly reviewed for compliance with current law and best practice.
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Cultivate's admissions arrangements are continuously monitored and evaluated to reflect legal obligations and community values, ensuring fairness, inclusion, and child-centered decision-making at every stage