

a Together Trust service

Prospectus



care • education • support • since 1870





Bridge College

Bridge College is a non-residential specialist college that meets the needs of students with learning difficulties and disabilities, communication disorders and autism spectrum conditions, and associated medical conditions. Many have severe and complex difficulties. The College has National Autistic Society accreditation and has been a Makaton Centre of Excellence since 2001.

Students benefit from a comprehensive range of sessions tailored to meet individual needs and has particular expertise in supporting students with communication difficulties.

The College's urban location provides easy access to a range of community facilities, employment and volunteering opportunities and other Further Education providers. Young people learn skills in the community supported by a multidisciplinary team.

Key strengths:

- Good student progress.
- Good teaching and learning.
- Very good specialist support.
- Effective inclusion strategies.
- Strong leadership and drive at all levels to ensure continuous progress (Ofsted 2008).

Mission

The Bridge College mission is to create a learning environment that is inclusive and where young people make successful transition to adulthood by making good progress in their self-esteem, skills for life and independence.

The Bridge College community shares the following core values:

- Students come first and are at the centre of what we do
- We help students to secure success in their future lives by aiming high
- We employ a multidisciplinary approach to support students to achieve and excel in speaking for themselves, making choices and meeting challenging goals
- We celebrate all achievements
- We embrace diversity and treat everyone with dignity and respect
- All members of staff have a role in helping students to learn
- We strive continuously to improve and to innovate.

All of us are responsible for ensuring the success of Bridge College and its students.

Courses

There are four courses at Bridge College.

At Pre-foundation level there is the Sensory course for students with profound and complex needs and the Pre-entry course for those working at Milestones 4 to 7.

At Foundation level there is the Entry Level course for young people operating at Milestone 8 and above and the Step Up course for students with Autism Spectrum Conditions.

Sensory course

The course aims to meet the needs of young people with complex needs who wish to develop their communication and independence/planned dependence skills.

Specific aims include:

- Developing effective communication skills/strategies
- Developing skills for life and living
- Developing skills for making choices and expressing preference
- Maintaining and building upon existing skills
- Developing awareness of their environment and how to control it.

Pre-entry course:

This course aims to meet the needs of young people who wish to develop their skills for independence and progress to a further course in a further education college or to supported employment.

Specific aims include:

- Developing effective communication skills/strategies
- Developing skills for life and living
- Experiencing and developing skills for the world of work
- Developing skills for making choices and expressing preferences especially in relation to future education and lifestyle options
- Maintaining and building upon existing skills.





Entry course:

This course aims to meet the needs of young people who wish to develop independent living skills and progress to a further course, training or employment

Specific aims include:

- Developing effective communication and literacy skills
- Developing numeracy and connecting skills
- Developing ICT skills
- Developing independence skills including daily living activities and independent travel
- Developing work skills and experiencing the real world of work.

“Programmes and activities successfully meet the needs of learners.”

OFSTED 2008

Step up course:

This course aims to meet the needs of young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

Young people will be involved in a range of activities both in College and in the community where they can practise and develop communication and social skills and develop thinking and problem solving skills.

Specific aims include:

- Developing communication skills
- Developing personal organisation and independence skills
- Developing abilities in making choices and decision making
- Developing skills in preparing for and coping with change
- Participating in community activities
- Exploring work and leisure options
- Developing self awareness, self esteem and confidence.



Support services

Bridge College offers a very wide range of high quality services to support students' learning. The College employs its own team of full time therapists, nurses and support workers to give the highest possible level of input to all our students.

Bridge College promotes a multidisciplinary approach to learning and has expertise in supporting students with a wide range of needs.

Services include:

- **Physiotherapy**
Offering hydrotherapy, active and passive interventions, mobility programmes, postural management, advice on equipment and adaptations.
- **Speech and Language Therapy**
Offering support with high and low tech communication aids, alternative and augmentative communication, Makaton signs and symbols, PECS, objects of reference and dysphagia support for eating and drinking.
- **Occupational Therapy**
Offering support with self care, practical skills, daily living activities, cognition and sensory motor skills, independent travel, community and road safety skills, advice on aids and adaptations and eating and drinking support.
- **Nursing**
Providing medical support including the administration of medication, epilepsy management, gastrostomy support and health promotion.
- **Educational Psychology**
Providing advice on effective teaching and learning approaches and positive behaviour management.
- **Support team**
Offers support to students on a 1:1 or 1:2 basis with their educational, personal and social requirements.
- **Catering service**
Offering healthy, freshly cooked meals, including those for students with special dietary requirements.
- **Interpreting service**
Providing support to students and families when required.
- **Connexions service**
Advising students, families and carers about future options to ensure a smooth transition to the next placement.

"Specialist support is very good."

OFSTED 2008





Starting college

Students make a supported transition into Bridge College by taking part in a structured assessment and admission process which includes link days from school to college in the final year.

Review meetings

Students have regular meetings with families, carers and other professionals. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss progress and plan for the future.

Moving on from college

Students are supported to make realistic choices about their future destinations.

The Citizenship curriculum includes opportunities to visit possible destinations including local Further Education colleges, day service providers, work training providers and local community services. In their final year students attend link days at their future placement.

Safeguarding

We have a commitment to safeguarding and a specialist person, who trains staff and supports students. Student induction includes information about how to stay safe in college and in the wider community and who they should speak to if they have any worries.

"The team evidenced an enthusiastic staff group extremely respectful of the students and very skilled in their approach to the curriculum and care of students."

Good Practice - Autism Accreditation May 2009



Working towards





Bridge College

Curzon Road, Offerton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5DG

t: 0161 487 4293

f: 0161 487 4294

e: admin@bridgecollege.ac.uk

www.togethertrust.org.uk

Registered charity number 209782

Bridge College is part of the Together Trust, a charity that has been operating for over 140 years. We believe that everyone deserves an equal chance in life and everyone has the ability and right to experience joy, safety, happiness and hope. By providing specialist education, care and community services to children, young people and adults the Together Trust aims to do everything in its power to make that happen.

together
trusted educational services