Divergent Learning Community CIC

HOW TO APPLY

BEFORE YOU APPLY

DLC is not a school where you drop off your child. We're a participatory learning community where children have genuine decision-making power and parents are active community members—not customers. This requires your time, energy, and engagement.

If you're looking for a traditional service model, DLC isn't the right fit. If you're ready to co-create education with your child and other families, here's how to apply.

WHO DLC CAN SERVE

DLC celebrates cognitive diversity and is designed to support children with varied learning profiles. However, as a small community, we need to be honest about our capacity.

We work well with children who:

- Thrive in small group settings
- Benefit from strengths-based, individualised learning approaches
- Can engage in collaborative learning with appropriate support
- Have diverse MIND reasoning types (Material, Interconnected, Narrative, Dynamic)
- Process information differently and need alternatives to traditional schooling

We may not be the right fit for children who require:

- Intensive 1:1 specialised behavioural intervention throughout the day
- Ongoing therapeutic or clinical support beyond educational facilitation
- Specialised autism support programmes (e.g., ABA, intensive sensory programmes)
- Medical or crisis management beyond standard first aid
- Full-time care for severe anxiety, self-regulation challenges, or complex trauma

This doesn't mean your child needs to be "easy"! We welcome children who struggled in traditional schools because those environments didn't match their cognitive strengths. We just want to be transparent about what we can and cannot provide.

Unsure if DLC is right for your child? Contact us at DivergentLearningCommunity@outlook.com to discuss before applying.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review our website to understand DLC's strengths-based approach, personalised online learning, and community governance

2. Ensure your child will be registered for elective home education and aged 7-16 at time of joining DLC.

3. Take your time, your responses help us understand your family's values and ensure good fit. Download and complete the application form: https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/docs/DLC_Application_Form.pdf

4. Read our Privacy Policy: https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/privacy-policy/

5. Submit to: DivergentLearningCommunity@outlook.com or 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ

TIMELINE

- Applications: open now and reviewed as they arrive (rolling applications)
- Family conversations: arranged as applications come in
- Final application deadline: Friday 5 February 2027
- All decisions by: Friday 12 February 2027
- DLC launches: Tuesday 9 March 2027

WHAT TO EXPECT

We review applications as they arrive and aim to contact you within 2 weeks. Shortlisted families are invited for an informal conversation with the Founder and your child—this helps both of us assess fit.

Placement decisions consider alignment with DLC values, your child's learning profile, community balance, and available spaces. We have space for a small founding group of children for our March 2027 Foundation Year launch. Because decisions are made on a rolling basis, applying early gives your family more time to plan. As a new learning community, our Foundation Year will be a period of co-creation, learning, and refinement — families who join us now will help shape DLC's future direction.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us: DivergentLearningCommunity@outlook.com | 07757 749097
We're happy to answer questions before you apply.

To apply, download our Application Form at:
https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/docs/DLC_Application_Form.pdf

Contact & Legal Information
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