



Southbrook School

A member of SENTient Trust





Foreword:
Bronwen Caschere,
Headteacher, says

Welcome to Southbrook, a special school for pupils aged 11 to 16, with varied complex needs and abilities including moderate or severe learning difficulties and autism. Pupils may also have speech, language and communication difficulties, sensory impairments and/or physical disabilities.

We are a LA Maintained School with Foundation Trust status, and, along with 9 other special schools in Devon, are a member of SENTient Trust.

Admission to Southbrook is always via the Local Authority SEN 0-25 Team. All pupils who come to Southbrook have a statement of SEN/ EHCP identifying their needs.

Ethos and Mission Statement

There is a lot to be happy about at Southbrook School. We are very ‘child-centred’ and dedicated to ensuring that, through our innovative, exciting curriculum and excellent use of resources, every child has the opportunity to learn...and be the very best they can be!

At all times, we seek to:

- Respect all
- Always try hard
- Make safe and healthy choices
- Enjoy life

Dedicated Staff

All our staff are skilled and committed to ensuring our pupils have the best possible foundation, to progress on into adulthood. The journey is a joint collaboration between the students, the school and you....the parent!

Parent Partnership

Our aim at Southbrook is for pupils, staff, families and friends to work together so that everybody feels valued and respected and is able to achieve their very best. As a team, we will support every pupil to help them make good, healthy choices and develop the knowledge and skills that they need to prepare for adulthood and to live a happy, safe and successful life.

Come and Meet Us

The best way for parents and carers to find out about us is to come in to the school, have a look around and talk to members of the team. Appointments can be arranged by telephoning the school office on 01392 258373 or email: admin@southbrook.devon.sch.uk





School Hours

- 09.05am – Registration
- 09.15am – Lesson 1
- 10.05am – Lesson 2
- 10.55am – Morning break
- 11.10am – Lesson 3
- 12.00pm – Lesson 4
- 12.50pm – Lunch break
- 13.30pm – Lesson 5
- 14.20pm – Lesson 6
- 15.10pm – Tutor base
- 15.20pm – School day ends

Getting to School

On admission to our school, the Transport Office will inform you if you are entitled to free school transport.

Independence

As pupils mature and progress through the school we do encourage independent travel, but only if appropriate and in close liaison with parents, carers, and Devon County Travel Training. If a Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4 pupil shows sufficient road sense and cycling competence, permission may be given for them to cycle to school. We would ask that all cyclists wear protective helmets and possess a cycling proficiency award.

Uniform

We hope that all pupils at Southbrook will be proud to wear our school uniform, which is very similar in design to other schools and helps to create a positive feeling among pupils. The present school uniform was chosen by representatives from pupils, parents, staff and Governors. Pupils throughout the school wear a grey sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan, all of which bear the school logo, a white polo shirt and either grey or black trousers/skirt.

School Meals and Snacks

Pupils may enjoy a school meal at lunchtime or bring in a packed lunch from home. Please provide drinks in a sealed plastic bottle. Free school meals are available to those who have made an application and are entitled to the relevant benefits. Please contact our school office for more information.

Facilities

Southbrook School is in a beautiful natural setting surrounded by trees and has its own woodland area, which is a haven for wildlife! Our other facilities include:

- * a large sports field/football pitch/running track
- * a purpose built sports hall
- * a library bus
- * an all-weather playground with shelters and play equipment including a climbing frame
- * an allotment area for growing produce
- * an ICT suite with up-to-date technology
- * specially equipped teaching areas for Art, Design Technology, Science and Food Technology
- * quiet areas/rooms for therapeutic work
- * Life Skills Centre
- * smaller play areas for younger pupils
- * fantastic outdoor learning spaces including a sensory garden, wildlife area and pond.





The Learning Experience

All pupils follow National Curriculum subjects appropriately differentiated to meet their learning needs. This is delivered by a skilled team of teachers and support staff. Pupils are taught in small class groups of usually 10-12 pupils per class.

Inspirational

We have a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that, whilst being appropriate to the needs of young people with complex needs and learning difficulties, offers countless inspirational, challenging and exciting learning opportunities.

Key Stage 4

As pupils move upwards through the school we provide a range of curricular options which are tailored to individual talents and aspirations. For example, at Key Stage 4, we offer a wider range of Nationally Accredited courses and Vocational opportunities including GCSEs, Entry Levels, Functional and Life Skills.



Sporting and Outdoor Challenges

As well as following the Physical Education programme of study as set out in the National Curriculum, there are many opportunities for your child to enjoy extracurricular sport and team games. In the past, a group of Year 10 pupils took part in a table cricket tournament at the Ability Counts Games in Barnstaple. Another initiative is the Southbrook DPA (Daily Physical Activity) challenge, which is a fun competition between tutor groups.

Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge

Every year the school takes part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge, which is a trekking expedition on northern Dartmoor designed specifically for young people with special needs. The Challenge is open for all pupils in Year 9-11, with four routes of varying difficulty. The event incorporates training days, camping overnight at Okehampton Army camp and a one-day walk on the Challenge Day itself.





Enrichment Activities

In order to extend the curriculum even further we offer many additional activities, both in and out of school. In the past these have included;

- a Go Kart team race at Newquay airport
- taking part in the Devon Music Mix at Westpoint
- Romeo & Juliet Theatre trip
- National Film Week
- Activities Week.

Residential Trips

Each year we offer a range of residential activities. Previously these have included trips to France, Slapton Sands and Warren Barn in Torquay. The children have enjoyed outdoor activities such as coasteering, kayaking, fishing, and woodworking.



Atmosphere

Here at Southbrook School we aim to create a calm, happy, caring and safe environment where everyone has the opportunity to accept and overcome challenges and maximise their full potential. In order for this to happen everyone is encouraged to:

- respect and care for each other
- be responsible for their own behaviour
- look after the school and show respect for their own and other people's property
- work to the best of their ability and allow others to work without disruption
- show mutual respect and learn about and accept consequences.



Your Child’s Achievements

Individual Reviews of Statements of SEN/EHCP take place for all pupils on an annual basis. In addition, your child’s academic, social and emotional progress will be monitored on an ongoing basis and parents and carers are invited in to discuss this regularly. You will also receive reports on academic progress, this will be monitored on an ongoing basis. You are very welcome to come in and discuss your child’s progress or any particular concerns, at any time throughout the academic year.

School News

Newsletters are emailed to parents and carers every two weeks to help keep everyone informed of what is happening at the school. The newsletters are also available to read on the school website, and paper copies are available on request.

Home School Planner

Your child will be issued with a home school planner, which is an excellent means of communication between home and school.



We aim to work together in order to allow pupils to feel safe, secure and maximise their true potential, be it on an academic or social level.

Inclusion Team

At Southbrook we very much believe in meeting the individual needs of all pupils and liaising closely with parents, carers and other agencies.

The Inclusion Team at Southbrook is currently led by the Deputy Headteacher and includes Pastoral Support Coordinator, Pastoral Care Worker, Inclusion Teacher, SENCo,

PE Co-ordinator/Physio and Occupational Therapist. The team meets regularly to discuss interventions, therapies and individual programmes.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school. We work in close liaison with the Physio-Therapist and Occupational Therapist to put together individual care plans.

School Council: pupils have a voice!

The School Council plays a vitally important role at Southbrook as a forum for pupils to put forward their views and suggestions for improvements. School Councillors are elected from each tutor group and every year group has two representatives. Meetings are an excellent place for discussion and pupils are helped to understand the importance of fairness and voting.



Huge Range of Activities

Southbrook has a variety of lunchtime clubs, which are a great success and cater for a range of activities so there is something to appeal to all interests and strengths.

- Sport
- Art
- Gardening
- ICT
- Drama
- Music
- Wi Fit
- Choir
- Dance
- Animation
- Library
- Gardening
- Wildlife Rangers



Post 16 Transition: *moving on to the next step*



Education, Training or Employment

The transition from when your child leaves Southbrook, to where they go to next, needs very careful planning. The 'next step' is something that we put a lot of thought and care into, sometimes this begins as early as Year 9.

Careers South West

Our website has an entire section dedicated to this and we work closely with you as parents/carers and also with Careers South West to ensure this transition is made as smooth as possible.

Variety of Destinations

All of the pupils at Southbrook leave school at the end of Year 11, and go onto a variety of Post 16 provisions including:

- education,
- work experience
- apprenticeships
- training
- employment.

Our pupils take up courses at:

- Exeter College
- Bicton College
- Petrocs College
- Duchy College
- Oakwood Court
- South Devon College.





Devon County Council

At Southbrook we are consulted by the Local Authority - Devon County Council, as to whether or not we are able to meet a pupil's needs. Ultimately, it is the Local Authority's decision if a pupil gains admission to Southbrook. For more information please feel free to contact us directly or contact the SEN 0-25 School Admissions Team at Devon County Council. Their details are:

Tel: 0345 155 1019
Email: admissions@devon.gov.uk
Web: www.devon.gov.uk/admissions



Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to get involved with many events at the school, such as Fetes and coffee mornings. We also have Christmas Celebrations. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you better.

Governance

Our school Governors manage the school alongside the Headteacher. Our Governing Body is made up of elected parents, members appointed by the Local Authority (LA), co-opted governors, staff representatives and the Headteacher.



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From M5 Junction 30

Leave the M5 at Junction 30 and from the roundabout join the A379 signed to Exeter. Stay on the A379 and take the third slip road off the dual carriageway signposted Exeter City Centre. At the next roundabout take the third exit onto the B3182, Topsham Road, signposted City Centre. Turn right at the next set of traffic lights. At the T-junction turn left and follow the road round up the hill. Take the next left into Bishop Westall Road. You will see the school, and the car park is just past on the right.

From A30

Leave the A30 at the Alphington Junction and join the A777, signed City Centre, until the next junction with traffic lights. Turn left then immediately right and right again, then keep to the left lane and bear left onto the B3123 (Church Road). Continue through the mini roundabout to next roundabout and turn left onto Alphinbrook Road. Continue ahead until the roundabout and turn right (third exit) into Hennock Road. Continue to the next roundabout and take the slip lane left. Continue to next roundabout take the slip lane left, over the canal bridge and at the next roundabout turn left onto the B3182, Topsham Road, signposted City Centre. Turn right, at the next set of traffic lights. At the T-junction turn left and follow the road round up the hill. Take the next left into Bishop Westall Road. You will see the school, and the car park is just past on the right.

