



Section 2: Appeal for a Place (KS4)

An appeal for Cedar Mount Academy has been submitted on behalf of the child named in section 1. However there are mitigating circumstances which would make this admission detrimental to the educational development of the named child and to other students already at the academy and so we request no further admissions are made at this time.

Cedar Mount Academy is an 11-16 mixed school that currently has 889 students on roll (PAN 900) however our mobility shows 105 students in and 39 out since September 2022.

The year groups breakdown as follows (the PAN for each is 180):

Year 7 – 150 (83% PAN)

Year 8 – 173 (96% PAN)

Year 9 – 196 (109% PAN – agreed increase to 200 to support the LA)

Year 10 – 177 (98% PAN)

Year 11 – 191 (106% PAN)

We currently have an EAL population of 63.2% (the National Average is 19.5%), of which approx. 240 students (27% of the total school population) are classified as New to English, Early Acquisition or Developing Competence and thus require significant additional support to access the curriculum.

Cedar Mount also serves a population that is 47.6% PP and 59.2% FSM (the National picture for FSM in Secondary is 22.5%), although this is below the actual figure as a significant number of families will not agree to apply for this for cultural reasons.

13.2% of the student population at Cedar Mount have a registered medical condition and 22.6% of the population have SEND support needs (National 12.6%) and there are currently 21 students with EHCPs, meaning that there are significant and sustained requirements from our SEND team to support our most educationally vulnerable students.

Currently 87% of students at Cedar Mount are below their chronological reading ages, putting a significant pressure on the academy to close these gaps so that the students are able to access their statutory examinations.

In light of the above, the academy believes that it is not an efficient use of resources for Cedar Mount to take the student on roll, whilst places are available in other Manchester schools. An increase in our student population, outside of our normal admissions process, at this time would make it impossible to give all students the amount of individual attention they require and would significantly inhibit small group support or intervention programmes.

The potential difficulties projected by the admission of additional students in KS4 are identified below and, in providing a quality education to all of its pupils, the academy identifies that the admission of an additional child would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources:

1. As the student has already picked their option subjects, we may not offer those particular subjects at Cedar Mount Academy. It would therefore create a safeguarding issue as we do not have anywhere to accommodate students with spaces on their timetable.
2. If the student has already completed any marked assessments then they would need to be completed again as they cannot carry forward from one school to another. The time pressure between now and the start of the Year 11 examinations is very tight, therefore it would be near on impossible for the student to re-submit all controlled assessments at this late stage.
3. If a student presents behavioural issues at the school they currently attend then they would have a detrimental impact on the existing KS4 cohort at Cedar Mount Academy during the most crucial time of their education.
4. If a student is not currently educated on-site at their current school there would be very valid reasons as to why this decision had been made. Therefore it would not be in the best interest of the student to be accommodated in mainstream education without a detailed integration package. As the student is in KS4, there would potentially not be enough time to safely integrate before examinations commence.