

Expertise in special educational needs



 **St Piers
School**

Young Epilepsy

St Piers School is operated by Young Epilepsy, a national charity with over 100 years expertise in neurological conditions. By choosing St Piers, you can have the confidence the young person will be cared for by an award winning organisation with a reputation for providing excellent educational and care services.



Welcome to St Piers

Our school, St Piers, is based on a beautiful 60 acre campus in Lingfield, rural Surrey. We have a day and residential special school providing the highest quality educational services for students aged five to 19 years of age, including a sixth form.

The students are at the centre of everything we do. Our dedicated, enthusiastic and experienced staff provide first class support. The education, health, care and therapy teams work in partnership and we pride ourselves on having strong relationships in place with parents, carers and funders. This tried and tested approach ensures every St Piers student reaches their optimum level of achievement.



The school is an incredible place for children with neurological conditions and behavioural difficulties to thrive, learn new skills, change in confidence and make new friends.

Staff excel in teaching pupils with a range of conditions including:

- ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
- acquired brain injury
- autistic spectrum disorder
- behavioural difficulties
- epilepsy
- moderate learning difficulties
- non-weight bearing
- profound and multiple learning difficulties
- severe learning difficulties.

All students follow a curriculum that includes:

- communication, language and literacy
- mathematics and cognition
- ICT (information and communication technology) and design technology



- PSHE (personal, social and health education)
- citizenship.

Classes are small; five or six per class. This allows us to be proactive and meet the individual needs of each student.

St Piers pupils often have highly specialist medical and health needs. Our multi-disciplinary teams work together to minimise the impact of health conditions on their schooling. Our goal is for the pupils to attain their maximum potential, which we achieve by encouraging and nurturing their talents.



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I cannot praise all the staff involved with my son's care enough, they are very dedicated, caring and hard working people. I am so glad my son attends this school, it makes the future seem a lot brighter for us.

Parent

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My daughter has progressed more at St Piers in the last two years than she had in the previous eight. The staff are well trained and adapt to each individual child whilst at the same time ensuring the class work as a group. This promotes a lot of healthy competition and encourages her to achieve the best she can. Her confidence and self esteem have grown enormously and she absolutely loves school.

Parent

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St Piers – our vision

Our vision is to provide equal access and opportunities for all pupils.

Specifically, we aim to:

- provide a safe, stimulating and friendly environment
- teach pupils how to interact and communicate
- support pupils' learning with dedicated and highly professional staff
- celebrate success and achievement together
- improve the quality of pupils' lives, and ensure they enjoy themselves and have fun
- help children and young people prepare for adult life and achieve their full potential
- develop pupils' self esteem and respect for themselves and others.



There is strong leadership across the school with monitoring and evaluation systems well embedded. The school emanates a positive and celebratory ethos. The focus on learning and achievement is central to all that the school does.

Local Authority Quality Assurance Report





Encouraging positive behaviour

We follow a strategy to encourage positive behaviour in all our students. The key principles for this strategy are:

- equality for all pupils and staff
- maximising potential by reinforcing positive and appropriate behaviour and encouraging learning from natural consequences
- an equal working partnership between staff and students
- students having a right to their individual needs being taken into account when developing approaches to support
- recognising that all behaviours, including the most challenging, represent attempts to communicate.

Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)

Epilepsy often comes hand in hand with other neurological conditions. One of the most common is ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) and around 44% of our students are on the autistic spectrum.

When combined with ASD, epilepsy presents unique challenges for young people with regard to their learning and life skills. It also compounds already challenging issues. Our staff recognise the impact that each condition has on the other and the complex interplay between them.

At St Piers, we are very experienced in caring for young people with ASD. Our unrivalled expertise and world class facilities place us in a unique position to provide excellent care and educational services to those living with ASD. We organise routines that maintain consistency but also present challenges in a safe environment that will maximise the individual's development.

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I cannot speak highly enough of the schooling my daughter receives. Everything is done to make sure she is happy and can flourish, which she certainly seems to be.

Parent

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Making progress and achieving goals

We monitor the progress of our students and assess their achievements. It is important for us to know our pupils are progressing towards their goals and that we're doing all that we can to support them.

Our pupils face major educational and social challenges. It can be an achievement for them to develop skills most people take for granted such as speaking or counting.

Pupils study for a variety of qualifications including AQA* recognised Unit Awards and EQUALS** Moving On accreditation. They enjoy studying and achieving success in literacy, numeracy, science, PSHE (personal, social and health education), humanities, ICT (information and communication technology) and design technology.

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I cannot thank you enough for all the wonderful opportunities you give my son at St Piers. It is wonderful seeing him perform to the best of his abilities. The staff are always easy to contact and the communication between the teachers and myself is very helpful and encouraging.

Parent

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Achievement

We track the progress of all our pupils using sophisticated CASPA (comparison and analysis of special pupil attainment) software. CASPA allows us to compare St Piers students with those in other schools. We also compare their progress with national progression guidance for pupils of the same age and level of attainment.

Tracking data allows us to demonstrate that students make good and outstanding progress. Many go on to study at St Piers College, our specialist college that supports learners between the ages of 19 and 25.



* AQA is a charity that provides qualifications and support services to teachers and students.

** EQUALS is a registered charity that supports the work of teachers of pupils with profound, multiple and severe learning difficulties.

Physical education

Students take part in activities that improve gross motor skills, co-ordination and spatial awareness. As ability levels improve, activities may then be selected from a wider range on the basis of interest or to improve performance. Activities include swimming, trampoline, games, athletics, gymnastics and health related exercise.

With a little support, our students excel at activities that many people think they can't participate in. This has a positive impact on both their physical health and also their confidence and well-being.

In addition we offer a comprehensive outdoor adventurous activities programme. This includes canoeing, boating, climbing, cycling, low-ropes and team building initiatives.

We have fantastic sports facilities on-site: a large sports hall, fitness gym, hydrotherapy pool, canoeing pond and a new low-ropes course.



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Pupils say they feel safe at school because there is always someone to help them.

Ofsted

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Promoting health

As part of our overall commitment towards promoting well-being and a healthy lifestyle, we actively encourage:

- healthy eating, through food education and the availability of healthy foods during break and lunch
- physical activity, through sport and outdoor pursuits such as climbing, go karting, trampolining and cycling activities
- the ability to communicate, which is key to emotional health and well-being. There are many opportunities to develop this, including creative arts sessions, sensory assessments, music and art.



Healthy Schools



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The PE team consistently stand out as fantastic role models for our teenage son.

Parent

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Intensive interaction

St Piers School is proud to have a team of specially trained Intensive Interaction Co-ordinators.

Intensive Interaction is an approach used with children and adults who are at an early level of development with their communication and interaction. It is particularly beneficial for individuals living with ASD. This approach develops social interaction and pre-verbal communication skills through repetitive familiar social exchanges with an attentive interactive partner.

All staff receive training from the team in this approach. This is to ensure that our students have daily opportunities to access interaction which is relevant for their individual needs.

Over time we find this makes a huge difference to the students' self esteem and emotional well-being.



Creative arts

We are proud of the unique approach of our Creative Arts department. Our aim is to enhance and support all areas of the curriculum, whilst encouraging confidence and self esteem in the students.

Creativity promotes environmental, aesthetic and cultural awareness because it is not bound by the restrictions of language and social conventions. Our very experienced teachers use music, dance and drama within an exciting setting.

We provide students with a reason to communicate. By respecting their right to respond as individuals, we can understand and encourage their methods of communication. The unique talents and contributions of each student are valued and placed at the heart of our teaching approach.



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Creative arts at St Piers is magical, they make everyone relax and enjoy themselves whilst gaining life skills and self esteem. Parent

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Sixth form

Sixth form students follow the Moving On curriculum produced by EQUALS*. It is designed specifically for young people aged 16 - 19 years with learning difficulties. It consists of vocational studies, knowledge and understanding of the world, independent living and key skills.

Vocational studies

Vocational studies involve work-related learning, careers education and guidance, and post school planning. We build each student's confidence to allow them to develop their own interests and take on a programme of work-related learning through St Piers' facilities and work opportunities.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

Our knowledge and understanding of the world curriculum includes the study of science, technology, foreign cultures, creativity and humanities. This is all done in a practical way which encourages independence and helps them develop life skills. Students undertake activities individually and in groups

that can be practically applied. For instance they will learn about money and financial responsibility. This will include learning about domestic maths and maths for leisure.

Independent living

Our independent living curriculum consists of personal, social and health education, citizenship, leisure and recreation and daily living skills. At St Piers School, we help students develop the skills they need to live their lives as happy, independent adults, through activities such as meal preparation, travel training, horticulture and using household tools and appliances.



Sixth form students develop independent living skills and grow in confidence and self esteem. This prepares them well for their next steps in life.

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* EQUALS is a registered charity that supports the work of teachers of pupils with profound, multiple and severe learning difficulties.

Safety

The safety of our students is of paramount importance. We are a member of the BSC (British Safety Council) and staff undertake BSC training. Staff are also trained in a number of other safety related areas including fire safety and infection control.



Outcomes for children are excellent. Their life experiences and confidence are enriched in a caring and nurturing environment at a pace commensurate with their cognitive ability.

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Health and therapy services

All pupils have access to our world class medical centre and associated therapy services. Both day and residential pupils receive unsurpassed, appropriately regulated care that is tailored to their needs and expectations of their families, carers and health services.

We are proud to offer pupils access to the following professionals:

- consultant paediatric neurologists
- consultant psychiatrists
- senior registrars
- nursing care including clinical nurse specialists in epilepsy
- psychologists
- physiotherapists
- occupational therapists
- speech and language therapists
- play therapists.



Residential services

Young people can attend St Piers as residential students, living in one of the bright and spacious houses on our campus. We offer Monday to Friday boarding, 39 week term-time residential care, as well as a 52 week Children's Home service for those who need support all year round.

The waking day curriculum means that each pupil has an individual learning programme which is structured to be delivered throughout their waking day, not just during school hours. Our integrated school and residential team work closely to help students develop communication and self care skills.

This allows our residential pupils to have consistency between the education and residential settings and gives them the opportunity to build their skills in communication, independent living and increase appropriate sleeping and personal care routines. We work to build skills that are transferable into the home, community and lifelong placements.



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There are excellent, robust and effective safeguarding procedures which promote the well-being of residential pupils to an outstanding standard.

Ofsted

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Our Residential Special Schools and Children's Home service has been rated as 'good'. Care is delivered according to individual needs and everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Young people say that they enjoy living at the school and benefit from close, warm relationships with the staff.





Superb facilities

In addition to excellent teaching and medical facilities, St Piers has:

- a wonderful creative arts department
- a variety of residential houses to suit students of all abilities
- close links to the local community
- a wide range of sporting opportunities
- access to a working farm and horticultural department
- hydrotherapy suite
- a low-ropes course
- sensory rooms
- soft play area
- sports hall
- gym
- boating lake
- delightful 60 acre grounds in rural Surrey.



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Everyone in both school and residential have shown they only have my daughter's best interests in mind. She has settled really well and loves it. I have never seen her make so much progress in a short space of time before.

Parent

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A photograph of four young people, three boys and one girl, sitting outdoors on a grassy area. They are all wearing purple zip-up jackets. The boy on the far left is smiling broadly. The boy in the middle is looking directly at the camera. The girl on the far right is also smiling. The child sitting behind the boy in the middle is wearing a grey helmet. The background shows trees and a building.

Admissions and further information

To visit our school, find out more about our facilities, or to speak to a member of our team about a place for your child, please contact the Education Liaison Service on 01342 831348 or email: education@youngepilepsy.org.uk

Young Epilepsy is a national charity providing education, medical and support services for children and young people with epilepsy and other neurological conditions. We work in partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and University College London's Institute of Child Health.

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