

Guidance adopted by KSENT	April 2019
Guidance to be reviewed every year by Pupil Development Committee (Website)	November 2025
Guidance to be reviewed	November 2026

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:	Foundation Special School
Designation:	Primary and Secondary School
Primary Need:	Learning Difficulties and SEMH
Class Structure:	Year group classes
District Served:	North, West, East and South
Area:	West
Age range:	4-16 years old
Maximum Capacity:	225 September 2025

- 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, Autism, ADHD and SEMH.
- 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.
- 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 classroom 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 three learning pathways – the main pathway for primary and secondary aged pupils, Impacts Pathway and BG Connected Pathway. BG Connected is for a small number of pupils some of 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. BG Connected use its onsite Hub as a way of supporting our pupils to transition between pathways. 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. There are a number of outdoor learning areas including the Quad used to regulate, the Grove, the Rolleston outdoor garden and the Allotment.
- 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 Stages 1&2 and a teacher and 2 support staff in Key Stages 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 a Satellite for 12 pupils' years 3-6, based at Westborough Primary School. All pupils must have an EHCP and have cognitive and behaviour abilities to access a mainstream setting.

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Frequently Asked Question

How does my child get a place at Bower Grove School?

- Your child must have an Educational Health Care Plan if you are seeking inclusion to a special school in Kent. These will be sent to us by the Local Authority as part of the Consultation Process.
- Your caseworker will advise on appropriate special schools. A visit to our school can be arranged once we think we are able to meet your child's needs and have available space in your child's year group. Once you have visited our school you must tell your caseworker if you would like a place.
- If the school has a space in the class group and the identified needs within the Education Health Care Plan appear compatible with the peer group, your child may be invited for some taster days. You will be responsible for transport on these days.
- After the taster days, our staff team will then meet and discuss whether we feel we can meet your child's holistic needs. The decision will then be communicated to your caseworker.
- A place at our school will then be offered or declined with reasons given by the school.
- If successful, an admission date will be agreed and the school admission pack will be issued to parents/carers.
- An admission meeting with the Headteacher or a member of the leadership team will be held before your child starts at the school.
- If your child requires transport to get to our school, you need to complete the transport form. This is included in the admission pack and needs to be returned directly to Kent County Council Transport. It can take several weeks to put the transport arrangements for your child into place.