

Admissions Policy

Belong School Devon



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Introduction

Belong School Devon is an Independent School for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Our school has capacity for 50 students from years 9 to 11.

Belong Schools operate a model of education where students work closely with key members of staff who enable learning through a curriculum that is designed around the identified needs of each child. Our Devon School operate across sites in Bishops Tawton, Barnstaple (North), and Cowick Street, Exeter (South).

Belong School Devon enables all its students to become thriving adults in a modern world.
Learn, Grow, Thrive, Belong.

Placement Process

Students are referred to us for consultation by the Local Authority 0-25 team specialist commissioning team. In most cases, our students have undergone a statutory assessment by the Local Authority and have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP). To be offered a place at our school, the EHCP must show an identified need that our school believes they can meet.

Students are referred to us for admission from consultations. Occasionally this can include a different Local Authority.

The Head Teacher and the administration team are sent consultation documents for each student by the Local Authority through the admission portal (the hub). Our team will review the paperwork sent and, if appropriate, proceed with the initial offer of a placement, based on the limited profile received. It is not, at this stage, confirmation of a place. The 0-25 Team will decide the final destination of the students in conjunction with the parents and 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. If appropriate, the process will include a visit to the family. 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 local authority for an agreed admissions process and starting date. Admissions take place throughout the year, ideally at the start of each new term.

Individual Educational Program (IEP)

The Individualised Educational Programme (IEP) is at the heart of our school offer. IEP meetings take place at the start of a students' placement. The purpose of the IEP meeting is to ensure that outcomes identified in the student's EHCP inform their timetable and curriculum offer. The IEP meeting will be reviewed four (4) times a year. Alongside the IEP, students will also agree targets for attendance and a Post-16 pathway.

Transport

Students will be transported to Belong school Devon through transport provided by the Local authority. Exceptions to these arrangements are:

When the child lives too close to school to qualify for the local transport offer – in these cases Belong School Devon will provide the transport solution. These solutions include:

- staff transporting students
- supported travel training through local public transport.

On the rare occasion that the needs of the child require them to be supported during transport, then a member of staff will accompany the student to meet that need.

Equality of Offer

The admissions process for Belong school Devon is consistent with our organisational values. All placements are reviewed individually, without discrimination, and all offers are based on our ability to meet the needs of the student. When it has been identified that we are unable to meet need at this time, this information will inform our school development plan.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Proprietary board.