Cambian



Devon School

Specialist Day School for SEMH
(Social, Emotional & Mental Health)

• Mixed Gender • 10 - 16 years
• Up to 39 Weeks



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our school community. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions a family can make, and we are proud to offer a supportive, nurturing and ambitious environment for young people aged 10 to 16 with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Our school is based in the beautiful coastal town of Paignton in Devon, where our main campus provides a safe, structured and caring learning environment for students across Key Stages 2 to 4. Here, we focus on building strong relationships, developing confidence and helping every young person rediscover a positive connection with learning.

We understand that many of our students arrive having faced challenges in previous educational settings. Our dedicated staff team works closely with each student to understand their individual needs, strengths and aspirations. Through small class sizes, personalised learning programmes and consistent pastoral support, we aim to create an environment where students feel valued, respected and ready to succeed.

In addition to our main school campus in Paignton, we are proud to offer Project Compass, our vocational centre based in Buckfastleigh. Project Compass provides older students with opportunities to develop practical skills, independence and confidence through a range of vocational pathways. The centre plays a key role in preparing our students for life beyond school, whether that is further education, employment or training.

Across both campuses, our vision is simple: to work collaboratively with students, families and the school community in order to create a respectful and compassionate school community that fosters a life long love of learning to empower everyone to be the best versions of themselves. We place great importance on wellbeing, resilience and personal development, alongside academic progress. By working in partnership with families, external professionals and the wider community, we ensure that each student receives the guidance and support they need to thrive.

We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to succeed, and we are committed to helping our students develop the skills, confidence and independence needed for the next stage of their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school. We look forward to working with you and supporting your child on their journey.

Warmest regards,

Abbi Salisbury

Head Teacher

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Paignton
Devon
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Phone:
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Devon School

Our **vision** is to collaborate with students and families to create a respectful and **compassionate** school community that fosters a lifelong **love of learning** empowering everyone to be the best versions of themselves.

Aims

Empower

We aim to empower our students to develop the attitudes and skills that support a healthy and fulfilled life together with the confidence for a lifetime of learning.

Inspire

We aim to inspire every student to fulfil their potential, emotionally, physically, spiritually and intellectually, both during their time at school and in their life ahead.

Achieve

We aim to ensure all our students achieve their own potential regardless of barriers.

DEVON SCHOOL

Devon School Values

Respect

caring about how you impact others

Honesty

being truthful and trustworthy

Responsibility

doing the things you are expected to and accepting the results of your actions

Resilience

bouncing back when something goes wrong

Kindness

acting with friendliness, generosity and consideration

DEVON SCHOOL



Our School

Devon School is an independent specialist provision for 10 to 16 year olds with Social, Emotional and Mental health needs based in Paignton in South Devon. We have two school campuses; one in Paignton and one in Buckfastleigh. Our Paignton campus is our main school campus and this is where the majority of academic lessons and therapeutic interventions take place. Our Buckfastleigh campus: Project Compass is our vocational campus where have our catering kitchen, our fam and forest schools, our ICT suite and DT facilities.

At our school we adopt and use the relational behaviour model which is the approach from Trauma Informed Schools. Our staff team build strong positive relationships based on mutual respect and trust and ensure that students are valued allowing them to thrive within our school. We use a positive reinforcement approach to encourage positive behaviour in School and celebrate every achievement for our students.

We offer a rich and varied curriculum that we are able to tailor to individual students needs and interests offering a range of both academic and vocational elements. Timetables are tailored to each individual to ensure they have the best opportunities available to them to make good progress and fulfil their potential. Our school supports the national curriculum building strong Literacy and Numeracy skills, underpinned by a whole school approach to emotional wellbeing, to ensure students are able to fully access the range of subjects and opportunities available to them. Students are able to access a range of qualifications including GCSE's, Functional Skills, BTECs and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We pride ourselves on our nurturing approach and the sense of community within our school, creating an environment in which students can thrive, students have access to a range of pastoral interventions such as Thrive, Emotional literacy and Talkabout.

Personal development is a core element of our school and students are actively encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities that enrich their experiences.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development as well as fundamental British Values are embedded across our curriculum and our school.

Admissions

The school, which is co- educational, provide places for young people aged 7-18.
Cambian Devon School is non-denominational and has a secular ethos respecting the cultural needs and religious beliefs of all.

- The school is specially focused on providing education for young people with on-going social, emotional and mental health difficulties and associated 'challenging behaviours', which may have resulted from their past experiences and may prevent them from successfully functioning within the community and developing to their full potential.

- We only admit young people whose places are funded by a U.K local authority Admission into the school is through an initial referral from a local authority.



Student Profile

At Devon School, we believe that every child is entitled to an accessible education that is broad, balanced and suited to their needs. Our learning environment, curriculum and style of education is designed to support this and provide a nurture-based approach to a collaborative education.

Student Profile

May have one or more of the following:

- Mixed gender, ages 10 – 16yrs
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs
- Supported by Child and Adolescents Mental Health Services
- Students with emerging or diagnoses of conditions including ADHD and Autism
- Personalised Education, Health and Care Plan in relation to Special Educational Needs
- May Have Significant Gaps in Their Learning
- Significant gaps in education and attainment
- May Require Additional Support with Examinations





Our Curriculum

At Devon School, we offer a diverse range of qualifications at Key Stage 4, carefully tailored to meet the individual needs, abilities and aspirations of each student. Our flexible approach ensures every young person can achieve success and progress confidently into further education, training or employment.

We offer GCSEs in core and foundation subjects, providing students with nationally recognised qualifications that open doors to further study and career opportunities. Our GCSE subjects include:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History

Our GCSE curriculum is designed to challenge and support students, building on their strengths whilst developing essential knowledge and skills across these key subject areas.

Linguistic
- English
- Literacy

Mathematical
- Maths
- Numeracy

Scientifc
- Science
- Forest School
- Farm School

Aesthetic & Creative
- Music
- Art

Devon School Curriculum Map

Technological
- Catering
- Projects, technology and Development

Physical
- Physical Education

Human & Social
- PSHE • Geography
- History • Religious Education
- Education Employment and Training



Our BTEC qualifications provide practical, work-related learning opportunities that allow students to develop skills through hands-on projects and real-world scenarios. We offer BTECs in:

- **Art and Design** - exploring creativity, design processes and artistic techniques
- **Home Cooking Skills** - developing practical culinary skills and understanding nutrition and food preparation
- **Sport** - building knowledge of sports performance, fitness and the sports industry

BTECs are ideal for students who thrive through applied learning and offer progression routes into further education, apprenticeships or employment. These vocational qualifications are valued by employers and further education providers alike.

Functional Skills qualifications in English, maths and RE provide students with practical, real-life skills that are essential for everyday life, further learning and the workplace. These qualifications are particularly valuable for students who benefit from a more applied approach to learning, focusing on how to use these core skills in practical contexts.

We are proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which develops students' confidence, resilience and independence through a structured programme of activities. Students work towards their award by completing challenges in four sections: volunteering, physical activity, skills development and an expedition. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is highly regarded by employers and universities, demonstrating commitment, perseverance and a well-rounded character.

Education, Employment and Training (EET)

Our mission is to deliver a holistic, multidisciplinary curriculum that empowers every student to thrive in an ever-changing world. Through the integrated use of education, employment pathways, and high-quality training, we equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to successfully navigate the modern job market.

We are committed to ensuring students gain a deep understanding of career opportunities, labour market trends, and the expectations of employers. By providing accurate, relevant, and up-to-date information, alongside meaningful experiences and personalised guidance, we enable young people to make informed decisions about their futures.

Our approach prepares students not only for academic success but for real-world achievement—whether progressing into further education, apprenticeships, or employment. We strive to inspire ambition, develop resilience, and support every learner to make positive life choices and achieve their full potential.

Our Curriculum

		Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
Linguistic	English	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	Functional Skills & GCSE
	Literacy	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum
Mathematical	Maths	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	Functional Skills & GCSE
	Numeracy	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum
Scientific	Science	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	GCSE
	Forest School	Wild Passport	Wild Passport	
Technological	Projects, Technology & Development	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum
	Catering	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	BTEC
Human & Social	History	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	GCSE
	Geography	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	GCSE
	Religious Education	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	Functional Skills
	Personal, Social, Health and Economic	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	National Curriculum
	Education Employment and Training			Gatsby Benchmark
Physical	Physical Education	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	BTEC
Aesthetic & Creative	Art	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	BTEC
	Music	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum	Bespoke Curriculum



Project Compass

Project Compass offers a holistic, multi-disciplinary curriculum for young people that aims to support them to overcome barriers to make connections to the wider world around them and create real world links. These connections are student-centred and aim to support academic studies through a more practical approach.

Project Compass works collaboratively with the rest of the school in order to achieve optimum outcomes for learners, ensuring that while Project Compass is a different element of the curriculum, it is part of the school community.

Project Compass aims to support the application of academic knowledge in a practical setting, to develop vocational skills and promote personal development. The campus is made up to 3 acres on the edge of Dartmoor National Park and is mainly comprised of outdoor learning spaces including a forest school area, a pump track, an outdoor kitchen, a polytunnel and allotment and an aviary. The school building has a range of specialist classrooms and learning spaces including a bike maintenance workshop, kitchen, computer suite, indoor gym and a workshop.

Project Compass runs the following initiatives and programmes:

Wild Passport

Wild Passport is a Forest School framework that is offered to KS2 students and as an intervention programme to some KS3 students.

It is comprised of five units including; rope, nature, fire, woodcraft and shelter skills and being suitable for learners aged 5+, the framework ensures an achievable content for all by scaffolding tasks through our Forest School sessions. The framework ensures and tracks progress however, is used loosely to ensure learners take control of their learning appropriately and maximise fine motor skill development, curiosity, relationships and a sense of belonging.



The Duke of Edinburgh International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award that offers Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The programme aims to support young people on the journey of self-development as they find their purpose, passion and place in the world. The award runs 4 sections: an expedition, a physical section, a skill section and a volunteering section.

Project Compass works in conjunction with Devon School to support students to achieve sections of their award through the skill development opportunities on offer to them and the campus is used as the centre for our expeditions.

Agriculture/ Horticulture

Our agriculture and horticulture offer provides students with hands on learning that boosts academic performance in science and math, improves mental and physical well-being, and encourages healthier eating habits. Students have the opportunity to help sow, grow and harvest fruit and vegetables in our school polytunnel and allotment which we then cook with in our school kitchen and sell to the local community on our school honesty stand. We also have an aviary which is home to our chickens and ducks, students are involved in the day to day care of the animals and the eggs are collected and processed and then sold at our school honesty stand.

This multidisciplinary learning improves nutritional knowledge, fosters environmental stewardship, and boosts mental well-being. It teaches students about food origins, sustainability, and essential life skills while promoting STEM careers and healthier eating habits. Key benefits include improved academic performance, increased physical activity, and developing a deeper connection to nature.

This gives students opportunity to develop skills and knowledge of key farming processes, giving them real experience of one of the leading industries in the Westcountry and supporting career pathways.







Community

Our school honesty stand has created a real community link which helps to foster a positive relationship with the local community. We take pride in selling our own produce whilst developing our social engagement with our local community. We use this as an opportunity for students to develop their entrepreneurial skills and give them real experience managing the different aspects of a business.

Catering

Our catering programme enables students to learn the fundamental skills needed to be able to prepare and make a meal for themselves. Within this, students learn how to be safe when in the kitchen in regards to Health and Safety, Food hygiene and be confident in the correct use of equipment.

Students are able to have a voice in the food that we cook for the rest of the school community at Project Compass. Students are involved in the growing and harvestings of the ingredients that we use in the kitchen. In KS4 students work towards and Level 1 and 2 Home cooking skills BTEC which gives students the knowledge, skills and experience to enjoy cooking meals at home.









Projects, Technology and Development

Our Projects, Technology and Development Curriculum (PTD) provides an engaging, holistic and adaptable curriculum designed specifically for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

PTD at Project Compass is not delivered as isolated theory or rigid year group content. Instead, it operates through collaborative, mixed-age project work rooted in the rural and practical identity of our Buckfastleigh site. Technology is positioned as a purposeful tool that is used to solve real problems, improve our farm and enterprise projects, and develop meaningful life skills.

Through hands-on, workshop-based learning, pupils develop:

- Functional digital life skills
- Core computing literacy
- Employability and entrepreneurial awareness
- Confidence with technology
- Creativity through digital making
- Emotional regulation through purposeful achievement

The curriculum operates through fluid ability pathways rather than fixed year groups. This ensures accessibility, reduces disengagement caused by missed learning, and allows pupils to re-enter projects without stigma or disadvantage.

PTD supports and integrates with Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Forest School and enterprise projects. Pupils learn not simply how to use technology, but how to apply it within a rural, self-sufficient and innovative environment.

Projects operate in six-week cycles, enabling pupils to see tangible outcomes from their learning. The curriculum is intentionally responsive and designed to evolve in line with pupil engagement and site development. PTD at Project Compass builds digital confidence through real-world action.



Therapeutic Support

At Devon School we have a real focus on therapeutic provision and pastoral care. The whole staff team are trained in therapeutic approaches and students have access to pastoral and mental health support on site throughout the day, including access to Mental Health First Aiders.

Students also have the opportunity to engage in a number of different therapeutic interventions. These are tailored to each student and are often focused on areas that they want to work on themselves.

Some of the interventions we offer include:

Zones of Regulation

Zones of Regulation is a widely used programme that aims to teach students how to recognise and communicate their emotions with the help of coloured zones. Once they have learned how to do this, they learn strategies for regulating their emotions and build a 'toolbox' that consists of strategies that they have chosen and tested.

Talkabout

Talkabout is a social skills programme that covers a wide variety of skills relating to body language, how we talk, conversation skills, assertiveness, self-awareness, self-esteem and relationships. This programme breaks down these areas and provides detailed teaching to support students in strengthening their social abilities through role play, social stories and case studies.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Students have access to a number of CBT interventions to retrain their thinking to manage things such as anger, depression, anxiety and stress. Students have the opportunity to work through programmes with the support of a qualified member of staff.



Drawing and Talking

Drawing and Talking is an intervention that is used to provide another way to explore and express emotions using drawing. It is particularly useful in the case of students who have experienced trauma.

Wellbeing in Art

Students can be offered a wellbeing pathway in their Art lessons which is student-led. This allows them to express themselves using their Art and provides an opportunity for mindfulness and relaxation.

Thrive

All staff use a thrive approach with our students and we also offer thrive sessions in order to effectively support students' social and emotional development, ensuring they feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

Points System

At Devon School we run a points system as a way of rewarding positive behaviour and hard work and encouraging students to make positive choices in school.

Students are able to earn 3 points in each of their lessons across different categories:

- Attending their lesson and remaining in the right space
- Engaging with the work set for their lesson
- Showing the school values in their lesson

At any point in the day, staff can award students a House Point for going above and beyond and demonstrating the school values. Students receive a certificate in a celebration assembly every Friday morning and each house point is worth 3 points.

Students are able to use points for a number of things.

Firstly, students who earn at least 80% of their total possible points each half term are invited to go on the end of half term trip, which is chosen in student council meetings.

Students are also able to save up their points and use them to buy items through the school.

Students are also grouped into houses (Bantham, Elberry, Firestone and Hope). Each student's points contribute to their house's total and at the end of each term the house with the highest total wins an extra trip that they choose and organise themselves.



Keyworkers

Every student at Devon School is assigned a keyworker when they start. Every Monday morning before lessons start, students meet with their keyworker to reflect on the previous week, set goals for the week ahead and discuss anything they need help with. It's also an opportunity to keep up with current events, explore fundamental British values and have a positive start to the week.

Keyworkers are the main point of contact between school and home. Every Thursday, keyworkers will send home a weekly report either by email or on the phone to summarise how their student's week has been. Keyworkers may also call home to discuss specific behaviours, both positive and negative, and co-ordinate approaches and strategies.



Proprietor

The proprietor of the school is Farouq Sheikh, Chair of the CareTech Board. The representative of the Proprietor of the school, whose address for correspondence during both term times and holidays, is:

Andrew Sutherland,

Operations Director - Education, 4th Floor, Parkview
82 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, UB8 1UX.

The representative of the proprietor may be contacted at
Andrew.Sutherland@caretech-uk.com

Cambian

Devon School

Outcomes 2026

GCSE

- 3 x Mathematics
- 3 x English Language
- 2 x History
- 3 x English Language (Spoken Language)
- 3 x Science Trilogy (Double Award) including 1 at grade 4 and 3

BTEC

- 3 x Home Cooking Skills - Level 2
- 4 x Home Cooking Skills - Level 1
- 2 x Sport - Level 1 - Top Up
- 1 x Sport - Level 1
- 3 x Pearson BTEC Art and Design - Level 1

PEARSON FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

- 5 x English - Level 1
- 8 x Mathematics - Level 1
- 2 x English - Entry Level 3
- 8 x Mathematics - Entry Level 3
- 8 x Mathematics - Entry Level 2
- 5 x English - Entry Level 1

PEARSON ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATE

- 2 x Certificate RS - Entry Level 3
- 1 x Certificate RS - Entry Level 1

AWARDS

- 1 x Duke of Edinburgh- Silver
- 3 x Duke of Edinburgh- Bronze

AQA UNIT AWARDS

- 2 x Resources & Ecology - Level 2
- 2 x Forces & Atmosphere - Level 2
- 4 x Light & Sound - Level 1
- 2 x Earth Science - Level 1
- 2 x Microbes & Habitats - Level 1
- 3 x Heating & Magnets - Level 1
- 3 x Digestion & Breathing - Level 1
- 3 x Elements & Compounds - Level 1
- 1 x Biological Organisation - Level 1
- 2 x Physical Energy - Level 1
- 1 x Thermal Energy - Level 1
- 1 x Voltage & Current - Level 1

Cambian

Devon School

Outcomes 2026

AQA UNIT AWARDS (CONT.)

1 x Metabolic Processes - Level 1	4 x Organics & Waves - Level 1
2 x Living Things, Cells, Classification and Reproduction - Level 1	2 x Chemical Bonding Level 1
3 x Reproduction	1 x Matter & Resources
1 x Particles & Pressure	3 x Energy & Forces

1 x Evolution & Inheritance	1 x Light Introduction	1 x Earth & Space

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Two students helped in Occombe Farm assisting with animal care and other duties.
- Two students helped with the general farm up keep at Hukuna Matata.
- One student helped with taking care of rare breed animals at Totnes Rare Breeds Farm.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Three Year 11 students are moving on to college placements.