

Admissions Policy

Belong School Gloucestershire



Approved by:	Chief Operations Officer	Date: 14.01.2022
Last reviewed on:	01.09.2021	
Version:	1	
Next review due by:	14.01.2024	

Introduction

Belong School Gloucestershire is an Independent School for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Our school currently has capacity for 32 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 Gloucestershire School operate from the Learning Centre in Whaddon, Gloucester (between Gloucester and Stroud).

Belong schools encourage children to be safe, to form positive relationships and to progress:
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. 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. If appropriate, the process will include a visit to the family. 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. 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 PCP meeting will be reviewed four (4) times a year. Alongside the IEP, students will also agree targets for attendance and a Post-16 pathway.

All students begin their journey at our school on a transition pathway. This process is structured and time limited. In most cases the pathway takes two weeks, although this may vary. During this time
Page | 2
Belong

students will complete a range of assessments to establish their starting point in our school. The transition process is intentionally fluid and responsive to the needs of each child.

Transport

Belong School Gloucestershire sees the journey to and from school as an integral part of the students learning. Our staff 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 staff being able to help the students prepare for the transition from school to home or home to 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. This could include:

- a travel training plan for accessing public transport as part of a post 16 transition,
- the use of local authority transport (if a student lives a long way from the school site).

Equality of Offer

The admissions process for Belong school Gloucestershire 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 Board of Proprietors