

SGS Create
Admissions Statement

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Admissions Statement

SGS Create is a dedicated centre for 14-16-year olds, which provides places for ambitious young people who may currently have become disengaged or suffer with anxiety which has led to long-term nonattendance, have mental health concerns, be neuro-diverse or are simply looking for an alternative offer to school.

At SGS Create, our vision is to create an education environment that inspires learners to be their best.

With an aspirational, supportive and flexible curriculum with learners' needs at its heart, enabling young people to:

- learn skills
- gain qualifications
- improve confidence and resilience
- build friendships and develop social skills
- be creative and respectful of their society and the environment
- progress to the next step in their education.

Gloucestershire Local Authority has a range of maintained specialist provisions that support pupils with complex learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. For more information regarding these provisions, please follow this link:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/alternative-provision-schools/>

Based at our Stroud Campus, SGS Create supports learners through GCSEs while offering a vocational element to their studies. The centre offers a different environment to learners who may not enjoy school but have the motivation and desire to progress with their studies. SGS Create offers a broad and balanced curriculum and alongside studying for traditional qualifications currently in English, maths, and a double award in science, they will develop skills and knowledge in other areas that are desired by employers. They will also complete work experience and carry out vocational study in a field they hope to pursue, subject to availability. We offer support from expert staff, ensuring that learners can achieve and progress.

SGS Create envisages engaging 14-16 learners who are particularly interested in the creative industries and would benefit from more vocational education along with the core GCSEs, as opposed to the standard key stage 4 curriculum experienced in schools.



Admissions to SGS Create

Applications for SGS Create are open from the October of each academic year and will close at the end of April of the subsequent year. Decisions will be made by the end of May annually. SGS Create offers up to 90 places annually. If places are still available by the end of May each year, a second application window will open between 1st and 30th June and decisions will be made by 31st July of that year. In order to make an application the learner and parent/carer must attend at least one open evening or open day. At these events a unique code will be shared that must be included in the application form. As part of the application all parents are required to send us the latest school reports (academic, behaviour and attendance). All learners must complete a personal statement, and create a short video about themselves. Learners apply directly to SGS College, but the local authority (“LA”) will be involved in the selection process, to ensure the needs of the applicants can be met. Current Year 9 pupils can apply to SGS Create as one of their Key Stage 4 options, to start Year 10 in the September of that academic year. Learners must turn 15 in the academic year 1st September to 31st August to be eligible for a place.

Selection criteria will be based on the following, in this order of priority:-

1. Long-term school refusers referred through the LA.
2. EHCP learners, where provision meets needs and outcomes.
3. Learners from other priority groups, such as care leavers, looked after children, young carers, where provision meets needs and outcomes.
4. Learners who may currently have become dis-engaged, suffer with anxiety which has led to long term non-attendance, have diagnosed mental health concerns and/or have a diagnosed neurodiverse condition, who can achieve 5 GCSEs and where provision meets needs and outcomes.
5. Learners who can attend a full school day, five days a week who can achieve 5 GCSEs and where provision meets needs and outcomes.



How to apply

In order for a student to apply all applicants and parents must attend an open event in person, and then they should apply through SGS College Application form (this will be emailed directly after the open event) providing as much detail as possible this should include the unique code shared at an open evening/open day. We also require parents of the applicant to send SGS Create the following documents, without all of these the application will not progress to the next stage. Instructions will be sent separately for the items below:

- Latest Academic Report
- Latest Attendance Report
- Latest Behaviour Report
- Supporting Statement from Learner
- Video Task

Once all documents, supporting statement and video have been received by SGS Create, students will be invited for an interview which will be conducted via Microsoft Teams

Students with EHCP

Parents or Carers must request a formal consultation through their SEN caseworker. SGS Create will then assess whether we can meet the needs outlined in the EHCP and will inform the SEN caseworker of our decision. Depending on the outcome, the applicant may proceed with the application process as described below. Please note that a decision confirming SGS Create can meet the needs specified in the EHCP does not automatically guarantee a place at SGS Create.

Outcomes for all applications will be communicated around the beginning of June each year. An offer letter will be sent out with instructions on how to accept the place.

If any of the above seems a little scary or learners are struggling to complete any aspects, please get in touch with the College and we will talk through what learners need from us or put any reasonable adjustments in place to help.

The informal interview is to ascertain the most appropriate route to ensure SGS Create is the right provision. The meeting will not only focus on the here and now, but career aspirations, hobbies, and getting to know the young person as an individual, which also allows learners to get to know us too! However learners should note that this meeting does not guarantee a place.

Consultation

Applicant details may be shared with the inclusion team at Gloucestershire County Council.



Offer of a place

If SGS Create is appropriate, SGS College will confirm the offer of a place to the family of the young person by 31st May of each application window, and acceptance of offers must be made by 5pm on 17th June. If other application windows open, decisions will be made in July of that application window. The offer of admission will be for enrollment at SGS Create, where the learner will pursue a specific vocational pathway. This offer is dependent on your acceptance of the vocational pathway in the offer email.

The parent/carer/family are responsible for making transport arrangements to and from SGS Create. An induction programme, appropriate to the applicant, will be created to support the transfer to SGS Create. This may include:

- Further meetings with the parents/carers and the young person
- Further visits to SGS Create to meet key staff to help with the transition
- Taster and link sessions in the summer term.

Number of Places

SGS Create will have space for up to 90 places each Year 10 intake. Where appropriate we will offer a space (between 5 & 10 places) to a small cohort of Year 11s directly into Year 11 for a one year course. The admissions process will be identical to above, and there is no guarantee of a space at SGS Create. The focus will be on developing the young person's resilience, confidence and looking to support them in taking their next steps Post-16. Some qualifications will be unattainable due to missed coursework and potentially missed time in school prior to attending SGS Create.

Appeal

Initial queries regarding admission decisions should be handled informally by the Headteacher of SGS Create within 5 working days. Where no satisfactory outcome can be agreed, all applicants have the right to appeal a decision, by writing formally to the College Principal within 15 working days of the applicant being informed of the decision not to offer a place. The College Principal's decision, which may be delegated to a member of the College's Senior Leadership Team, and which will be made in consultation with the Director of Education Support Operations if the learner has an EHCP, is final.

Contact

For further information on SGS Create or to arrange a visit on one of our Open Days, please contact:

SGS Create enquiries – sgscreate@sgscol.ac.uk or

Susannah Griffiths (General 14-16 enquires and options) – susannah.griffiths@sgscol.ac.uk



Information Sharing

We reserve the right to withdraw a place at SGS Create at any time if, during the application process, you fail to disclose any information related to your child's special educational needs (SEND), behavioural concerns, or any other pertinent information that may impact their ability to access SGS Create provision or our ability to support them effectively.



Accessible Summary For Students

What is SGS Create? SGS Create is a special school for 14-16-year-olds who may feel anxious, have mental health concerns, or simply want a different kind of education. We offer a creative and supportive environment where students can:

- Learn new skills
- Earn qualifications
- Build confidence
- Make friends
- Explore creative and vocational studies

How to Apply:

1. **Open Events:** You and your parents need to attend an open event to get a special code for your application.
2. **Application:** Fill out the SGS College application form and include:
 - School reports (academic, attendance, and behaviour)
 - A personal statement
 - A short video about yourself
3. **Interview:** After applying, you'll have an online interview to make sure SGS Create is right for you.

Important Dates:

- Applications open in October and close at the end of April.
- Decisions are made by the end of May.
- If there are still places, a second chance to apply will be open in June.

Who Can Apply?

- Long-term school refusers
- Students with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP)
- Students from priority groups like young carers
- Students with anxiety or mental health concerns

What Happens Next?

- If you have an EHCP and SGS Create can meet your needs, we'll let your SEN caseworker know.
- If successful you will be sent an offer letter in June, and you'll need to accept by 17th June.
- You'll be invited for an induction program to help you settle in.

Contact Us: For more information, email us at sgscreate@sgscol.ac.uk or Susannah Griffiths at Susannah.griffiths@sgscol.ac.uk.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply to SGS Create?

- SGS Create is open to 14-16-year-olds who may be disengaged from traditional schooling, suffer from anxiety, have mental health concerns, are neuro-diverse, or are seeking a different educational approach.

2. What is the admissions process for SGS Create?

- Applicants must attend an open event to receive a unique code, complete the SGS College application form, submit school reports, a personal statement, and a short video. The process includes an interview to assess the suitability of SGS Create for the applicant.

3. What is the deadline for applications?

- The main application window opens in October and closes at the end of April. If places are available, a second application window runs from June 1st to June 30th.

4. How many places are available at SGS Create each year?

- SGS Create offers up to 90 places annually for Year 10 students, with a small cohort of 5 to 10 places available for Year 11 students.

5. What is the selection criteria for admission?

- Priority is given to long-term school refusers referred through the local authority, EHCP learners, care leavers, young carers, and those with mental health concerns or neuro-diverse conditions who can achieve 5 GCSEs.

6. Is attendance at an open event mandatory for application?

- Yes, attending at least one open evening or open day is required to obtain the unique code necessary for the application.

7. What support does SGS Create offer for students with EHCPs?

- SGS Create assesses whether it can meet the needs outlined in the EHCP and works with the SEN caseworker. Acceptance into the program is contingent on this assessment.

8. What happens after an application is submitted?

- After submission, students will be invited for an interview. Outcomes are communicated in June, and successful applicants will receive an offer letter with acceptance instructions.

9. Can applicants appeal a decision if they are not offered a place?

- Yes, applicants can initially handle queries informally with the Headteacher. If unresolved, they can formally appeal to the College Principal within 15 working days of the decision.

10. Who should be contacted for more information about SGS Create?

- For further information, you can contact SGS Create inquiries at sgscreate@sgscol.ac.uk