



# Gables House & School

**For boys and girls aged 10-14**

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[www.childhoodfirst.org.uk](http://www.childhoodfirst.org.uk)

Gables House is a residential therapeutic community and special school providing specialist therapeutic care, education and treatment initially for a group of 'hard to place' children with complex needs aged 10-14. The home officially opened on October 23rd 2012.

The home occupies a beautiful detached house with an extensive garden and woods situated in a rural location near the village of Biddenden in the heart of Kent.

Gables House specialises in the treatment of children who present with severe emotional, psychological and behavioural problems including sexualised and other disturbing behaviours as a result of attachment difficulties rooted in early life trauma and abuse.

Gables House uses Childhood First's unique and effective Integrated Systemic Therapy, which focuses on healing trauma and enabling healthy attachments and relationships so

that children can achieve exceptional outcomes in every aspect of their lives.

All Childhood First staff are highly trained to enable children to work through their experiences of past trauma in a safe and comfortable environment designed for group living and learning. Gables House combines individual therapy with a strong group-based culture which helps children engage with their difficulties, and support one another in recovering, and achieving their potential. We aim to create a therapeutic environment in which we work with the children enabling them to live together, learn and heal. We place much emphasis on caring and thoughtful relationships and creating a sense of belonging.

### **Education at Gables House**

Children at Gables House attend Childhood First's special school, Greenfields School, which offers the full National Curriculum, with sporting opportunities, educational trips, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Classes are small, allowing individual attention for each child.

At a recent Greenfields school inspection, a number of areas of provision were singled out as noteworthy, including:

- A comprehensive induction programme for each child
- Learning opportunities are created that allow for the possibility of return to mainstream schools
- Positive relationships between staff and children
- Excellent liaison with local mainstream schools.

### **Families and Networks**

Our dedicated Placement and Family Support worker will be available to support the whole family and network of each child in our care. Working together, we aim to promote the recovery of both the child and, where possible, the family. Where a child's next placement is fostering or adoption, we will work closely with all concerned to prepare the child and the family, and to ensure that the fostering or adoption placement is a success.