



Bowden House School & Bowden Primary School

SEND Information Report

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Agreed: Summer Term 2023

Signed _____

Date _____

Review date: Summer Term 2025

Our schools' approach to supporting students/pupils with SEND

Bowden House & Bowden Primary Schools are maintained by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Bowden House provides specialist, residential education and care for boys between the ages of 9 – 16+ years and is situated in Seaford, East Sussex. Bowden Primary provides SEMH, day provision within the borough which mirrors the ethos, culture and expectations of Bowden House. This unique provision is attached to a mainstream, primary school with the Headteacher of Bowden House School having overall responsibility. Bowden House School enjoys exceptional resources and separate accommodation facilities including an Independence Unit for Years 12 & 13. All students/pupils are subjects of an EHC Plan which identifies their social, emotional and mental health difficulties and how these have impacted upon their educational and social development within mainstream or specialist day provision. Students at Bowden House School can be admitted on an assessment basis or where there is the risk of exclusion. There is also provision for students to attend on a daily basis if they live local to the school.

Both schools provide teaching within small, structured classes where there is specialist, intervention to aid all curriculum areas. The Care Staff at Bowden House School work closely with the education team to provide a 'whole school' approach to learning with a joint structure involving the students in devising alternative strategies to assist them in managing their social, emotional and mental health difficulties and therefore improving their chances of successful, educational outcomes.

Supporting different kinds of SEND

Communication and interaction – the schools' Speech & Language Therapist is a member of the Emotional Well-being Intervention Team providing specialist support on an individual or small group basis. She provides assessments, advice and training to the staff team in both schools to assist in methods to improve the students/pupils' communication competencies and how developing speech and language skills can contribute to greater confidence and understanding in how they relate to others. This support 'rolls over' to the Care Team at Bowden House School who support the students with their social development

Social, emotional and mental health – this is specialist area of both schools which features high quality and experienced teams to meet the needs of our students/pupils. At Bowden House the Emotional Well-being Intervention Team additionally provide targeted support with individual/small group literacy and numeracy sessions; Student & Family Co-ordinator support for students and their parents/carers and a Highly Specialist CAMHS practitioner who works directly with our students. Bowden Primary staff team has support from an SEMH Practitioner who works with the pupils and their parents/carers

Cognition and learning – some of our students/pupils have a specific learning disability such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia which affects specific areas of their learning. They have access to all specialist areas of support detailed above as well as differentiated resources in all curriculum areas. Students at Bowden House School also benefit from a Nurture Practitioner who offers individual, specific methods of learning to build confidence and literacy skills within a nurturing environment

Sensory and/or physical needs – our students do not have sensory or physical needs as defined in the DfE SEN Code of Practice



Areas of expertise

Name of staff member	Area of expertise & qualifications
Lindsey Harvey	CAMHS Highly Specialist Practitioner: BA (Hons) Applied Social Science; MA Social Work; Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work; Post Graduate Diploma in Child & Family Mental Health; Psychotherapy in EMDR (adults & children); Multi-family Group Therapy systemic training
Jane Richards	Speech & Language Therapist: BSc (Hons); MSc Reg. HCPC MASLTIP; BEd
Student & Family Co-ordinator	RGN; RSCN



The SENCO

Name of staff member	e-mail address	phone number
Tracey Van Tongeren	vtongeren@bowdenhouse.towerhamlets.sch.uk	01323 893138



Securing & deploying expertise

The Emotional Well-being Intervention Team based at Bowden House School is an integrated team who focus on a joint approach with intensive, targeted support for students in school and during care time to improve their social, emotional and mental health wellbeing. This specialist team aims to develop our students' ability to engage in the learning process and become confident learners; adopt coping mechanisms to manage their behaviour more effectively and build their self-esteem and belief in their ability to learn.

The team meets regularly to discuss referrals from other staff members and are able to provide short-term intervention; assessments or on-going periods of support.

As a special, residential school, the staff team has a wide range of skills and expertise that can be deployed around the school and in Bowden Primary School. There are specialist Lead Teachers in all subject areas with Assistant Teachers who have cross-curricular skills and knowledge to ensure consistently high quality education. The Care Team adopt a whole school approach to learning which continues after the school day. They are a qualified and experienced team who aim to improve students' social skills and assist with independence, preparation for adult life and access to a careers programme; the support of a Careers Co-ordinator and college attendance to meet the demands of the modern world.



Equipment and facilities

The majority of our students/pupils have experienced significant periods without education which has resulted in considerable gaps in knowledge and the ability or desire to learn. Their social, emotional and mental health has also suffered. Admission to Bowden House or Bowden Primary offers a different approach where there is recognition that age-appropriate teaching and learning does not always fit. Our Stage Not Age programme is a bespoke package of learning resources designed to enable our students/pupils to progress within their personal stage of learning. The programme covers all areas of the curriculum and we have seen improved confidence in the learning process through achievement and reward which pay dividends in ensuring we raise attainment at all levels through personalised learning.



Consulting with parents/carers

When a referral is received by either school and a decision taken to begin the admission process, contact with parents/carers is made by the school's Student & Family Co-ordinator (Bowden House) or the SEMH Practitioner (Bowden Primary). They will visit the home to meet the family and potential student/pupil. If the family wish the referral for a placement to proceed and the appropriate school is confident it can meet the student/pupils' needs, a visit to the school will be arranged. If the student/pupil is Looked After (LAC) and there is an attached Social Worker, he/she will also be invited. Following the visit and the family/student/pupil and the school still wish to proceed, a planned admission process will begin. At Bowden House School, this will include staying overnight for 1/2/3 nights extending to full-time attendance. Parents/carers are invited to Bowden House and Bowden Primary Schools to attend all meetings particularly the Annual Review of the EHC Plan and/or LAC Review



Consulting with students/pupils, parents/carers

As with the above, students/pupils/parents/carers are consulted with each step of the journey from referral to admission.

Following admission, parents/carers will receive weekly calls from school staff reporting on how the week has been for the student/pupil. This could be information regarding their learning; any health issues; their time after school with the Care Team/activities (Bowden House School), etc. The staff will always report on the positive aspects of the student/pupils' school life as well as the occasions when progress is not so positive and parents/carers need to be involved in exploring strategies to address changes in behaviour and also to share any details as to why life is not going so well at a particular time. Parents/carers are always considered to be part of the team supporting our students/pupils. The school is fortunate in the additional, specialist support it is able to offer and parents/carers will always be consulted, if such support is recommended. When there are changes to the curriculum e.g., the RSHE Policy (secondary) which gives parents/carers the right to withdraw their child from some aspects of the course, they will be consulted



Consulting with students/pupils

The school considers the commitment of its students/pupils to their placement at Bowden House or Bowden Primary, a key element to the success in their education and social development. Upon admission, students at Bowden House School will be allocated a mentor (academic) and a keyworker (care) who will meet with the student at the end of the school day to review the day/progress/concerns/plans for the evening, etc. This is an opportunity for the student to develop positive relationships so that jointly they can plan where further support might be needed; how the student can contribute to the Annual Review of his EHC Plan or any other meeting as well as areas where he may find difficulty with residential living. The school has an active careers programme and students attend college on a course of their choosing. Support is also given as students approach their school leaving date and are involved in plans for post-16 education/training or employment.

Students at Bowden House School are encouraged to keep in regular contact with their families and friends unless the school has been instructed that some family members or others may have restricted/denied access. Bowden Primary School will also be informed of those who have restricted/denied access to their pupils

Involving key external agencies

Bowden House & Bowden Primary Schools have an active involvement with a range of external bodies and professionals. Contact is made with the Attendance & Welfare Advisor on the occasions that students/pupils do not attend school and school staff have been unable to contact the student/family. He works closely with the school's Student & Family Co-ordinator (Bowden House) and the SEMH Practitioner (Bowden Primary) and makes visits to the schools. Our Looked After Children have Social Workers who keep in regular contact with school staff and are a valuable link with families. Both schools are supported by an Education Psychologist from our maintaining authority. Annual Reviews of EHC Plans for all our students/pupils and LAC Reviews for those students/pupils in Local Authority care, are held at the relevant school and all agencies involved with our families are invited and contribute to the success of these meetings. The schools have links with health professionals including CAMHS

Teaching approach

Bowden House & Bowden Primary Schools have a unique approach to teaching and learning. Stage Not Age is an innovative educational programme which covers the National Curriculum areas whereby students can experience success at the stage of their learning rather than where their age dictates they should be learning. In this way, they begin to 'learn to learn' and their progress can be measured and shared with them; rewards are given to stimulate effort and achievement and outcomes inspire confidence and a desire to learn. Some Lead Teachers at Bowden House School are members of the Extended Leadership Team and are responsible for tracking progress and identifying areas where students would benefit from additional support. They collate and display the progress of every student and share this with parents/carers via School Ping to ensure they are involved in their son's educational development. Communication with families has now extended to the uploading of a phone app, 'VIEW' where instant reports of learning are a visual image of achievement. The next stage in this innovative project will be extended to include students' SEMH progress

Transition support

The pupils at Bowden Primary will leave at the end of Year 6 and the LA will determine secondary provision. For boys, admission to Bowden House is a possibility if residential is the preferred option. Alternatively, day provision will be secured for all other pupils.

All students attending Bowden House School have SEND and therefore their needs are provided for at the point of admission. Their EHC Plan will detail their SEND and what resources should be in place with a flexible curriculum including the National Curriculum; in-class support; access to therapeutic support and with a whole school approach to the development of social skills. The school has an active Careers Programme and from Year 7, all students participate in their Annual Reviews to begin planning for their future. This will include their interests; access to college placements and work experience.

The school has a dedicated Careers' Teacher who links with the Careers' Advisers in the home authorities and who meets with the students on a regular basis in an effort to match their interests/skills with appropriate courses at local colleges. There is an option for Tower Hamlets students to remain at school in the post-16 provision and attend local colleges

The school's approach to teaching students with SEND

All students of Bowden House have SEND and are admitted to the school on the basis of their EHC Plan outlining what resources, etc., must be put in place to meet their SEND needs. The pupils of Bowden Primary are also subjects of EHC Plans

Adaptations to the curriculum & learning environment

All lessons at both schools are delivered in small groups with a Lead Teacher and an Assistant Teacher. 1:1 support is also available where this has been requested/agreed by the placing authority and where the schools consider this would be an advantage to the student/pupil. Classrooms are well resourced; are colourful, warm and welcoming to aid a conducive environment for learning. All students/pupils have access to the National Curriculum via the Stage Not Age programme where progress is mapped; achievements rewarded and where specialist interventions can be made. This could be support through the Speech & Language Therapist; the Highly Specialist CAMHS Practitioner; Nurture Practitioner or the Student & Family Co-ordinator/SEMH Practitioner. For those students who have a specific learning difficulty, the curriculum can be differentiated to further aid success

Inclusivity in activities

Bowden House School & Bowden Primary School provide education and care for students with SEND. All activities, curriculum access and events are open to all students/pupils. There are no students/pupils in either school who do not have an EHC Plan outlining their SEND needs

Supporting emotional and social development

Bowden House School & Bowden Primary School meet the needs of students with Social, Emotional & Mental Health difficulties. The majority of the students/pupils have additional needs, ADHD, ASD, Dyslexia as well as mild learning difficulties and therefore require specialist support in their learning and social development.

The Teams in both schools establish firm, trusting relationships with the students/pupils and their families and are skilled at identifying when additional, specialist support would complement the whole school curriculum both in and out of the classroom. Bowden House School benefits from a Speech & Language Therapist, a Highly Specialist CAMHS Practitioner, a Nurture Practitioner and a Student & Family Co-ordinator amongst its staff team. The ACE team are able to offer off-site activities which can be added to the curriculum or when a particular student is struggling in the classroom on a particular day or time. Being a residential school also provides the opportunity for all students to enjoy new experiences after school and in the evenings. The school is on the south coast so biking, swimming, walking, hiking and climbing can be offered as well as time on the beach!

The school has 3 active committees comprising staff and students. The Anti-bullying Committee meet each term and has its own Policy. The Student Council provides the opportunity for students to raise their own or others concerns/requests. The Minutes of the meeting is shared with senior staff who respond to the matters raised. The Food Committee meets with the Kitchen Managers to share ideas on meal planning/diet, etc

Each student has a mentor and key worker who meet after school each day with the student to review the day and jointly advise/counsel when there are difficulties. Details of Childline, Ofsted and other similar organisations are freely advertised around the school.

Bowden Primary School shares some of the specialist resources based at Bowden House School.

Online safety

The schools have a wide range of sophisticated IT blocks on their system to keep our students/pupils safe when they are working on-line. Close monitoring of student/pupil access to sites is the responsibility of all staff and any breaches are reported to senior staff immediately. Bowden House School has an SLA with East Sussex County Council to provide IT support 3 sessions per week and they can install additional interventions, as necessary. As part of both school's RSHE curriculum, Citizenship provides the opportunity to share/inform on a wide range of issues which are openly discussed with our students/pupils so that they are aware of the risks in life; how to keep themselves safe; who to speak to if there is a concern, etc. Bowden House School has given every student and their families a bespoke leaflet on safeguarding including on-line safety. There are a range of policies in school for staff and students. The schools' Induction Programme includes safeguarding awareness including Prevent and provides information on how to recognise the signs of abuse and what to do if they have concerns

Sexual violence and harassment

Bowden House School & Bowden Primary School deliver education in small groups with the support of a high level of experienced staff and additional specialists. Many of our students/pupils have been exposed to and witnessed, sexual violence and all staff are aware of these experiences. Whilst Bowden House School recognises that there could be a risk of sexual violence and harassment amongst its students, a high staff:student ratio over the 24 hour curriculum, single room accommodation, positive relationships and knowledge of the students and with a 24 hour on-call system in place, such risks are significantly reduced.

The schools' shared Safeguarding & the Protection of Children Policy clearly outlines the procedures that should be followed in the event that any of the students/pupils are seen as victims of sexual violence and/or harassment

Evaluating effectiveness

As a residential, special school, Bowden House School is subject to annual welfare Inspections by Ofsted and are judged against the National Minimum Standards, 2022. Against these standards, the school has been judged as Outstanding for the last 5 inspections.

Standard 3 of the NMS, states that an internal inspection should take place each half-term and the report made available to Ofsted. The inspection is undertaken by an external Consultant who has a background in education and social care at Director level. The report includes: Complaints, Safeguarding, Risk Assessments, Sanctions, Positive Handling, Bullying and Attendance.

Both schools have a robust recruitment procedure under Safer Recruitment to ensure that every measure is taken to deter unsuitable candidates from employment in our schools.

Both schools are subject to Section 5 Inspections by Ofsted

Handling complaints

The schools have a Complaints Policy for parents/carers and others which is available on the school's web-site. The relationships between the parents/carers and the school staff and the frequency of contact, offers the occasion for concerns or complaints to be shared and responded to without delay.

Parents/carers complaints will always be taken seriously and the procedures outlined in the policy will be followed.

Parents/carers are welcome to raise concerns or make complaints at any time via phone, e-mail or when they attend either school for meetings, etc.

Local Offer

Bowden House School is a maintained, special, residential school and Bowden Primary, its day, SEMH provision and are therefore included in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Offer. Parents/carers who request an EHCP for their child will have the option of choosing what they consider to be the most appropriate placement to meet their child's needs. Both schools are listed on the authority's web-site under SEND and details can be found under: www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk

Named contacts

Name	e-mail address	phone number
Aaron Sherwood Headteacher & DSL	asherwood@bowdenhouse.towerhamlets.sch.uk	01323 893138
Wendy Phillips Chair of Governors	wphillips@bowdenhouse.towerhamlets.sch.uk	01323 893138
Melanie Benzie LBTH, LADO	melanie.benzie@towerhamlets.gov.uk	0207 364 3506

Additional support

Bowden House School and Bowden Primary School offer a range of in-school support for its students/pupils which have been detailed in the above sections.