



St Piers School and College Local Offer: West Sussex

How does St Piers School and St Piers College know if children and young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my child/young person may have special educational needs?

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. This can include complex conditions that affect behaviour.

The school and college are part of the national charity Young Epilepsy. This is an organisation with over 100 years' experience in the field of education and health.

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
- Behaviour Difficulties
- Down's Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties
- Severe Learning Difficulties.

How will St Piers School and St Piers College support my child/young person?

Support is provided to students by our multi-disciplinary team. The team delivers a holistic service that meets the young person's education, care and health needs. 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.

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.



St Piers School and St Piers College have a combined Education Governing Body. It features parents/carers, educational staff, residential care staff plus representatives from the business world to ensure that future employability of students is always given due consideration.

St Piers School and St Piers College constantly monitor students' progress to ensure they are progressing and also to make sure the provision offered meets their needs.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's/young person's needs?

Our service and the curriculum we offer is tailored to each individual student. The conditions our students live with affect them each uniquely and so the curriculum is adjusted to each person to reflect this. We ensure that the level of support the student requires is always available, but our aim is to work with the young person to ensure they reach their maximum potential and lead as independent a life as possible.

How will both you and I know how my child/young person is doing and how will you help me to support my child/young person's learning?

The progress of all students is monitored closely, both against personal targets and national data collected from other specialist schools. We have a formal system of reviews in place to ensure the young person is progressing and developing in line with their individual learning plan. We would always immediately revise the plan if the student's needs change. Our flexible approach to the student's requirements means that they will continue to develop in our education setting.

Parents/carers are always consulted and made aware of how they can help their child. Education doesn't stop at the end of the school or college day and so we welcome engagement, input and support from parents/carers.

All students have a 'day book' that outlines what progress has been made during the day and what home learning is required. Wherever appropriate, parents/carers would be encouraged to oversee and get involved with home learning.

What support will there be for my child/young person's overall well being?

Considerable support is available for the young person. Our education specialists will do all they can to help the young person reach their full potential. In addition to this our therapy, health and medical specialists will meet any medical or health needs the young person has while our care staff will provide pastoral care. This includes providing a listening ear and emotional support.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by St Piers School and College?

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
- Play specialists
- World-renowned neurologists
- Medical registrars
- Psychologists
- Nursing team.

What training are the staff supporting children and young people 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.

How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

As special educational needs establishments, St Piers School and St Piers College have considerable expertise in helping arranging activities for students out of the classroom. A range of activities are available depending on the young person's personal interests and abilities. These include swimming, horse riding, visiting National Trust properties, outings to the theatre, museums and visiting activity centres.

How accessible is St Piers School's and St Piers College's environment?

Young Epilepsy offers day and residential care to individuals with a variety of complex needs and disabilities. Areas used by students of St Piers School and St Piers College 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.



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 lavatories and 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.

We have procedures in place for communicating with parents and carers whose first language is not English. If a member of staff fluent in the required language is not available, we can access a translator service.

How will St Piers School and St Piers College prepare and support my child/young person to join the school or college, transfer to a new setting or the next stage of education and life?

Prior to joining St Piers School or St Piers College, the young person will have visited and spent a day or two with other students of a similar ability (this may involve an overnight stay). This gives the young person a taste of what to expect prior to joining the student community. There will also have been meetings and introductions with key staff including education specialists, care staff and medical experts.

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.

From the moment a young person joins us we are working towards their transition to the next placement. We work closely with parents, local authorities and support organisations to identify the most suitable placement. We work closely with that placement to ensure they understand the needs of the young person to ensure a smooth transition.

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.

How are St Piers School's and St Piers College's resources allocated and matched to children's/young people's special educational needs?

There is a thorough system of assessments to ensure resources are allocated and matched to meet the young person's needs (see below for details of the assessment). What makes Young Epilepsy unique is the multi-disciplinary approach that we use.

An individual's needs are assessed by education, medical and residential care specialists and by a range of therapists. The various teams work together to provide a level of care tailored to the student to ensure they reach their full potential and have all the relevant resources in place.



How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child/young person will receive?

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 various 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.

How are parents involved in St Piers School and St Piers College? How can I be involved?

In the majority of cases, parents/carers are directly involved in deciding what care will be provided for the student. The medical and behavioural conditions our students have are unique to each individual and so we value input from parent/carers as they can often explain what care their child requires. We believe that it is essential to have good relationships in place with them.

For day students, a 'day book' relays to parents/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.

St Piers School and St Piers College have a formal system of annual reviews. These reviews assess progress and parents/carers are fully involved in this process. We also hold parents' evenings where educational progress can be assessed and any queries dealt with.

Parents are represented on the Governing Body. We would always encourage their involvement and appreciate the fact they are engaged with St Piers School and St Piers College.



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

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.