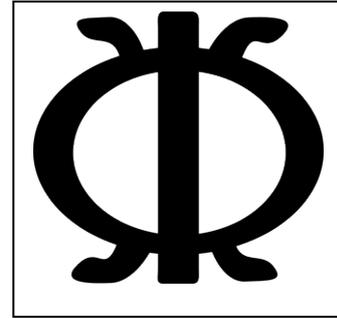




ARUN COURT

THERAPY & EDUCATION



*‘Resilience and Perseverance lead to success’*

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### **Charging policy**

The purpose of this policy is to lay down the key aspects of the decisions made around charging of fees for services at the independent school – Arun Court School – Run by Big Bear Bespoke Education Ltd. We aim to be transparent around our financial decisions for the benefit of all students.

### **Ensuring the future security of Arun Court School**

Arun Court School is part of the company Big Bear Bespoke Education which operates as a limited company. Whilst we are not profit driven, we ensure that all our education services can continue by careful financial planning and management. It is essential for all parties that whilst we aim to keep costs as low as possible, we can continue to operate if student numbers were to drop for any reason, particularly as the school is dealing with some of the most venerable families and students within the area. We are happy to break down our fees into % and to work in an open and honest way with our brokering leas and private clients, as this endures that we can continue to provide the service, long term.

Our costs are higher per student, due to the specialist care we provide, and the size of the settings. However we follow similar brokering procedures as a school with 3 quotes collected for every service provider and decisions taken not just by the Director’s and shareholder board, but by EMAT (external monitoring and advisory team) also.

The approximate % breakdown of fees is therefore as follows, and is very similar to a well-managed state school budget.

- **The cost of good people (STAFF) + 78%**
- **The cost of well-maintained buildings and services = 10%**
- **Good connections and resources = 6%**
- **Secure financial planning (future-proofing) = 6%**

In terms of supporting cases of anxiety and mental health needs in Surrey state schools, we have a small fund set aside for free outreach. This means that the LEA can direct us to support local schools with the development of mental health support programmes and behaviour support for specific student cases. We have a real mission to help children BEFORE they reach a level of mental health need that meets the requirements of a specialist placement.

**We mainly offer 'standard places' and the price of these is 'fixed' for a period of 2 years before being reviewed by the Directors. Standard places provide:**

An overall **school ratio of adults**: Students of better than 1:3 although different groups operate at different ratios throughout the day, and specific group ratios are decided by need. However the high overall ratio ensures students can access support 'the point of need' rather than having to wait for a designated appointment time.

A **Lunchtime meal provided** to all students. Students whose anxiety prevents them leaving the school catered for by food being purchased locally and eating in a sanitised study place. Students who have been assessed as being safe to do so, are invited to eat locally and socially at one of the 5 hygiene star facilities in the village, who have agreed to provide the centre with a bespoke menu. In addition students are asked to bring a snack box that does not require refrigeration and a water bottle, so they can access food when needed, particularly at afternoon break.

**Education and Therapy** services for a minimum of **6.5 hours a day** 9.30-4pm / 10-4.30pm with the option of wrap around care to 5.30pm some nights of the week if parents need it.

Tuition is provided in all national curriculum subjects up to key stage 3. We are able to offer a **much wider KS4 to GCSE curriculum than many special settings** including business studies, media studies, and Music GCSE.

Students with **particular interests** are encouraged, and we will broker services if the timetable allows such as working towards football coaching **apprenticeships** or having regular 1:1 music tuition.

During a full academic year (September-July) students will receive a **full OT report** and should any issues be raised these will be addressed by the school as much as possible within the timetable.

**Families** can also benefit from **support** from the Home-Link Officer, including some therapy provision by arrangement, as well as regular parent support groups.

### **Students will have daily access as needed to:**

- Suitably qualified counselling and coaching services (practitioners, experienced in ASD, OCD, Depression, Anxiety, Eating disorders, ODD)
- Sensory support services including qualified massage practitioners
- Therapeutic Art
- Animal based therapies
- Qualified meditation and mindfulness teachers
- Therapy workbook practitioners – including CBT  
(The team delivering all the above has full supervision from a clinical psychologist)

### **In addition at specific points during the week they can access support from:**

- Our occupational Therapists – programmes are run with the support of our staff.
- Our clinical Psychologist – In every week for short visits, supervision and chatting with students about specific issues. Specific scheduled appointments for high intensity students.
- Our Lego Therapist- Running weekly courses on speech and language practices, especially social and emotional language.
- Our Psychotherapist – in every week and works with individual children as well as groups.

### **We ensure high levels of communication and support:**

- We produce a **student report every term** although in the summer term this tends to be in the form of the **annual review paperwork**.
- Parents can access **support workshops** held on a regular basis, **parent and student social** events, and receive a **weekly newsletter** to maintain good communication.
- Each tuition group has a **specific identified teacher** which parents can direct concerns to via a designated school email. In addition each child has a **key worker**, identified from the Therapy team who will be able to support with advice on emotional regulation issues specific to their child.
- The **daily communication sheets** provide an instant snap shot for the parent of how their child has engaged during the day.

### **Special places (prices fixed for 2 years):**

We have 4, and only 4, high intensity places each year for students who need much more 1:1 provision even in what is a very small setting. These are places at a much higher rate per term with the additional funding going to pay for a 1:1 mentor, and usually regular Bi-Weekly appointments with clinical Psychology or similar. Again, these places are on a first come first served basis.

**Legalities:**

Prices are made available to LEAs and privately funded parents in JUNE each year, along with the registration forms for the coming September. Prices are charged for 1 year and are split into three equal payments (1 per term). We reserve the right to change the content of the placement offer at any stage by providing the LEA or parents with 6 weeks' notice. We reserve the right to change prices every two years in response to market forces.

Contracts run for a minimum of 1 term, and we require a terms payment in advance. We require a half term notice of a student being placed elsewhere or the following terms fees will be charged. Fees should be paid within 30 days of an invoice being issued, and payment can be made by BACS or cheque.