

# Admissions Policy

## Belong School Gloucestershire



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## **Introduction**

Belong Schools are Independent Schools for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Devon has capacity for 50 students from years 9 to 11 and Gloucester School 32 students.

Belong Schools operate a mentoring model of education where students have key mentors who enable learning by supporting students to access to school sites and teachers. The Belong DevonSchool operate across sites in Bishops Tawton, Barnstaple, Exeter, and Newton Abbott. Gloucestershire students access sites in Lydney, Churchdown along with locations in the community. Students are referred to us for consultation by the Local Authority 0-25 team through, special, secondary, and mainstream schools as well as PRUs.

## **Placement Process**

Students must have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with an identified need to qualify for placement at Belong School. All our students have had a mainstream placement whether at primary or secondary level and undergone a statutory assessment by the Local Authority for an EHCP. Students are referred to us for admission from consultations, secondary schools, SEMH special schools from different Local Authorities (LA) as well as from mainstream settings and Pupil Referral Units where their needs can no longer be met.

The Head of School and the Senior Leadership Team /Admin Team are sent admissions consultation documents for each student by the Local Authority. Belong staff will visit the family and Young person to access need. This initial visit to parents/carers is not a confirmation of place only to assess if Belong can meet need. Previous settings will be contacted and an assessment of the EHCP. Belong will respond to the 0-25 team with an offer for a place at Belong school or confirming Belong will not be able to meet need. The 0-25 Team will decide the final destination of the students in conjunction with the parentsand carers.

Students offer of placements are dependent on availability of places within the appropriate year group and whether the student's needs can be met by the School. All decisions are made in collaboration with all stakeholders and take into consideration not only the needs of the referred student but the needs of all other students at the School. If all parties are in agreement that the placement is appropriate for the student, arrangements are made by the School and the LA for an agreed admissions process and starting date. Admissions take place throughout the year, ideally at the start of each new term.

## **Person Centred Planning (PCP)**

Person Centred Planning (PCP) meetings take place at the start of a students' placement. These PCP meeting in conjunction with the students EHCP inform the students timetable and curriculum offer. The PCP meeting will be reviewed termly.

## **Transport**

Belong see the journey to and from school as an integral part of the students learning. Belong mentors will transport the student from home to school and on the return journey at the end of the day. This allows close communication with parents and carers at the start and end of each session as well as mentors being able to help the students prepare for the transition from school to home or home to school. At times and due to need a student may feel they cannot access site and Belong mentors will work with the student to support access to the school. If other forms of transport are appropriate to meet the needs of the student, where possible Belong will support the student's ability to access this travel arrangement.