

**PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL**  
**KENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS: ADMISSION GUIDANCE**

Name of school	PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL
Address:	Sea Street, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover, Kent CT15 6SS
Tel:	01304 853033
Email:	<a href="mailto:office@portal-house.kent.sch.uk">office@portal-house.kent.sch.uk</a>
School Type:	Community Special School
Designation:	Secondary School for 80 SEMH students
Primary Need:	SEMH
Class Structure:	Year group classes
District served:	East and South
Area:	South Kent
Age range:	11 – 16-year-old
Maximum Capacity	80

- Portal House School is a secondary school for up to 80 children who experience significant Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. Many have in addition, diagnosed health conditions such as Attachment Disorder, Autism, ADHD, ADH, ODD and OCD.
- The school offers a fresh start in modern fit for purpose facilities and is committed to reversing patterns of failure associated with school and learning.
- All students have broadly national average/above average academic potential according to recent formal assessments and/or have attained national average expectations for their age (potential to achieve 5 or more high grade GCSE including English and Maths). Year 7 students have attained scaled scores of 90+ in their KS2 SATS and age-related expectations at KS1.
- Our main curriculum offer is broad, balanced and academic. Students follow a secondary school timetable that leads to securing qualifications and life skills that will enable them to progress to their chosen pathways at 16+. In KS3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) students are taught the National curriculum programmes of study and sit Entry level qualifications. KS4 students follow a timetable that leads to 8 GCSE's- English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Physics and 3 from the following option subjects- Art and Design, ICT, Geography, P.E and Public services. Biology and English Literature GCSE's are sat in Year 10. Other subjects can be sat early if appropriate. In addition, all classes have weekly PSHE, RE/World views, cooking lessons and a 2 hours enrichment session. In Year 10 students undertake work experience preparation for college and life skills lessons. Year 7's and any student who is not yet a confident swimmer have the opportunity to have swimming lessons at Whitfield swimming pool. We offer a bespoke curriculum with different learning pathways to those, who due to their current needs/circumstances are unable to access our main curriculum offer.
- At 16+ our students go to either 6<sup>th</sup> form, College, Apprenticeships or work after achieving on average 8-9 subject accreditations (GCSE, Btecs and Entry level).
- Students are taught in small year group classes by qualified staff and supported by class T.A.'s. Class sizes vary depending on need (4 – 7 per class).
- Behaviour is their biggest barrier to accessing education.
- A high proportion of students are eligible for pupil premium.