

DIVERGENT LEARNING COMMUNITY CIC

Application for Placement – Academic Year 2026/27

Thank you for your interest in Divergent Learning Community (DLC). This application helps us understand your child and your family's educational values.

Please complete all sections. Your responses help us ensure DLC is the right fit for your family.

SECTION 1: FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Parent/Carer 1

Full Name:

Email:

Mobile:

Address:

2. Parent/Carer 2 (if applicable)

Full Name:

Email:

Mobile:

3. Emergency Contact (if different from above)

Name:

Relationship to child:

Phone:

SECTION 2: ABOUT YOUR CHILD

4. Child's Details

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Current Age:

Preferred Name/Nickname:

5. Current Educational Status

Is your child currently registered for elective home education? Yes / No

If No, when do you plan to deregister?

Previous school(s) attended (if any):

How long have you been home educating?

SECTION 3: YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING PROFILE

6. Tell us about your child's interests

(What do they love? What captures their attention? What could they talk about for hours?)

7. How does your child learn best?

(e.g., hands-on activities, visual materials, discussion, movement, quiet reading, collaborative projects)

8. What are your child's learning strengths?

(What comes easily to them? What do they excel at?)

9. How does your child process information?

(e.g., visual, auditory, kinaesthetic; need movement; need quiet; process slowly/quickly; big picture first vs details first, etc.)

10. What supports help your child thrive?

(e.g., extra processing time, movement breaks, fidget tools, clear structure, flexible routine, quiet space, etc.)

11. What learning experiences would you like DLC to approach differently for your child?

(This helps us understand how best to support them)

12. Are there any health, dietary, accessibility, or safety considerations we should know about?

(e.g., allergies, medical conditions, dietary requirements, mobility needs, etc.)

13. Is there anything else about your child's cognitive or developmental profile you'd like to share?

(This might include information from educational psychologists, paediatricians, or other professionals - but sharing this is entirely optional)

SECTION 4: YOUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

14. Why are you interested in DLC specifically?

(What about our approach appeals to you?)

15. What does education mean to you and your family?

16. Describe your child's previous educational experiences

(Both positive and challenging – what worked? What didn't?)

17. What would success look like for your child at DLC?

(What would you hope they gain from their time with us?)

SECTION 5: UNDERSTANDING DLC'S APPROACH

18. DLC uses a strengths-based, cognitive-diversity model. What does this mean to you?

19. How do you feel about children having agency in their learning?

(e.g., choosing topics, directing their own inquiry, collaborative decision-making)

20. DLC integrates AI (Claude) into educational design and delivery. How do you feel about this? *Please refer to our AI Safeguarding Policy for full details:*
<https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/policies/ai-safeguarding-policy>

21. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your child or your family?

22. Understanding DLC's Community Model

DLC is not a school or drop-off service. We are a participatory learning community where children have genuine decision-making power and parents are active community members.

This means:

- Children participate in community governance and decision-making
- Parents are expected to engage actively (attending community meetings, contributing skills/time)
- Families co-create the learning environment together
- This is not a traditional service model where you pay for education delivery

Please describe your understanding of what it means to join a participatory learning community, and how you see your family engaging with this model:

23. Understanding DLC's Capacity

DLC is a small learning community (6-8 children) with learning facilitators trained in cognitive-diversity approaches, not clinical specialists.

We can support:

- Children with diverse cognitive profiles and learning styles
- Different MIND reasoning types and processing speeds
- Individualised, strengths-based learning approaches
- Small group collaborative work

We cannot provide:

- Intensive 1:1 behavioural intervention
- Clinical therapeutic support
- Specialised autism programmes (ABA, intensive sensory programmes)
- Medical management or crisis intervention beyond basic first aid

Please confirm:

- ☐ I understand DLC's capacity and limitations as described above
- ☐ I believe DLC can appropriately support my child's learning needs
- ☐ If my child requires specialised support beyond DLC's capacity, I understand placement may not be possible

SECTION 6: DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

How we handle your information:

The information you provide will be used solely to assess your application to DLC and, if accepted, to support your child's education. We collect and process this data in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

What we collect: Contact details, information about your child's educational background, learning needs, and your family's educational philosophy.

How we use it: To review applications, arrange meetings, make placement decisions, and support enrolled children's learning.

Who has access: Only DLC community members directly involved in admissions and learning facilitation. We will never share your data with third parties without your explicit consent.

How long we keep it:

- **Unsuccessful applications:** Securely deleted within 6 months of decision
- **Accepted families:** Retained for the duration of your child's time at DLC, plus 7 years for safeguarding/legal requirements

Your rights: You have the right to access, correct, or request deletion of your data at any time by contacting DivergentLearningCommunity@outlook.com

Security: All data is stored securely using password-protected systems.

I have read and understand DLC's Privacy Policy at:

<https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/policies/privacy-policy>

24. Data Protection Consent

(All boxes must be checked)

- ☐ I consent to DLC collecting and processing the information provided in this application for the purposes outlined above
- ☐ I understand I can withdraw consent or request deletion of data at any time by contacting DivergentLearningCommunity@outlook.com
- ☐ I have read and understand DLC's Privacy Policy (including the Applications section) at <https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/>

25. Application Acknowledgement

(All boxes must be checked)

- ☐ My child is registered for elective home education (or will be prior to joining DLC) and will be aged 7-16 by May 2026
- ☐ I understand DLC is a community learning hub, not a registered school
- ☐ I understand places are limited and acceptance is not guaranteed
- ☐ The information I have provided is accurate and complete
- ☐ I am prepared to meet with DLC community members and bring my child if invited to a conversation

I have read and understand DLC's Privacy Policy (including the Applications section) at: <https://divergentlearningcommunity.org.uk/policies/privacy-policy>

SECTION 7: SUBMISSION

Parent/Carer/Guardian Name:

Signature:

Date:

What Happens Next?

- We will review your application within 2 weeks
- Shortlisted families will be invited for an informal conversation
- Placement decisions will be communicated by TBC

Contact & Legal Information

DIVERGENT LEARNING COMMUNITY CIC

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We look forward to learning more about your family!