Special educational needs schools & colleges in the UK

A REAL AND LASTING DIFFERENCE FOR EVERYONE WE SUPPORT
Within Priory Group, we are very proud of the reputation our schools and colleges have for providing innovative and inspiring learning environments.

Each of our educational establishments is as unique as the young people that attend it. But they all have one important thing in common – they focus on ensuring the best possible academic and social outcomes for each and every pupil. Some recent results include:

- **100%** of year 11 students entered for GCSEs achieved one or more grades A* to G
- **100%** of pupils in year 9 and above are actively involved in transition planning at a level that reflects their ability
- **98%** of our young people are engaged in age-appropriate independence programmes
- **97%** of young people with autism feel that staff help them to learn, and support them in their work
- **93%** of our residential young people took part in clubs or social groups in the community

I have every confidence that if your child attends one of the Priory schools or colleges, they will receive a specialist education unparalleled anywhere else in the UK.

**Simon Coles**  
Chief Executive Officer, Priory Education and Children’s Services
Priory schools and colleges provide specialised, flexible and innovative services in a safe, positive and nurturing environment.

From specialist day and residential schools for international and UK students, to further education colleges and semi-independent living, we offer young people aged between 5 and 25, education and care services which provide positive educational and social results. Being part of Priory Group, our schools and colleges also have access to additional healthcare and supported living services where needed.

The range of facilities available ensures that every young person receives a smooth and planned transition from primary education all the way through to further education, university, employment and independent living, as appropriate for each individual.

Established in 1980, Priory Group treats over 70 different conditions through a nationwide network of over 275 facilities that support patients health, care, education and specialised needs and includes:

• Rehabilitation and recovery facilities
• Mental healthcare (depression, stress, anxiety) hospitals and clinics
• Medium and low secure facilities
• Specialist schools and colleges
• Supported residential facilities and homes
• Care homes for older people

It has been just a year since my son joined the college and I see remarkable progress in his development - which is exhibited in his actions. The positive progress in my son would not have been possible without the help and support of your esteemed college and the wonderful team. No words are enough to express my gratitude - THANK YOU!

The education system of your college including the boarding school concept is new to us and I am truly impressed by its returns - I truly see a big difference in my son.

Mother of a student
The conditions we support

Many schools and colleges focus purely on academic success and do not have the specialist teaching staff or facilities in place to fully support a pupil with special learning and social needs.

At Priory Group, we combine calm and nurturing environments with innovative care, education and therapy programmes that effectively meet a young learner’s requirements.

As an example, our sites that cater for young people with high functioning autistic spectrum disorders (including Asperger Syndrome and associated conditions) have sensory rooms, providing support for those pupils needing sensory integration support and occupational therapy.
We support young people with:

**Autism**

Autism affects a young person's ability to communicate with others, and relate to their immediate and wider environment. It can be accompanied by additional learning difficulties. People with autism can be hyper-sensitive or hypo-sensitive to sensory stimulation such as sounds, smells and colours. They like predictability and a daily routine. Key challenges for someone with autism are:

- Communication
- Social interaction
- Understanding feelings and consequences

**Asperger Syndrome**

Where young people struggle to understand the social nuances of the world in which they live. Although people with Asperger Syndrome are on the autistic spectrum, they are usually at the milder end.

**Dyslexia**

Is commonly found in children who have difficulties with regard to reading and spelling.

Signs include:

- Markedly different good and bad days which have no obvious reason
- Confusion with directions, for example, left and right, up and down, in and out
- Difficulties with sequences, for example, days of the week, months of the year or numbers
- A family history of dyslexia or reading difficulties

**Alcohol addiction**

Where the young person relies on alcohol on a regular basis.

**Attachment disorder**

Where young people have difficulty trusting others. It affects their mood, behaviour and social relationships.

**Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)**

Behaviour displayed by young people who are extremely restless and energetic. They often have a very short attention span and find it difficult to concentrate on specific tasks.

**Conduct disorder**

A childhood problem that becomes worse in adolescence, for example, the young person can become aggressive and violate rules.

**Drug addiction**

A dependence on an illegal drug or a medication.

**Dyscalculia**

A learning disability relating to a problem with numbers and mathematics.

**Dysgraphia**

Where there are changes in the brain affecting the ability to remember sequences and the muscle movements associated with writing.

**Dyspraxia**

Where young people have difficulties carrying out daily activities requiring co-ordination of movements, which are out of proportion to the child's age and intelligence.

**Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties**

When a young person struggles to manage their emotions, and is often anxious, scared and misunderstood.

**Oppositional defiant disorder (ODD)**

This includes intolerance, irritability, temper outbursts and frustration. The young person's self-esteem is usually low; however they may appear to act in the opposite fashion, displaying an exterior ‘toughness’.

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Mother of a student
Our specialist schools and colleges support pupils from the age of 5 to 25 with a range of special educational needs, challenging behaviour and complex psychological difficulties.

Located in beautiful British locations, we offer a safe, healthy and stimulating place for any child to learn and move positively onto the next stage of their life, whether this is in the UK or overseas.

We offer flexible entry dates and length of placements to suit the needs of the young person and their family.

"I am pushed to do things for myself as it is very important. It is good to come here as you learn more and make good progress with your work, you get to a more advanced level."

Sixth form student

"You get lots of help in lessons from the staff – my favourite subjects are PE, geography and history. I love learning about maps and different places."

Year 9 pupil
Our school and colleges offer:

**Individual support**
Every young person has an individually tailored programme for education, social and personal development. They also have a one-to-one key worker to support them, and act as a point of liaison for parents.

**Small classes**
A ratio of one teacher plus other trained staff to 6-8 young people ensures each pupil receives the right level of support for them. This is supplemented with quality one-to-one tuition.

**Expert teaching and pastoral staff**
Teaching is provided by specialist subject staff who have trained specifically to teach students with a range of learning disabilities, including autism, dyslexia and language disorders. Together with fully-trained pastoral staff, they ensure each young person has a stimulating, safe and accepting environment in which to learn and grow.

**Personalised therapy**
Our wide range of therapies help develop each young person’s communication and social interaction skills, and include:

- **Speech and language therapy**
- **Art, music and drama**
- **Occupational therapy**

We help young people with sensory difficulties to manage their stress and anxiety by offering specific dietary management and providing calming and nurturing surroundings within low-arousal environments and sensory rooms.

**English for non-native speakers**
We offer additional, tailored classes for any young people who do not speak English as their first language.
Priory schools and colleges provide a complete education which meets both the needs of each young person and the requirements of the UK National Curriculum. We focus on ensuring the best possible academic outcomes that each and every pupil is capable of achieving.

We offer an extensive range of subjects for GCSE and A Levels and challenge those pupils who are able to aim for the highest possible level of academic achievement.

Pupils can also achieve a wide variety of formal and informal national accreditations and qualifications during their time at our schools and colleges.
Learning to manage dyslexia – Muhammad’s story

Muhammad* has dyslexia and came to live and learn at Priory Education and Children’s Services’ Mark College in 2014 at the age of 15. As a student from Saudi Arabia, Muhammad’s parents wanted him to study in a Specialist Educational Needs (SEN) school in England where dyslexia was understood and his needs were met.

Muhammad’s family discovered Priory Education and Children’s Services through a local international agent who recommended Mark College in Somerset with it being one of the UK’s premier international colleges for specific learning difficulties associated with dyslexia and language disorders.

The referral process

The referral process included Skype calls between the school, Muhammad and his family, as well as a face-to-face meeting at Mark College where they received a site tour and met with the Principal and other members of staff.

Muhammad was also invited to attend the school for a trial period of three days which further re-assured his parents that he was at the right school and enabled the staff to develop a detailed plan outlining the level of support and therapies Muhammad required.

Due to Priory Education and Children’s Services having a trusted relationship with the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) and a well-established senior immigration lawyer, Muhammad was able to move from his native country to Mark College without any issues.

Achieving positive outcomes

Whilst in Saudi Arabia, Muhammad always wanted to succeed at school but struggled with exams due to his dyslexia and not receiving the correct support. To overcome this, Mark College provided the right teaching techniques and environments which helped to develop Muhammad’s confidence, as well as specialist support including a dedicated reader and extended time to complete national curriculum exams.

Muhammad also excelled in a variety of sports provided by Mark College and was even nominated for the prestigious national ‘young achievers award’ by the Dallaglio Foundation. Both Muhammad and staff regularly kept his parents updated on his achievements and progress via Skype, emails and regular phone calls.

Since leaving Mark College last year, Muhammad has gone on to study Level 2 engineering at Oxford Tutorial College where he continues his educational and social development. Without the support of Mark College, this would not have been possible.

*Name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

Here is one students’ experience of education at one of our schools:

100% of year 11 students entered for GCSEs achieved one or more grades A* to G (28% better than the national average)
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mark College especially to Ms. Polly and her fabulous team in assisting me in completing all formalities for my son, Mohammed’s admission. As a mother, especially coming from the Middle East, I am truly moved by the tremendous support provided to me.

Mother of a student
Locations of our British schools and colleges

Arden College
40 Derby Road, Southport PR9 0TZ
Specialises in:
• Autism including Asperger Syndrome
• Learning disabilities
For boys and girls aged 16 to 25 years

Southern Peninsula Services
Yelverton, Devon PL20 7EX
Specialises in:
• Autism
• Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties
For boys and girls aged 7 to 19 years

Clay Hill School
Clay Hill, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7DE
Specialises in:
• Autism
• Learning disabilities
For boys and girls aged 5 to 19 years

Coxlease School
Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7DE
Specialises in:
• Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties
• Learning disabilities
For boys and girls aged 9 to 18 years
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Specialises in:</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
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| Farleigh Further Education College          | North Parade, Frome, Somerset BA1 2AB                                  | • Autism including Asperger Syndrome  
• Behavioural difficulties                                                | For boys and girls aged 16 to 25 years |
| Mark College                                | Mark, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4NP                                     | Specialises in specific learning disabilities including dyslexia and dyspraxia                                            | For boys and girls aged 10 to 19 years |
| Newbury Manor School                        | Newbury, Mells, Frome, Somerset BA11 3RG                               | Specialises in autism including Asperger Syndrome                                                                         | For boys and girls aged 7 to 19 years |
| North Hill House School                     | Fromefield, Frome, Somerset BA11 2HB                                   | Specialises in Asperger Syndrome and associated disorders                                                               | For boys and girls aged 6 to 19 years |
| Oliver House School                         | Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1XA                                            | Specialises in:  
• Autism  
• Challenging behaviour                                                   | For boys and girls aged 6 to 19 years |
| Priory College Swindon                      | Fairview House, 43 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AS                | Specialises in Asperger Syndrome and associated disorders                                                               | For boys and girls aged 16 to 25 years |
| Priory Lodge School                         | Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JJ                              | Specialises in:  
• Autism including Asperger Syndrome  
• Learning disabilities                                                | For boys and girls aged 5 to 19 years |
| Queenswood School                           | Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2PZ                                         | Specialises in social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties                                                   | For boys and girls aged 11 to 19 years |
| Rossendal School                            | Bury, Lancashire BL0 ORT                                               | Specialises in:  
• Autism  
• Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties                | For boys and girls aged 8 to 18 years |
| Rugeley School                              | Blithbury Road, Blithbury, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 5JQ            | Specialises in autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)                                                                         | For boys and girls aged 5 to 19 years |
| Sheridan School                             | Thetford Road, Northwold, Thetford, Norfolk IP26 5LQ                   | Specialises in:  
• Autism including Asperger Syndrome  
• Learning disabilities                                                | For boys and girls aged 8 to 19 years |
| Strathmore College                          | Unit 7, The Imex Technology Park, Bellringer Road, Trentham Lakes South, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8LJ | Specialises in:  
• Autism including Asperger Syndrome  
• Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties                | For boys and girls aged 8 to 19 years |
| Tadley Court School                         | Tadley Common Road, Tadley, Hampshire RG26 3TB                        | Specialises in:  
• Autism  
• Learning disabilities                                                | For boys and girls aged 5 to 19 years |
| Talocher School                             | Monmouth, Gwent NP25 4DN                                               | Specialises in social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties                                                   | For boys and girls aged 9 to 19 years |
| Troup House School                          | Banff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB45 3JN                               | Specialises in:  
• Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)  
• Challenging behaviour  
• Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties                | For boys and girls aged 8 to 16 years |
| Unsted Park School and Sixth Form           | Munstead Heath, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1UW                             | Specialises in autism and Asperger Syndrome                                                                            | For boys and girls aged 7 to 19 years |
Accommodation at our schools and colleges

We design the residential accommodation at each of our schools and colleges to provide a happy, homely and caring atmosphere for every young person.

Specialist staff live in the accommodation with the young people. They understand that, for most pupils, this is their first experience of life away from home, and work hard to ensure a friendly, family atmosphere. They provide 24/7 support with staff awake and available during the night.

During evenings and at the weekends, our learners can relax, socialise and enjoy our residential indoor facilities, including several recreational rooms with TVs, pool tables and sofa areas. This helps to prepare young people to cope with the demands of independent living, future further education or vocational opportunities.

Our schools and colleges also have wireless internet connectivity and access to the internet, and online safety is assured through our internet filters.

"It's brilliant here, I really love it and when I came here I had no future, no hope. Now I do.

Year 8 pupil"
We have film nights, skiing trips, horse riding, beach trips, rugby club, take-away nights and lots of other sports.

Year 9 pupil

Our schools and colleges have a strong reputation for offering pupils a rich and varied life outside the classroom. Our young people have access to modern leisure facilities indoors and outdoors to play field sports, athletics and tennis.

They also have the chance to try a wide range of activities including:

- Aerobics
- Art
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cartoon club
- Chess
- Cinema trips
- Climbing
- Computer programming
- Cookery
- Dance band
- Fitness
- Football
- Golf
- Horse riding
- Jewellery making and craft clubs
- Karate
- Orchestra
- Photography
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Yoga

Trips abroad further broaden the perspective and experiences of our students. Recently twelve students from one of our colleges gave up two weeks of their summer break to help redecorate an orphanage in Elin Pelin, a small town near Sofia, Bulgaria.

“We have film nights, skiing trips, horse riding, beach trips, rugby club, take-away nights and lots of other sports.”

Year 9 pupil
Get in touch

For more information about how our specialist schools and colleges could help young people you know:

Call us today on
+44 (0)208 108 5170

Alternatively, email us at
Internationaleducation@priorygroup.com

Follow us on Instagram
Priory_international_education