

Northumberland County Council



Special Schools in Northumberland



Northumberland
County Council



Our Special Schools

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Welcome

At Northumberland County Council we wish to support you in making choices for your child's education.

We hope that this booklet will provide you with some initial information about each special school setting or independent provider for children who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place. You can also find further information about the Northumberland Local Offer SEND 0-25 years on Northumberland County Council website.

**[www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/
Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years)**

Please look at the websites of individual schools to see more detailed information. All schools welcome visits from prospective parents.

You can also discuss your options with your current school's SENCO or Family Partnership Manager. At Northumberland County Council you can contact your EHCP Officer/ EHCP Coordinator.

Eligibility for home to school transport would usually be based on the nearest appropriate school to your child's home address that has stated it can meet your child's needs, and you should bear this in mind when identifying your preferred schools for your child. You will find the transport policy on the Northumberland County Council Website.

**[www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/
School-transport-1/Transport](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-transport-1/Transport)**

The age range that the establishment is legally allowed to make provision for is shown in this brochure, but may not be offered by all providers.

How are special school places allocated to children?

A parent can request a special school placement through either -

New EHCP - when parents receive a draft EHCP, if you believe specialist provision may be appropriate for your child, you should notify the EHCP coordinator of your preferred schools, reasons for this choice and evidence why you feel a mainstream school may not be appropriate. Your EHCP coordinator will seek the view of your child's current school/setting on the appropriateness of the request. Once all required information is received, the request can be prepared and put forward for consideration to the SEND Placement Review and Transition Panel.

Existing EHCP - parents should contact their child's school to arrange an EHCP review meeting to discuss their request. At the meeting, they can discuss their preferences and reasons for this request which will be recorded within the review paperwork, completed by the school. This will include the school's view of the appropriateness of the request. On receipt of the completed review paperwork, the Council Officers will process the request for special school which will then be submitted to the SEND Placement Review, Transition and Commissioning Panel for consideration.

SEND Placement Review and Transition Panel

Once a special school request has been processed, or in the case of students at The Dales they are preparing for transition into secondary education, your child will be allocated a place at a SEND Placement Review and Transition Commissioning Panel (SPRT Panel) for consideration. The Panel meets frequently due to the high volume of cases and aims to consider requests for a specialist place or change of current specialist provision within two terms of the original request. The following table provides an indication of when a request submitted to SPRT Panel is likely to be considered in school year 2024/25 into 2025/26.

Request submitted to SPRT Panel	Latest Panel decision likely to be made
Autumn Term 1 (Sept-Oct 2024)	Summer Term 1 (April May 2025)
Autumn Term 2 (Nov-Dec 2024)	Summer Term 2 (June-July 2025)
Spring Term 1 (Jan-Feb 2025)	Autumn Term 1 (Sept-Oct 2025)
Spring Term 2 (March-April 2025)	Autumn Term 2 (Nov-Dec 2025)
Summer Term 1 (April-May 2025)	Spring Term 1 (Jan-Feb 2026)
Summer Term 2 (June-July 2025)	Spring Term 2 (March-April 2026)

Please note changes in placement take place at the start of a new academic year, with a few exceptions requiring 'in-year' moves which would be arranged at the end of a key stage unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Following Consideration at Panel

The panel has been developed to ensure that consideration of requests is consistently robust. Attendees will review all relevant paperwork, including the request itself and supporting evidence. The Panel's decision will be communicated to you by your EHCP Officer/Coordinator. For all cases presented to panel, parent preference schools are approached for their view.

If special school is agreed to be appropriate, schools will then be consulted for a placement. Once a school has agreed a placement you will be informed by your EHCP Officer/Coordinator.



Barndale House School



Barndale School

- ◆ 2-19 years
- ◆ Alnwick
- ◆ SpLD, ASD, SEMH, SLCN, VI, HI, MSI, PD, MLD
- ◆ Number of places– 70



Barndale is situated in the beautiful town of Alnwick. It is still fortunate to be a relatively small specialist school which means they benefit from the following:

- Small class sizes
- A family feel - pupils love their school and are proud of their learning and achievements
- They are an all age school so your child is supported from their starting point to adulthood
- Diversity and inclusivity in all classes
- An intervention team for a variety of needs
- Experienced and enthusiastic staff
- A residential provision that pupils age 7 and above can access.

You can find more information about Barndale School on their website.-

www.barndalehouse.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01665 602541

Barndale by the Sea is a satellite site of Barndale School and based in Amble. The additional site opens in September 2024 and will school will deliver appropriate curriculum, opportunities and experiences for young people for students primarily with needs relating to autism, social, emotional and mental health, speech and language and moderate learning difficulties.

Barndale By the Sea

- ◆ 4-11 years
- ◆ Amble
- ◆ ASD, SLCN, SEMH, MLD
- ◆ Number of places-phased opening



Cleaswell Hill School

- ◆ 2-19 years
- ◆ Guide Post
- ◆ PMLD, SLCN, ASD, SpLD, MSI, VI, HI, MLD
- ◆ Number of places– 187



Cleaswell Hill school is situated in Guide Post. It educates pupils with autism, specific learning difficulties, speech, language and communication needs, physical disability and sensory impairment. They help all the children aim for the highest levels of attainment, through skilled, specialist teaching and well-resourced curriculum and collaborative partnership with carers and multi-agency professionals.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- A Hydrotherapy Pool complete with an extensive sound and light system
- Two sensory rooms with high quality interactive equipment
- A Forest School, wildlife area with gazebo, fire pit and tree swings
- A Drama/Dance studio
- An Art studio
- A Design and Technology workshop with technology equipment including a 3D printer and ceramics kiln
- A multi-use games area (MUGA) with all-weather pitch
- An allotment with poly-tunnel
- An outdoor wooden adventure playground/trim trail
- Two play yards
- A sensory garden with interactive play equipment
- A Therapy Room with C-Frame swing
- Early Years classrooms have their own covered soft floor outdoor play areas
- A large field
- A large, covered outdoor sandpit
- Designated Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) areas
- Two minibuses and an accessible people carrier
- Full and half-size trampolines for Rebound Therapy
- A school library
- Overhead hoist tracking throughout school

You can find more information about Cleaswell Hill on their school website.

www.cleaswellhill.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 823182



Collingwood School and Media Arts College



- ◆ 2-19 years
- ◆ Morpeth (6th form in Prudhoe)
- ◆ SLCN, ASD, SEMH
- ◆ Number of places – 300



Collingwood is based in Morpeth and meets the needs of children with speech, language and communication needs, autism and social, emotional and mental health needs. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the pupils, whether they are academic, vocational or therapeutic. They incorporate preparation for adulthood, employability and enterprise and accreditation throughout the curriculum. Pupils and students follow the pathway that is most suited to their needs as stated in their Educational Healthcare Plans.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Large, fully equipped classrooms
- A garden allotment with greenhouse and poly tunnel
- Kitchen classroom for cooking lessons
- Heated Therapy Pool
- Personal Education Centre located in a bespoke lodge
- Media suite with animation, sound and video recording/editing facilities
- Computer Suite
- Forest school area complete with Roundhouse
- School Library
- Sensory room
- Sensory garden
- A large field
- Pupil Support Centre
- Large 6th Form Facility in Prudhoe
- Mini Bus

You can find more information about Collingwood School and Media Arts College on their website.

www.collingwoodmediacollege.co.uk

Tel: 01670 516374

Collingwood School and Media Arts College

The Woodlands

- ◆ 11-16 years
- ◆ Morpeth
- ◆ SEMH, ASD
- ◆ Number of places– 40

(Phased Opening)



A satellite site of Collingwood School, The Woodlands is situated at Hepscoth Park, Morpeth. It offers a wide and balanced curriculum of vocational and enrichment activities to compliment the academic. Social and emotional support, behaviour modification, engagement and raising aspirations are fundamental to the curriculum.

The centre admits young persons with an EHCP who have a diagnosis of autism or social, emotional and mental health needs that limits their access to the curriculum in a mainstream environment. Children will be taught in class groups for the Core curriculum. Every afternoon pupils will access enrichment activities. These are essential in developing skills within the EHCP that are outside of curriculum content e.g. Social skills, independent travel and making a meal.

At The Woodlands, as with all of their Collingwood sites, they aim to provide an environment where their pupils are supported to be the best they can be. They walk every step of the journey with their pupils, guiding, challenging but most importantly celebrating every achievement.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following;

- Large Forest School and outdoor learning area
- Large, fully equipped classrooms
- A garden allotment
- Kitchen classroom for cooking lessons
- Gymnasium

You can find more information about Collingwood School & Media Arts College on their website.

www.collingwoodmediacollege.co.uk

Emily Wilding Davison School



- ◆ 11-16 years
- ◆ Ponteland
- ◆ SEMH
- ◆ Number of places– 100



Emily Wilding Davison School is located in Ponteland. The school is a designated secondary school for students with social, emotional and mental health needs. Their facilities and staff create a caring environment in which students are encouraged to manage and overcome their additional needs, within a climate that promotes curiosity and learning; enabling them to be the best they can be. Staff work in collaboration with a range of professionals and agencies to ensure that the complex needs of the learners are met. This is vital to support the holistic development of the young people and enable them to achieve their full potential. In addition, they focus on their place in the community, encouraging their young persons development into active and responsible members of society.

You can find more information about Emily Wilding Davison School on their website.

www.ewd.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 0191 298 0838

Gilbert Ward Academy

Gilbert Ward Academy is situated in Blyth and is part of the Prosper Learning Trust.

It educates children aged 11-16 with social emotional and mental health needs and autism.

Gilbert Ward offers children and young people with a diverse range of additional needs, the opportunity to learn in a supportive environment, where differences are celebrated, and every pupil is valued and encouraged to achieve their own unique potential.

The school believes that the social and emotional development of children is just as important as their academic development, implementing a number of programmes to support pupils to succeed and overcome their barriers.

They have facilities that will allow the pupils to enjoy their time in school, reach their potential and move successfully into a life beyond school.

You can find more information about Gilbert Ward Academy on their website.

www.gilbertwardacademy.co.uk

Tel: 0191 6053899

- ◆ 11-16 years
- ◆ Blyth
- ◆ SEMH, ASD
- ◆ Number of places– 80
(Phased opening)



Hexham Priory School



- ◆ 2-19 years
- ◆ Hexham
- ◆ PMLD, ASD, VI, HI, MSI, PD, SD
- ◆ Number of places – 112

Part of the Eden Academy Trust, Hexham Priory is a special school in West Northumberland for pupils with multi-sensory impairment, profound multiple learning disabilities and autism.

Hexham Priory School is a vibrant, caring and purposeful environment in which all pupils thrive. Staff and facilities are designed to meet the individual needs of their pupils, in a bespoke way, ensuring that all children and young people achieve their very best. Staff work together with parents, carers and others to make sure the curriculum is personalised to maximise each pupil's potential. Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Health professionals all work with Teachers and Teaching Assistants to support pupils' individual development. The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Forest School and outdoor areas
- Sensory Rooms
- Bright large classrooms
- Mini bus
- Sensory Garden
- Equipment to support Physical Needs

For more information contact the school on their website



Cramlington Hillcrest School

- ◆ 11-18 years
- ◆ Cramlington
- ◆ ASD, SD, SLCN, PD, HI SpLD, SEMH, MLD, OTH, SLD
- ◆ Number of places– 116



Based in Cramlington, Hillcrest School caters for complex needs including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, speech, language and communication needs, social emotional and mental health needs, specific and moderate learning difficulties.

Their in-house intervention team includes Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapy, Autistic Spectrum Conditions Specialist, Emotional Health and Wellbeing specialists and a therapy dog. The school strives to create a community of students where everyone feels valued in a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment.

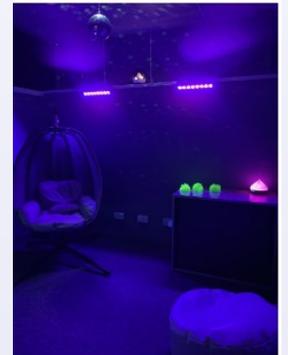
The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Forest school Area
- A multi-use games area (MUGA) with all-weather pitch
- Playing fields
- Studio for intervention/sensory
- An outdoor play area
- Cooking area
- Therapy dog

You can find more information about Hillcrest School on their website.

www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 713632



Sensory Room



Morag our Therapy Dog

NCEA Castle School



- ◆ 2-19 years
- ◆ Ashington
- ◆ SLD, PMLD, ASD
- ◆ Number of places– 135

Castle school is based in Ashington. It is a specialist provision for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties, autism and severe learning difficulties. They provide a rich and stimulating curriculum which caters for the individual needs of all pupils.

In addition to the education pupils receive from highly experienced teachers. Castle School is supported by a range of specialist agencies, this includes Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Children's Community Nursing Team, Educational and Clinical Psychologists.

They prioritise holistic development and cater to the diverse needs of their students. The state-of-the-art facilities are designed to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment, ensuring that each child's potential is nurtured and celebrated.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Swing Room
- Light Sensory Room
- Dark Sensory Room
- Hydrotherapy
- Rebound Therapy
- Individual and Group Intervention Rooms
- IMAX Room
- Purpose-Built Outdoor Areas
- PE Hall
- Horticultural Garden Space
- Independent Living Area

You can find more information about NCEA Castle School on their website.

www.castle.ncea.org.uk

Tel: 01670 844 322



The Dales School



- ◆ 4-11 years
- ◆ Ashington and Blyth
- ◆ SLCN, ASD, MLD, SpLD, SEMH, SLD, VI, HI, OTH, PMLD
- ◆ Number of places– 195

The Dales is a specialist primary school based on two sites: Blythdale in Blyth and Ashdale in Ashington. Pupils at The Dales School present with a range of significant speech, language and communication needs, autism, moderate and severe learning difficulty, social, emotional and mental health needs.

The school has developed an integrated approach to teaching, learning support and therapeutic intervention. Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, a Music Therapist and Teachers work together with skilled Support Staff, using a range of recognised strategies, to address a pupil's specific individual needs.

All pupils have a consistent approach plan, Education Health Care Plan and life skill targets for each half term. These targets and approaches underpin all aspects of the school day and support each child to maximise their overall progress.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Soft Play
- Metro Train Learning Space
- Library
- Sensory Garden
- Large outdoor areas
- School Garden
- Large, fully equipped classrooms



If you want further information about either site of the Dales School, you can visit their website www.thedales.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 352556.

The Grove School

- ◆ 2 - 19 years
- ◆ Berwick Upon Tweed
- ◆ ASD, MSI, PMLD, SLD
- ◆ Number of places– 50



The Grove School provides placements for pupils who have complex learning needs, although primarily placements are for pupils with a severe, global, cognitive, disability. Pupils have profound multiple learning disabilities, severe learning difficulties, autism and multi sensory impairments. The school has developed specialist hydrotherapy and sensory facilities to support individual needs.

The school has a range of facilities and learning environments including the following:

- Well equipped classrooms
- Bespoke equipment for multiple disabilities
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Multi-sensory room
- Soft Play room
- Outdoor safety surface play area
- Swimming at The Swan Centre
- Professional Sports Coaching
- Residential Holiday (annually)
- Mini bus

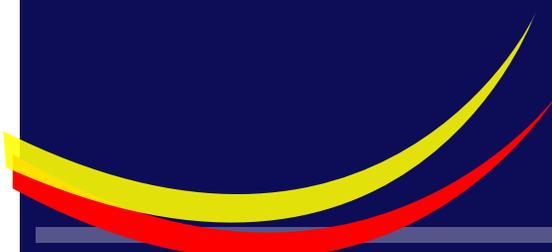
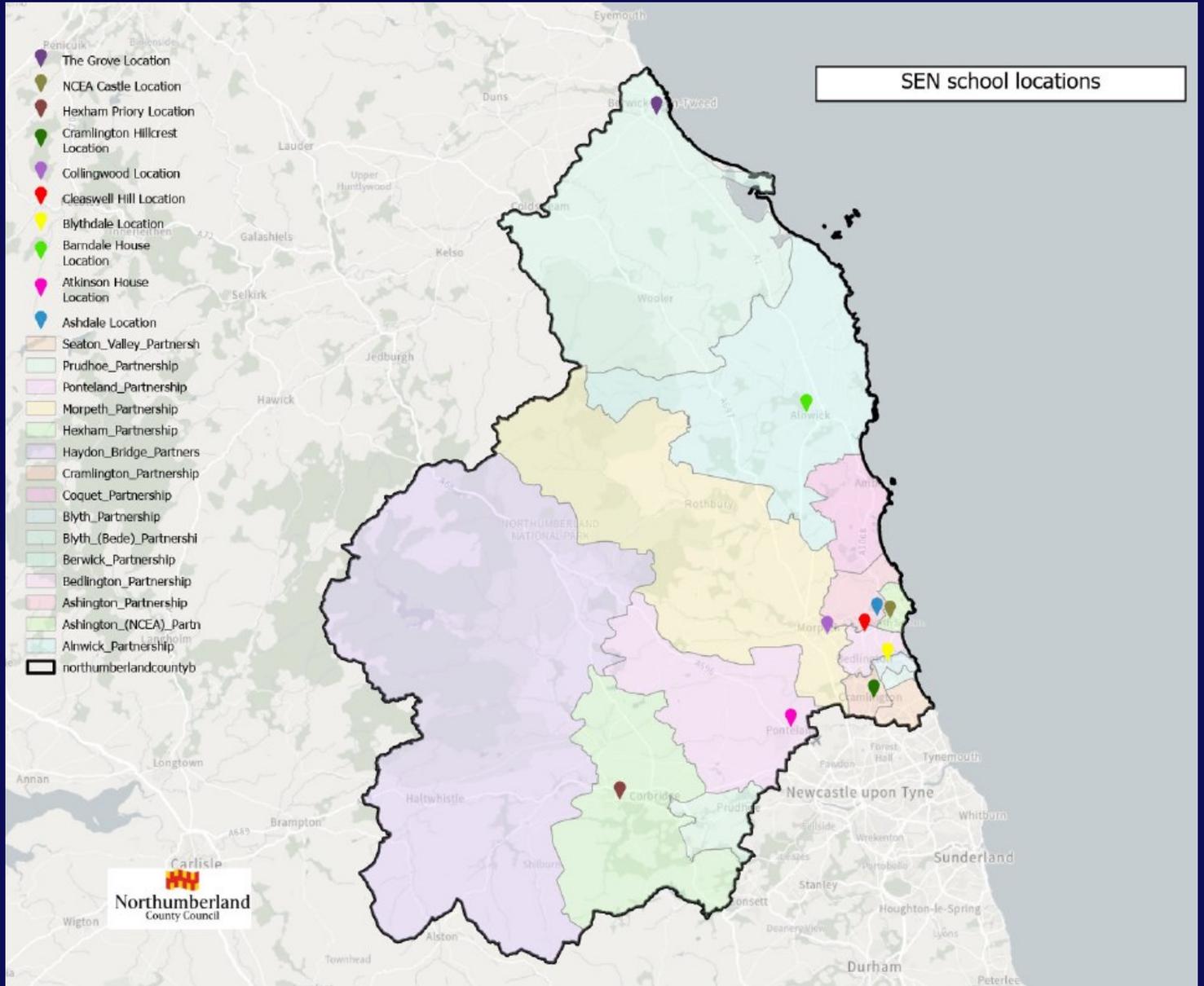
If you want further information about The Grove School, visit their website

www.thegrove.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01289 306390



Special School Location Map



Specialist Support Bases

- ◆ Primary School Age Range
- ◆ Northumberland
- ◆ EHCP pupils

Mowbray Primary School

Mowbray Specialist Support Base provides education to children with an EHCP in a specially designed classroom. They deliver a personalised curriculum to meet individual needs.

www.mowbrayprimary.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 823198

Northburn Primary School

Northburn Specialist Base provides bespoke support for children of primary age who have autistic traits. Children are taught in small classes and in an environment developed to support their learning. Staff are aspirational and ensure that the curriculum offer is personalised, broad and balanced, and responsive to their individual needs. Children access mainstream lessons, forest school and whole school events when appropriate as the base is very much part of the Northburn community.

www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 739111

Cambois Primary School

Cambois Specialist Support Base is an additionally resourced provision for autistic children or children with communication learning differences. It follows a semi formal and engagement model curriculum and offers a bespoke learning experience in its specialist area within the highly inclusive mainstream school. It has access to a range of therapies and services including private occupational therapy, speech and language therapists. They cater for children from 2-7 years.

www.cambois.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 825218

Newsham Primary School

Newsham Primary has two specialist support bases for lower (Sea Otters) and upper school (Sandpipers). Both cater for differing needs, with a maximum of 8 pupils in Sea Otters and 12 in Sandpipers. All pupils should have an EHCP and in Sandpipers learners will typically have moderate learning difficulties may have a diagnosis of ASD and will be able to access some elements of mainstream provision. Sea Otter pupils will have significant social and communication, sensory and self-care needs and will require a bespoke communication-based curriculum.

www.newshamprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01670 353124



Specialist Support Bases

Seaton Sluice First School The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse is committed to supporting 15 children, who need a more personalised and bespoke educational experience within a mainstream setting. The provision supports children with communication difficulties in a tailored environment, but also gives them the opportunity to feel part of the wider school. All of the pupils within The Lighthouse have an Education Health and Care Plan. The specific objectives and goals within their plan is the key focus of their learning. The children work on priority areas of their development and progress is measured in smaller steps where the children achieve ongoing success and raise self-esteem. The children also feel safe and secure having access to The Lighthouse provision, a space which is less overwhelming, catering for a lower number of pupils with higher staff ratios.

They offer experienced SEN teachers, therapists and support staff to develop individual curriculums.

www.seatonsluicesouth.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 0191 2371839



- ◆ Primary School Age Range
- ◆ Northumberland
- ◆ EHCP pupils

Berwick St Mary's First

Berwick St Mary's SEND Unit offers specialist provision for children with SEMH, ASD, SLCN, and MLD as well as other additional behavioural needs in Early Years and Key Stage 1. They will expand the offer to Key Stage 2 as the school transitions into a primary school over the next 2 years.

They offer a fully inclusive curriculum offer for all their children whatever their needs, through a range of bespoke interventions that allow access to mainstream and specialist teaching and learning environments, designed to meet identified needs but also encourage areas of strength, enabling children to succeed in their next stage of education.

If you would like to know more please contact the school to arrange an informal discussion about how they could help.

www.berwickstmarysschool.co.uk

Tel: 01289 306170



Red Row First School

Red Row First School Specialist Support Base provides education to children with an EHCP in a specially designed classroom. They deliver a personalised curriculum to meet individual needs.

www.redrow.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01670 760282

Central Communication Hub Ashington

Central Primary School Specialist Support Base provides education to children with an EHCP primarily with speech, language and communication issues in a specially designed classroom. They deliver a personalised curriculum to meet individual needs.

www.centralprimary.co.uk

Independent Providers

GUST Ashington Age 6-17 years

GUST Independent School provides a nurturing environment alongside a bespoke curriculum that aims to re-engage pupils with social emotional and mental health needs, attention deficit hypoactivity disorder and challenging behaviours with their education.

website: www.gustschool.com

Tel: 01670 850 943

BUZZ Learning Ashington Age 11-16 years

Buzz independent school delivers education to learners aged 13 to 16 who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities. Learners are diagnosed with autism, attention deficit hypoactivity disorder, specific and moderate learning difficulties, speech, language and communication needs.

website: www.buzzlearning.co.uk

Tel: 01670 852244

Parkside House School Backworth Age 11-16 years

Parkside specialises in teaching pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs with other associated learning difficulties, including autism, attention deficit hypoactivity disorder, attention deficit disorder, attachment disorders and oppositional defiance disorder.

website: www.parksidehouseschool.co.uk

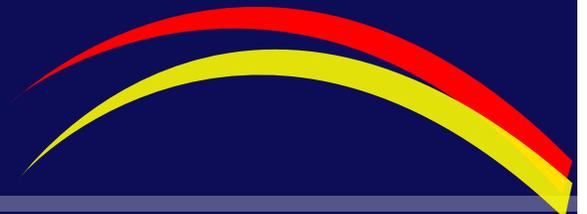
Tel: 0191 216 1051

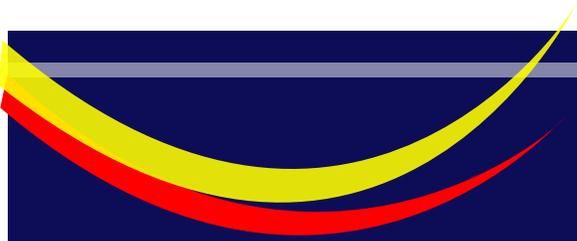
Hopespring Newcastle 11-16 year olds

Hopespring caters for pupils with social emotional and mental health needs. They work closely with local organisations and professionals, as well as the Local Authorities, to educate and support their pupils and families. They aim for children to leave school knowing how to look after themselves, stay safe, maintain positive relationships and be more engaged in meaningful work or training.

website: www.hopespringeducation.org.uk

Tel: 0191 218 9459





Independent Providers

Brenkley House Seaton Burn Age 11-16 years

Brenkley School is an independent special school. The provision is specifically for 20 pupils aged 11-16. The school admits pupils with special educational needs with social, emotional and mental health needs and challenging behaviours.

website: www.brenkleyschool.co.uk

Tel: 0191 300 3663

Talbot House Newcastle Age 5– 18 years

Talbot House is a 40 placement provider for children with complex needs which include autistic spectrum disorder, social emotional and mental health needs, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, attention deficit disorder, early childhood trauma, adverse childhood experiences and learning disabilities. Chadersley, their children's home is registered for up to 5 children at any one time. The referrals for both school and Chaderlsey come from the local authority.

website: www.talbothousecc.org.uk

Tel: 0191 229 0111

Rosewood Ashington Age 6-16 years

Rosewood Independent School is a trauma-informed setting specialising in 1:1 and very small group bespoke educational provision. They are a co-educational school offering placements for 51 students in Northumberland.

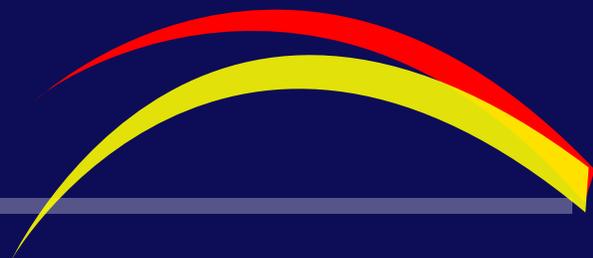
website: rosewoodindependentschool.com

Tel : 07899827630

Glossary of Terms

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
SEMH	Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs
HI	Hearing Impaired
VI	Visually Impaired
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Disability
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulty
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
MSI	Multi Sensory Impairment
PD	Physical Disability

EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
EP	Educational Psychologist
LSA	Learning Support Assistant,
SALT	Speech and Language Therapists
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CYPS	Children and Young People's Services



If you need this information in
Large Print, Braille, Audio or in another
format or language please contact us :

Telephone 0845 600 6400

Fax 01670 511413

Text phone 01670 542521

Typetalk 018001 0845 600 6400

Email ask@northumberland.gov.uk



The Local Authority is providing information
to parents and carers in this brochure.

We are not endorsing one establishment over
another.

School Organisation and Resources

Children's Services

Northumberland County Council

County Hall

Morpeth

Northumberland

NE61 2EF