

Guidance adopted by KSENT	April 2019
Guidance to be reviewed every one year by Learning and Development Team (Website)	November 2023
Guidance to be reviewed	November 2024

KSENT Special Schools: Admission Guidance

Name of school	BOWER GROVE SCHOOL
Address:	Fant Lane, Maidstone, Kent MR16 8NL
Tel:	01622 726773
Email:	office@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk
School Type:	Community Special School
Designation:	Primary and Secondary School
Primary Need:	Learning Difficulties and SEMH
Class Structure:	Year group classes
District Served:	West, East and South
Area:	West
Age range:	4-16 years old
Maximum Capacity:	225 September 2022

- Bower Grove is a foundation day co-educational Special School for children and young people aged between 4 and 16 years.
- The school is designated for 225 pupils with learning difficulties and SEMH. Many pupils will have co-morbid conditions of Autistic Spectrum and ADHD.
- Many pupils will also display conditions such as Attachment Disorder, ODD, OCD and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome with associated behaviours.
- A significant number of pupils are “Children in Care” or have other statutory agency involvement.
- Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils may have national average/above average academic potential, however, these pupils would be expected to transfer to a SEMH School e.g. Portal House or Goldwyn at Secondary transition.
- Generally, pupils will present 2 or more years below expected academic norms.
- The school is organised in Primary and Secondary school departments. The Primary aged children are taught by a class teacher in their own class room for most subjects, but may be taught by specialist teachers for PE, Computing and Music. Pupils in the Secondary school follow a secondary style curriculum and all subjects are taught by specialist teachers.
- The school offers two further learning pathways – Enrichment caters for a small number of pupils some whom may only attend school part time due to complex emotional needs. The focus of their learning is self regulation, self esteem and confidence building. Impacts – the Impacts pathway in primary and secondary phases of the school caters for pupils with very low cognition and learning who also have complex challenging behaviours. This learning pathway is a life skills focus

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- The school has excellent accommodation including a dining hall, a sports hall, a well-equipped gym, specialist teaching areas for Science, Technology, Food Technology, Music, Art and Computing and a well-equipped medical room. The school has a sensory room and a full-time Sensory worker.
- The school is situated in very pleasant surroundings with extensive field and outdoor play facilities.
- We have a number of school vehicles that enable us to engage in lots of off-site learning.
- We have a multi-disciplinary team including Drama Therapy, Sensory and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Counsellor, Complimentary Therapist and limited Speech and Language Therapy.
- Pupils are taught in class sizes of 12 with a teacher and 3 support staff in Key Stage 1&2 and a teacher and 2 support staff in Key Stage 3&4.
- At 16+ transition pupils will generally access a local college or special school sixth form. Pupils will typically gain 6 qualifications ranging from entry level awards to a limited offer of GCSEs in core subjects. Pupils will typically achieve grades 1-4 (GCSE).
- In addition to the main school site, Bower Grove has an Autism Spectrum Condition Satellite for 15 pupils' years 2-6, based at Westborough Primary School. All pupils must have a confirmed diagnosis of an Autistic Spectrum Condition. Pupils attending the satellite will be expected to have the necessary behaviour and cognitive ability to access the academic demands of a mainstream school curriculum.