



Residential Living

Before and after school, students are looked after by the Care Team, which is made up of a group of 16 Care Workers of varying ages and levels of experience, most of whom have worked at Bowden House School for many years. Throughout the week all of the Care Team will also support the school day; helping any student who may be finding certain lessons or break/lunch times difficult to manage.

All Care staff are either qualified at NVQ Level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People or have achieved or are working towards the newer Diploma Level 3 in Caring For Children & Young People. Some Care staff are qualified to NVQ Level 4, whilst a few hold the Diploma in Leadership & Management, Level 5

At the same time, in order to make sure that staff are developing their skills and Understanding how best to support the students and to ensure that we provide a high quality service, all staff receive regular training in a variety of areas relevant to their role.

When each new student arrives at Bowden House School they will receive a new Student Handbook which aims to give them a range of information to support them through this often difficult and anxious time.

The Handbook includes guidance on how the whole school and social day runs and about what will be expected of them as they become more settled.

The Handbook also gives the new students information on people who they will meet and their role in the school and tells them what to do if they have a worry or a complaint.

**Accommodation:**

Students live together in the Residential Building.

We have 40 student beds in total, divided into 3 separate units of 12 beds, which we call Colour Groups.

We also have a semi-independence flat for 4 post 16 students.

The colour groups are called Lime, Purple or Blue Groups.

All students live with other students of approximately the same age.

Each Colour Group has 4 Care Staff allocated to it, two sleep in, so that students always have someone to call on if needed.

To maintain stability and continuity and to develop relationships for both the students and their parents and carers, the same set of Care Staff will work on each Colour Group.

The Residential Building is brand new (2012). Most bedrooms are en-suite with more single rooms than twins. Each has its own kitchen and dining facilities. The building is warm, friendly and decorated to a high standard. There is plenty to keep students busy and entertained. This includes books, games consoles, TVs and DVD players, board games and a range of other activities relevant to the Colour Group's age.

Food:

We eat all meals in the main dining room, except supper, which is taken in the Residential Building in the evening. We follow a healthy living menu with a variety of choices at all meals, including a vegetarian option. Breakfast is at 08:40, lunch at 12:30 and the evening meal is taken at about 5:30pm. The school has achieved the Healthy Schools Award.