



SEN Somerset Expertise

Somerset Special Schools Directory



Special Educational Needs. Somerset Expertise (sen.se)

Sen.se is a collaborative partnership between all of the special schools and specialist provision within Somerset. Sen.se stands for Special Educational Needs Somerset Expertise. We have a wealth of experience within our schools and many outstanding practitioners support us in our work to make a difference to the lives of children and young people who need an alternative environment, curriculum and level of support to a mainstream school.

There are ten schools, and a specialist provision within a primary school, **all of which are graded as Good or Outstanding** by OFSTED and a number of supportive providers making up the membership of sen.se. We recognise that working together, we are stronger. Our collective expertise is vital to meet the unique needs of each child and young person we work with.

We are committed to making a difference and enriching the lives of our students and their families. All children are unique and because of this we will help you with advice and support until you have the right provision for your child/young person. This directory gives a brief description of each school, their curriculum, location and contact details.

Members of sen.se

Avalon School: www.avalonschool.net

Fiveways School: www.fivewayschool.co.uk

Brookside Community Primary
School: www.brooksideprimaryschool.com

The Mendip School: www.themendipschool.co.uk

Critchill School: www.critchill.somerset.sch.uk

Penrose School: www.penrose-school.org.uk

Elmwood School: www.elmwood-school.org.uk

Selworthy School: www.selworthy.somerset.sch.uk

Fairmead School: www.fairmeadschool.co.uk

Sky College: www.skycollege.co.uk

Avalon School

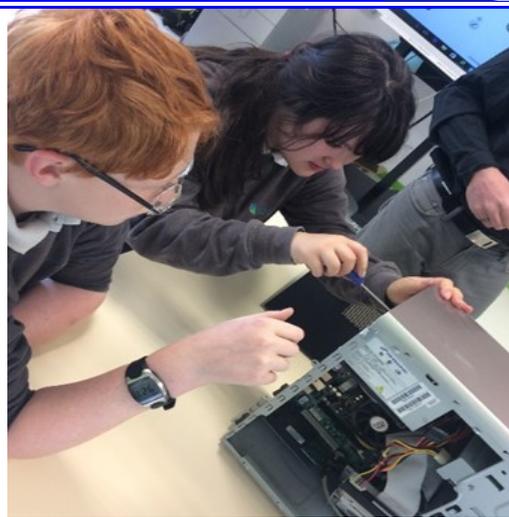


School Context

Avalon is a thriving community special school. At its heart are our young people, each pupil has different needs and aspirations, their curriculums and timetables are personalised to support the development of all the whole of their lives. These curriculums provide pupils with appropriately high levels of challenge for them; whether that be achieving NCFE Level 1 English accreditations [equivalent to G-D GCSE] using an iPad or eye gaze to communicate or writing a CV to get a part time job.

Age range: 11-19 years

Location: Street, Somerset



Specialist Services

Curriculum

The Avalon curriculum is based on our school vision - 'Learning for Life' – this has been developed together with our parents, carers and the learners themselves to teach skills for the whole of life. These areas include; academic learning, communication skills, emotional learning, emotional well-being, learning to be independent, citizenship within the school community, citizenship in the local community and wider world, skills for work and skills for leisure and healthy lives.

*I just wanted to say thank you so much for all the planning and hard work you put into camp. ***** has obviously had a fabulous time, and it is so lovely for us to hear that he joined in, interacted with his peers and wasn't unduly anxious. The programme of activities was really well thought out to include all abilities and this enabled ***** to mix successfully with his peer group, something he doesn't often get the chance to do outside school. You also spent a lot of time beforehand sorting out issues like his food etc so that camp could be accessible to him, for which we're very grateful. We couldn't be happier with how it has gone - and he is very happy and relaxed this evening too!.'*
Parent 2018

Specialist Services

We commission a range of specialists to support our curriculum; including; educational psychologist, speech and language therapist, physiotherapist, drama therapist, music therapist and piano teacher.



Preparation for adulthood

Pupils' start on the skills they will need as an adult as soon as they start at Avalon. All pupils have individual independence targets developed with parents and carers. These targets focus on the primary areas that are a barrier to learners' being as independent as possible now and as an adult. Pupils are taught careers education through volunteering, enterprise and careers lessons.

OFSTED 2018 – Avalon is a good school

"A warm and welcoming school where pupils enjoy their school experience. The dedication of your team was summed up articulately in the following comments made by parents: 'Avalon has been amazing for my child' and 'We feel part of the Avalon family, our child is well supported and is making brilliant progress'"



www.avalonschool.net



01458 443081



sch.610@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Brookside Academy



School Context

Brookside Academy is a fully inclusive 0-11 Primary School, with a specialist provision for children with severe, profound and complex needs. We are passionate in our belief that our fully inclusive curriculum ensures the best possible progress for all of our pupils, whatever their needs or abilities. In addition, we have a nursery on our main site and a satellite nursery on a separate site within Street.

Age range: 4 - 11 years

Location: Street, Somerset



Curriculum

Brookside Academy offers a bespoke curriculum for all children within Specialist Provision, focusing on developing their abilities in the key areas of Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Physical and Sensory, and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties. Although the core subjects of Maths and Literacy remain in the forefront of our teaching, we also recognise and celebrate the importance of learning through exploratory play, whilst the curriculum also provides for high levels of stimulating and engaging opportunities.

"I think this school is the reason my daughter in specialist has come so far in her development..." Parent

Bespoke Teaching and Learning

Alongside a 'total communication' approach, we use a range of resources such as eye gaze, attention autism and a sensory room to support our learner's individual needs. There is a strong link between Specialist and Mainstream which supports an inclusive community.



Provision

Alongside quality teaching, Brookside Academy offers a wide range of extra-curricular provision in order to support the holistic needs of our children. This includes regular sessions of:

- Forest Schools
- Hydrotherapy
- Swimming
- Unique opportunities to collaborate with mainstream
- Riding for the Disabled
- On site therapies and professional practitioners

OFSTED 2018

"Staff are well placed to meet the needs of the pupils. Through the appointment of specialist staff and in-house training, leaders have established a highly effective team. The specialist provision is at the 'heart of the school'"

"Due to the level of expertise and care, a positive work ethic is established and pupils engage positively and successfully in learning. As a result, pupils make strong progress."



www.brooksideacademy.co.uk



01458 443340



Office@brooksideacademy.co.uk

Critchill School



School Context

Critchill School is an establishment which provides education for between 50-60 reception to aged 19 pupils who are primarily drawn from the Mendip area. All of our pupils have an EHCP and we have a very wide range of abilities within our pupil population. Each pupils' needs are carefully and individually evaluated, so that within the context of our well-developed and expanding curriculum, all of our pupils can aspire to reach exceptional standards. Students enjoy being at school.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Frome Somerset



OFSTED 2018

"All staff are proud to be members of the school. They readily participate in developing improvements in small teams or as individuals"

"Pupils engage in a wide range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities that promote self esteem and confidence"

Curriculum

As a school we address pupils' needs at their point of learning. Our Aspirational Curriculum is profoundly personalised, creative and based on deep learning. It meticulously identifies and responds to priorities against pupils' strengths and needs. We consistently and persistently assesses pupil progress. This methodically and diligently narrates and reports to a pupil's EHCP and ensures a purposeful, ambitious, pupil-driven transition to life beyond Critchill School.

"My child's curriculum is very personalised and tells me where he needs to progress. I think this is great." Parent

Learning

At Critchill School we believe that all young people should have the opportunity to be employed and to be active, valued members of their local community. We ensure that from Reception to Post 16 we provide all of our pupils with rich and diverse community based learning experiences.



The Post 16 curriculum focuses on developing the skills needed to be employed. We believe this conclusively improves the outcomes for our young people, in the future. All students undertake numerous opportunities such as the school mobile catering van or working with Frome Town Rangers. In addition most students are offered several bespoke, regular work placements in local business'. By working closely with local employers we can ensure our young people are ambitious and inspired to work and have all the skills employers need from their workforce in the future.

 www.critchill.somerset.sch.uk

 01373 464148

 Sch.606@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Elmwood School



School Context

Elmwood School is one of 2 Special Schools within Bridgwater, who together form the Elmwood & Penrose Federation. Elmwood School is a secondary school for young people with learning difficulties. The school benefits from its co-location with Robert Blake Science College and gains use of specialist teaching facilities. We hold high expectations of everyone at Elmwood School, and we challenge both students and staff to be the best they can be in everything they do. We are proud of our relationships with parents and carers and have a very dedicated Family Team who offer support to all of our families.

Age range: 11- 19 years

Location: Bridgwater,



Curriculum

Our curriculum is dynamic, engaging and personalised for each of our learners. Every student accesses learning that is appropriate and meaningful and develops a thirst and enthusiasm for learning. To support the social and emotional aspects of development, we offer rich therapeutic interventions which aids the development of emotional intelligence, resilience and self-worth. We encourage our students to take risks with their learning and to challenge themselves, we support them to develop independence and aspirations and hold high expectations of their achievements.

OFSTED 2015

Parents are confident that their children are happy to come to school and that the school is effective at keeping their child safe at all times."

Learning Support Centre

The LSC is home to many educational resources for both schools, local organisations and families to loan. The centre hosts regular SENCo and Multi-agency groups supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across Sedgemoor. The LSC provides a mobile services and attends multi-agency events throughout Sedgemoor and beyond.

Employability

Students at Elmwood School engage in a range of Enterprise and Work Related Learning opportunities. Students have amazing success in producing high quality products which they sell at various events throughout the year. We work in partnership with local businesses who support our students to develop work skills. In recognition for their support and dedication, we hold award and celebration events during the year.



OFSTED 2015

'Staff take great care to ensure the learning needs of students are well provided for. The subjects taught in school are carefully planned to capture students interests.'



www.elmwood-school.org.uk



01278 456243



sch.601@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Fairmead School



School Context

Fairmead School is a specialist school for children and young people aged 4 to 19 with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/ or Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) who will benefit from our unique environment, specialist staff team and our personalised approach to meeting the needs of all.

At Fairmead we have high aspirations for all of our learners. Our staff adapt both the environment and curriculum to best suite the needs of our young people. We promote an inclusive ethos where every students voice is heard.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Yeovil, Somerset



Curriculum

Our Early Years provision focuses on a practical based, experiential curriculum underpinned by assessment of progress against Development Matters criteria. Our Primary phase develops learning around the primary curriculum, tailoring approaches to the needs and abilities of the individual and ensuring children benefit from purposeful, experiential learning opportunities. In Key Stages 4 and 5, functional skills and GCSE courses run alongside “preparation for adulthood” courses promoting independence and skills for employment.

March 2018, Parents say...

“Since attending this school my child is so much happier in himself and feels part of a group. He is no longer an outsider and is able to work at his own level. The staff are amazing and so helpful!”

Real life Learning:

Opportunities to access the wider community through Independent Travel Training and vocational based offsite courses where students build employability skills, allow us to deliver



on our aspirational vision for future independence and employment for all young people.

THRIVE:

Social and emotional development of young people is at the heart of all we do. Our Thrive trained practitioners have established approaches that allow us to target support for individuals at their assessed stage of development. The delivery of bespoke programmes for individuals and groups, enables pupils to build emotional resilience as they develop understanding of themselves and each other.

OFSTED 2018

“A structured approach to supporting pupils’ social and emotional development is working well... Parents talk about their children loving the school, being much more able to express themselves and becoming much more confident.”

 www.fairmead.co.uk

 01935 421295

 Office@fairmeadschool.co.uk

Fiveways School



School Context

Fiveways is a specialist school for communication and interaction which provides an 'Outstanding' education for the pupils who are drawn from the South Somerset area. Each pupils needs are carefully and sensitively addressed, within the context of a well developed curriculum. We believe that our pupils should enjoy school and have fun while they learn. Our committed staff work as a team to provide a specialist education, enabling all children to develop to their full potential. We are keen to work with parents carers to ensure continuity of approach. Fiveways is a forward looking special school, keen to promote opportunities for pupils with special needs within their local communities.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Yeovil, Somerset



Curriculum

We are totally committed to personalised learning for our pupils, to offer them the best start to their formal education - one that is rich in opportunities & experiences; encourages active engagement in learning, that positively influences & ensures lifelong learning, broadening the aspirations, values & opportunities for every child as they grow & develop, and preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

OFSTED 2017

This school continues to be outstanding. The leadership team, and the governing body, have maintained the outstanding quality of education... since the previous inspection.... in the accurate school self-evaluation, .. adults have high expectations, set challenging targets and provide excellent individualised support for each pupil. As a result, the outcomes for pupils remain outstanding. Pupils continue to reach their potential through learning and playing in a happy, secure and caring environment.

Learning

To create a happy and secure learning environment rich in stimulation and challenge.



Provision

Alongside outstanding teaching and learning, Fiveways offers a wide range of approaches and resources to support our pupils' Personal Learning Goals including:-

- Total Communication, Signalong, Eye Gaze and Magic Carpet
- Positive Behaviour Support
- SEMH and ELSA
- MOVE -movement for learning and life
- Outdoor Learning Environments
- Swimming Pool, Rebound, Horse Simulator
- Music Therapy

Pupils and parents say - "I want the people around me to know all about me and understand me well. I need to feel safe and secure and know what is going to happen. I like to be busy doing lots of new and different things at school. I need people to help me to get ready to move on."

 www.fivewaysschool.co.uk

 01935 476227

 office@fivewaysschool.somerset.gov.uk

Penrose School



School Context

Penrose School is one of 2 Special Schools within Bridgwater, who together form the Elmwood & Penrose Federation. Penrose School is a primary school for children with learning difficulties. The school is purpose built with specialist facilities to enhance and enrich the learning experience of our pupils. We strive for excellence at Penrose in everything that we do. We hold high expectations of all of our pupils and from their very first days we encourage and nurture a love of learning and developing independence. We have a very dedicated Family Team who build excellent relationships and offer support to all of our families.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Bridgwater,



Curriculum

Our curriculum at Penrose School is designed to meet the individual needs of every pupil. It is creative and innovative and builds on prior learning and existing knowledge and skills. Routine and structure is embedded across the school which enables pupils to develop independence within the school environment.

Pupils follow a thematic approach to learning which engages them in a range of practical learning opportunities, the curriculum is designed to develop curious, inquisitive and enquiring minds.

OFSTED 2017

'Staff know pupils well and there is a very nurturing ethos throughout the school.'

Sedgemoor Switch

Penrose School is the home of Sedgemoor Switch. This is an outreach provision, primarily for supporting young people in mainstream schools with SEMH needs, but supports schools with pupils with a wide range of SEND. The provision offers support to staff including training, resource ideas and strategies.

Supporting Parents and Carers

We know that relationships with our families are key to ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils. We offer a wide range of activities for parents and carers to get involved in, these include Stay & Play sessions, coffee mornings, parent programmes and workshops, signposting to external services and also wellbeing sessions.

During the school holidays our Family Team host a wide range of activities from beach walks to Cinema afternoons which the whole family can enjoy together.



OFSTED, 2017

'Pupils are supportive of each other and behaviour in and around school is very orderly.'

Pupils have very positive attitudes to learning and talk about subjects such as art, physical education and topic, which they clearly enjoy.'



www.penrose-school.org.uk



01278 411222



sch.602@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The Mendip School



School Context

The Mendip School is a specialist school for pupils aged 4-19 with Autism and Speech, Language and Communications Needs. We are committed to and passionate about the learning and progress of our pupils. Staff and governors have high aspirations for our children and we aim to provide a high quality, relevant and balanced education for all our pupils that focuses on individual, personal and academic achievement. Students are taught in small groups, usually with more than one member of staff in attendance. There is a happy and positive atmosphere in which children can fulfil their potential and grow in self-confidence with respect for the people and environment around them.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Shepton Mallett,



Curriculum

The Mendip School offers a broad and balanced curriculum aimed at creating an educational experience that prepares pupils for adult life. The curriculum offer also conforms to national government expectations and is structured to provide opportunities to succeed. Our pupils represent a very wide range of abilities and in response the curriculum provides a number of pathways that lead to a variety of post school destinations. A strong emphasis upon a vocational approach to our curriculum creates opportunities for our pupils to develop those skills which will be important to them in adult life. For some pupils this may mean a focus upon independence skills whilst for others academic qualifications provide the key to access post-16 Further Education courses.

DFE Monitoring Visit 2017

The quality of pupils' personal development is outstanding. Children are very confident learners with fantastic manners. They are a pleasure to talk to. This is demonstrated both in lessons and when they are away from direct adult support.

Learning

We offered a curriculum individualised to meet the needs of all our learners and one which;

- strives to ensure pupils and students achieve high academic and social standards.



- creates a personalised and enjoyable learning experience for each student.
- encourages creativity and enterprise.
- values the diversity of pupil and student learning and outcomes
- embraces new technology and innovation.
- works in partnership with other agencies and organisations

A parent: The Mendip School has really helped my child. Now they are happier and achieving more. The teachers really understand my child's needs"

 www.themendipschool.co.uk

 01749 838040

 office@themendipschool.com

Selworthy School



School Context

Selworthy is a school for children and young people with learning disabilities aged 4 – 19. The school enjoys support from parents and carers, businesses and the local community.

Being part of Selworthy School is like belonging to a family. Children and young people, parent carers, staff and visitors are welcomed into a happy and purposeful community where everyone is challenged to go on a learning journey and maximise achievement.

Age range: 4 - 19 years

Location: Taunton,



Curriculum

Our curriculum allows us the freedom to support all our learners to develop at their own speed and explore their interests. We strongly believe that high expectations should apply equally to all learners. Our primary focus is in the acquisition of transferable skills that adequately prepare our young people for their next steps. Our school ethos means that every aspect of our curriculum is designed to be accessible and available to all, in turn, the learners respond to this by demonstrating how truly amazing they are on a daily basis.

Parent Carer

“What immediately strikes you about Selworthy is the caring, nurturing ethos and the fact that all the staff are genuinely committed to the children, not just doing a job of work. They recognise and cater for the individuality of each child, providing a bespoke learning and care plan for every pupil.”

Multi-sensory

Multi-sensory learning provides all learners with the opportunity to feel, develop and learn through active engagement on multiple levels. The importance of play and being playful is visible within every lesson and is a fundamental part of our planning.



Positive Behaviour Support

We all work together seamlessly to meet the holistic needs of every learner. We know that all behaviour is some form of communication and prioritise this through our investment in bespoke training and our team of specialists including Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology, Sensory, Music Therapy and ELSA.

OFSTED 2017

“Pupils are well prepared for their future destinations. Pupils are provided with high-quality work placements ... as a result, all pupils move on successfully to further education, training or employment.”

“Pupils who spoke to inspectors reported that they feel safe in school.”

“The school adapts the curriculum effectively to meet the needs of each individual pupil.”



www.selworthy.somerset.sch.uk



01823 284970



Sch.614@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Sky College



School Context

Our philosophy is to provide a holistic and individualised approach designed and tailored to support students to fulfil their potential. Staff members are experts in their field and are consistently challenging both students and themselves in order to overcome barriers to success and provide students with the tools they require to thrive. Our goal is to be an outstanding provider of a personalised education where every student has a voice, is supported therapeutically to overcome barriers and is empowered to contribute to society through a sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Age range: 11 - 16 years
(Boys only)

Location: Taunton,



Curriculum—Principles

Provides a structure that enables students to achieve useful qualifications that open doors to future earning and learning opportunities.

Deliver a robust curriculum that empowers staff to be consistently excellent practitioners and ensures exceptional student progress in all areas of their development.

Meet the needs of the students by establishing secure routines that empower them to develop superb personal, social and emotional skills.

2016 Former Student *“Sky College changed my life really, I was a bit of a rebel in school, and then Mr Berry came along about 3 years ago and completely changed me as a person – he stuck by me in a school that never gave up on me, he came to my house to help sit my GCSEs, and me getting my qualifications meant that I could get an apprenticeship. Without Sky College I would never have got there, so I have to thank everyone!”*

Therapeutic Approach

At Sky we have established a number of subjects based around their therapeutic value. Emotional development for our boys is as important as academic progress. Without this therapeutic input supporting their emotional development they will struggle to maintain their place in society & manage difficult situations in their everyday lives.

THRIVE Practices

The Thrive Approach integrates latest findings in neuroscience with attachment and relationship theory and child development. Helping adults understand children’s behaviour as communication and a means of identifying any unmet emotional needs. Through Thrive we address their needs and support them in communicating and managing their feelings.

OFSTED, 2018

“The staff are dedicated, well trained & have young people’s development and well-being at the core of all their work. Their enthusiasm & commitment to their work is evident.”

<i>The overall experiences & progress of children & young people</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>How well children and young people are protected</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
<i>The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers</i>	<i>Good</i>

www.skycollege.co.uk

01823 275 569

office@skycollege.somerset.sch.uk



Harnessing best practice and local talent to enhance educational opportunities for all pupils.

The Somerset Partnership Teaching School (SPTS) was amongst one the first to be designated in 2011. It works with an alliance of partner schools and other organisations, including all of the schools within sen.se to harness best practise and local talent to support a school—led system which enhances educational opportunities for all pupils and provide high-quality training and support for school improvement in Somerset.

Benefits

We work collaboratively with our alliance of Yeovil Federation and Somerset Special Schools to address local need and to improve teaching and learning by delivering high quality:

- Initial Teacher Training - via School Direct
- Workforce development - from TA induction and NQT training, through to Middle Leadership
- Continuing Professional Development – with a focus on SEMH and SEND, but also as the STEM Science Learning Partnership for Somerset.
- School to School Support - including SEND outreach work and Team Teach
- Research and Development – contributing to new initiatives and disseminating findings.

“Thank you so much for this valuable CPD. It has already, after day 1, impacted on our children’s experience”

“Fantastic! Loved all the interactive examples & discussions. Very inspiring-thank you”

“ (Good) Balance between practical skill set from experience & theory. Funny, bright & engaging trainer”

“I will use everything that I have learned today, it will really help me to help the children I work with”

“Interesting & relevant material, well delivered, with lots of case studies and examples to ground the theories in real life practice”

“Everything was really useful. It has caused me to reflect on how I work and has allowed me to improve”

Contact us for bespoke training packages

Helen Gadsden – Teaching



Types of Training

- Foundation Degree in Child & Adolescent Mental Health
- Team Teach
- Range of NQT training
- New to Special
- Range of TA training
- Science Network Meetings and CPD
- Signalong



<http://www.somersetpts.co.uk/>



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