

Securing a place at Flourish

Introduction

The Flourish Enhanced Provision Unit is based at Lowe’s Wong Junior School in Southwell. Funded by Nottinghamshire Local Authority and delivered in partnership with Minster Trust for Education, this specialist unit is designed to provide expert support for primary aged children (key stage 1 and key stage 2) who are struggling to successfully access their mainstream education and to cope in school.

Flourish offers fixed term placements for children to help them develop the skills they need to engage with their home (accountable) school setting. The “home” school is still accountable for the child and their education, while Flourish works in partnership to enhance provision. Flourish has the capacity for 8 pupils at any time, supported by three members of staff. More than 8 pupils may be engaging with the unit as pupils will not be attending all available sessions.

Provision at Flourish is part-time, with two sessions each day. There is no lunchtime provision. The morning session runs from 10am to 12 noon. The afternoon sessions runs from 1pm to 3pm.

Flourish provides enhanced provision for:

- Pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues that are sufficiently complex to prevent full access to the school curriculum.
- Pupils that exhibit Communication and Interaction needs, although this will be in conjunction with SEMH needs which are the primary consideration for the EPU.

More detailed information about the nature of the provision and how it operates is available on the Flourish Website : <https://www.mitretrust.org.uk/flourish>

Applying for a place

Applications can only be made by the school where the child is on-roll. They remain on-roll at that school. Parents/carers cannot apply for a place directly. Flourish enhanced school provision, it does not replace it. In more detail:

- Application should be made using the online form on the Flourish website and completing all details as fully as possible. This will include the need to submit additional documents so there is a full profile for the child. It may be that follow up conversations from the Flourish Team are needed to enhance this information.
- All applications must be completed by the school where the child is on-roll and with full consent and knowledge of the parents/carers.

- An established panel will convene every half term to consider all referrals made by schools. They will make the decision whether to offer a place for new referrals and will review progress being made by those already placed at Flourish.
- The panel will gather as much information as possible about requested placements. This will include through local SBAP, through discussions with family SENCOs and with schools that have made referrals. There will be clearly published deadlines for the submission of applications and paperwork in advance of panel meetings.
- The panel will include:
 - Family SENCOs for Newark and Minster
 - Flourish EPU staff
 - Lowe's Wong Junior School Head Teacher
 - Lowe's Wong Infant School Head Teacher
 - Minster Trust for Education SEND lead
 - SBAP representative

Which children are likely to secure a place?

Children will likely significantly exhibit the following:

- Difficulties in making and retaining friendships.
- Difficulties in following instructions, accepting adult direction and maintaining focus on tasks.
- An unusual response to some sensory stimuli. For example, may find noisy/busy classroom environments dysregulating.
- Evidence of rigid thought, making the pupil inflexible and unlikely to cope with change, resulting in significant signs of stress and anxiety.
- Struggles to access the mainstream classroom.
- Struggles to access a full-time curriculum.
- Anxiety related non-attendance.
- Difficulty in identifying and then understanding their emotions.

Schools applying for a Flourish Placement must be able to demonstrate tier 3 intervention is in place and has been implemented alongside a well-structured graduated response over time.