Expertise in special educational needs
Young Epilepsy

St Piers College is operated by Young Epilepsy, a charity with over 100 years expertise in the fields of education, care and health. By choosing St Piers, you can rest assured you will be cared for by an award winning organisation with a reputation for providing excellent services.

Our vision and ethos

By the time you leave St Piers College, you will have:

- developed independent, practical and vocational skills
- grown in self-esteem and confidence
- become more resilient and assertive
- improved your communication skills and ability to interact with those around you
- started taking decisions and assessing choices
- learned to respect others and the new friends you make.
Reach for the stars and achieve your aspirations

Welcome to St Piers College

At St Piers College we pride ourselves on providing the education and care that will help you reach your full potential.

Our education, care, medical and therapy teams work together to ensure someone is always there to offer a helping hand. We guide you through your time at St Piers.

This support starts before you even join us. Our teams work closely with you, your family and your school or college.

“We build strong partnerships with the funders which allows us to work closely with the authority to ensure the needs of the students are met, to build their skills and knowledge needed for the future. Our good relationships with local authorities mean from the date you join us, we can begin working as a team to identify your next placement, to ensure a smooth transition.”

“ar the staff are very approachable and willing to help.” Parent
Meet and care for our fabulous range of farm animals and small pets. Our working farm and gardens give you the opportunity to learn how to care for a variety of animals and grow your own flowers, fruit and vegetables.

On our extensive campus, you can get involved in exciting outdoor activities, which include our low ropes course and other outdoor pursuits. This means you will build your physical skills and take part in new opportunities. Your curriculum is complemented by off-site visits to other activity centres.

Try something new and fun

Boating lake, film studio, kiln... we have it all

We are fortunate to have amazing facilities including:
- state-of-the-art multi-media suite for recording music and films
- a working farm and horticultural department
- sensory conservation area
- wood and metal workshops
- creative arts department with its own kiln
- a challenging low ropes course
- fantastic sports facilities and fitness gym
- a boating lake.
What support can we offer you?

Our staff have extensive experience teaching young people with a diverse range of conditions including:

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

**Autism**

You may have anxieties about coping with new places and meeting new people. We are an experienced team of staff who can help you and give you strategies so you can manage a range of situations. We will provide structure and clear communication to promote your ability to learn.

Our approach is focused on using a range of visual supports such as picture timetables, Now and Next, photographs, symbols, picture exchange communication system (PECS). We also use TEACCH* and SPELL* techniques.

We are flexible in our planning for teaching and learning. We ask you how and where you like to learn.

Lecturers and support staff teams have specific expertise and will arrange your classroom to meet your individual needs. You may for example, like to work at a work station and screen, or you may prefer just a table and computer or a table in your own private space. We will also offer you specialist equipment such as ear defenders if you are not keen on noise, or bounce seats and weighted jackets.

Do you use an iPad or iPod? We will teach you how to use it better!

At the same time, we will promote your ability to do things by yourself and to make your own choices.

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*TEACCH - Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children.
*SPELL - Structure, Positive (approaches and expectations), Empathy, Low arousal, Links.

"When I first joined St Piers I didn’t speak at all, I used to be shy now I am not."  
Student
Achieving your goals

At St Piers College we are very proud of our comprehensive learning resources. These stretch the breadth of the entire curriculum and promote the development of your skills.

We offer you a curriculum which aims to expand your interests, plus understand and promote the development of your aspirations for the future.

Your personalised education programme will help you to achieve, whatever your level of ability.

Our curriculum consists of:

**Vocational subjects**
- business administration
- creative arts
- do-it-yourself
- drama
- employability
- enterprise
- farm
- floristry
- horticulture
- information technology
- media
- practical work experience
- retail

You will be supported to develop your own individual learning plan. This will include identification of your long and medium term goals, as well as focused learning targets.

“The provision provided by St Piers is fantastic. Our son is very happy and has made good all round progress.”  
Parent
Your success and achievement is celebrated with your friends, family and staff.

Certificates are awarded and celebrated. Records of achievement are created throughout your programme and presented at an uplifting leavers’ ceremony.

Every step of your progress is recognised and congratulated.

**Personal and social development**

- independent skills
- self advocacy
- community access
- equality and diversity
- citizenship
- relationships and sex education
- personal hygiene
- money management
- home management

**Functional Skills**

- english
- maths
- communication
- ICT

**Qualifications**

A full range of accredited qualifications are offered by the awarding bodies we work with. These are: Asdan, OCR and EDExcel at Entry Level 1 to Level 1. Access to NVQs and GCSEs are arranged with local mainstream colleges.

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**Showcase your talent**

It was lovely to witness our son’s face when he received his sports and employability award.

Parent
Apply your new found skills by undertaking exciting work experience opportunities

You can choose from our extensive range of employers or bring your own ideas of places where you wish to work.

We link with local organisations such as:
- garden centres
- cafes
- pubs and restaurants
- charity shops
- kennels and animal rescue centres
- hairdressers.

We will encourage you to be involved in different enterprise projects, which could include making crafts to sell to the community, raising money for local and international charities, transferring videos to DVD or being involved in setting up new projects.

Reap the rewards

I would love to work with dogs in an animal rescue centre

I would love to work in charity shops

I love styling hair and want to have a job in a hair salon

I want to have a job in a pub or restaurant

I love to work in a garden centre
Expanding your horizons

College opportunities

You could have the opportunity to attend a local mainstream college to explore additional vocational learning opportunities and undertake a part time period of study, to complement your personal timetable.

You will be supported by St Piers staff until you feel comfortable for the support to be reduced. This experience will provide a vital stepping stone where you meet new friends for your future.

You can also have the opportunity to access adult community education centres.

Engaging in the local community

The close proximity of Lingfield village provides you with access to a range of shops, pubs and restaurants where you can experience community living.

Going further afield will enable you to utilise your personalised travel training and you will have access to top high street shops, cinema, bowling and leisure facilities.

Due to our direct transport links to London and the south coast your learning experience can be enhanced by accessing exciting exhibitions, museums, shows and tours or exploring coastal environments.

“ I think the work experience at St Piers is going to help me a lot in the future.”

Student
Enjoyable extra curriculum activities

As well as your personalised timetable, you have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of recreational activities:

- Film making
- Gym
- Swimming
- Cycling
- Floristry
You will also have the opportunity to attend a range of after college clubs such as:

- a weekly disco
- youth club
- football
- yoga
- fairness and respect
- hair and beauty
- zumba.

St Piers now offers the highly respected Duke of Edinburgh Award.

"I like that there is a wide range of activities."  
Student
What you want is important, so we listen

You can become an active member of the Student Voice Group who meet regularly to discuss key college decisions. You can also be an elected member on the Equality and Diversity Committee. The committee ensures that all staff and students respect and treat each other fairly, celebrating diversity and cultural differences.

It is your college and your opinions will be listened to. Have your say in the Big Brother Room.

Residential students are supported by the staff on their house. Our experts care for your needs and offer a listening ear when you need one.

We offer your parents/carers the opportunity to become members of the ‘St Piers Parent Group’ which allows them to share experiences and meet other people.

“I like being part of the Student Voice Committee and joining in the Fairness and Respect meetings.”

Student
Meeting your health needs

You will have access to our world-class medical centre, based on campus. In addition to providing 24-hour care, some of the world’s best epilepsy and neurology experts are based here.

Our highly trained and approachable staff will listen and discuss your health needs and build an individualised health programme with you.

The following professionals are available:

- consultant paediatric neurologists
- consultant psychiatrist
- senior registrars
- nursing care including clinical nurse epilepsy specialists
- psychologists
- physiotherapists
- occupational therapists
- speech and language therapists
- play therapists.
Planning for a smooth transition from St Piers into your next placement starts from the day you join us.

We will work with you, your family and the local authority to review the different options available. This could involve formal reviews, visits to transition events and working with independent advisors to ensure your next destination, after St Piers, is the most appropriate for you.

Your future happiness and quality of life is very important to us.

Life beyond St Piers

“St Piers gave me confidence.” Student
Reap the benefits of group living – helping each other to cook, clean and develop

There are lots of residential options for you to choose from. Our houses are bright and spacious and allow you to develop your independence with the support of friends and staff.

We offer:
- Monday to Friday boarding
- 38 week term time residential care
- 52 week residential care for those who need support all year round
- minimal occupancy houses.

Building skills and independence

Our integrated college and residential team work closely with you to help develop your independence, communication and self care skills. You are encouraged to develop appropriate sleep and hygiene patterns.

We work to build skills that are transferable into the home, community and lifelong placements. To achieve this we follow a ‘waking day’ curriculum. This means you will have an individual learning programme that is delivered throughout your waking day, not solely during college hours.

“Our son has been very happy at St Piers and the staff have really brought on his confidence and independence.” Parent
What if college is not the right option, how will my profound and multiple learning difficulties be managed?

Connect2 – living a fuller life

Connect2 is a high quality, high support social care option for young adults with complex needs.

Connect2 is our specialist provision for young adults aged 19 to 25 with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Our aim is to help you lead a rich and fulfilling life.

Rather than following a conventional curriculum, this year-round, residential service is based on one-to-one support and centred around you. We support you at a sensory level, while our on-campus healthcare and therapy services enable us to focus on your health, wellbeing and development.

Our Connect2 programme encourages:

- daily living skills
- personal care
- independence
- making choices
- keeping safe.

Shaun has made fantastic progress since he has been on Connect2. He can now jump unassisted on a trampoline swing. It’s so rewarding to see his delight in his own achievements.

Connect2 Activity Co-ordinator
The focus of Connect2 is on developing enhanced awareness; we understand that young people with complex health needs may require more time to reach their potential.

Our knowledge of epilepsy and other complex health conditions enables us to build a flexible programme around each individual.

This approach is supported by our specialised, on-campus medical care and therapy services. A rich and well-planned activities programme gives you many opportunities to take part in the wider community and make the most of on-site facilities, such as our sensory room, farm and youth club.
Admissions and further information

To visit our college, find out more about our facilities, the Connect2 programme, or to speak to a member of our team about a place, please contact the Education Liaison Service on 01342 831348 or email: education@youngepilepsy.org.uk.

college.stpiers.org.uk
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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 Foundation Trust and University College London’s Institute of Child Health.

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