

Priory College Swindon Local Offer

Name of site	Priory College Swindon
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1. What does your service do?

Priory College Swindon is an independent specialist college, with both day and residential provision, for young people who have specific social and communication difficulties. The college's area of particular expertise is Autism and Asperger Syndrome, including co-morbid conditions, sexualised and anti-social behaviour.

Staff are experienced in working with young people with Autism who are unable to access a mainstream educational provision, for example due to school phobia, extreme anxiety or sensory difficulties.

2. How are decisions made about who can use your service?

Families and young people are welcome to contact the college directly to arrange an informal visit at any time of the year. If an application is made, the college will arrange an assessment visit which can be conducted within a morning or afternoon. A conditional offer (subject to funding) of a placement will be based on the college's ability to meet each young person's needs.



3. How will school staff support the student?

Each student has a tailored timetable which is delivered and supported by a team of staff experienced in working with students with social and communication difficulties. Support is designed to meet each student's specific needs across a curriculum of education, social-skills and independence training. Each student also has an appointed key-worker.

4. How will the curriculum be matched to the child's/young person's needs?

Through a combination of 'in-house' courses and partnership arrangements with other local providers, the college offers a very broad range of course choices at levels ranging from pre-entry to level three, as well as work placements.

Courses are selected in consultation with each student and based on their academic ability. For students who are too vulnerable or too anxious to access a mainstream campus, the college will develop a bespoke package that meets educational and social needs.

5. Do you offer any therapeutic services?

The college has a comprehensive therapy team that includes Speech and Language, Counselling, Creative Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Clinical Psychology. The college also has good links with local health and mental health services.

6. How does the school celebrate the success of children with SEND?

The college maintains regular contact with parents, giving updates and information both by telephone and written reports.

At the end of every academic year, the college holds a 'Leavers Ceremony'. Students, parents and other key individuals, for example mainstream college tutors are invited. Students are presented with certificates of achievement, as well as certificates of qualification. Staff members make a short speech about each student detailing their 'College journey', their key achievements and personal qualities.



7. How will the parent/carer know how their child/young person is doing and how will you help the parent/carer to support their child's learning?

The college maintains regular contact with parents via regular phone calls, invitations to Review meetings, as well as arranging additional meetings as and when required. The college likes to work jointly with parents/carers and family, and values their input.

8. What support will there be for the child's overall well-being?

Staff are available for support 24 hours a day for residential students (night waking staff from 10pm-8am), and each student has a named member of staff (key-worker) who will hold regular 'key-worker meetings' to review how they are progressing and feeling about their placement. All students work on social and independence skills and there is a strong emphasis on staying safe. All activities are thoroughly risk assessed and managed in such a way to promote safe independence. The college places importance on the 'student voice'.

There is an active student council and each site holds regular student meetings where students are encouraged and supported to share ideas and opinions. Students also have easy access to 'formal' ways of raising concerns.

All students are encouraged and supported to eat healthily and partake in regular activities and exercise. Special attention is paid to specific dietary requirements, whether as a result of health or cultural/religious beliefs. The therapy team is available to help students manage specific issues and to enable staff teams in supporting specific student issues. All students have access to named members of staff with whom they are encouraged to discuss any concerns or worries.

9. What specialist services, training and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

All therapy staff are qualified members of appropriate professional bodies. Three members of staff are qualified safeguarding officers. All staff complete a Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care. All of our staff have autism training and are trained in de-escalation techniques and in other relevant areas, such as self-harm and ADHD. There are also trained First Aiders on each of our sites.



10. How will children/young person be included in activities outside the classroom and how does the school ensure that children with SEND are able to access leisure and residential activities?

A range of activities and outings are organised and supported for all students. Activities are used to maximise opportunities to relax and socialise, but are also used as opportunities to work on social, communication and independence skills. Students are encouraged and supported (where needed) to access the local community.

11. Does your school offer any outreach?

We have worked with local young people, some of whom have then become full time students. We offer a flexible approach and are willing to work with other agencies and/or commissioners to find ways to meet the needs of the young people presented.

12. How accessible is the school environment?

The college is part of a large, vibrant town but is located in a quiet location in the 'Old Town area'. Students benefit from the communication links and amenities of a large town, but also have on hand local shops and the quieter environment of the Old Town suburb.

The college comprises six sites across the town, including four residential sites. Two sites have specific wheelchair access and there are ground floor bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms available.

13. How will the school prepare and support the child for transition or the next stage of education and life?

The college begins transition planning and the "next steps" at the beginning of the placement. Final year transition review meetings are arranged with invites sent to external agencies and other services involved. Where necessary, the college will make a referral to social services or other agencies to ensure on-going support after leaving. Parents, professionals, agencies and the young person are fully consulted in this process. Often there is more than one review meeting in the final year to check on progress of actions set.



14. How is the decision made about what type and how much support the child will receive?

This decision is based on assessment of needs.

15. Do you have a children's/young person's council?

Each residence has a student council representative. The student council meets on a regular basis.

16. Does the school provide any specialist equipment (e.g. Sensory)?

The college has a sensory room on the 'base room' site. Specialist IT resources such as 'SocialEyes' are used and equipment is sourced as needed.

17. Where do young people go when they leave your service?

Outcomes reflect the range of our students' abilities. Some go into supported work placements, or work based programmes (apprenticeships), others go on to Higher Education, or paid part-time or full-time work.

Regarding accommodation post College, some students go into supported or semi-supported residential settings; others are able to manage independent living, whilst some return to the family home.

Get in touch

To make the process of referring a young person into Priory Education and Children's Services as seamless as possible or for further information about Priory College Swindon, please contact our dedicated enquiries office today on **01793 719 500**.