

School Prospectus 2025 / 2026

Education

Therapy

Futures



Proprietor details

Witherslack Group

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Head Teacher's name and contact details

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The Gables Learning Centre
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Holiday contact details

Learning Centre Senior Administrator

Amanda Heaney

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Acting Head Teacher
Kelly Burns

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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: Psychologist, Assistant Psychologist, Senior Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist and an Occupational Therapist 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

A major aim of the Learning Centre is to help children develop controls from within. Therefore appropriate patterns of behaviour are taught, encouraged and rewarded. Reflection, consequences and sanctions are also used as a part of enabling pupils to learn from mistakes made. 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 the BILD accredited framework PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment). Staff receive regular training in de-escalation strategies and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies. The Learning Centre'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 reduce its use.

A full copy of the Behaviour Policy (including rewards and sanctions) is available upon request. This explains in detail the expectations and support in promoting positive behaviour.

Admission Process

The Gables Learning Centre 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.

Applications are considered by our admissions panel and a non-prejudicial visit will then be arranged. Following this visit a place may be offered to pupils whose needs can be fully addressed by the school. Fees and contracts will then be agreed with local authorities. There will be an assessment period followed by an interim review meeting after 6 weeks. Referrals can be made throughout the academic year. If you wish to discuss making a referral please contact the Witherslack Group placement team.

The school's Admissions Policy is available on request.

Our Clinical Offer

Essential to the Witherslack Group Therapeutic Model are our Clinical Services Team who work alongside the wider multidisciplinary team to provide an integrated provision of therapeutic intervention, care and education.

Each of the children's learning environments are supported by a designated and bespoke team of clinicians which may include: Therapists, Psychologists, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Assistant Psychologists.

Our children, young people and the staff supporting them also have access to other specialist clinicians within the wider group including our Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.

All of our practising clinicians are registered practitioners with The Health and Care Professions Council or their appropriate designated regulatory bodies such as The British Association of Counselling Psychotherapists, British Association of Play Therapists, and the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy, and all receive supervision from other senior clinicians within the group or from externally commissioned specialists within their field.

Line management for the clinicians is provided by senior clinical colleagues and the Regional Clinical Director, who in turn is line managed by the group's Clinical Director.

All clinicians are supported to maintain their registrations through Continuing Professional Development opportunities, many being supported by the group to develop specialisms such as Sensory Integration Therapy and Trauma Informed Communication Approaches.

Clinical Governance is the responsibility of the Clinical Director who chairs the quarterly Witherslack Group Clinical Governance Board; attended by external advisors and internal Directors.

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
- Support from one of our therapy team (Senior Therapist, speech and language therapist or occupational therapist)
- 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 support

required 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 Acting Head Teacher, Kelly Burns.

Complaints or concerns arising from adults also follow set procedures. Firstly, the concern should be verbally discussed with Kelly Burns, Acting Head Teacher. Copies of the complaints policy and procedures are available on request.

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

During the academic year 2024-2025 we have had 0 complaints.

Statement regarding accessing exam results

Pupils can gain access to a range of educational and vocational qualifications. This may be via GCSE entry, entry level, functional skills, vocational qualifications or another accredited route. This will be planned according to the strengths, needs and aspirations of the individual pupil. Pupils will be entered in exams at different stages throughout the year and results will be provided at allocated times to the pupils and their authorities. Access to these results can be gained through consultation with the school at any time.

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 (Tina Picken- Pastoral Manager) 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 asking for the DSL, Tina Picken. If Tina Picken is unavailable and you need to speak to someone urgently, Kelly Burns (Acting Head Teacher, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)) or Jessica Perry (Acting Deputy Head, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)).

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)

Promoting General Welfare

There are a number of structures in place to support individual pupils. Upon admission, every pupil is supported by his or her personal tutor, the Pastoral Manager and the Head Teacher, whose responsibility it is to ensure that the pupil settles into school routines. Personal tutors meet regularly with Key Workers in the home to discuss progress, achievements and concerns. Pupils have (at least) fortnightly sessions with their personal tutors and will look at appropriate and relevant rewards on a regular basis. At The Gables Learning Centre, pupil rights and responsibilities are central to the purpose of The Learning Centre. Pupils are encouraged to accept their rights and responsibilities as members of the Learning Centre and the wider community and are assisted to make appropriate choices about their education and care.

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 we have an ISO 45001 accredited safety and health management system that ensures risks have been identified and effective control measures are in place. Monitoring is undertaken by the Acting Head Teacher, Kelly Burns, and the Senior Management Team assisted by the Health and Safety Representative, Anthony Nnaife (Site Supervisor). The whole site has internal health and safety checks in place for the staff to complete, with an action plan put in place to rectify any faults.

The school have support from the Witherslack Groups Safety, Health, and Environment Team, who are competent health and safety professionals who provide advice, guidance and training to create safe and healthy environments for everyone. They undertake a health and safety audit of the school annually and complete additional visits when needed.

Risk Assessments

Our role is to support children to lead a positive life, helping them to understand daily risks that they face and to learn how to overcome them safely. Due to our children's difficulties, some of them exhibit 'risk taking' characteristics; we therefore have rigorous procedures to ensure everyone's safety. Individual risk assessments will be completed for all pupils during their 12-week assessment period and will form part of the post-admission assessment review.

Risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed that cover the environments, lessons, and general activities that take place within the school. Where off site activities are planned, the visit leader would complete a risk assessment and update our Evolve System which ensures all pre-visit checks have been completed and the visit is authorised by a senior member of staff. A fire risk assessment has been undertaken and this is kept updated following any changes to layout, heat-generating activities or fire hazards introduced. An annual review of fire safety is undertaken by a competent person.

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/carers 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. The pastoral team will link with other agencies such as CAMHs, social care or medical teams when required.

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.



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