



Independent Autism Specialist School



School and Centre Information



Welcome

The Gwenllian Education Centre is an Independent Autism Specialist Secondary School.

Our school provides educational placements to children and young adults with a diagnosis of autism and Additional Learning Needs.

We specialise in supporting the development of learning needs, social and communicative skills, and providing support to students who exhibit complex and challenging behaviour.

Our staff are highly experienced and qualified to provide the specialist support required to ensure our students achieve their potential in all areas.

Due to the ideal location of our school, placements are available to students resident in Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath-Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and other neighbouring authorities.

Our school currently offers full time educational placements to children between 5 and 19 years old. We maintain low pupil numbers to maximise our pupils educational experiences.

**To discuss a place at our school or to request a referral form,
please contact the school office:**

Tel: (01554) 890796

E-mail: info@gwenllianeducationcentre.co.uk

Our Mission

It is our aim to ensure that all our students are supported to achieve their best.

We aim to achieve this through:

- The provision of a curriculum that is broad, balanced, relevant and purposeful.
- A person centred approach uniting expertise and knowledge with an understanding of the needs of each individual through partnerships with carers, parents and other professionals to support and maximise our students potential and achieve real success.
- Building upon students' prior experiences, skills knowledge and understanding.
- Striving for our students to experience and demonstrate continuous progress and achievement.
- Effectively assessing students to inform their learning needs.
- Providing a dynamic and flexible curriculum to meet changing needs.
- Providing stimulating learning environments.
- Providing opportunities for students to celebrate success and achievement.
- Highly trained staff supported by a team of multidisciplinary professionals.

Our School Provides....

friendly , professional and experienced staff
a stimulating and safe learning environment
dedicated in-house therapists
a strategic approach to learning
functional and fun activities





Our Curriculum

The curriculum at the Gwenllian Education Centre is designed specifically to meet the needs of our students. We provide enjoyable and positive experiences that enable our students to be motivated to learn, accept and enjoy educational experiences, and ensure our students develop independence.

Our aim is to ensure our students are able to organise themselves with independence and develop as social and communicative individuals. Our students will be supported to develop their cooperation skills, to engage in learning activities and access structured academic sessions.

Our student programmes are based on the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills. Our students will learn through natural environment teaching activities and intensive teaching. Discrete trials may be used to teach new skills.

Students may access functional activities within an adaptation of the National Curriculum and students will follow a programme based on the assessment of functional living skills. Students will typically follow programmes relating to personal care and, in some cases, this includes sex and relationship education.

Senior students may follow the 'moving on' curriculum and/or 'ASDAN'. These are externally accredited life skills based programmes of study.

We work closely with our consultants and therapists to ensure we provide a full multidisciplinary approach to comprehensively address the needs of all of our students.

***All teaching is guided by the principles of
Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
and Skinners Analysis of Verbal Behaviour (VB).***





Communication

Developing functional communication is a key priority for students at the Gwenllian Education Centre and students will be supported to develop their communication skills through their preferred or identified method of communication.

Our aim is to ensure our students are able to interact with others, have their needs met, and to be able to self initiate requests and independently, and spontaneously request desired items. We aim to extend the complexities of communication skills and, when appropriate, support students to comment on observations and feelings. We also ensure we teach our students critical communications skills. These skills include requesting help, a break and to learn to wait, reject and affirm.

We are able to support developing communication through the Picture Exchange Communication System, sign language, electronic communication aids and speech. We specialise in the use of Talk Tools oral placement therapy and have successfully integrated this therapy into our communication training to promote and develop vocalisations and speech. Other strategies used regularly include intensive interaction, visual directions and social stories.

Staff at the Gwenllian Education Centre develop structured communication plans to ensure students are motivated to communicate and interact with others, and to enjoy sharing attention and experiences with staff and their peers.

The communication system implemented at the Gwenllian Education Centre will be determined following a communication assessment by the Speech and Language Therapist and Autism Advisory Teacher, discussions with parents, previous experiences and recommendations, and an agreement with school staff.

Students make the most progress when they are able to rehearse skills in all environments, including the family home. We therefore provide regular training opportunities and consultations to parents to maximise our students opportunities to develop, rehearse and generalise new skills.

Promoting Good Behaviour

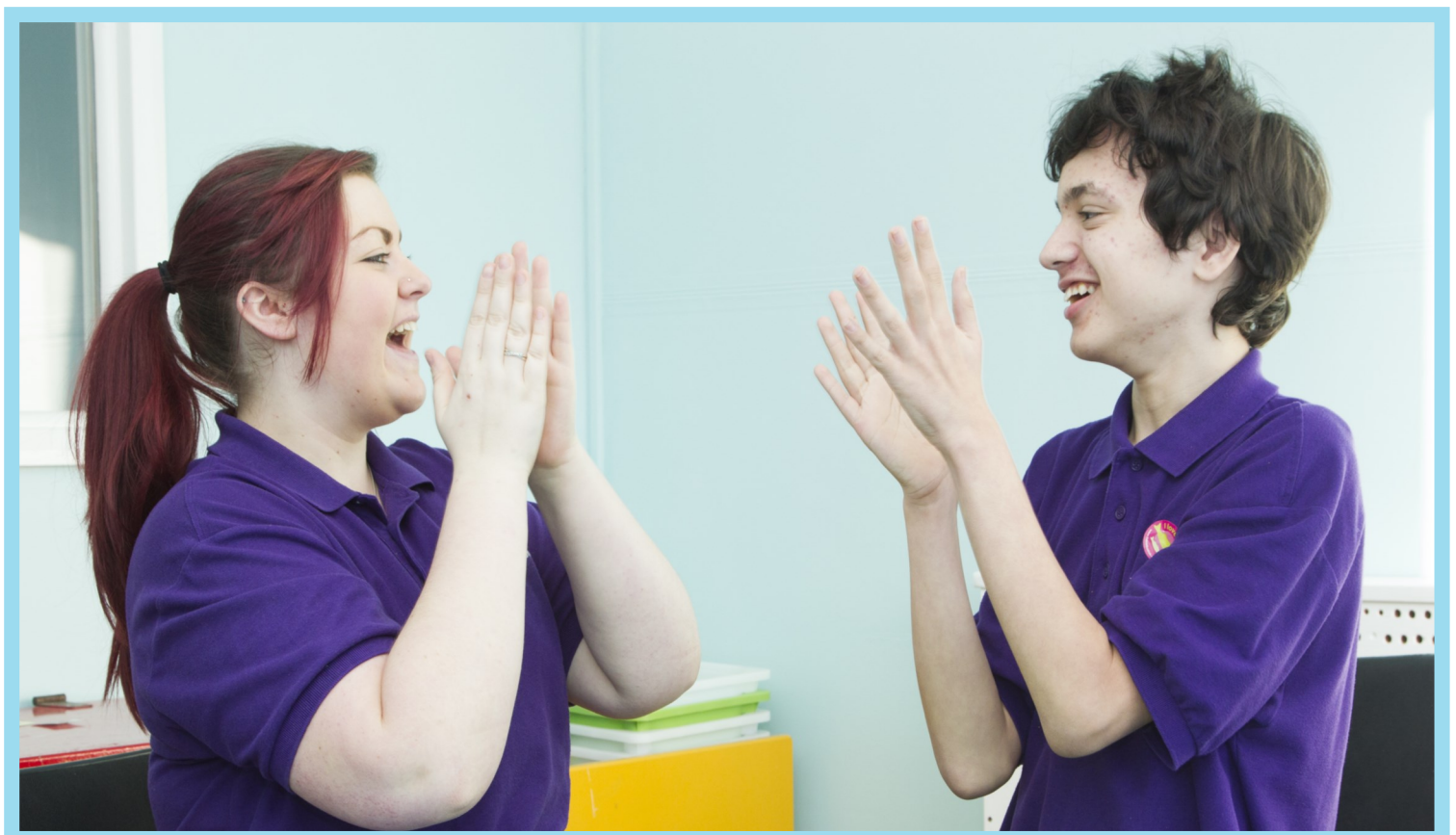
We provide school placements to children and young adults who exhibit complex and challenging behaviours. Our staff are trained and experienced in supporting students with behaviours that may challenge and we specialise in developing meaningful and positive behaviour changes.

We develop a detailed positive behaviour support plan for each student at our school to support and manage undesired behaviour. We work closely with associate consultants, when necessary, to accurately monitor behaviour, assess functions of behaviour and to facilitate the development of our behaviour plans to maximise success and progress. Our behaviour plans are reviewed regularly. A consistent approach is employed by our staff who work closely with all professionals and parents to support student behaviours.

We base our approach to supporting our students on Positive Behavioural Support.

Our students are rewarded for their positive actions and efforts and systems are in place to manage undesired behaviours. We believe that reinforcing the positive behaviours of our students is imperative to their success. 'Catch them when they are good!'

Our aim is to reduce unwanted behaviours and teach appropriate replacement behaviours through encouragement and positive reinforcement.



Skills and Expertise

We ensure that all staff at our school are qualified and trained to ensure our students achieve their best. Our teaching staff are highly qualified to teach students with autism, deliver specialist education and educate students with complex and challenging behaviours.

We recognise the importance of relevant professional qualifications to ensure we meet the needs of the children we teach.

We also ensure our staff are highly trained in educational and therapeutic areas significant and relevant to the ongoing progress of our students. We are keen to ensure our staff develop professionally and are proud to be at the forefront of many relevant educational and developmental initiatives.

Our teaching staff are qualified in Behavioural Sciences, Autism, Special Educational Needs, Applied Behavioural Analysis, Challenging Behaviour and Education.

Our staff have also received training in the following areas:

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| * Talk Tools Oral Motor Placement Therapy | * Sulp |
| * Rebound Therapy | * Social Stories |
| * SCERTS | * Equals |
| * Early Start Denver Model | * TEACCH |
| * Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) | * ELKLAN |
| * The Pyramid Approach to Education | * Read Write Inc |
| * Verbal Behaviour | * Signalong |
| * Intensive Interaction | * Tac Pac |
| * Sex and Relationship Education & So Safe | * Sensory Integration |
| * Epilepsy with Buccal Midazolam | |

Copies of our Policies and Guides including the concerns procedures are available at the Gwenllian Education Centre reception.

Please contact us on (01554) 890796

info@gwenllianeducationcentre.co.uk



The Gwenllian Education Centre is a family business, managed and operated by teachers, Leigh and Rebecca Hipkiss.

We are committed to providing a high quality educational experience to our students, and pride ourselves on the educational provision available at the school.

We maintain that we are teachers first however we have identified many initiatives and strategies that have facilitated the ongoing development of our students and we have, therefore, developed many specialisms in addition to traditional teaching skills. It is imperative to us that we are able to provide a complete service and invest in professional development for all staff to provide the best opportunities to our students.

Over our professional career, our students have made significant progress in many areas including developing cooperation, exhibiting improved behaviour, managing personal care issues, communication, feeding and managing sensory issues.

Our service is guided by the principles of ABA to ensure our service users learn as efficiently and successfully as possible, to ensure skills are acquired and maintained.

We offer pupil educational placement solutions to Local Authorities and Consultants.

We welcome the opportunity to work in liaison with students and consultants from other organisations.

To discuss a place at our school or to request a referral form, please contact the school office:

Gwenllian Education Centre
Hillfield Villas
Kidwelly
SA17 4UL
Tel: 01554 890796
E-mail: info@gwenllianeducationcentre.co.uk
Website: www.gwenllianeducationcentre.co.uk



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