

Priory College North Wales and Priory College South Wales Local Offer

Name of sites	Priory College North Wales (Wrexham)
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1. What does your service do?

Priory College South Wales and North Wales are independent, specialist co-educational colleges for young adults aged 16 to 25 with Asperger's syndrome, autistic spectrum disorders and associated conditions. Both colleges are set up in partnership with Coleg Cambria (North Wales) and Coleg Gwent (South Wales), the largest further education colleges in Wales, to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our young people. We offer in-house educational pathways for those who are not yet ready for college and need a package in readiness for the step to college and also offer Art Therapy.

2. How are decisions made about who can use your service?

Referrals to our service start in school with Careers Wales at Year 9 when pathway plans through Learning and Skills is discussed with parents, the child and school. The young person will have this plan reviewed annually at school to ensure transition is well planned and there is vocational or academic security for the future.

Our colleges will work alongside school SENCO's, Careers Wales and the mainstream colleges ALS teams to guarantee a place on a chosen course from the mainstream college prospectus.



3. How will college staff support the child/young person?

Priory College Wales provides a safe and supportive specialist learning environment where our young adults can explore their own experience of asperger's syndrome and autism developing strategies for managing their condition as part of their lives.

We wish to enable young people to develop the confidence and skills they need for the next stage of their journey. This includes education enablement, speech and language 1:1 and group therapy, art therapy (mental health needs 1:1), accredited independence training; covering transport, access to benefit and services, financial assistance, confidence building, behaviour management support, DDA issues and personal growth.

4. How will the curriculum be matched to the child's/young person's needs?

With a dedicated team of staff, we aim to provide every young person with an individually tailored programme of education accredited by both ASDAN and Agored Cymru (Open College), care, work experience, leisure and life skills whilst pursuing a career pathway in a mainstream college. Students receive training within the community to enable them to live as independently as possible and make their own life choices. Transition planning to and from our college is vital and students are assigned a key worker.

5. Do you offer any therapeutic services?

At the Priory Colleges in Wales we offer speech language and communication therapists, talking therapists, individual counselling sessions can be booked locally and students can also access the mainstream college support through student services.

6. How does the school celebrate the success of children with SEND?

Our young people are involved in community projects, local and national groups celebrating autism, charity fundraising, student awards in-house and term reviews inviting parents, professionals and local assembly members to share and celebrate our students' achievements. Case studies are posted centrally on our company website and Priory also celebrates achievement publicly via our social media channels Facebook and Twitter.



7. How will the parent/carer know how their child/young person is doing and how will you help the parent/carer to support their child's learning?

At PCSW and PCNW, we call and contact parents on the method which best suits them on a weekly basis for an update on their child. We welcome parental involvement and parents are welcome to come into the colleges with an appointment. Managers at both colleges address and inform parents of notable achievements and events. Parents are invited to formal reviews on a twice yearly basis and are regularly asked for their views through postal surveys sent from the Service Manager.

8. What support will there be for the child's overall well-being?

We educate the whole young person at PCSW and PCNW. We liaise with college tutors to ensure information is shared about the young person with permissions if necessary. Our bespoke packages of learning ensure that the student is central to learning and educators within our colleges apply flexibility to accommodate all learners. The key worker system addresses emerging issues with students and there is a robust network of signposting services internally and externally to support the whole person.

Emphasis on social interaction and personalised learning is evident through individually planned risk assessments, impact assessments, robust safeguarding procedures, staff training and development profiles, safer recruitment protocols and monitoring visits from our inspectorate estyn.

9. What specialist services, training and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

All staff employed at PCSW and PCNW are trained by management through induction and ongoing CPD in areas such as managing challenging behaviour, mental health, autism and aspergers syndrome, safeguarding children and adults. Our SaLT's offer support to families in transactional planning that improves the young person's all round communication skills and social relationships within the SCERTS framework.

Staff working in our PEPI facility receives training in PECS, TEACCH and learn Makaton. Our college embraces technology and iPads are 'app ready' for use. We also offer training to mainstream college staff once per year, during their CPD weeks. Our colleges also work with Autism Cymru, National Autistic Society and voluntary aided groups working in the area of autism.



10. How will children/young people be included in activities outside the classroom and how does the school ensure that children with SEND are able to access leisure and residential activities?

All students at our colleges have access to a gym and leisure facilities at the mainstream colleges and within the local community we actively encourage physical exercise with support initially and developing programmes for individuals to manage their diet and exercise. As a college we are exploring with Local Authorities transition into supported living for our leavers and outreach programmes of support to our partners in learning and alumni.



11. Does your school offer any outreach?

As a partnership and part of the learning community in Wales, the colleges offer training and development for mainstream departments on Autism. This includes individual training, consultation, premises audits, advice and guidance and a partnership agreement which is ratified by both Welsh Assembly and both colleges Gwent and Cambria. We offer support to schools with whom we work and partners in learning locally.

12. How accessible is the school environment?

Both colleges have an accessibility plan on site which is a carefully considered document on the individual's suitability for our services. The mainstream colleges also have such a document.

13. How will the school prepare and support the child for transition or the next stage of education and life?

Transition starts in June of the academic year in which the students are to start with us. We liaise with the schools professionals and families with students to agree a pathway of access, orientation and familiarisation. This strategy is also re-employed if the student changes their main course and when they are in their final year of their placement with us.

14. How is the decision made about what type and how much support the child will receive?

From transition through to placement, Careers Wales and families have collated evidence which supports the planning of the type of place our students require.

Most students would never have been able to attend a mainstream college; such is the severity of their disability through Autism. The decision on the levels and type of support required is by a thorough Assessment of Needs undertaken by the Priory College Wales managers, educationalists and therapists such as SaLT. Our funders presently determine the type of support each young person requires in liaison with us and Careers.

15. Do you have a children's/young person's council?

Both colleges in Wales have a student forum and the mainstream colleges offer participation in a student council and NUS participation. Our students are encouraged to feedback to personal tutors and their key workers and every year to our colleges via the Service Manager.

16. Does the school provide any specialist equipment (e.g Sensory)?

Priory College South Wales and North Wales were designed to meet the standards for AS friendly spaces approved by National Autistic Society and Autism Research Council. We offer a quiet room for students within the colleges to allow students to become calm and more focused than in the busy environment of a mainstream college.

In our PEPI programme in North Wales, we offer more sensory support to learners with sever autism via initial assessment that determines the equipment they may need. Specialist teachers carry out the initial assessments and include screening for visual dyslexia.

17. How do you support young people to move onto the next stage of their life?

Students receive sexual education training as part of their ILS programme and talks from local agencies are commonplace on such topics as staying mentally healthy, diet and exercise, living independently and money management. Students are encouraged to undertake fully supported work experience throughout their courses and discussions regularly take place formally and informally with multi-professionals on looking for work, applying for university and the transition is made as easy as possible for the young person and their families.

18. Where do young people go when they leave your service?

85% of our former students stay on in education and obtain further study at the mainstream colleges we work with. Around 10% have gone onto HE and university with support from Disabled Students Allowance. 5% have gone into supported employment in South Wales.

Get in touch

To make the process of referring a young person into Priory Education and Children's Services as seamless as possible or for further information about Priory College South Wales and North Wales, please contact our dedicated enquiries office today on **0845 277 4679**.