

The Statement of Purpose for Bowden House

Specialist Residential School



Academic Year 2023/2024

MAINTAINED BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS



BOWDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

Bowden House School is maintained by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and provides specialist, residential education and care for boys between the ages of 9 – 16+ years. The school is situated between Brighton and Eastbourne and moved to its current site in June 2012 enjoying exceptional teaching resources and separate accommodation facilities including an Independence Unit for Years 12 & 13. Most students are subjects of an EHC Plan which identifies their social, emotional and mental health difficulties and how these have impacted upon their education within mainstream or specialist day provision. Students 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.

Bowden House School provides teaching within small, structured classes where there is additional support to aid all curriculum areas. The Care Staff work closely with the education staff 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 attainment. Students benefit from the support of a Speech & Language Therapist 4 days a week and a Specialist CAMHS Practitioner who attends the school on 4 days per week.

An outline of provision for students with Special Educational Needs

Bowden House School provides a flexible 'stage not age' grouping admissions policy with:

- Specialist support to establish and maintain links between home and school
- Access to the full National Curriculum
- Access to AQA Unit Awards, Entry Level and GCSE qualifications, Functional English, DIDA (ICT) and BTEC courses
- Adventure Centre for Education experiences and Annual Camps to develop learning 'outside the classroom'
- College links for Year 11 students and full-time attendance for Years 12 & 13
- Independence training
- Outstanding 24 hour care and support with a range of out-of-school activities
- On-site CAMHS support
- On-site Speech & Language Therapist & withdrawal (1:1) sessions
- Nurture sessions
- Visiting Educational Psychologist
- Home/school transport for students who live within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Visiting Careers Advisers
- A qualified and experienced staff team.

Bowden House School recognises effort and performance both within and outside of the school. A 'Privilege' system operates throughout the school and is based upon improvement in academic and social areas of the curriculum with students earning additional activities and agreed rewards. The school's ethos incorporates principles of structure, continuity and security within which the individual student will be able to maximise his personal, social and educational development and thus improve his life chances at Post-16. Bowden House School is subject to inspections by OFSTED where standards in both education and care are judged. The school is currently judged as 'Good' in Education (2018) and 'Outstanding' in Care (2022).

A Statement of the overall purpose of the school

Bowden House School offers an effective, residential education programme delivered in a safe, stable and supportive environment which provides the opportunity to improve school attendance with the aim of raising the attainment and achievement of its students. All staff are committed to enabling and encouraging each student to strive to reach their full potential. The Care Team work closely with the Education Team and contributes to the stability and learning aspirations of the students. This whole school approach ensures that students receive consistent, high-quality education and care; school placements have the potential to be long-term, where appropriate and the reputation of the school is enhanced by the quality and stability offered.

The main aim of the school is:

- to provide an educationally stimulating, safe environment for every student
- to provide a blend of experienced staffing, including those qualified in social care and teaching. The range of skills within the team ensures that the individual needs of all students can be met
- to encourage students to take an active part in planning their own future and to accept responsibility for their actions and begin to address and work towards managing their behaviour
- to expand the knowledge, skills and abilities of every student within the formal classroom setting; learning 'Outside the Classroom' and within the wider community
- to include a specialist intervention programme to support every student in individual and small group learning to improve their educational and social development based upon their individual needs
- to enable every student to become a positive, responsible member of society with encouragement to participate in a range of outside interests
- to provide opportunities to form appropriate relationships with adults and other students in a caring, nurturing environment with maximum opportunities to develop these relationships within clearly defined boundaries and guidelines
- to accept school placements for boys aged 9 years to 16+ years on a daily or weekly, residential basis with a view to providing a stable, caring environment
- to ensure that the blend of teaching and care staff work co-operatively together so that Pen Portrait (ILPs) & SEMH Plans are tailored to meet each individual student's needs
- for all staff to be aware and respond to the possible distress faced by students living away from their families/friends and the demands of shared living
- to develop the positive self-esteem and confidence of all students.

A description of the school's underlying ethos and philosophy

Bowden House is a residential school providing a nurturing, therapeutic environment. It caters for the individual academic and social needs of its students over a 24hour curriculum. The school actively promotes social inclusion and aims to give each student the opportunity to develop the required skills to participate as a successful member of society.

The school acknowledges the impact that many of its students have experienced in previous educational settings where their social, emotional and mental health difficulties have limited their educational progress. The school offers a curriculum which reflects that accessed in a mainstream school but is delivered by specialist education staff supported by Assistant Teachers and Care Staff aimed at promoting a willingness and aptitude for learning. The joint approach of all staff in the school helps each student to recognise the consequences of inappropriate behaviour; develop less destructive methods of expressing their feelings and work towards a greater sense of personal responsibility for their actions.

The school will take account at all times of its students:

- physical and emotional needs
- cultural and religious needs
- family dynamics
- past experiences and the reasons behind disruptive behaviours
- need to improve their approach to learning and relationship building.

Bowden House School places a high value on the importance of working closely with its students; their families or carers; referring authorities and other agencies. Health and emotional well-being are promoted throughout the 24hour curriculum and targeted through the specialist support of our Emotional & Wellbeing Intervention Team.

The name and address of the LA maintaining the school; the Headteacher and school staffing details

Local Authority Address:	London Borough of Tower Hamlets Mulberry Place 5 Clove Crescent London E14 2BG
Telephone Number	0207 364 5000
School Address	Bowden House School Firle Road Seaford East Sussex BN25 2JB
Telephone Number	01323 893138
Headteacher	Neil Wells
Deputy Head	Miranda Wells
Assistant Heads	Tracey Van Tongeren & Victoria Bastock

Head of Student Welfare	Lindsey Haworth
School Business Manager	Craig Sorrell
Student & Family Co-ordinator	Esme Anderton
Chair of Governors	Wendy Phillips

STAFFING STRUCTURE

HEADTEACHER

Deputy Headteacher

2 x Assistant Headteachers

9 x Teachers

10 x Assistant Teachers

1 x Head of Student Welfare

3 x Senior Houseparents

6 x Houseparents

9 x Care Support Workers

2 Activity Support Workers

Student & Family Co-ordinator

School Business Manager

1 x Headteacher's PA

1 x Senior Administrative Officer

1 x Administrative Officer

Housekeeper

2 x Cooks

11 x Domestic staff

1 x Premises Manager & 1 Premises Contractor

An account of the school's policy in relation to Equality & Diversity

Bowden House School complies with the local authority's (London Borough of Tower Hamlets) Equality & Diversity Policy. The school also has a range of policies ensuring that all staff and students are treated fairly and aims to ensure that no student or member of staff receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Through the curriculum, joint activities and the vigilance of staff, all students will be encouraged to respect the differences and diversity of others; will be challenged if their remarks or actions contravene the Equality & Diversity Policy and harmony of the school and will be expected to adopt a tolerant, considerate attitude towards other students and others who live and work at the school.