



The Gables  
Learning Centre

# School Prospectus **2023 - 2024**

## Proprietor details

### **Witherslack Group**

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## Head Teacher's name and contact details

Louise Brown

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The Gables Learning Centre  
Beamish Lane  
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## Holiday contact details

Learning Centre Senior Administrator

Amanda Heaney

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Head Teacher  
Louise Brown

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## School ethos/mission statement

The Gables Learning Centre is a unique Integrated Therapeutic Provision that provides a safe and caring learning environment within which personal growth and development is promoted. We place learning at the centre of everything we do, offering an individualised structured curriculum, differentiated and relevant to student need and interests.

Our programmes of learning are delivered in a highly supportive setting, where staff work as part of the wider multi-disciplinary team to ensure support, achievement and success for all. We support students to develop into socially and emotionally responsible citizens by providing outstanding high quality education, care and therapy.

We support students to develop the resilience needed to manage diverse situations and to direct their lives with purpose.

Students are supported effectively to integrate at a pace suitable for them through carefully planned programmes of learning, based on the National Curriculum, differentiated as needed.

## Aims of The Gables Learning Centre

Our collective aim within The Gables Learning Centre is to equip all our students with the skills they need to access education, where they will continue to develop and leave full time education equipped to succeed in life beyond school. They will become resourceful, creative, responsible and curious with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century and with the problem solving skills and resilience required for a sustainable future.

Within The Gables Learning Centre we employ staff who are suitably experienced, highly skilled and have a desire to be part of our integrated approach to learning. Our staff team receive specialist training and support to ensure they are well equipped to deliver high standards of education, which enables students to secure the best possible outcomes. Staff are encouraged to take advantage of the extensive CPD programme within Witherslack Group and beyond. All staff access training which is relevant to our curriculum, setting and their own individual development.

Our multidisciplinary staff team has a range of highly experienced and qualified specialists, including Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapist and Mental Health Practitioners and Psychologists who all work seamlessly alongside education staff creating a genuine and effective therapeutic milieu supporting development.

## Details of approach to positive behaviour support, exclusions, rewards and sanctions

Pupil behaviour is supported by a simple system of rewards and consequences which is understood by all pupils and staff and which can be easily adapted to the individual needs of specific children. Every child has a Positive Behaviour Support Plan and an individual risk assessment which helps identify anxieties they may have and how we can reduce such anxieties. Due to the nature of our children's difficulties, there may be times when rewards and consequences are ineffective in promoting good behaviour and, on such occasions, children may place themselves or others at risk of harm. We use a holistic approach to behaviour management, as outlined by Positive Behaviour Support. All of our staff are fully trained at induction and receive refresher training on a half termly basis. The expertise of our staff and their knowledge and understanding of the individual child's needs promotes de-escalation of potentially volatile situations through the use of verbal and non-verbal strategies. As a last resort a continuum of gradual and graded physical techniques and strategies may be required to support children in keeping themselves and others safe. On a half termly basis we analyse incidents requiring the use of physical intervention, with any patterns of behaviour identified and appropriate intervention strategies put in place. At times when children or young people are placing themselves or others at risk of harm, staff may need to use physical intervention to keep them safe. This is used within strict guidelines, only as a last resort, and staff are trained in using PRICE. Staff receive regular training in de-escalation strategies and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies. The school's leadership team monitors any use of physical intervention through data on a day to day and monthly basis, which helps to identify any patterns of behaviour and develop any necessary intervention strategies to be put into place to reduce its use. A copy of our Positive Behaviour Support Policy is available on request.

### Admission Process

The Gables is a new Learning Centre Integrated Therapeutic Provision, it is a co-educational, specialist 52 week fully integrated, therapeutic, education and care facility situated on a 4 acre site in Shropshire. The education setting is a DfE registered special school which has been established to meet the needs of 18 young people aged 7-19 years who exhibit a diverse range of social, emotional and mental health difficulties, alongside other associated conditions and presentations.

### Provision for EHC Plans

We make sure that the work in the classroom is at the right level for each pupil and if a student needs some extra help or additional academic 'stretch', we will arrange this too. This could include;

- Extra support from a teaching assistant or the pastoral team
- Individual interventions to develop literacy or numeracy skills
- Use of our sensory rooms
- Support from one of our therapy team (Therapist, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy)
- Additional assessment and support from our Senior Psychologist

- Additional and more complex work being provided
- Extended project work or homework
- The opportunity to explore concepts out of the classroom

All pupils who have an EHCP will have an annual review of their Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Family and representatives from the placing local authority are always invited to these review meetings.

The school is able to access support from the wider Witherslack Group to meet a range of additional needs. This includes the additional needs detailed in the EHCP and other issues such as English as an additional language.

### Details for consideration of pupils/ parents whose first language is not English

On admission a child's need for additional support is identified. Appropriate provision is then established prior to the pupil's start date. One to one support from a bi-lingual support assistant will be provided if this is an identified requirement in line with the agreement with the placing local authority.

### Details of complaints procedure

In accordance with the Children's Act 1989, all children at The Gables Learning Centre have access to a Complaints Procedure. Informal complaints or concerns will be addressed by contacting the school office and asking to speak to the class teacher. Formal complaints directly from the child or via a parent/carer or member of staff should be reported directly to our Head Teacher, Louise Brown.

Complaints or concerns arising from adults also follow set procedures. Firstly the concern should be addressed informally with the school. Copies of these policies and procedures are available on request.

The number of formal complaints will be updated here year on year.

### Statement regarding accessing exam results

The Gables Learning Centre will provide a summary of accreditation results for Year 11s upon request to the school.

### Safeguarding Mission Statement

The Gables Learning Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people. We believe in the importance of working with partner agencies to ensure that children and young people are kept safe, happy and healthy. All staff working here are made aware of the need of protection and how to respond to these concerns.

We have a 'Child Protection Policy' and all staff are trained and supported by our designated Safeguarding Lead (Kelly Hoggins- Deputy Head) to ensure it is fully and effectively implemented.

Where we suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, we have a statutory duty to make a referral to relevant agencies. Where local procedures allow, we will inform the parent[s] of the referral. The school will share any information relevant to the referral with those agencies and will contribute to any assessments being undertaken.

If you require further support on safeguarding matters you can contact the school.

If you require further support on safeguarding matters from our corporate team you can contact the Witherslack Group Lead for Safeguarding Mary Aurens

([Mary.Aurens@witherslackgroup.co.uk](mailto:Mary.Aurens@witherslackgroup.co.uk))

## Promoting General Welfare

The pastoral team will link with other agencies such as CAMHs, social care or medical teams. They are responsible for medication in school.

The pastoral team are always available to offer support if someone is finding it difficult to manage their behaviour. They are responsible for making sure the school's reward system makes a difference to pupil's progress, behaviour and attendance.

As part of how we look after each other, all staff have completed a standard First Aid course and there are also staff who have completed their 3 day 'First Aid at Work' training. The Gables Learning Centre staff receive regular updates in the use of First Aid and Health and Safety.

Our operational systems are all regularly reviewed by the Witherslack Group Quality Assurance Team.

## Anti-Bullying

We pride ourselves on our warm and caring atmosphere. All members of our community are entitled to safety and protection and therefore bullying will not be tolerated. We have clear policies and guidelines raising awareness in staff, children and young people to signs of bullying.

The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on request.

## Health and Safety

At The Gables Learning Centre, Health and Safety is the responsibility of the Head Teacher Miss Louise Brown and operational aspects delegated to the site manager. The whole site has internal health and safety checks in place for the maintenance staff to complete, with an action plan put in place to rectify any faults. The Witherslack Group's Management and Risk Assessment Teams visits and audits the school each term.

## First Aid/Medical Care

The school has a medical room. We respond to any first aid incidents with qualified staff and quick treatment. We inform parents of issues arising where necessary and appropriate.

The school is only allowed to administer prescribed medication. All medication is recorded and kept in a locked medical cupboard.

## Details regarding staffing and recruitment

The Gables Learning Centre follows a rigorous recruitment process in order that we recruit high quality staff and ensure that children and young people are kept safe. Senior Leaders involved in the recruitment process undertake safer recruitment training and all staff employed within the school are subject to an enhanced DBS check. Witherslack Group pride themselves on their rigorous induction and probation processes.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What happens if...? - Frequently asked questions by new parents.**

#### *What happens if my child is unwell?*

If your child is unwell at home and won't be attending, please let us know by phoning the school office as soon as possible. Good attendance is important to us, so we will ask you to explain why your child will not be at school.

If your child becomes unwell at school, staff will take care of them and let you know as soon as possible. We have a medical room that pupils can use but we will not give out any medication unless we have your permission. If necessary, we may ask you to come and collect your child.

#### *What happens if my child doesn't want to wear school uniform?*

We do expect everyone to wear school uniform in school. The pastoral team will work with you to identify the problem and find a way to overcome it. We have a good track record of convincing some very determined young people that they do need to wear school uniform – and it does make a difference to achieving points and prizes! All pupils are provided with polo shirts and sweatshirts free of charge.

#### *What happens if my child needs medication in school?*

Contact a member of the Pastoral team through the school office. The Pastoral team will make sure it is collected, logged in our schools medication systems and administered at the right time.



*What happens if my child doesn't like school dinners?*

Our kitchen staff are happy to prepare food for a special diet. Just let us know the problem and we'll work together to find a way around it.

*What can my child bring into school?*

Pupils should not need to bring food or drinks into school as all of these are supplied. Fizzy drinks, energy drinks and those high in sugar are not permitted and care staff will be asked to come and collect them. These drinks may have an impact on our pupil's ability to concentrate and focus.

Electronic toys/ phones / music equipment are not permitted in school. Please don't bring toys or games into school, we have lots of equipment here for you. We don't allow pupils to swap / buy any toys from each other.

Cigarettes, all smoking equipment and vaping equipment are not allowed on site. Pupils should not bring alcohol, illegal substances or anything that could be used as a weapon onto the school site. The school reserves the right to confiscate such items.

If you think your child requires an exemption for some reason to any of the above e.g. a diabetic child needing access to a sugary drink this will be agreed at the point of admission or diagnosis, so don't worry.



[www.witherslackgroup.co.uk](http://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk)