



Admissions Policy

Date of last review: November 2025

Date of next review: November 2026

Wacky Woods AP aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive outdoor learning environment for children who benefit from a forest-based alternative provision. This policy sets out how children are considered for admission, how decisions are made, and how we ensure placements are suitable and safe.

Who we support

Wacky Woods AP welcomes children who may struggle in mainstream classroom environments and who are likely to benefit from outdoor learning, relationship-based support, and practical, hands-on activities.

We are able to support children with:

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs
- Anxiety or emotional regulation difficulties
- Attention and concentration difficulties
- Some neurodiverse profiles where outdoor learning is appropriate

Support is provided through clear routines, consistent staffing, high adult supervision.

Site limitations and accessibility

Due to the nature of our outdoor site, we are unable to accommodate:

- Full wheelchair access
- Complex medical needs requiring sterile environments
- Children requiring specialist feeding (e.g. feeding tubes)
- Children requiring complex toileting support

These limitations are due to the natural, outdoor environment of the forest, which cannot be adapted to meet these needs safely.

Application and referral process

Admissions may come from:

- Parents/carers
- Schools
- Local Authority services
- Other professionals

All prospective pupils will go through an initial discussion to understand their needs, strengths, risks, and suitability for the setting. A visit or transition session may be offered before a final decision is made.

SEND and additional support

We can accommodate children with low to medium SEND needs within our usual staffing ratios.

If a child requires 1:1 or 2:1 support, this must be agreed in advance before the placement begins, as additional staff may need to be recruited.

Safeguarding and suitability

All admissions are considered with safeguarding as a priority. If at any point we feel we cannot meet a child's needs safely, we reserve the right to decline or end a placement. This may be due to:

- Insufficient staffing
- Insufficient training
- Health and safety risks
- Site limitations

Where this occurs, we will communicate clearly with families and, where relevant, referring schools or professionals.

Booking and availability

Places are offered subject to availability. Admissions may be prioritised based on:

- Referrals from schools or the Local Authority
- Children already known to the setting
- Suitability of needs to the provision

We reserve the right to manage group dynamics to ensure a safe and positive experience for all children.

Reintegration

Where appropriate, Wacky Woods AP works towards supporting children to reintegrate back into mainstream education, in collaboration with schools and other professionals. In some cases, a transition to a specialist or alternative setting may be more suitable.