



Growth through Understanding

## **Admissions Policy 2012**

Thomas Bewick is a community special school for pupils aged between three and nineteen years with autism and pervasive developmental disorders whose needs will be met in autism specific provision. All pupils, except those in nursery and on assessment places, have a statement of special educational needs and a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorder.

Thomas Bewick is part of Newcastle's continuum of ASD provision which includes mainstream schools, some with additional support and Additional Resource Centres (ARCs).

Pupils are placed in the school's Nursery for assessment (either at the main site or one of the satellite provisions); educational psychologists and speech and language and occupational therapists will work with the relevant teacher to assess the child and advise on their needs regarding statutory assessment and future school placements. Some of the children will stay at Thomas Bewick, while others will move on to supported places in a mainstream setting or into ARCs.

Other pupils are generally referred to us through the Local Authority and review of statement process.

When pupils are referred to us the school will work with a range of colleagues from different services, parents and the current school to assess the pupil's needs and whether they can be met at Thomas Bewick. The decision on the placement is the responsibility of the Local Authority and is based on multi agency reports and parents' views.

All referrals for admission of a pupil with special needs must be made through the LA Principal Officer for SEN. Final decisions about admissions rest with the Local Authority.

Continued placement at Thomas Bewick School is considered through annual review, in accordance with the Code of Practice. Consideration will be given to transfer to mainstream school if it is appropriate.

Parents are welcome to make a visit to the school and talk with staff about the provision available at the school. Once a pupil has been allocated a place, we will discuss with parents a transition programme to make the transfer to Thomas Bewick as smooth as possible.

The school has ninety seven planned full time places. If the school is full, we will assess any new referrals for suitability of placement and make a recommendation to the LA, giving notice that we are currently full. However the Local Authority Inclusion Panel has responsibility for placement and ultimately can direct the school to take a pupil.

There may be a situation where we are full in a particular key stage and unable to take a new admission, yet have a place in another area of the school. It would be hoped that the LA would take a reasonable viewpoint on this and understand that it is very difficult and unsettling for pupils and staff to rearrange classes mid -year.