

# **Bowden House School**

## **SEN Policy/Information Report**

Bowden House School complies with Section 69 (2) of the Children and Families Act 2014 and fulfils its duty to publish SEN Information "as may be prescribed about the implementation of the Governing Body's Policy for students at the school with Special Educational Needs".

*What are the kinds of special educational needs provided for at Bowden House School?*

We are a maintained, special, residential school committed to supporting students between the ages of 9-16+ who present with a range of complex social, emotional and mental health difficulties. We are experienced in managing the demands of students with Autism, ADHD, Speech and Language needs and mild learning difficulties as described in the SEN Code of Practice (2014).

*What is the provision for students at Bowden House School and how is it evaluated?*

All students attending Bowden House School have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or EHC Plan. However, there may be an agreement with the Local Authority for a student to be offered a place pending the outcome of an EHC Plan.

Our school is a place where everyone is treated with dignity, with respect and is of equal worth.

Our vision is to develop a highly effective learning community.

Our purpose is the construction, delivery and constant improvement of quality learning experiences appropriate to the needs of our students.

To achieve our vision, we aim to:

- create a happy and secure learning environment where all students' needs are met and where achievements and success are recognised and praised
- ensure that all National Curriculum/statutory curriculum guidance is delivered to all students
- provide all staff with training and development opportunities to enable effective practice
- promote the students, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being so that they are secure, confident and well-motivated

- help students to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence which will enable them to lead full, interesting and independent lives
- provide a wide range of age appropriate learning experiences which are both exciting and challenging
- offer opportunities of working co-operatively alongside others, developing friendships and respect for others
- provide students with experiences of their own and other religious and cultural backgrounds and values
- foster partnerships with parents/carers and professionals from a range of external agencies.

[See our Curriculum Statement for further details of our curriculum offer.](#)

*All staff have a responsibility to meet the needs of our students*

Bowden House School offers an effective, educational programme delivered in a safe, stable and supportive environment with an increased opportunity to improve school attendance; raise the attainment and achievement of its students and is committed to enabling each student to strive to reach their full potential. The Care Team works closely with the Education Team to implement a 24 hour curriculum which contributes to the stability and learning aspirations of our students. This whole school approach ensures that students receive consistent, high quality education and care; school placements have the potential to be long-term, where appropriate and the reputation of the school is enhanced by the quality and stability offered.

Students benefit from a dynamic, personalised approach to learning with access to the National Curriculum and vocational subjects which include a wide range of accredited courses. There are six class groups with a maximum of six students in each class. Each class has a specialist teacher with a dedicated Teaching Assistant. Students have access to an on-site Speech and Language Therapist and a Therapeutic Counsellor.

Our External Leadership team uses the natural resources surrounding the school and beyond to provide further opportunities for students to learn how to work with each other and improve their independence skills. Students establish excellent relationships with our enthusiastic Care staff who successfully engage them in a wide range of after school activities. This provides the students with exceptionally good opportunities to try new activities and extend their talents.

*What training do staff have in relation to the needs of the students of Bowden House School?*

All newly appointed staff participate in a comprehensive Induction programme. All mandatory courses are sourced by the school and attendance

at some of the training sessions is on the school site. All training programmes are delivered by qualified, experienced instructors. The courses include:

- Safeguarding/Child Protection (awareness and advanced)
- Child Protection Designated Officers
- Team-Teach (awareness/basic and advanced)
- Medicines Management
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid
- Health & Safety
- Fire Safety
- Autism/ADHD awareness
- Risk Assessments
- Supervisions
- Safer Recruitment (Senior Leadership Team)
- Manual Handling
- MIDAS
- COSHH
- Substance mis-use
- LAO Level 2 in Fitness Instructing

All staff can apply to undertake further or specialist training which include:

- D1 – mini-bus driver’s qualification
- Diploma in Health & Social Care – Levels 3 & 5
- QCF Diploma Level 3 in Teaching and Learning Support
- Dyslexia
- Qualified Teacher Status

All staff have access to the students’ files where there is evidence of their educational and social background; details of those important to them; any previous or current intervention/involvement from external agencies and the nature of their difficulties. Whilst this provides a profile of information, Bowden House School offers a ‘fresh start’ to all students and an opportunity to enable them to manage their anger, adopt less destructive strategies and behaviours and inspire a willingness to learn.

*How will equipment and facilities be provided to support the students of Bowden House School?*

Bowden House School is maintained by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and provides specialist, residential education and care for boys between the ages of 9-16+. The school is situated between Brighton and Eastbourne and moved to its current site in June 2012 enjoying ‘State of the Art’ teaching resources and separate accommodation facilities including an Independence Unit for Years 12 & 13. The school was built under the BSF programme and fully complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010

and Part M of the Buildings Regulations 2010 with regards to physical access and facilities in all areas of the school.

All classrooms have been designed to ensure that all students have access to high quality, contemporary resources and equipment.

On-site activities provide varied leisure interests for our students to relax and have fun. Activities in the local community provide opportunities for them to participate in new leisure pursuits; follow their personal interests and enrich their social lives.

During the year, the school presents a range of events to 'showcase' the students' abilities. Parents/carers and other visitors are warmly welcomed.

The school has an on-site Speech and Language Therapist who works directly with students and provides advice and guidance to staff. The on-site Therapeutic Counsellor meets students who can refer themselves for this support.

*What are the arrangements for consulting parents/carers of the students at Bowden House School and involving them in the education of their son?*

Parents/carers are encouraged to be active partners with the school and to commit their support for the school's aims and objectives in all areas of their son's development.

This includes:

- meeting with the school's Student & Family Co-ordinator following a request for a placement
- initial visits to the school
- ensuring there is regular liaison with the school in respect of school absences/changes in circumstances/changes of address/telephone numbers, etc
- attendance at the Annual Review of the Statement of SEN or EHC Plan
- attendance at the Leaver's Review
- meetings which might include other professionals either in school or the home authority
- attendance at school events during the academic year.

*What are the arrangements for consulting the students of Bowden House School and involving them in their education?*

The starting point for the design of any student's Individual Learning Plan is the requirements detailed in their Statement of SEN/EHC Plan; the last Annual Review and the initial six week assessment following admission to the school.

Each student is assigned an academic tutor and a keyworker who meet on a daily basis to review the day; every two weeks at the 'Privilege' meetings to discuss educational and social progress/concerns and plan future targets and

support strategies. Every student has the opportunity to contribute to his Individual Learning Plan prior to the Annual Review and/or Leaver's Review. All students are encouraged to attend their Annual Review/Leaver's Review meetings where they are further encouraged to express the wishes for their future.

Bowden House School has an active Student Council; Food Council and Anti-bullying Committee. Each Unit in the Residential block has a dedicated 'Voiceboard' where ideas and comments can be posted.

*What are the arrangements made by the Governing Body for dealing with complaints from parents/carers of students in relation to the provision made by Bowden House School?*

The school has a Policy on the procedure for making complaints. If a complaint is made, this is recorded in the 'Complaints made by Others' file and details of the date/time of the complaint and actions taken is made. Every effort is taken to resolve any situation as quickly as possible and with the frequent home/school contact with parents/carers and the trusting relationships that are built up whilst the students attend the school, this limits the occasions where formal complaints are necessary.

The Complaints Policy is on the school's web-site and a child friendly version for students is in the Student Handbook.

*How does the Governing Body involve others including Health, Social Services, Local Authority services and voluntary organisations in meeting the needs of students of Bowden House School and in supporting their families/carers*

Within school, the Speech and Language Therapist and Therapeutic Counsellor are employed for 2 days per week throughout the academic year. All students are registered with the local GP service; dental practice and optician. Referrals are made to CAMHS by the school's Student & Family Co-ordinator with the agreement of the parents/carers.

Eastbourne Hospital is approximately 6 miles from the school with staff available 24 hours a day to respond to any emergency.

The school has a small number of students who are Looked After with many others having a Social Worker attached to the family. The staff at Bowden House School work closely with Social Workers particularly of those students who are Looked After when there are any issues relating to the students' education, care or health and other external agencies who have involvement and an interest in the well-being of our students.

The nature of our students' behaviour can result in attention from the local Police and Youth Offending Team either in the home authority or local to the school.

*What are the school's arrangements for supporting students in transferring between phases of education and preparing for adulthood?*

Following a carefully prepared admission programme to the school, the staff team at Bowden House School are very sensitive to the students' transition from day provision in their home area to a residential school which is some distance from home and the separation from friends and family. Every effort is made to provide a comfortable living environment where students can 'personalise' their rooms and keep regular contact with home.

All students new to the school will spend time in The Bungalow (Lower School) where careful assessment of their academic needs will take place over an agreed period of time. This will ensure that appropriate resources and support are provided so that there is an effective transition to this phase of their education in Lower School and which will also prepare them for the next phase in Upper School. Bowden House School has a 'stage and age' approach as many of our students have experienced changes of school or periods without educational provision over many years which have resulted in their academic abilities falling behind those of their peers in mainstream schools.

The transition to Upper School begins by preparing the students for a range of external examinations including GCSEs. Greater responsibility and expectation is placed upon them for their learning whilst continuing to provide a high level of support, where necessary. In the residential unit, the students in Upper School can work towards independent travel between home and school; attend college and assist in cooking, budgeting skills and completing application forms/CVs as they approach adulthood and the possibility of moving into independence and further education.

All students prior to leaving the school, attend a Leavers' Review where staff within the school together with parents/carers, Social Workers, if appropriate and the Careers Service for the home authority, meet with the student to discuss the next phase of their education or training. Bowden House School has a purpose built Independence Unit which can accommodate up to 4 students and where they can remain for Years 12 & 13. The Independence Unit provides the opportunity for the students to develop their skills in taking care of themselves; attending college and independent travel.

*Where is the information on the London Borough of Tower Hamlets local offer published?*

Details of Bowden House and its inclusion in the Local Offer appear on the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Family Information Service web-site. [Family Information Service Tower Hamlets Council](#); [click on Family Service Directory](#); [click on SEN and Disabilities and then enter Provider name: Bowden House](#)

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