



## Statement of purpose

**At Dawn House School our purpose is to enable all children to work towards their successful future by being happy and healthy, and by actively contributing. All staff work collaboratively to achieve these aims for our children:**

**Achieve full potential.**

**Be emotionally and practically independent.**

**Be fully involved with a strong sense of belonging and contribution.**

### Principles and Practice:

The residential team strive to support pupils to grow and develop physically, emotionally, and socially within the safe, consistent, enjoyable, learning environment of the residential setting. We take pride in making a warm and nurturing home away from home with the creature comforts that children value.

Within the residential setting we are able to enhance the learning of the individuals outside of the classroom with a seamless approach to education, therapy, and care. Activities and routines are personalised to individual needs, preferences, and interests, and are designed to develop skills for adult life, communication, confidence, and resilience to equip our children to manage daily living and challenges that may arise. Staff model a solution focused attitude and empower young people to be heard, to make informed decisions, and to influence plans that affect them.

The Blank Levels of Questioning/Language of Learning Model is used across school, as are the Zones of Regulation. Restorative practices are promoted, and mistake/mishaps are valued as opportunities for learning. Children are encouraged to be brave and to calculate and manage appropriate risks.

Dawn House School offers a flexible boarding provision of weekly boarding, regular/occasional overnight stays, extended days and after school clubs. This allows pupils to join their friends in the residential setting or community to have experiences and opportunities they may be unable to access at home.

There is capacity for 8 young people in two adjoining houses that can be joined by others for extended days, social events, and a variety of after school clubs.

Each residential pupil has their own room that they are encouraged to personalise. It is important that they feel at home, so we encourage families to provide pupils with home comforts such as duvet covers, towels, toiletries, and leisure wear, as well as personal possessions such as pictures, posters, toys, and books. They also have the opportunity to choose shop for these whilst at school if they prefer to keep home and school separate.



The residential group are very much involved in planning for the residential provision and contribute to decisions made about their environment, activities, and all aspects of their care. They routinely participate in planning their evening menus, shopping for ingredients, and preparing simple meals and have helped to choose colour schemes and new furniture for their bedrooms and living rooms.

The residential houses are managed by a small group of staff that provide consistent boundaries and expectations, comfort, and familiarity. The residential team are well-established, experienced, and knowledgeable in speech language and communication needs, and have a wide range of complementary skills and interests. Their strength lies in the relationships they build with those in their care, the wide range of stimulating experiences provided and their sensitivity to the needs and interests of individuals. When enhanced support is needed for young people with additional challenges or anxiety this is provided by familiar members of staff from the school setting. There are close links with the wellbeing team, and Teachers, TAs and Therapists are regular and welcome visitors.

The residential team have half termly supervisions with the residential Services Manager as well mentoring, live supervision and guidance. Two members of the residential team sleep in the residences overnight, which means that pupils can be greeted in the morning by those they saw before going to bed; the same familiar faces that are on hand should they be needed overnight.

At Dawn House School familiar and trusted staff are available across the 24-hour period to monitor and support our young people to reach their full potential.