Breckenbrough
– more than a school

Who We Are

Breckenbrough School is a non-maintained residential Special School catering for males aged 9 to 19 years of age who all have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

All our students have complex needs, with the vast majority having a diagnosis and primary need of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

We currently have 67 students on roll and typically have class sizes of no more than 5 students.

The school is a limited company by guarantee governed by a registered charitable trust school with a Quaker (Society of Friends) Foundation.

Our Ethos and Values

The Quaker ethos at Breckenbrough School underpins all we aspire to build in our students: respect, tolerance, equality, understanding and forgiveness. We deliberately avoid punishment and forced discipline, believing that resolution of conflict can come about through behaviour modelling and restorative practice.

Our aim is to nurture and sustain the intellectual, social and emotional development of our students towards a fulfilling and independent adulthood. We achieve this through an inclusive, effective and caring community, encompassing empathy, trust and respect for all its members.

The ethos for the students reflects the Quaker philosophy and is designed to embrace Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Silence is used for reflection, particularly in assemblies.

Self-actualization
desire to become the most that one can be

Esteem
respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom

Love and belonging
friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection

Safety needs
personal security, employment, resources, health, property

Physiological needs
air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction

The Two Key Goals

We strive to always put the individual needs of the students first in order to support each member of our cohort in achieving the two key goals:

1. To be themselves, aspire and be successful.

2. To develop the strategies and coping mechanisms to move towards a level of self-actualisation in order to thrive in the neurotypical world.

Our Students

Whilst every student is different and ASC is certainly a spectrum of need, there are some commonalities across our cohort:

- Experiencing high levels of anxiety
- Adverse prior experiences in education
- Fear of failure
- Experience of bullying
- Difficulties responding to change
- Sensory processing issues
- Social and communication difficulties

Atmosphere and Approach

- The atmosphere in the school is deliberately relaxed and calm, aimed at reducing anxiety levels and the opportunities for conflict, yet remaining safe and purposeful.

- Each residential student, and some day students have their own room to provide personal space and security. Day students are encouraged to stay on after school and participate in evening activities as and when the occasion allows.

- The school does not have a fixed uniform policy, but is flexible which allows for individual needs, preferences and is supportive of any sensory processing needs.

Our Curriculum

- The curriculum reflects the ethos of the school in both content and delivery. The students understand and appreciate this and strive to achieve and progress, which for the most part they do, despite experiencing considerable barriers to learning and often struggling in their availability to learn.

- A holistic approach is adopted to allow students to address their problems and progress through flexible planning and a student-centred approach, supported by highly individualised programmes of learning.

Therapeutic Input

- The teaching and residential environments are well supported by the work of a full-time psychologist who uses a range of approaches, including cognitive behaviour therapy, and an occupational therapist, who delivers interventions to meet sensory processing needs and supports the students in developing a greater degree of regulation.

- Speech and language therapy is also delivered onsite by an experienced therapist.

Transition and the World Outside of the Breckenbrough Bubble

- Transition routes include university, college, apprenticeships or into employment.

- It can be incredibly challenging for our cohort when they step outside of our walls.

- Beyond Breckenbrough, our aftercare charity, supports our students into adulthood. The trusted relationships established during their time with us are long-lasting and essential for some in navigating adult life.