

Farleigh FE College Frome Local Offer

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1. What does your service do? (USP)

Farleigh Further Education College Frome is an independent specialist residential college for young people aged 16 to 25 with autistic spectrum disorders, Asperger's syndrome and associated complex needs.

The college has six residential houses in the community each with its own identity, working ethos and dedicated team of staff. This provides learners with the opportunity to experience independent living in a range of different settings.

We aim to provide every young person with an individually tailored programme of education, care, work experience, leisure, life skills and training within the community, to enable them to live as independently as possible.

Our dedicated team of staff create a safe, secure and independent living environment where our learners have a sense of belonging within their group and a sense of ownership of their home. Our approach enables young people to develop the confidence and skills they need to progress towards adulthood, including further or higher education and sustainable independent living in the community.

The college offers provision through three main strands of delivery

- In house academic programmes – including functional skills, GCSE and A level courses



- Support in local mainstream further education colleges including A level and BTEC courses
- Vocational and work based learning in the local community

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

The college holds regular information and open days about the college provision. Applications are made direct to the college and young people and parents or carers are invited to an admissions day.

Upon assessment, an outline programme is proposed and presented to the funding authority. In many cases young people will have discussed their options at a transition review in their final year at school.

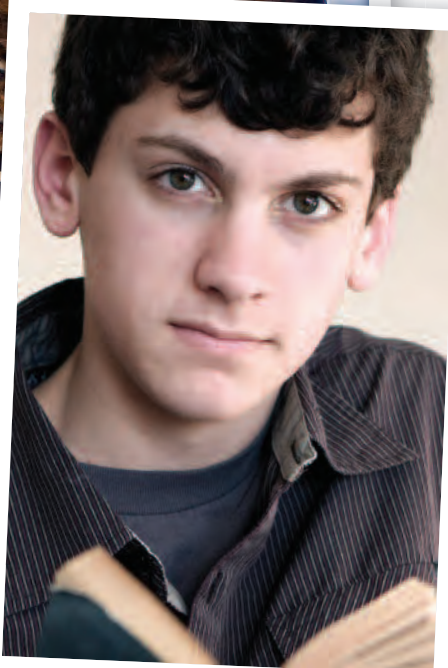
3. How will the college staff support the young person?

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 young person's needs?

Farleigh FEC College has an unusually varied and broad curriculum which meets the needs of all young people. The college has partnership agreements with Wiltshire College, City of Bath College and Strode College enabling the college to support young people on a wide range of courses. A level, GCSE and entry level qualifications are taught onsite for those young people who are not ready to access a mainstream college course. Construction skills and art are taught in a well equipped workshop a short distance from the college. A wide range of NVQ and employability qualifications are also available as part of our work base learning programmes.

All young people have an individual learning plan and timetable incorporating study skills and/or English and Maths sessions, therapy, independence and social skills.



5. Do you offer any therapeutic services?

Yes the college offers therapeutic services. This includes:

- Occupational therapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Art therapy
- Counselling

Intervention strategies are also offered when appropriate through specialised services.

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

The college regularly celebrates achievement through presentation evenings, community events and regular reporting and discussion with students, parents, carers and other agencies.

Academic, independent and social skills targets are set with the young person every term and these are reviewed and discussed in weekly tutorials.

End of term reports are sent to parents/carers every term. Where parents/carers are unable to attend mainstream college parent evenings, staff attend and update parents on their progress.

Personal Tutors contact parents/carers on a weekly basis to discuss the young person's progress. Formal Review meetings are held on an annual basis where progress is discussed in detail.

Farleigh FEC Frome work in partnership with parents/carers in order to achieve progression and clear positive outcomes for a young person.

Parents/carers are invited to attend a new student day prior to the young person starting their placement.

This is an opportunity to meet other parents/carers and obtain a good understanding of the policies and ethos of the college.



7. What support will there be for the young person's overall well-being?

Students spend considerable time with staff members who will help them with social skills, issues of concern, regarding friendships and relationships etc. All students will take part in trips out, possibly to the gym, to local cafes or other trips and activities that a young person is interested in. Some students may also prefer to spend time with members of the staff team in the residence initially.

All students have a weekly tutorial with their personal tutor; they meet with the cook or a member of staff to discuss food issues, their likes and dislikes. FFEC employ Night Waking Officers at each residence to help students settle at night and be available to resolve any issues or anxieties that may arise during the night/early morning.

All student medication, prescribed and homely remedies, is stored in secure, approved medication cabinets. Senior staff administers medication whilst another member of staff observes to ensure safe administration. It is the responsibility of both members of staff to observe the young person taking their medication. Whilst at FFEC, students are encouraged to take more responsibility for administering their own medication and the majority of young people will undergo a risk assessment to counter sign.

The second stage of the risk assessment is for students to administer their own medication. In the case of students taking on this responsibility, their medication is stored in their bedroom in a locked tin.

FFEC have two medication officers who complete a weekly stock check for all medication. They also liaise with GP's, pharmacies and parents.

After completing an academic work/programme in the day, students spend the evenings completing sessions to encourage them to become more independent, this includes laundry, budgeting, menu planning and cooking sessions, as well as working towards independent travel. Students are encouraged to achieve whilst at FFEC, they are supported to choose realistic study programmes that allows a young person to be fully involved in college life.

All students have a weekly tutorial with their personal tutor; all students have the opportunity to have their say in tutorials, this offers them the chance to discuss any concerns that they may have with regards to college and behaviour in the residence.

Each of the residences have regular meetings for the young people, there is a suggestion box in each residence that works well for young people who do not want to talk out at meetings. All students are encouraged to make their views known to others.



Staff will conduct hourly floor checks, each student is spoken to, all staff are responsible for 2 or 3 students each evening by managing the shifts in this way, students cannot go unnoticed. All students have a weekly tutorial where they meet with their personal tutor, either at the residence or elsewhere, i.e. such as a local cafe or going for a drive, somewhere where the student feels comfortable and able to talk freely.

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

FFEC have nationally qualified Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Counsellors, male and female, Art therapist, the services of a Consultant Chartered Psychologist and members of his team who have regular appointments with students.

Each residence is managed by a Senior Team Leader; STL's are responsible for managing the emotional, social and behavioural support for all students living in their residence. (Some STL's have relevant degrees; others have achieved level 4 in NVQ in Care or the level 5 diploma in Children and Young People. All staff receive training in AS awareness, mental health/self harm, safeguarding and many other relevant subjects. In addition to this, all staff are expected to work towards and achieve relevant NVQ's/diplomas level 3. All staff have received specific disability awareness training.

9. How will young people be included in activities outside of the classroom and how does the school ensure that young people with SEND are able to access leisure and residential activities?

All students at FFEC are encouraged to use the local community, either by joining local clubs, the gym, shops, library and other local facilities. Students will access these facilities with staff in the first instance but most will progress to this independently when they are confident and passed all relevant risk assessments.

During the assessment period, supervision levels for students are discussed with all parents and recorded in student placement plans and risk assessments. Parents are contacted weekly to have an update regarding the placement for their son or daughter.

10. Does your school offer any outreach?

The college works with local GFE colleges and other specialist provision in providing joint training opportunities. The college also works with local authorities in supporting young people at home and aiding the transition from home to wider educational provision.



11. How accessible is the school environment?

The college is based in an old building where access for disabled students is limited. Where learners need such support, appropriate changes can be made to both teaching and residential accommodation.

12. How will the college prepare and support the young person for transition or the next stage of education and life?

Young people are encouraged to visit the college a number of times before attending full time. Staff also visit young people in their home environment to encourage links and familiarity with the college.

Advice and guidance is offered to young people throughout their programme of study and the college liaises closely with home support services or assists young people in applying to university or other residential and work related provision.

13. How is the decision made about what type and how much support the young person will receive?

Levels of support are discussed with the young person, parents and local school or referring agency. The programme offered to young people will initially be set at admission days, but regularly reviewed during the first term and termly afterwards

14. Do you have a young person's council?

Each residential unit has a student focus body. Day students are allocated to residential provision and are included in all such groups.

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

Young people moving out of our service often go onto University, employment and supported employment.

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 Farleigh FE College Frome, please contact our dedicated enquiries office today on **01373 456 470.**