



Bristol Gateway School

Together we can achieve



Foreword: Kaye Palmer-Greene, Headteacher, says...

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our fantastic school. All students at Bristol Gateway School have a statement of special educational needs.

Developed and evolved

I have been head of Bristol Gateway School for the last four years, and in this time the school has developed and evolved considerably. We are now a "Good" school but I will not be happy until we are "Outstanding" and we give the best opportunities, skills and experiences to all our students. They deserve the best!

Committed staff and governors

The school is on a learning journey and I am proud to be part of it. We have a committed team of staff and governors, who are dedicated to improving the education and future prospects of each and every one of our students. We realise that all children are different and have different interests, aspirations, strengths and weaknesses. We need to work with you and other organisations and establishments to ensure that your child reaches their full potential and goes on to lead a happy, successful and fulfilled life.

Proud

Our current students are also proud to be part of the school. They are happy to be here and make the most of an increasing range of opportunities. We also have very exciting plans for the future. It would be great if you could be part of this with us.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. By working together, we can all achieve our common goal, which is to get the best possible outcomes for our young people.

Get in touch

We value the opinion and support of parents to ensure continuous school improvement. Please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment to visit us and see how wonderful our school is. To make an appointment please email: bristol.gateway.school@bristol.gov.uk or call 0117 377 2275.



Classes are much smaller than in mainstream schools, and staffing levels are enhanced so that your child will typically be taught in a class of six with a teacher and at least one Higher Level Teaching Assistant to meet the needs of the class group.



Below are comments from our last OFSTED report:

"Parents express confidence in the progress their child is making, one stating that their child had 'come on in leaps and bounds'. Students also recognise when they are achieving well."

"Parents value the school and express positive views about it. One stated that 'problems are sorted out'. Another affirmed that the school listens to parents' views."

"Students are well prepared for life in modern Britain."

"Behaviour is managed skilfully so that the climate is positive and encouraging. Any disruption is handled effectively, ensuring that learning is not disrupted."

School day

School hours

- School Starts: 8.40am
- Tutor time: 8.50am to 9.10am (Pastoral)
- Break time: 10.50am to 11.10am (Sports Club)
- Lunch: 12.50pm to 1.20pm (Sports Club)
- Tutor time 2.50pm to 3.00pm (Behaviour Review)

Uniform

Children throughout the school wear a Bristol Gateway plain white Polo shirt and a Bristol Gateway school black jumper, plus black trousers and black shoes. These are available to purchase from the school. If families need help towards the cost of school uniform please let us know and we can provide further information.

School meals and snacks

A healthy, midday meal is available for all children attending the Bristol Gateway School. Vegetarian options and special dietary requirements are catered for.

Pastoral care

Pastoral Care is at the heart of our school life... working in the background to support students to reach their full potential educationally, physically, mentally and socially.

Start of the day

Tutors play a big part in pastoral care, meeting with students at the start, and end, of their day at their designated tutor base. Tutors will often be your first point of contact to discuss how your child is getting on. Tutors also work in partnership with Link Workers and Learning Mentors

Barriers to learning

A barrier to learning is any factor that prevents a student from being in a suitable/emotional, physical or psychological state to engage in their lesson and learn.



Ellis is enjoying learning in the friendly atmosphere of Bristol Gateway School

Ellis, aged 13, lives with his mum, Karen Pope, and older sister, Kayleigh, in the Speedwell district of Bristol. Ellis had behavioural problems in primary school and attended Tree Tops Kids Company in Bristol. Tree Tops recommended Bristol Gateway School when it was time for him to start secondary school.



Good reports

Now in his third year at Bristol Gateway, Ellis is doing well educationally and his behaviour has improved dramatically. Mum Karen says: "Bristol Gateway has done wonders for him. It is a brilliant school and he really likes going there. He is doing well in all his subjects and he brings home a good report every week."

Small classes

Karen says they have a long journey from where they live to get to the school but it is well worth taking Ellis there every day. She says: "He is now a lot more interested in school and in what he is learning. It is a very small school and they have a maximum of eight children in each class so the teachers are able to give them all plenty of attention. All the staff are nice and easy to get on with and Ellis likes them."

After school football

Ellis is doing a lot better educationally since he started at Bristol Gateway. "He does well in every subject, but is particularly good at Maths, Music, PE and Science. His teachers say he is above average for his age group and I can tell he is now taking a lot more interest in learning," Karen says. "He really likes football and plays in a competitive match every Thursday after school which he looks forward to each week."

Earning rewards

Karen says Ellis is always very keen to go to school. "Before when he was still in a mainstream school I had to fight with him to get him out of bed and dressed ready to take him to school. It is completely different now he is at Bristol Gateway. One of the ways the school get the children to be enthusiastic is by having a points system so that they get a reward at the end of each week if they have been good. They also get rewards at the end of each term if their attendance has been good. I think this is a great idea and really keeps the children motivated."

Happier at home

The main difference Bristol Gateway has made to Ellis is that his behaviour at home and towards his family has improved amazingly. "Before he moved there he just wouldn't listen to me. He would go out and not come back for hours. I would have to go out looking for him around where we live in the evenings. But now he stays in more and watches documentaries on television in the evenings. He gets on well with his older sisters and brother and plays nicely with my grandchildren when they visit us," Karen says. "I am amazed at the difference attending Bristol Gateway has made to him and I would not hesitate to recommend the school to other parents."

Children say

Ellis says: "I enjoy playing football at school and I like my teachers."

Creative Curriculum

The learning experience

We have a broad and creative curriculum that - appropriate to the learning needs of young people with learning difficulties - offers countless inspirational, challenging and fun learning opportunities.

Literacy and numeracy

All our pupils will be supported in continually developing their core skills of literacy and numeracy. This forms a strong element of our timetable, not only as separate subjects, but intertwined throughout the curriculum

Aspirations

Through our creative curriculum, we are helping our students to develop aspirations, and equipping them with the skills needed to deal with the adult world.

Personal curriculum

We believe that by offering a highly personalised curriculum, geared towards the specific abilities of each child, we will enable our students to be competitive as they make that transition to post 16 and beyond. And, as pupils move upwards through the school, we would expect them to have more curriculum choice.

Education, training or employment

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum continues to evolve and improve every year, and we are proud that all of our students achieve a post 16 destination in either education, training or employment.

Sport

Sport and Physical Education is a key part of our curriculum enrichment programme and the football development academy is now into its third year and has grown from strength to strength. In conjunction with our PE department, Bristol City Youth Coach and ex-Manchester United player Raphael Burke, we run the programme to inspire our young people into a lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.



Kaine has turned his life round and now has a bright future thanks to the staff at Bristol Gateway School

Sue Nuttall lives with her sons, Kaine, aged 13, and Marshall-Jay, aged six, and daughter, Nicole, aged five, in the Sea Mills district of Bristol. Kaine has severe ADHD and ODD. He left his mainstream primary school to attend Woodstock School and joined Bristol Gateway School in Year Seven.



Good move

Kaine loves going to Bristol Gateway and enjoys his lessons and taking part in sport at the school. His Mum, Sue, says: "He is now the complete opposite of what he used to be and I never dreamed we would ever get to this stage. Starting at Bristol Gateway was definitely a turning point for him. Kaine has been a different child since going up into Year Seven."

Fresh start

Kaine did not get on at all well in the mainstream primary school he was sent to first. Sue says: "He was too difficult to handle for the staff and was being sent home all the time. After he joined Woodstock in Year Five, I noticed a slight improvement in him. He wasn't being sent home early any more but his behaviour at home was still difficult for me to deal with."

Helpful teachers

She said Woodstock staff were always very supportive to her. "They came to the house to help me if I couldn't get him into the taxi in the morning. Once I couldn't get him dressed and he went to school in his pyjamas. A member of staff came to the house later to collect his clothes from me."

Walking to school

"When he started at Bristol Gateway I thought I was going to have problems getting him there in the mornings but he seemed to settle in well straight away. Now he loves going to school and walks there on his own. It takes him about 30 minutes but I never have a problem getting him to go. He is always very keen to go to school now," Sue says.

Working hard

"He works very hard at school and never

loses points for bad behaviour. He has caught up with his Maths and English and is now never violent. He loves all the teachers and particularly enjoys PE and History. Kaine has grown in confidence and I believe he now has a bright future ahead of him. He says he wants to be a teacher when he grows up. I never thought we would ever get to this stage," she says.

Taking part

Sue thinks it is amazing how Kaine's confidence has improved since he started attending Bristol Gateway. She says. "He would never do PE or take part in sports when he was in mainstream schooling. But now he is at Bristol Gateway he is in the school football team and also plays basketball and has gone horse riding after school. I think being in small classes and having very supportive teachers has made all the difference to him."

Reaping rewards

Sue says the points system operated by Bristol Gateway has worked really well for Kaine. "He has been taken on trips and done activities he would never have had the chance to do in a mainstream school, such as quad biking and rock climbing, to reward him for his good behaviour. It has been a really good incentive for him to do well."

Help for parents

"Kaine respects all the teachers and they respect him. They are firm but fair and treat all the pupils as individuals," Sue says. "The staff are also very supportive to the parents and it is great to know I can always go in there and talk to them when I need advice. I would recommend Bristol Gateway School to anyone."

Children say

Kaine says: "I like going to Bristol Gateway. It's like having a second family."

Extended curriculum and outdoor learning

Trips and visits

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer a range of trips and activities, and also invite visitors to the school.

Watershed Media film visit

For example, a group of students recently visited the Watershed Media Centre in Bristol for the screening of a film.

National events

The school also encourages students to participate in national events such as Comic Relief, and to work collaboratively to compose and perform in a Christmas production in front of parents, governors, all students and staff at the end of the December term.

Everyone included

All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will provide the necessary support to ensure this is successful. A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to make sure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised. On the rare occasion that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, then an alternative activity will be provided in school and parents/carers will be notified.

Forest School

Forest School, and outdoor experiences, have been proven to help develop young people in a positive way... and in particular benefits have been noticed in young people who struggle in typical classroom settings.

Great outdoors

We aim to offer all our Key Stage 3 students a chance to take part in a forest school programme, which is based in local woodlands. In the past the programme has proved to be very successful and has often finished with a camping trip where students can put their skills to the test in the great outdoors.



Lewis has flourished and developed his talents in the cosy environment of Bristol Gateway School

Anna Rattenbury lives with her son, Lewis, aged 13, in the Montpelier district of Bristol. Lewis, who has been diagnosed with attachment disorder, has been a pupil at Bristol Gateway since he was 11 and is now in his third year at the school.



Impressive start

Anna thinks Bristol Gateway has been an excellent choice for Lewis. She says: "I have been really impressed with the school so far. Since starting there, Lewis's behaviour has changed a great deal. He's now one of the model students and has learnt how to channel his aggression. He is growing up to become a lovely, young man and much of that is down to the school."

Lack of understanding

Anna said when Lewis was at his first primary school he didn't like to participate in certain lessons. "He used to run out of the class, hide from people and generally become aggressive towards staff and pupils. After five years of this behaviour the school had made very little effort in helping him and thought of him as a trouble maker. He ended up getting expelled as they could not cope. He went to another primary school who were a bit more understanding. It only took them a year to get him correctly diagnosed and statemented."

Woodstock's good work

Lewis was in Year Five when he started at Woodstock. Anna says: "The turning point came when he went to Woodstock because they encouraged him to do well. I was very keen for him to move up to Bristol Gateway so that they could continue Woodstock's good work."

Weekly trips

Anna likes the points system run by the school. She says: "They give points for good behaviour and take points

away for bad behaviour. You need so many points to go on the end of the week trip and if you don't have enough points you can't go. It shows the kids they need to behave well. Lewis has flourished with this system and has hardly ever missed an end of week trip. He has gone to laser quest, swimming, fishing and to a theme park. They take them to really nice places."

Friendly staff

All the staff at the school are fantastic, says Anna. "They are always warm and welcoming to us and I get a phone call every week to tell me how Lewis is doing. If they've got a problem they'll tell me about it and I'll talk to Lewis at home and we'll work out what we are going to do about it. But there have been very few problems since he started there."

Improved behaviour

Anna has to pay for taxis to take Lewis to and from school but believes it is worth the money because Bristol Gateway have done so much for him. She says: "I can see a huge difference in him since he started. He is friendlier to me and more placid at home and helps around the house a lot more. It has been a long journey for Lewis and myself and I would like to thank all the staff at Bristol Gateway for their support."

Children say

Lewis says: "I love art lessons and catering."

Behaviour and Self Development

Opportunities

We believe that every student should have the education opportunities and experiences to prepare them for a happy, fulfilled, meaningful life. Our last OFSTED report stated that students are courteous and polite, and increasingly aware of the needs of others.

Pushing boundaries

We believe that each day our students are capable of achieving their best, whether that is academically, physically, socially or emotionally. Great things don't come from comfort zones, but pushing the boundaries beyond previous expectations.

Self-esteem

The school provides a learning environment that is challenging and personalised. Mutually respectful relationships are encouraged, and we ensure that everyone is listened to and self-esteem is promoted.

Incentives

A variety of rewards and incentives help to encourage positive behaviour and celebrate success. These include awarding points to students for following classroom rules and achieving their academic and behaviour targets. These points can help to earn students a range of activities and trips, both on and off-site. Behaviour mentors are available help to support students in lessons.

Communicating with parents

Your child's achievements

A member of the tutor team will contact you by telephone at least once a week. In addition teachers will meet with parents/carers of all pupils at least three times a year – two Parents Open Days and the Annual Review – although in reality, most parents/carers meet with staff more frequently. At the meetings we will set clear outcomes and review progress and discuss the support that will help your child achieve the outcomes. As part of the meetings your child will be asked for their views. Parents/carers will have a chance to share their concerns and aspirations for their child.

School News

Parents are updated with school news via the school website and regular newsletters.



A last-minute switch to Bristol Gateway School was the best thing that could have happened to Charlie

Claire and Mike Barnard live with their children, Jordan, aged 16, Charlie, aged 13, Kai, aged 11, Danny, aged 10, Libbi, aged nine, Cayla, aged nine, and McKenzie, aged seven. Charlie had behavioural problems when he was at primary school and joined Bristol Gateway in Year Seven.



Good progress

A late decision to offer Charlie a place at Bristol Gateway when he was about to go to secondary school worried his Mum, Claire, at the time. But now when she looks back she realises it was the best thing that could have happened to him. "Within a couple of weeks of Charlie starting in Year Seven, I felt reassured that Bristol Gateway was the right school for him and he has progressed in leaps and bounds ever since," she says.

Late change

Charlie had been preparing to attend a mainstream secondary school but at the eleventh hour the school said they couldn't take him because he had been statemented, Claire says. "He had been to look round the school and we had even attended an open day but at the very last minute they sent me a letter saying they couldn't take him."

Improved school

As a result, he had never seen Bristol Gateway until the day he started. "He was thrown in at the deep end without having had chance to get used to the school. I wasn't happy at the time because the school had a bad reputation years ago and so when I was first told Charlie had to go there I was naturally concerned. But the school has improved a great deal in recent years. There is more discipline and everything is more structured and organised than it was reputed to be in the past," Claire says.

Happy at home

Charlie had attended a mainstream primary school but after he got in with a bad crowd he started to get into trouble regularly, Claire says. "He was eventually sent to Woodstock for the nine months he had left before he was due to go up to secondary school. His behaviour started to improve at Woodstock and he is now absolutely fine. He is doing very well at school and at home he behaves like a typical, happy teenager."

Playing sports

Claire says Charlie's favourite lesson is PE and he also enjoys football and indoor climbing. "He plays football after school on Thursdays. Then a teacher takes him indoor climbing at a centre not far from the school. Charlie is dropped off home at about half past six, by which time he is worn out."

Supportive staff

"The teachers at the school are always really supportive to both Charlie and myself. When Charlie had an issue outside school they supported us well all the way through it. I feel I can always ring the school for advice and help if I need it. I am so pleased now that he attends Bristol Gateway. Looking back, it was the best thing that could have happened to him," Claire says.

Children say

Charlie says: "I like all my teachers and enjoy playing football at school."

Clubs

The school provides a wide variety of clubs and activities for children to enjoy. These include:

- Film Club
- Football Academy
- Dance
- Music

School Council

Bristol Gateway School is passionate about promoting student voice and the Council is a group of students who are elected to represent the views of all pupils with one overarching aim - to improve our school! The School Council is also involved with fundraising and organising fetes, which parents and carers can enjoy.



Brandon's artistic talent has been nurtured and encouraged by caring staff at Bristol Gateway School

Debbie and Paul Hodge live with their son, Brandon, aged 13, and daughter, Chelsea, aged 17, in Southmead in Bristol. Brandon had to leave his mainstream primary school because of behavioural problems and moved up to Bristol Gateway at the age of 11 after it was recommended as a good secondary school for him.



Art success

A late decision to offer Charlie a place at Bristol Gateway when he was about to go to secondary school worried his Mum, Claire, at the time. But now when she looks back she realises it was the best thing that could have happened to him. "Within a couple of weeks of Charlie starting in Year Seven, I felt reassured that Bristol Gateway was the right school for him and he has progressed in leaps and bounds ever since," she says.

Moving up

Brandon has come a long way since he had to leave his primary school to attend Tree Tops Kids Company in Bristol. "The primary school couldn't cope with him because of his temper and behavioural problems so he started attending Tree Tops to receive extra support," Debbie says. "The staff at Tree Tops helped him a lot and when it was time for him to go up to secondary school they recommended Bristol Gateway, even though it is five miles from where we live and Brandon has to go there and back in a taxi."

Smaller class

"At his mainstream school he was in a big class with just one teacher who didn't understand him at all and couldn't cope with him. The school just kept ringing me up and asking me to collect him and take him home. It is well worth him travelling to Bristol Gateway. He is now in a class of six children and they have both a teacher and a Teaching Assistant to help them. He understands that the other children also have issues and so he doesn't feel bad about asking for help when he needs it," Debbie says.

Amazing teachers

"He is doing well in the environment of Bristol Gateway because it is an amazing school with wonderful staff and I wouldn't want him to go back to mainstream education now. Brandon is consistently achieving above his targets and he is producing some excellent work. I am really pleased that the teachers have recognised his ability and, in particular, have helped him develop his talent for art," Debbie says.

Good incentive

Brandon likes going to school each day and never says he doesn't want to go in. "One of the reasons he is enthusiastic about attending each day is down to the points system that the school use. The children get points for good attendance and points for good behaviour. If they reach 250 points in a week they can go out on a Friday afternoon to do something just for fun, such as bowling or to see a film at the cinema."

Famous visitors

"The school also bring people into the school to work with the children, such as an actor from a James Bond film who came in recently to teach them about Parkour, or street running, and how to keep themselves safe. Last year Sir Steve Redgrave took the Olympic torch into the school to show the children. The school like to give the children some fun as well as educating them," Debbie says.

Children say

Brandon says: "I like Bristol Gateway School because the teachers understand me."

Admissions...and moving on into adult life

Educational Needs

All young people at the Bristol Gateway School must have a statement for Educational Needs or Education Health Care plan in which the primary need is 'Social and Emotional Behavioural Difficulties'. New admissions must be referred to Bristol Gateway by the Local Authority SEN Department. Individuals must meet the SEN primary need type and also be of appropriate age.

Unfortunately if a child referred to us does not meet this criteria or there are no vacant places for their Key Stage and/or year group we will not be able to offer a place at that time.

Useful contacts:

Bristol City Council – www.bristol.gov.uk
Email: schooladmissions@bristol.gov.uk
Telephone: 0117 903 7694

Moving on

As part of the Woodway Federation our partner primary school is Woodstock School.

Transitions

All transitions from primary school are well planned for throughout school, and as students move from class to class and phase to phase. Parents/carers always have the opportunity to meet with new tutor teams.

Preparing for adulthood

The new Code of Practice places a lot of emphasis on preparing for adulthood. In Year 9 we try to move our students away from a Primary Model of classroom learning, to a more independent-learning focused approaches. From Year 9 onwards your child's ECHP will include provision required by your child to assist in preparation for adulthood and independent living, which may include independent travel skills and support for finding employment.

Discussions about your child's future will focus on what they want to achieve, how they can achieve it and what support they may need in order to achieve it.

Year 11 leavers

Our Year 11 leavers are increasingly supported in planning for their transition from school to adult life. Staff from the Local Authority come in to school to work with your child offering support, guidance and advice about the right post-16 option. All leavers will have an EHCP in place (where appropriate) up to the age of 25, ensuring that your child will have continued support during the phase of their education. Students are fully supported throughout the college application and interview process.



Getting involved

Parent courses

The school can advise on a number of courses to help parents develop strategies for encouraging positive behaviour and getting the best from family life. Courses include the Incredible Years course, which is an extensive parenting course lasting 10-14 sessions, a ten-week Nurturing Programme and a nine-week Parents Plus Adolescents Programme.

The courses provide simple, effective tools to help parents acknowledge and build on their own skills, confidence and strengths whilst understanding and managing teenage feelings and behaviour.

Governorship

Our school governors manage the school with the Headteacher. Our Governing Body is made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA), co-opted governors, teacher representatives and the Headteacher who has the option of being a governor. Members are elected for period of four years.

Do you want to be a parent governor?

Our parent governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the school office.



Vision

At Bristol Gateway School we believe that every student should have the education, opportunities and experiences to prepare them for a happy, fulfilled, meaningful life.

They should be confident, broad-minded and have a range of skills to allow them to succeed in society.

We need to work with them and others to enable them to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.



Bristol Gateway School
Long Cross
Lawrence Weston
Bristol
BS11 0QA

Tel: 0117 377 2275
Email: bristol.gateway.school@bristol.gov.uk
Web site: www.bristolgateway.bristol.sch.uk



The Woodway Federation
ACHIEVEMENT • THROUGH • UNITY

