



St Piers School and College Local Offer: Surrey

What does your service do?

St Piers School and St Piers College provide education, health and residential services for children and young people aged between five and 25 who have special educational needs, which could include complex conditions.

The school and college are part of the national charity Young Epilepsy, which offers a range of services across education, health, care, training and the delivery of information.

What makes us different is the approach we offer students with education, care and health needs. Our multi-disciplinary team delivers a holistic service. Our medical and therapy staff are based on the campus so we can be very flexible in the care we provide and the young person's needs can be met immediately, if needed.

Our educational experts are supported by our on-site team which includes speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and play specialists. Our world-renowned neurologists, medical registrars, psychologists and nursing team complement the education and care team to ensure we build the 'team around the child and young person'. We can provide the support your young person might require without the need to access multiple services in the community. This has the benefit of removing what is often a major cause of anxiety.

Our service is tailored to each individual student. We ensure that the level of support the student requires is always available, but our aim is always to work with each individual to ensure they reach their maximum potential and lead as independent a life as possible.

We work with a number of employers and local mainstream colleges to encourage independence and employability for the future. This is something that particularly benefits St Piers College students.

Our students have the opportunity to reside on the campus or attend as day students. To cater for the ever-changing needs of children and young people, we offer flexible residential packages from 39 to 52 weeks including a Monday to Friday term-time option. We also offer a short break service for students who require care in the holidays, week days or weekends. Our waking day curriculum means they continue their learning when the school or college day has ended. The young person has the opportunity to get involved in a number of extra-curricular activities and groups and there is a regular disco.

We also provide a range of services aimed at helping the 112,000 children and young people across the UK, living with epilepsy. We are a major provider of epilepsy training for education and health professionals. We also operate a helpline service for anyone requiring information about epilepsy and produce a range of informative books on the subject.



Where is your service located and what areas does it cover?

Whilst we are a national charity and deliver training across the country, St Piers School and St Piers College are based on a 60 acre campus at Young Epilepsy's headquarters in Lingfield, Surrey.

Referrals to the school and college are received from across the county of Surrey and we have good relations with the Council and other funders.

As a national service, we also receive applications from elsewhere the UK and work closely with a variety of local authorities.

Who does the service provide for?

St Piers School and St Piers College provide services to children and young people between five and 25 years of age. Students have a wide range of health conditions, often combined with learning and behavioural difficulties.

We have the facilities to offer places to individuals that are non-weight-bearing. Many students require high levels of care, often on a one-to-one basis.

Young Epilepsy's dedicated and experienced staff are experts at dealing with the health, educational and emotional issues faced by children and young people. We offer all the support we can to help the young person develop as an individual and transition to their next placement.

Students that use our services have a range of conditions including:

- Autism
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Challenging behaviour
- Down's Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties.

How can I start using the service?

Initial contact should be made to the Education Liaison Service team, who will manage the referral process for anyone wishing to use our education, health and care services. The team gather information so we can understand your young person's needs. Our multi-disciplinary team assess the documentation following which an informal meeting will be arranged.

When a residential placement is sought, we invite the young person for a two day assessment which involves attending the school or college and spending an overnight stay on one of our residential houses. They would join in the evening activities with other students.

When a day place is sought, the young person is invited to attend a two day assessment. This involves attending lessons and undertaking activities with students of a similar ability.



The young person is also assessed by our therapy and medical teams. This allows us to fully understand all their needs and how we could support and develop the young person.

Following the assessment, the family will be advised of the decision. If appropriate, a funding request would then be made to the local authority.

Information on training, our helpline or obtaining copies of the numerous publications and information sheets available can be obtained by emailing info@youngepilepsy.org.uk or accessing our website youngepilepsy.org.uk

How are decisions made about who can use the service?

The decision on whether the service we deliver is appropriate to a young person is (wherever possible and appropriate) made by the young person themselves, their families, our multi-disciplinary team and the local authority. At St Piers, our approach is centred on the young person. This means that all decisions are focused around working to develop the young person for their future.

How do you communicate with service users and how are they involved in decision making/planning?

There is constant communication between our service users (students) and their parents/carers. This enables us to offer a highly individualised education, health and care package and enables the student to achieve their aims.

Ways we communicate include:

- For day students, a 'day book' that relays to parents and carers what progress the student has made and what has happened that day. It also enables parents and carers to understand the levels they are working to. Home learning is undertaken by day and residential students and this will also be detailed in the day book.
- Formal annual reviews where education, health and therapy needs are assessed.
- Parent/carer teacher meetings to discuss progress.
- Formal medical consultations.

Informally, our education and care staff are in constant contact with parents/carers. Parents/carers are always welcome to contact staff and to ask for updates on progress. As the conditions our students have are often unpredictable, parents and carers appreciate this approach as they can discuss their child's needs whenever they wish.

As many of our students are non-verbal, Signalong (sign language) is widely used.

We also have a website that parents frequently use with dedicated pages for both St Piers School and St Piers College. We have a wide range of leaflets and publications about our health and therapy services and educational and residential offerings.

We make every effort to communicate with parents/carers whose first language is not English. If a staff member fluent in the required language is not available an external translator service could be accessed.



Is your service fully accessible?

Young Epilepsy offers day and residential care to individuals with a variety of complex needs and disabilities. Areas used by students have full-disabled access with wheelchair ramps, electric doors, hoists and any other equipment they may require. We are continually upgrading our facilities to ensure we offer full disabled access.

We are constantly keeping an eye on emerging trends and making adjustments to our premises as necessary, to ensure they meet the required standards.

Students also have access to a wide range of specialist equipment including Speak and Spell, touch screen technology, iPads, iPods, tablet computers and fully equipped sensory rooms.

We also have a gym, low ropes course and a vast array of specialist sports and fitness equipment plus a hydrotherapy suite and boating lake. Disabled changing facilities are available across our site.

Both St Piers School and St Piers College have specialist provision for students that are on the autistic spectrum. This includes lecturers who are specially trained to deal with the condition.

What training are the staff dealing with children with SEND had or having?

All staff who have contact with children and young people undergo a robust induction programme during their first six months in post. This is followed by further mandatory, regulatory and person-centred training throughout their time with Young Epilepsy.

These courses are delivered by subject matter experts from our own staff, as well as our nursing and therapy teams. This ensures we are sharing expertise across the organisation and that all training is relevant to the specific requirements of our students.

Person-centred courses include:

- Understanding Epilepsy and Autism
- Intensive Interaction
- Signalong and Total Communication
- Epilepsy First Aid.

In addition to this, staff who work within the residential houses are funded to complete their Common Induction Standards and the Level 3 diploma in Health & Social Care.

Who can I contact for further information?

Young Epilepsy's *Education Liaison Service* team can provide further information and arrange tours of St Piers School and St Piers College.

The team would be delighted to help and should be contacted on email education@youngepilepsy.org.uk or call 01342 831348.



A wealth of information can also be found on Young Epilepsy's website:
youngepilepsy.org.uk