



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

St Piers School offers the very best opportunity to access high quality day or residential placements, providing a home-from-home experience to students aged five to 19 years of age.

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, grow in confidence and make new friends.

Designed with our students in mind

The student-centred design of the school has created an exceptional environment to best manage the students' conditions, enabling them to develop and reach their goals.

- Each classroom has its own secure outdoor space enhancing opportunities for learning, through play and group activities outside.
- The James Lewis Food Technology Studio has adjustable tables and worktops, where all students can enjoy the experience of learning life skills together.
- The Imaginarium uses state-of-the-art technology to create sceneries, which transport our students to different environments through their imagination.
- A sensory integration suite within the school allows students to have immediate access to therapy.

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

- ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
- acquired brain injury
- autistic spectrum condition
- 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.



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I have never met such a dedicated teacher.
She emails me weekly to keep me up-to-date.
My grandson has progressed academically in
all subjects. Thank you.

Carer

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“

I am very happy with how far my
son has come. He is eager to go
to school each day.

Parent

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St Piers – our vision

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

Specifically, we aim to:

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



“

Thank you to the very supportive, caring and experienced staff who are helping our child make the adjustments to new school and living arrangements.

Parent

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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 students and staff
- maximising potential by reinforcing positive and appropriate behaviour as well as 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 condition (ASC)

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

When combined with ASC, 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 ASC. Our unrivalled expertise, and outstanding facilities, place us in a unique position to provide excellent care and educational services, to those living with ASC. We organise routines that maintain consistency, but also present challenges, in a safe environment that will maximise the individual's development.

“

My child's reading and writing has improved at an impressive rate. I am beginning to see a future of semi-independant living, which would be amazing.

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 students are progressing towards their goals and we're doing all we can to support them.

Our students 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.

Students 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.

How we measure outcomes

St Piers School allows our students to learn and make progress in a space that encourages positive behaviour, which is reflected in the outcomes achieved. Each student will have their individual goals outlined in an Education, Health and Care Plan which incorporates:

- safety
- health
- resilience
- self-esteem
- emotional intelligence
- control
- relationships
- achievement
- preparation for adulthood.

“

It has been a joy to watch my son develop at St Piers.
He enjoys going to school which says it all – everything
else is a bonus.

Parent

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* 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 students 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 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.



“

My daughter has only been at school for a short period but we have already seen a big improvement in her confidence and self esteem.

Parent

Our physical education facilities incorporate:

- A go-kart track which adds a social and fun element to learning.
- A new swimming pool in the Peter Harrison Foundation Aqua Centre which is inclusive for all students. The pool is fully tracked enabling non-weight bearing students to be safely lowered into the water. The space has been designed with infinity features and diffused window panels to minimise reflections and ripples, creating a calming experience.



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Many thanks for the wonderful work the staff do at the school.

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 our students have daily opportunities to access interaction 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

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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I love the way the teachers focus on everything my son can do and not the things he cannot

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 as well as 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.



“

An excellent school in all respects. Students are encouraged to do some amazing things and are well taught to the best of their ability. Ofsted

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* EQUALS is a registered charity that supports the work of teachers of students 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.

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I am very grateful for the continued support from the school. It is clear my child's needs are a priority to encourage potential, best possible outcomes and achievements

Parent

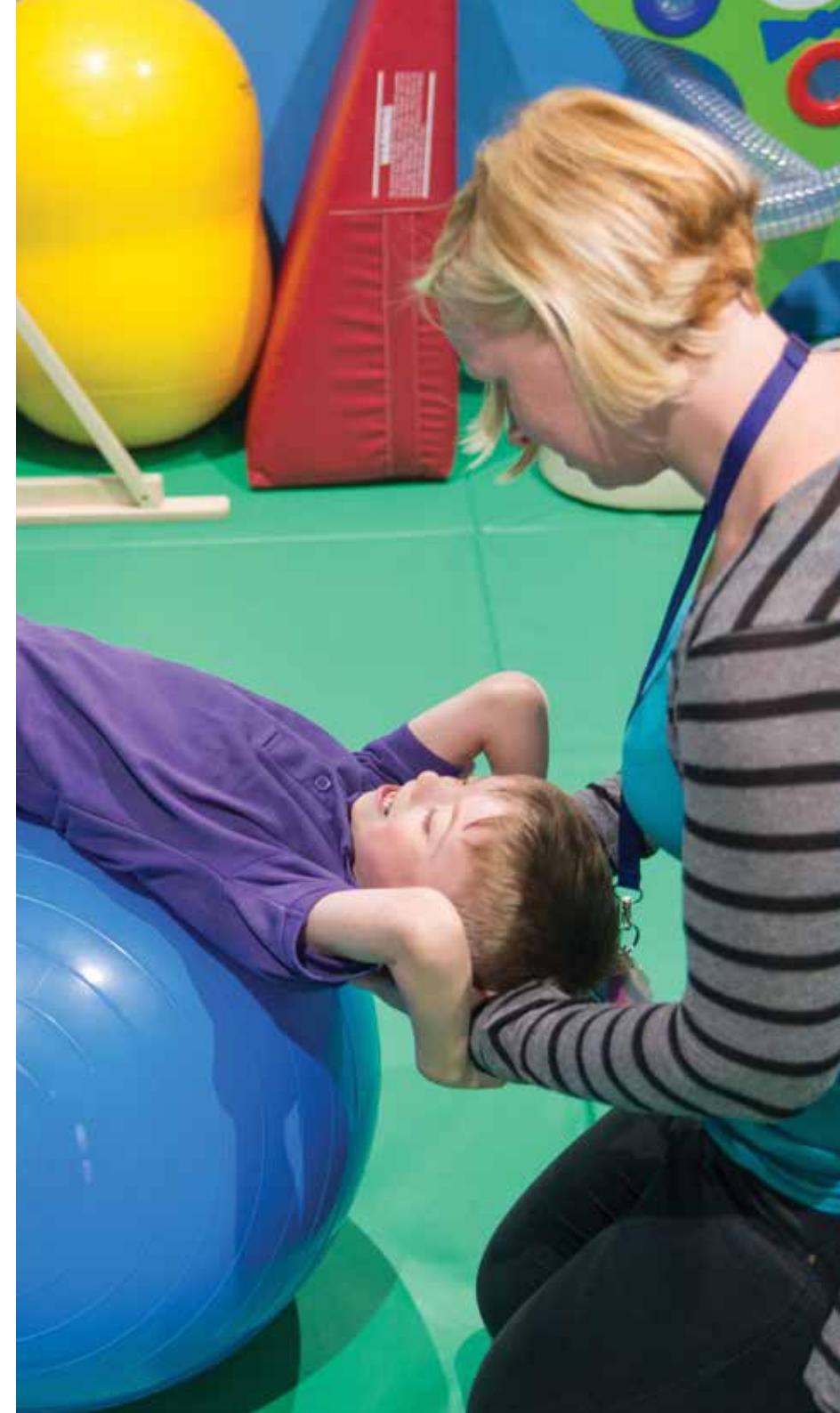
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Health and therapy services

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

We are proud to offer 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 provision for those who need support all year round.

The waking day curriculum means each pupil has an individual learning programme 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 students to have consistency between the education and residential settings which gives them the opportunity to build their skills in communication and independent living to increase appropriate sleeping and personal care routines. We work to build skills that are transferable into the home, community and lifelong placements.

Care is delivered according to individual needs and everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Young people say they enjoy living on the campus and benefit from close, warm relationships with the staff.





Superb facilities

Students benefit from a wealth of experiences and opportunities outside the classroom across our 65 acre campus, including:

- a variety of residential houses to suit students of all abilities
- the Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre offers an on-site specialist health service
- a wide range of sporting opportunities including a sports hall, gym, an outdoor gym and multi-use games area
- access to a working farm and horticultural department
- hydrotherapy pool
- low-ropes course
- sensory rooms
- soft play area
- boating lake
- close links to the local community.

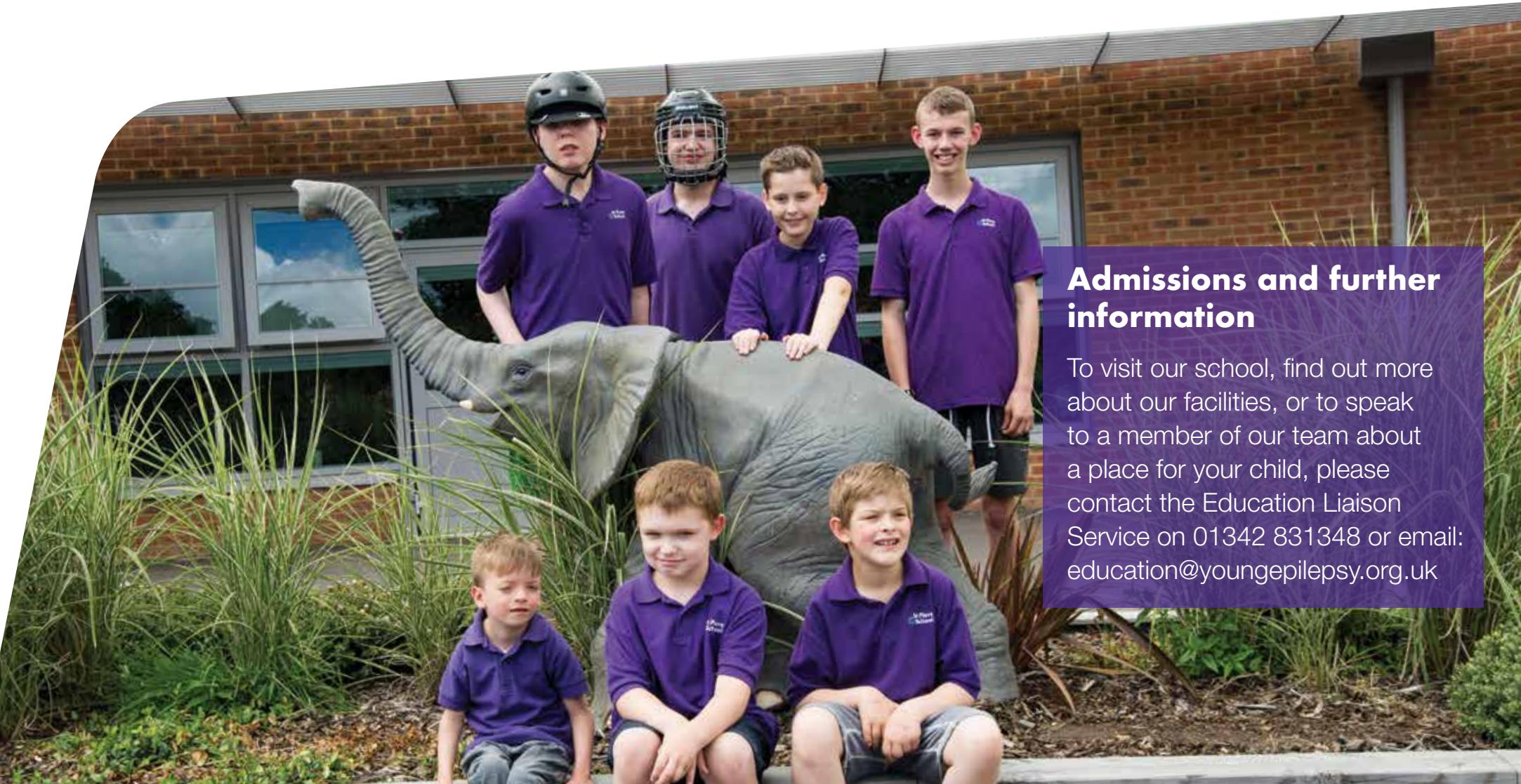


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Everyone in both school and residential have shown they only have my daughter's best interests in mind. She has settled really well and loves it. I have never seen her make so much progress in a short space of time before.

Parent

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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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