Prospectus

Situated in South Devon's beautiful Dart Valley, Bidwell Brook offers an attractive and stimulating environment for students aged 3 to 19 with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities. We cater for up to 95 students in small classes of 10 or less, with a high level of class based and specialist support.

"Tina-May has come on amazingly since she came and attending Bidwell Brook was the best move for her."
Lilian's foster daughter has attended the school since she was 5.

Bidwell Brook School

Our Mission Statement:

- Everyone will be the best that they can be
- Everyone has a voice
- No-one is excluded

To achieve this we:

- Nurture talent and ambition
- Facilitate communication and decision making
- Ensure all needs are met

"Whatever the level of learning difficulties faced by individual pupils, work is pitched at the right level to enable pupils to make good progress."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

CURRICULUM

Throughout the school we aim to create a stimulating, caring, educational environment within the security of small teaching groups. Students have access to the National Curriculum, which is suitably adapted to ensure that acquisition of skills and knowledge is relevant to the highly specific needs and abilities of our students.

Those who would benefit from specialised sensory learning receive specific therapies and learning programmes including Hydrotherapy, Riding for the Disabled, Rebound Therapy and Music Therapy.

For some students we use Intensive Interaction to support with children who have not developed the use of language to help develop their communication.

"The school fits around my daughter, instead of expecting her to fit around them. Since she came here her independence has grown and she surprises me regularly with the new things she can do for herself."

Rhona Curley's daughter came to the school in year 4, having started her education in a mainstream school.

"Pupils of all abilities make good and sustained progress from when they start school through to Year 11."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

Rainbow Centre
Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

The Rainbow Centre consists of our Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 children, who are all working within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Our curriculum is child centred and we follow the early years philosophy of play being essential for children's development.

We provide challenging experiences within an enabling environment so that children can build their confidence as they learn to explore, solve problems and relate to others.

"I like playing with everybody. I like playing with the babies. I like playing with the kitchen. I like swimming in the swimming pool. It fills up with water!"

Lucy, aged 5

We also offer a weekly Parent and Toddler group for 2-3 year olds with parental support.

Bidwell Brook School

Key Stage 2

Pupils will develop independence and confidence and will begin to take responsibility for their own learning through a broad, dynamic curriculum which emphasises the core subjects.
They will be happy and motivated, recognising their own strengths and accepting new challenges.

The curriculum is taught through a topic based approach. Using key texts we focus on literacy, with links to maths, science, humanities and the arts where relevant. There is an emphasis on motivating and involving children to engage them in active learning.

Roman used his iPad to express what he most likes about school:

"The sensory room, Donkeys, the swing"

Roman, aged 9

Bidwell Brook School

Key stage 3

To develop self esteem and confidence through shared commitment to high expectations and by celebrating all pupils' efforts and achievements.

A student led, topic based approach, is structured around key texts which link literacy, humanities, and art. Personal, social and health education is threaded through the curriculum, including sex and relationship education in response to individual need. Students will use their knowledge to practise skills needed to develop into young adults who can make their own choices and decisions.

"I've been here for 8 years since 2006. I like soft play - we make houses and we can chuck soft bricks around. We do 'Wake Up Shake Up" in the hall - we dance and it wakes us up! I am on the student council and I've interviewed a play leader, interviewed teachers and I'm helping to choose a tree house for the school."

Lititia, aged 12

Bidwell Brook School

Key Stage 4

Students are learning to use their voice as independent individuals.

As young adults, we extend students understanding of choice making, encouraging independence in a wider range of areas. We help them to develop their life skills through functional literacy and numeracy, computing and personal skills, fostering a sense of responsibility. Developing their interests and aspirational thinking encourages students to explore their choices for the future. This may include accredited courses or more formal qualifications.

"[Bidwell Brook] makes me feel safe and happy. I like science and computers."

Peter, aged 16

"From the moment we walked through the doors of BB we immediately had the sense of a safe, calm and caring environment. Eight years in the school has given our son a unique and flexible education which has helped to maximise his learning potential. And most importantly he really enjoys his time there."

Sarah Bowles's son has been at Bidwell Brook since he was 4

Bidwell Brook School

Further Education

Our FE department will be created and developed by the students needs and desires. Everything we do will make a clear and real difference to our students. All students have a voice and that voice is heard in the way that they make choices and decisions.

Once our pupils move into FE they are preparing to make the transition to the next phase of lives, beyond Bidwell Brook. There is a key focus on life skills and increasing students' confidence and independence.

"The sixth form is good. Students are well supported for the next phase of their lives."

Ofsted 2014

"[I enjoy] playing football, being with my friends and scoring some goals. I like seeing my friends in the class room. I like doing animation; we did some stop motion animation with the bikes. I do Taiko drumming. It's cool but it's tiring when you hold on to the bachi sticks. I do Sound Art radio every Tuesday. It's really good. We broadcast our radio show all around different countries."

Brad, aged 17

Bidwell Brook School

Outdoor Education

At Bidwell Brook we recognise and celebrate the importance of Outdoor Learning. Our grounds include a football pitch, a climbing wall, an adventure playground, a tree house and a nature trail with provision for 'Forest School' activities.

We also offer a range of activities and trips outside the school which have included Ten Tors and residentials at the River Dart Country Park.

Bidwell Brook School

Music, Drama and Art

The arts thrive at Bidwell Brook. For some, the day begins with the 'Wake Up Shake Up' song and dance. Many learning activities, particularly for younger students are music based.

Throughout the year, classrooms and corridors get brighter and more colourful as student work is displayed.

The Christmas productions are a highlight for many of our students who love to perform.

Computing

Use of computers is an integrated aspect of our curriculum. With a desktop computer, an iPad and an interactive smart board in each classroom as well as a dedicated ICT suite ,we can ensure that our students are prepared for the digital age.
We also operate a Bring Your Own Device policy.

"...for those with the most extreme difficulties, the good use of technology is an effective way of supporting learning."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

Healthy Eating

As a school we are committed to a healthy eating regime. We encourage our students to drink fresh water or organic cordials and for snacks we provide plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Students learn about healthy eating through making their own snacks and meals.

From September 2014, school meals will be cooked on the premises and KS5 students will have the opportunity to study an accredited catering course alongside our chef.

We also have a good sized allotment and a poly tunnel so that we can involve our students in the growing, harvesting and preparation of a variety of fruits and vegetables, from seed to plate.

Bidwell Brook School

Inclusion and Collaborative Working

We have links with a number of schools where some of our students attend activities with their mainstream peers.

We offer a bespoke timetable, facilitated by a dedicated member of staff.

We also offer an Outreach service to support all Early Years, Primary & Secondary settings within our area.

Ellen Tinkham

King Edward VI

Dartington Primary

The Grove

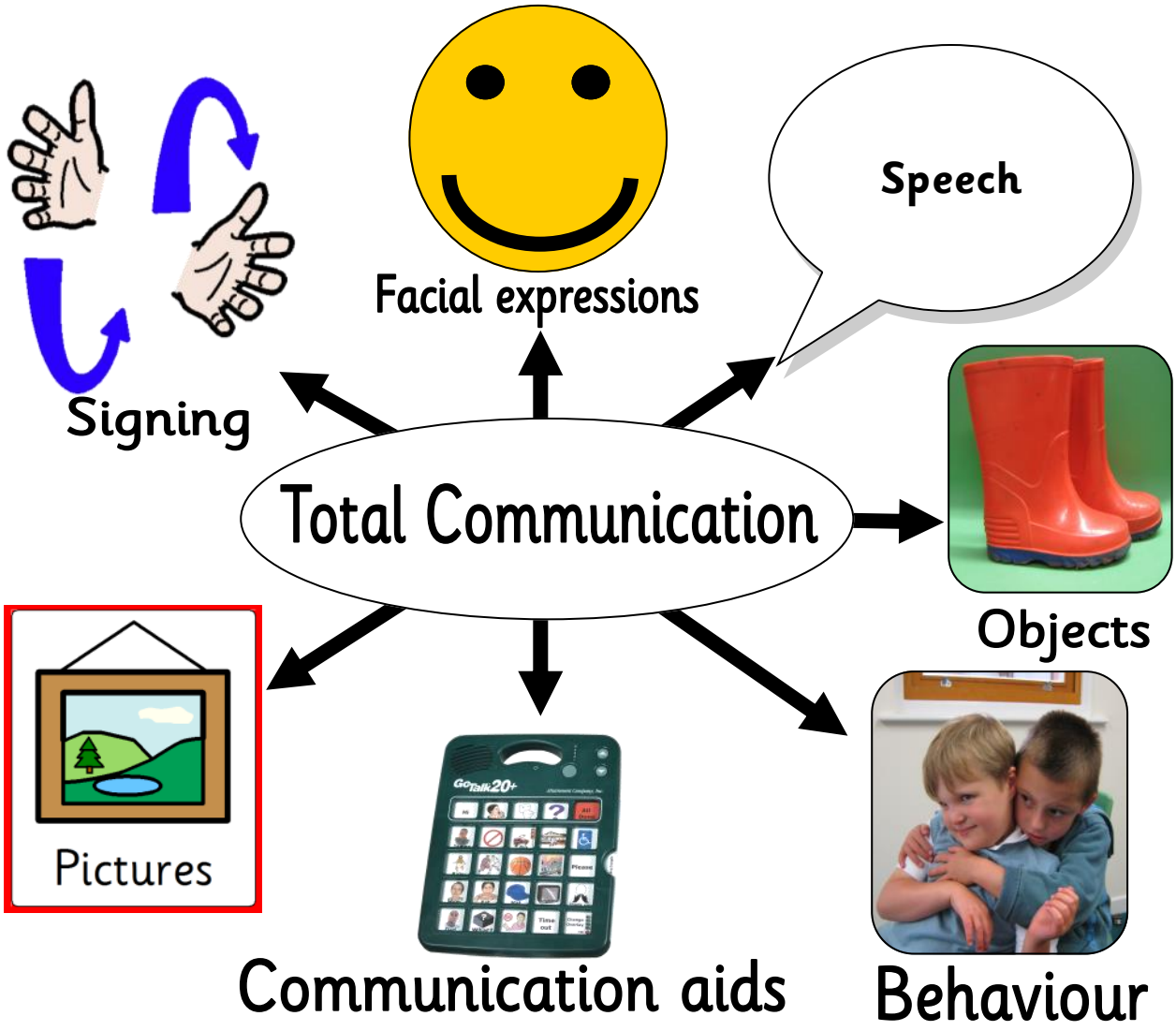
Combe Pafford

Kingsbridge Community College

Bidwell Brook School

Communication and Decision Making

We are a Total Communication school. Our Communication and Interaction department is dedicated to ensuring that every child has a voice.



"The school rightly identifies communication as being central in all its work to the hopes of many parents and carers for their children. The progress made by students is a reflection of the good teaching they receive."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

The Speech & Language Therapy department has its own brochure if you want to find out more

We understand that behaviour is a form of communication, so we respond by listening and working to understand the needs of our students.
We endeavour to create an environment where our students feel safe, and are happy and engaged.
We encourage positive behaviour through good role modelling, and an expectation that students will want to do well.

Our Communication and Decision Making Team includes Speech and Language Therapists, a Thrive practitioner, and an Advocacy lead.
We meet regularly to ensure we understand our students' needs, seeking additional, external support where necessary. In this way we strive to identify the underlying causes of challenging or worrying behaviours, which is the first step towards changing those behaviours.

"The behaviour support team provides excellent support to pupils and staff. The focus on supporting effective communication and decision making within a frame work of mutual respect promotes positive behaviour."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

Special Therapeutic Facilities

Hydrotherapy

Hydrotherapy is a form of therapeutic exercise carried out in a specially heated pool. The heat and buoyancy of the water provide a relaxing medium that assists in stretching out tight muscles. The pool is also used for general class sessions to help build confidence. The floor level can be set at a suitable level for different classes while lights and music create a sensory atmosphere.

Rebound therapy

Rebound therapy uses a trampoline to facilitate movement, to promote balance and sensory integration, to increase or decrease muscle tone and to improve communication skills and general fitness.

Sensory room

The sensory room provides a range of visual, tactile, auditory and olfactory experiences that can be used to create either relaxing or stimulating atmospheres.

It is ideal for encouraging non-verbal pupils to be more engaged.

Bidwell Brook School

Medical Support

The school has a Registered Sick Children's Nurse and a Nursing Assistant. They work closely with parents, carers and staff to assist in promoting the health and well-being of their children with complex nursing needs.

We also have visiting specialists such as the Orthoptist who looks after the childrens' eyes and the Orthotist who attends to their footwear needs on referral from the Physiotherapist.

Children who may have additional sensory impairments will receive input from the Authority's peripatetic services for the Hearing Impaired (HI) and Visually Impaired (VI). We also have a specialist teacher for VI who works with students across the school.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy

The School's Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy team work to help the children reach their potential in the areas of mobility, function and independence through the use of exercise and orthotic equipment.

Bidwell Brook School

Support Services

Family and Children's Support Services Team:
We have a team to act as liaison between the school staff, families and all other agencies such as Social Services, Educational Psychologists, Careers South West and many more.

The team also sets up and administrates the Annual Review of Statement meetings for all pupils in the school. We use the Person Centred Approach, which ensures that everyone has a voice and which puts the student at the centre of planning and decision making.

As a school we have strong links with the integrated Children's Services and Adult Social Services teams who work with our pupils and their families.

The Support Services Team can also advise you on what services are available to your child.

"Central to progress and achievement is the home -school agreement which identifies clear targets, monitored on a termly basis, in which the school and the family collaborate in order to maximise progress and set challenging targets."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring the safety of all our pupils and hold our responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection above all other considerations.
Safeguarding is considered everybody's responsibility and we work in partnership with parents, carers and other agencies to create the safest environment in which all our pupils have the ability to fulfil their full potential.

"The school takes all reasonable steps to ensure that pupils are safe and secure."

"Pupils develop a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe."

"Pupils enjoy school and say they feel safe."

Ofsted 2014

Bidwell Brook School

Staff training

Our most valuable resource is our highly trained and experienced staff. Every member of staff has regularly updated First Aid, Moving and Handling and Behaviour management training.

Staff are also trained in Hydrotherapy and Rebound therapy as well as Communication support and, where appropriate, administering medication. Several staff members are trainers in their areas of expertise

"Staff work together in effective teams and are well supported by behaviour and other support staff to ensure good learning."

Ofsted 2014

"Nothing fazes the staff in the school. They have met all my son's challenges positively, head on and realistically."
Lisa Mooney's son has been at the school for 15 years and is moving on to new places this year.

Bidwell Brook School

Learn to Live Federation

Devon County Council

SEN SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

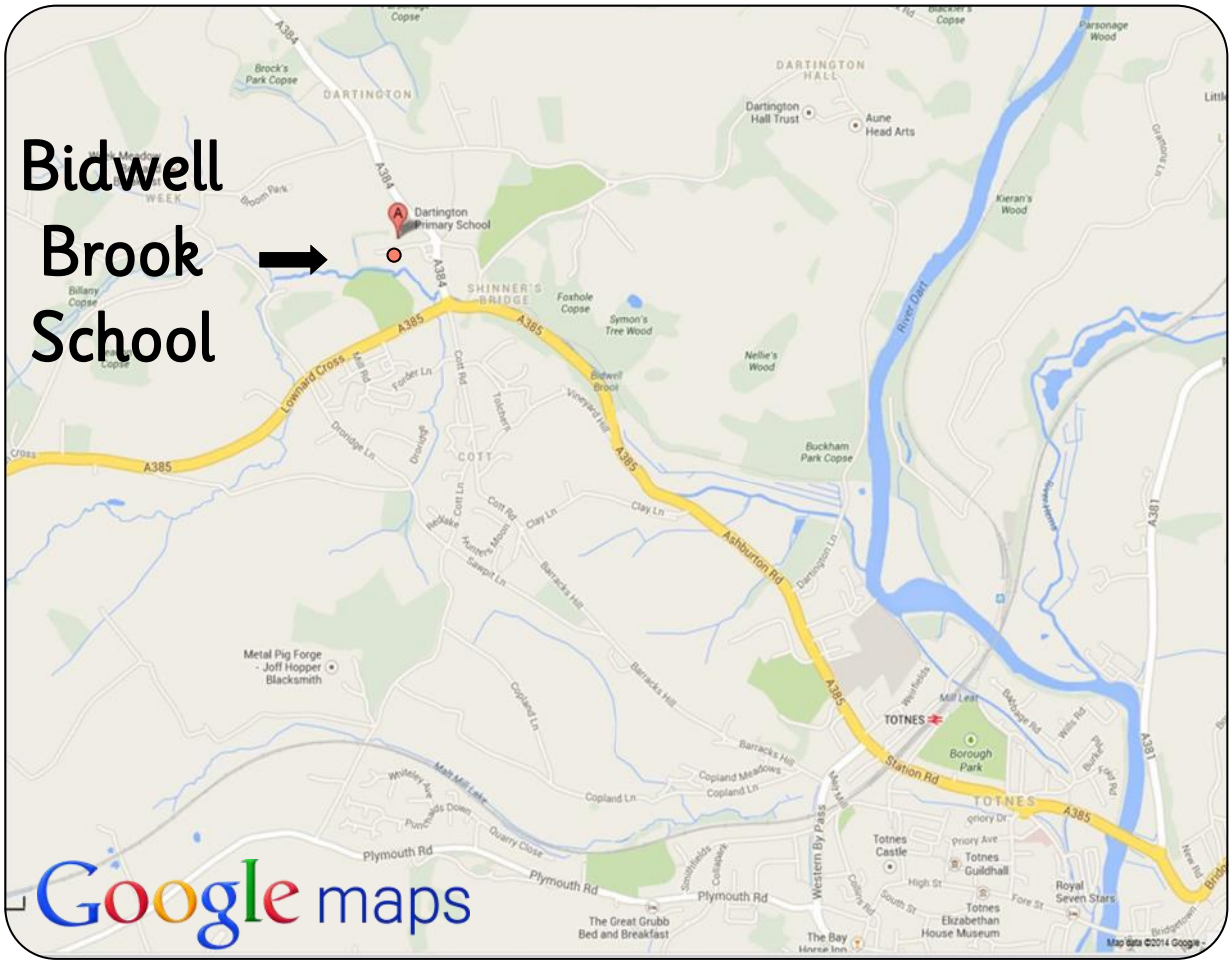
The FA CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS

SENTIENT TRUST

inspire • empower • enable

Bidwell Brook School

Bidwell Brook School



Shinners Bridge, Dartington, Totnes TQ9 6JU

Tel: 01803 864120

Email: admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk

www.bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk

Bidwell Brook School