



Phoenix Bay School Prospectus 2024

more than just a school.



Student feedback:

"everything works at Phoenix Bay; the way it is set up, rooms, staff, not too many people so I'm not distracted. The staff are nice and they understand me."

The Phoenix Bay Mission

To create authentic opportunities for students in a trauma-informed education setting, leading to students thriving beyond the classroom and prepared for the challenges of everyday life. To support all students to become intuitive and to reach their potential.



Ross Banks
Principal



Phoenix Bay School is a trauma-informed independent school providing therapeutic education to support students to develop increasingly independent lives, leading them to thrive in adulthood.

The school provides a specialised, small, nurturing environment for traumatised students who have been unable to access education in larger class settings or mainstream education. The students attending Phoenix Bay School will have often been excluded or unable to manage both mainstream schools and other specialist educational provisions.





Who we are

At Phoenix Bay School, we are committed to providing children with the necessary support to make sense of their experiences, effectively manage their emotions and feelings, and foster an environment of safety, connection, and compassion at all times.

Through our comprehensive training programmes, we aim to establish a school network of strong, positive, and supportive relationships, thereby promoting a culture of growth and development for our students.

We provide for young people with complex needs, including those who have experienced trauma and multiple adverse childhood experiences. All our students have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), with the primary need being identified as Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) in most cases.

We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment that promotes academic and personal growth.

What Parents Say About Us

" My son has many SEN problems and we went through many schools in North Wales before relocating to Devon to find a school that could meet his needs.

The LA SEN team were brilliant with us and referred my son to this school. To say it is a outstanding school still would not be giving it enough credit."





What we do

Phoenix Bay staff believe that every child is a competent learner from birth, who can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured. The students who come to Phoenix Bay are often functioning emotionally and developmentally below their chronological age, but at Phoenix Bay, all students can learn to be strong and independent from a base of secure relationships with staff and others.

We recognise that students develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, and that all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected. At all times we keep at heart, both the developmental age of the student and their readiness for learning. Formal education and larger group working is likely to have invoked anxiety and corresponding disruptive and destructive behaviour or withdrawal. Through small groups and individually tailored education packages, the education team provide sensitive, creative and empathetic approaches to learning. This enables the students to begin to engage in education, perhaps for the first time. Readiness for learning comes from the combination of being able to be on task and to trust those supporting them to engage. Curriculum content and strong relationships can then provide the hook for further enjoyment of learning.

The Phoenix Bay Team work closely with each student's parents/carers. This enables an integrated approach that puts the student's emotional trauma and corresponding barriers to learning at the centre of their personalised curriculum planning. Support with peer relationships and associated conflict resolution enables Phoenix students eventually to manage larger group learning and potentially to be integrated into more mainstream educational settings and/or employment.





What Parents Say About Us

"In the past, my son has always really struggled in formal school settings, leading to him missing out on education. He has complex needs which are all being met with compassion and a very individual package by Phoenix Bay. Every member of staff makes my son feel safe and because of this, he is engaging in learning like he never has before.

His confidence is growing and he is being introduced to new experiences that although he finds difficult, he is trying. The gentle but persistent way that Phoenix Bay approaches learning is really working and we really are very grateful!"

**Parent
Claire Medworth**



Diary of a student

I make it to school by 9am where I am greeted by the staff as I step out of the taxi. We walk into school together, ready to start the day.

We start with breakfast, where we can choose between tea or juice and some toast. After breakfast, I have some one-on-one time with my key worker. Each student has their own key worker who they check in with twice a day. During this time, we talk about how I'm feeling and anything I want to discuss. If I'm struggling with something, I can have an intervention before heading to my lessons.

My timetable is a mix of academic and vocational lessons. We all have individual timetables tailored to meet our individual needs. My first lesson today was maths, where we're currently learning algebra. There are only four students in my class, including myself, which makes it easier to focus. We're supported by three staff members - the teacher and two well-being mentors. Next up was English, where we looked at complex sentences. I prefer maths, but I'm doing well in both subjects. Our learning sessions are 45 minutes long, and after two sessions, we have a break where we can catch up with other students and staff, play a game or have time on the computers.

My next learning session is double barbering. We have our own barber shop onsite. I really like barbering, it's hand on, out of the normal classroom and we are taught by an experienced barber, so she really knows what she's talking about when it comes to cutting hair. As I said this is a double lesson, but time goes so fast.

After lunch, we have PE where we go outside to play football and basketball. I don't always enjoy football, but I appreciate the variety of sports we do during our PE lessons. My last lesson of the day is another check-in with my key worker. We reflect on the day and discuss what went well and what we can improve on tomorrow.

Having this check-in makes it easier to go home and discuss anything that's on my mind.





Our curriculum

At Phoenix Bay School, our curriculum is designed to cater to our mixed age classes. We follow a rolling programme for each key stage, which is based on the National Curriculum. In addition to this, we offer lessons in SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural development) and SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health), Forest School activities, vocational subjects, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and Personal Development, including careers guidance.

To ensure effective delivery of the curriculum, units of learning in each subject area are taught in half-termly blocks. Parents and carers are provided with a curriculum overview, which outlines the learning objectives for the term.

At Phoenix Bay School, we understand the importance of offering a range of options for students in Key Stage 4 (KS4). These options are designed to guide each student along a common progress path, considering their individual starting points. We provide a variety of vocational courses on our premises to enhance the learning experience. These courses typically encompass a combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical work, paving the way for potential careers in technical industries or trades such as barbering, animal care, or carpentry.

Our paths are tailored to incorporate personal development goals, core skills, and the specific needs outlined in each student's Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).





What Parents Say About Us

" I just sat down with my morning coffee and felt a strong need to express the gratitude we have for the solid commitment and outstanding results we have seen in such a short space of time.

We are hugely proud of phoenix bay school and can, without question, say we have a strong belief that you and your team have and continue to facilitate our child's growth to becoming a secure and respected member of society

Thank you thank you thank you."

**Parent
Ian Cooper**



Interventions

Phoenix Bay School provides a bespoke Intervention programme for all students. These 1:1, weekly sessions support the individual needs of the student in a positive and proactive way.

The sessions are centred around various areas such as wellbeing mentoring, Social Emotional and Mental Health, Literacy and Numeracy, or therapeutic approaches. They are personalized to meet the specific requirements of each student, enabling them to make progress towards achieving their EHCP targets in a nurturing environment.

Interventions list





Personal Development

Phoenix Bay School offers a Personal Development programme which aims to support the ambitions and aspirations of all students. This includes an individualised Careers and Work Experience programme in addition to the SMSC, PSHCE and RSE Curriculum. Each week during breakfast time, there is an allocated day for a Student Voice discussion, a British Values topic and an SMSC theme of the week in order to prepare students to become functional members of society in adulthood.

Phoenix Bay School organises regular offsite visits and trips, including for collapsed timetable days:



Preparation for adulthood

The Phoenix Bay focus on personal development, self-regulation and preparing for the world of work represents key components in preparing our students for adulthood. We are dedicated to ensuring that all our students are well-prepared for future employment opportunities and further education by providing a diverse range of qualifications and awards. Our students have the opportunity to pursue qualifications at various levels, including Entry Level, Functional Skills, GCSE, and vocational qualifications. Additionally, students at every stage of their education can attain AQA Unit Awards.





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