

RNIB

supporting blind and
partially sighted people

RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home

Supporting children and young people with
complex needs and sight loss



About us

Established in 1957, RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home offers specialist education, 52-week residential care, therapies and healthcare for young people up to the age of 19. Our on-site school also offers education and therapies to a small number of pupils who attend on a daily basis.

We support young people who are blind or partially sighted and have learning difficulties and disabilities (*P Levels 1 to 8). We also support:

- Social, emotional or behavioural difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Physical disabilities
- Communication difficulties
- Additional sensory impairment
- Additional health care needs.

We can admit young people from any area of the UK or, in exceptional circumstances, from overseas. Day pupils usually come from within easy daily travelling distance of Coventry, where we are located. An offer will be made subject to an initial assessment indicating that we can effectively support an individual young person.

Our current facilities accommodate 19 young people with six additional day places.

Redevelopment

RNIB has embarked upon one of its most ambitious projects to date. We are replacing the existing site with state-of-the-art facilities. The main phase of redevelopment is due for completion in 2011 and will be purpose-built, fully accessible for young people with complex needs and sight loss.



Architect's impression of the new facility

Our exciting new facility will provide a home for up to 60 young people. The school will provide education to all living on site, as well as an additional 10 day students. Young people will also benefit from an on-site water therapy suite.

Our aim is to create a provision that others will emulate and to enable more young people across the UK to reach their full potential for learning, independence and fulfillment in everyday life.

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Learning at Rushton

We believe that learning should be enjoyable and that the development of the students is best served where they are actively engaged in and motivated by their work. Teaching takes place in a variety of ways, with students taking part in one-to-one work, small group sessions and whole class activities.

Class groups are kept to a small number of six or seven pupils and are arranged by Key Stage. Staff within each class includes one teacher, a senior teaching assistant and a minimum of two additional teaching assistants.



Curriculum

Our curriculum is theme/topic based and we ensure that it is broad, balanced and relevant. Students receive their entitlement under the National Curriculum. Our programmes of study are adapted to ensure suitability to individual needs and learning styles. Our curriculum delivery is supported with input from other specialists, such as speech and language therapists and physiotherapists.

Key Stages 1 to 4

All pupils between the ages of five and 16 follow the National Curriculum Key Stages one to four. There are a number of ways in which we monitor and record pupils' progress. One of these includes PIVATs which helps us to assess achievement within the P-Level Scales so that we are able to monitor all areas of teaching and learning. This system enables targets to be set effectively for individual pupils.

Sixth Form

The EQUALS “Moving On” curriculum is followed by students in Sixth Form. This focuses on life skills, vocational studies and work experience, and knowledge and understanding of communities and cultures. The teaching of key skills is embedded within these subjects. This encourages a sense of progression and allows a focus on age appropriate activity and learning.

This curriculum is externally moderated and leads to Certificates of Achievement provided by EQUALS. We are also recognised by EQUALS as one of the national moderating centres for this curriculum.

Individual Education Plans

All the students have individual goals related to their cognitive, sensory, communication, physical, personal and social development. Teachers develop these goals, in conjunction with members of the multi-disciplinary staff team and the targets form the basis of the students’ Individual Education Plans. These are discussed and shared with the students themselves, their parents or carers and, in the case of residents, with care staff. Individual Education Plans are monitored, adapted and updated on an ongoing basis.



“A safe, happy and joyous place. Pupils are cared for and nurtured outstandingly well.” – Ofsted, 2009

Facilities

Separate class areas are provided for young people over the age of 16. Our current facilities offer a library, a light and sound room, a specialist music area and a movement room to support both group and individual work. There are good facilities for the personal care of young people and overhead tracking for hoists is provided in all areas. Corridors are wide and all areas are accessible to wheelchair users. We aim to provide an uncluttered environment in which partially sighted young people can use their remaining vision and their senses of touch, hearing and smell to develop their orientation and mobility skills.

Available in 2011, our new school will provide purpose-built music rooms with appropriate acoustics and calming multi-sensory environments which will encourage progression and promote understanding and learning.

Learning resources

RNIB Rushton is very well equipped with resources which enable our students to access learning through a variety of alternative sensory means. Switches enable them to operate a range of different equipment, and communication aids support alternative means of communication. We have excellent IT provision and students may access the internet to enhance and extend their learning.



Living at Rushton

We support young people in developing their personal and social independence to their own potential. Our Children's Home currently has four units, each providing a home for up to five young people with sight loss and additional complex needs. We provide a comfortable and homely environment, which is both stimulating and supportive.



Residential facilities

Each unit has a shared lounge, kitchen and dining area and access to outdoor play areas. There is a small playground area equipped with specially adapted swings for wheelchair users and mobile young people.

Bathrooms and personal care areas are well equipped and overhead tracking for hoists is provided in all areas used by the young people. All the residential areas are accessible for individuals who are wheelchair users or who have restricted mobility.



Each young person has their own bedroom which is made safe and personal to them, giving them their own private space. Families and carers are encouraged to help make Rushton more familiar to the young person, by providing items that remind them of their family and home, or that have a special meaning.

From 2011, we will offer new bungalows each with six bedrooms, three bathrooms and lounge, quiet lounge, dining room, kitchen and gardens. Young people will also have the opportunity to enjoy a new outdoor play park.

Staffing

The staffing structure of each unit has been established to ensure that the complex needs of the young people are met. All residential units have a designated team of staff which includes a Unit Leader, Deputy Unit Leader and a dedicated team of Social Care workers (including waking night staff) who provide 24 hour care.

Care plans

All young people living at Rushton have individual care plans which are written in the first person, making them as individual as they are. Individual care plans are compiled by our care team based on the knowledge of the particular young person to recognise their uniqueness and personality, often demonstrating the young person's sense of humour. Some plans, such as Behaviour Management Plans, span across Rushton providing continuity of care across all of our services. Care plans are regularly reviewed to recognise development and achievement as the young person grows and progresses.



Social and leisure opportunities

We provide many opportunities for young people to take part in leisure and relaxation activities. By offering access to a range of activities the young people have the opportunity to develop a sense of identity and enhance their self-esteem.

The young people are involved in planning and choosing their own leisure activities according to their needs and preferences. Activities include attending football matches, cinema and theatre, pop concerts, swimming, bowling, shopping and using local restaurants.

Every year, our young people have the opportunity to go on holiday with peers, accompanied by staff who are familiar with their routines, wishes and needs.

“The expertise and care Tom has received at the school and home is exemplary. The support he has received has helped him to develop at so many levels – in ways I would never have thought possible.”
Sue – Tom’s mum

“Olivia has done amazing things in the four years she’s been here. She has fun, she’s happy and it’s made a difference to the whole family’s life.”
Natalie – Olivia’s mum



Healthcare and therapies

All young people at Rushton have access to the highest level of healthcare. Young people who live with us are registered with a local General Practitioner (GP) and may have access to a visiting Paediatrician. The GP makes a weekly visit to the Children's Home and local community health services and hospital appointments are made as and when required.

Based on-site are two behaviour specialists trained in the care of people with learning disabilities. They are professionally supported by our local Primary Care Trust in North Warwickshire and by a network of fellow professionals through Coventry University and other external bodies.

Care and Education staff are trained according to best practice protocols to meet individual young people's healthcare needs. This training is carried out by our nurses, therapists and by staff from the Primary Care Trust.

Healthcare plans

Each young person living at Rushton has a healthcare plan which forms part of their overall care plan. These plans detail how, and by whom, appropriate services are to be delivered. They are subject to regular review and update.



Therapies

Our range of therapies enables the young people to access the curriculum and leisure activities more effectively, and to maintain and extend their skills and capabilities. The following therapies are an integral part of the provision at Rushton:

- physiotherapy
- speech and language therapy
- music therapy
- occupational therapy.



Therapists and Therapy Assistants work closely with education and care staff to ensure that therapy targets are fully integrated into both individual education and care plans. We also commission a clinical psychologist to oversee and support our behavioural nurse specialist's work with young people.

In 2011, young people will have access to an on-site water therapy suite with hydrotherapy pool and scope for a swimming pool.

“If Rushton didn't exist who knows what life would be like for Anna and us, but I am very confident that it would not have been anywhere near as joyful as it is now.” John – Anna's father

“Fabian would be lost if it wasn't for this place. The way they've dealt with him, through patience and kindness, has really helped.” Jacqui – Fabian's mum

How to apply

To discuss places or arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Liz Gutteridge
RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home
Wheelwright Lane
Ash Green
Coventry
CV7 9RA

Call **024 7636 9531**

Email rushtoncontact@rnib.org.uk

Visit rnib.org.uk/rushton

This brochure is available in large print, audio and braille. We can talk to you in your language about what we offer. Contact us and we will call you back with an interpreter.

আমাদের এখানে কি কি করা হয় সেই ব্যাপারে আমরা আপনার সাথে আপনার ভাষায় কথা বলতে পারি।
আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং আমরা আপনাকে একজন ইন্টারপ্রিটার সহ টেলিফোন করবো।

我們可以用你的語言來與你商談有關我們所提供的服務。請聯絡我們，然後我們就會請一位翻譯員回電話給你。

अमे अमाही सेवाओ जाअते, आपनी भाषामां वातचीत करी शडीअे छीअे.
अमारो संपर्क साओ, अमे आपने ह्योन करीअुं थ्यारे छंटरप्रिटर (दुभाषिया) हाजर हथे.

ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਹੜੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਗੱਲ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰਜਮਾਕਾਰ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਵਾਪਸ ਫੋਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ।

ہم جو خدمات پیش کرتے ہیں ان کے متعلق آپ کی زبان میں بات چیت کر سکتے ہیں۔
ہمارے ساتھ رابطہ قائم کیجئے اور مترجم کے ساتھ ہم آپ کو واپس فون کریں گے۔

RNIB Helpline: 0303 123 9999 or email helpline@rnib.org.uk

Your direct line to support, advice and products