

North Hill House School - Frome

North Hill House is an independent specialist day and residential school for boys and girls aged 7 to 19 years with high functioning autistic spectrum disorders and associated difficulties. The school has been specifically designed to provide a strong focus for young people who need different levels of support to succeed, thus allowing young people with autistic spectrum disorders, Asperger's syndrome and associated difficulties to thrive effectively in an ever demanding and complex society. Students have ambitions to live and work as self reliant adults and we can help pupils to reach their goals with continued support, structure and guidance.

There are two services within North Hill House, Stoneleigh and Spring Road, to support young people with different needs and they are educated in separate and distinct areas of the school in recognition of their individual needs. Residential provision up to 38 weeks is on the school site, with 52 week provision at Bath Road Children's Home.

The School is set in its own secure grounds and is only a few minutes from the town centre on foot. This offers the opportunity for students to practice social and life skills in the real situations of the town environment with the support and guidance of the staff.

Services offered:

- Access to full National Curriculum
- Individually tailored programmes for education, social and personal development
- Continued and ongoing support with learning and life skills
- Strong links with local employers to provide an extensive work experience programme for pupils
- Opportunities to integrate into community life
- Intensive programmes and strategies designed to assist with anxiety

- A positive environment to bring about positive change
- Safe, secure and independent living environment

Case Study: 'Stephen'

HIGHER ACUITY– Spring Road

Stephen* came to North Hill House in Year 8 with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorders, Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, dyslexia and complex social needs. Stephen required significant therapeutic intervention to be able to manage his ADHD and access education successfully, having previously had significant police and social services intervention.

The journey has not been easy as he was significantly disaffected from education and found it extremely hard to manage his behaviour against the expectations of the wider society.

Stephen successfully completed his studies and left with a range of accreditations. He has now entered Post 16 education, studying for a vocational qualification on a part time basis. Stephen has a bespoke support package that further enhances his social and independence skills in preparation for life in college.

* name changed to protect student's identity



Admissions criteria (low acuity):

- Aged between 7 and 19
- A diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder or associated conditions
- Associated complex needs
- A statement of special educational need

Admissions criteria (high acuity):

- Aged between 7 and 19
- A diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder or associated conditions
- Significant needs which may relate to behavioural, emotional, social difficulties or mental health needs
- Associated complex needs
- A Statement of Special Educational Need

Holistic approach:

- Individual care pathways tailored to individual needs
- Behavioural therapy
- Access to educational psychology
- Access to child and adolescent psychiatry and psychological support where needed
- Access to occupational therapy
- Access to speech and language therapy

Safe and supportive community living

There are four distinct, homely residential areas that allow pupils to be placed in settings that will afford them the greatest chance of social success.

Post 16

There is additional accommodation within the local town for post 16 learners to allow greater opportunities for independence and community living.

Pupils can access a range of educational and vocational courses at local mainstream colleges, specialist colleges and also back on the main site of North Hill House.

North Hill House

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61%

of young people achieved 5+ GCSEs A-G compared to 26% nationally in Independent Special Schools

89%

of young people with 2 or more incidents in the first term reduced their volume of incidents by the Summer term in 2011/12

100%

of pupils requiring mental health or CAMHS accessed appropriate services

Case Study: 'Robert'

LOWER ACUITY– Stoneleigh

Robert* has a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome and struggles in his ability to understand the expectations of the wider community. He had a high academic ability but his lack of social awareness and subsequent vulnerability meant that he was often unable to manage in class. He often became the 'joker' and presented a range of poor behaviours designed to be accepted by his peers.

Robert required intervention from the therapy team and a range of generic programmes, led by the school counsellor, to better understand social expectations and accept the consequences of poor behaviour.

Robert is now better able to recognise facial expressions and social norms and adhere to them and left school with a good range of GCSE grades and is now on a full time mainstream college course with staff support. He is working towards being able to manage higher education and aims to be independent when he completes his studies.

* name changed to protect student's identity

For information on our specialist education and care services please call us on:

01373 466 222

send an email to

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or visit our website at

www.priorygroup.com