



Sheridan School

Prospectus
2019/20

WELCOME TO SHERIDAN SCHOOL

Sheridan School is a specialist therapeutic school for boys and girls aged 8 to 16 who suffer from a range of issues including behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (SEBD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health disorders (SEMH). In addition to this, the school also addresses complex needs such as attachment disorders, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and a range of conditions within the Autistic Spectrum.

Sheridan School provides a highly effective provision providing 1:1 or small group education, individualised therapy, and a carefully structured social development programme. The integrated approach is especially beneficial for pupils who may struggle for a range of reasons to adapt to and engage with a Local Authority mainstream or special school education.

A stable, calm and caring environment combined with high staff to pupil ratios ensures that every pupil at Sheridan School has the opportunity to develop their ability, share new experiences and reach their full potential in a secure and safe environment.

Sheridan School all young people will be provided with personalised counselling via a team of dedicated and highly experienced therapists. They will employ a range of strategies to provide a full psychological profile upon which an individual behavioural programme will be established. Praise and recognition by all staff in liaison with the therapeutic team, and evidenced small steps of achievement will gradually promote feelings of self-worth, confidence and achievement.

The school has on site provision for Clinical Psychology, Child Psychotherapy, Music, Occupational and Speech / Language therapies, who work with our young people to help them to develop their emotional intelligences. This enables the staff team around them to understand behaviours and implement empathetic, progressive and developmental responses within a structure of firm boundaries with reward and consequence at its core.

All pupils follow a comprehensive PSHE and SMSC curriculum which promotes personal health and hygiene as well as a focus on building and sustaining positive and mutually respectful relationships. As the children progress through the school additional work focuses on developing independence in life, living skills and travel.

Our Ethos

At Sheridan School we believe in providing quality and diverse learning experiences for the young people in our care within the perimeters of a safe, fun, caring and engaging learning environment. We encourage students to respect themselves and everyone around them so that they can develop and move forward as independently as possible, whilst celebrating their social and academic achievements along the way. Students are encouraged to learn and grow from their mistakes and work restoratively with others and the community, so that they are able to function as responsible members of the community.

Each student will be engaged in a personalised learning programme that is appropriate to their age and ability. Baseline assessments are used to formulate learning goals and a curriculum targeted to the needs of the individual. Literacy and Numeracy are at the core of the curriculum, alongside a highly engaging thematic curriculum that places learning in context and bridges subjects. For older learners there are opportunities to follow a range of formal qualifications and vocational experiences.

Learner's progress and achievement are tracked on a half termly basis, resulting in either learning interventions to improve progress, or setting new goals to further raise achievement.

Sheridan School aims to deliver the highest level of education tailored to individual need in a safe, positive and structured environment where every student is encouraged to achieve the best possible academic, social and vocational outcomes.

Michelle Smith

Interim Executive Head

Young people are taught in small classes usually comprising between 4 – 7 students.

Each group has a consistent class teacher and at least one Learning Support Assistant.

All members of staff are committed to ensuring that the young people make progress in their learning.

They are also committed to the spiritual, moral, social



Admissions

The school, which is co-educational, provides places for up to 65 students aged 8 to 16 years.

The school is non-denominational and has a secular ethos but respects the cultural needs and religious beliefs of all.

Students attending the school will have come from a variety of different backgrounds and will be referred to the school via local authorities.

The majority of students at Sheridan School will have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, covering a range of complex disorders, emotional / behavioural difficulties and learning difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), etc.

Admission Criteria

Admissions to Sheridan School are considered on an individual basis and centred upon a detailed assessment of a student's individual needs and our ability to meet those needs.

- Young people will be aged between 8 and 16 years
- The school is specifically focused on the education of students who are at risk of permanent exclusion, who demonstrate high risk behaviours and other factors that can impact upon their educational, emotional and social development.
- We only admit young people whose places are fully funded by a UK authority

Admissions Process

- Admission into the school is either through a referral for a care placement with the Priory Group or direct from a local authority. The school can form part of a holistic package of care, education and therapy.

The behaviour of students is continually assessed in class and managed through behaviour management systems underpinned by the education and care plans of each individual. All staff are trained in Team Teach 'positive handling' physical intervention techniques.

We believe a meaningful educational experience is one of the best ways to ensure that young people move confidently into adulthood and we expect every student to actively engage in school.

Equal Opportunities and the Values of the School

The school is committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all young people, staff and others who come into contact with the school regardless of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability. Everyone visiting, working or learning in the school should feel welcome, secure and confident at all times. They should feel valued and able to participate fully in the life of the school.

The Curriculum

The school's curriculum is broad, balanced and includes, where appropriate, all of the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. There is a particular emphasis on core subjects and on personal skills so as to address significant gaps in previous learning.

Key Stage 2

We have a primary approach to our KS2 learning. There are specialist teachers who will work with the students focusing on different subject areas. The emphasis is on engagement and creativity. Assessment and tracking will relate back to the National Curriculum progression guidance. Where appropriate, children in KS2 can also access Pearson Edexcel Entry Level qualifications, giving them opportunities to achieve accredited recognition of their academic progress.

Key Stage 3

Learning takes account of the particular barriers and vulnerabilities of each learner. The balance between cross-curricular and subject-specific themes will depend on the engagement and interest of the learner, but assessment and tracking will in all cases relate back to National Curriculum progression. Where appropriate, early entry into accredited programmes such as Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills will be arranged in order to re-engage and motivate. The school has links with local Further Education provisions and can offer 1 and 2 day College placements from year 9 onwards.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students have the opportunity to follow a more flexible curriculum. Academic qualifications are offered via Entry Level, Functional Skills and GCSE examinations in a range of subjects. Vocational qualifications are also made available.

Careers Education and Guidance

All pupils receive Careers Guidance beginning with transitional reviews in Year 9. Careers Education is provided by aspects of the PSHE programmes, cross-curricular learning opportunities and Matrix approved external careers advisors.

Curriculum

A structured timetable is followed and subjects covered include:

- Art and Design
- Food Technology
- Humanities
- Information Technology (IT)
- Life Skills
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Physical Education
- Science



Sheridan School offers opportunities for students to gain qualifications, achieve new skills and develop new, confident attitudes to living and learning. We may also access local mainstream colleges through partnership links, to provide access to vocational and academic courses off site.

Nurture Group

Sheridan school has opened a nurture room for Primary and Secondary students. Up to 6 students will attend either a morning or afternoon session where they will work as a group together, to develop the skills needed to take on new learning. The concept of nurture highlights the importance of social environments. It offers the opportunity to learn the early nurturing experiences some children and young people lack, giving them the skills to do well at school, make friends and deal more confidently and calmly with life.

There are Six Principles of Nurture:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language is a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The Importance of Transition in Children's Lives

Ref: Lucas S., Insley K., and Buckland G. (2006) Nurture Group Principles and Curriculum Guidelines Helping Children to Achieve, The Nurture Group Network.

All students are being assessed using the The Boxall Profile which provides a framework for the precise assessment of children who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) and are struggling at school. It helps teachers to plan focused interventions for those

children whose behaviour is often challenging and reduces their engagement with learning. The profile provides the school with insights and suggests points of entry into the child's world — it makes people think about what lies behind the behaviour.

Soft play

Sheridan has also created a sensory/soft play room for all students to use. Sheridan school encourages play between all children and young people. This soft play room has a huge ball pool for students to develop their gross motor skills. Every surface is padded for the children and young people to be safe in their play. This specifically designed area offers the ideal environment for the children and young people to practice and improve their communication skills, play and interact in a safe environment with other children and young people and simply have fun.

Reporting Student's Achievements and Progress

Our focus is to support all learners to make gains in their learning. The school records each student's progress and achievements and will send regular progress reports to parents/carers. The school acknowledges achievements at all levels, whether in lessons or in particular activities or actions of the student and we will celebrate these events with parents/carers.

Each student in the school will have a student file which provides parents/carers with information about their child's progress. If they are at all concerned about anything to do with their child in relation to his/her progress then they are encouraged to contact the school. We seek to track and celebrate progress both in terms of academic subjects and in terms of personal development.

The school will provide parents/carers with an annual written report of the progress and attainment of their child in the main subject areas taught, except where a parent has agreed otherwise.

The School recognises the need for an education offering creative programmes for young people who require extra care and support in their pastoral and academic situations.

During the 2018-19 academic year, over 80% of students across the Key Stages have undertaken at least one accredited examination, and of those students, 96% have been successful in at least one unit.

Special Educational Needs

The School is responsible for ensuring that students with EHC Plans receive their curriculum entitlement. Students requiring additional support with Literacy and Numeracy will have targeted learning plans including access to an intervention programme designed to increase their functioning levels.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Individual Behaviour Plans (IBPs) define clear targets and goals at each stage of the programme to address individual needs as outlined in the Statement of Special Educational Need. Individual plans are reviewed every six weeks to ensure that progress is realised according to the individual's targets, with support being provided at every stage. The Statement of Special Educational Need/EHCP is reviewed annually with the local placing education authority.

Drug Education Statement

Drug Education is part of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum. Within PSHE and Science, the following elements of drug education will be taught:

- How the misuse of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs affects health
- That the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines
- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- The effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions

Religious Education Statement

Religious Education is drawn from individual lessons and through integrated humanities, schemes of work and mindful of all religions within a multi-cultural society. The school aims are to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their studies
 - Develop a positive attitude towards living in a society of diverse religions

We respect the right of parents who may wish to withdraw their child from any activity that involves actual religious worship and this will be discussed as part of the admissions process.

English as an Additional

Language (EAL)

The school welcomes and values the cultural, linguistic and educational experiences that students with EAL bring to the school. We implement school wide strategies to ensure that EAL students are supported in accessing the curriculum. Our aim is to help EAL students to become confident and fluent in English, where possible, in order to be able to fulfil their academic potential. We seek appropriate help where a student does not have sufficient command of spoken or written English to enable them to engage with learning and other adults. Young people learning EAL will be part of the whole class sessions and will benefit from a range of teaching strategies that should enable them to participate at their own level.



Bullying

Bullying behaviour is not accepted in school and is never ignored. Bullying is behaviour which is deliberately hurtful and frightening and can include both physical and verbal forms. At Sheridan School our aim is to provide all young people with a safe space in which to develop physically, emotionally and psychologically. A safe place where they can learn, play and socialise. We aim to create an environment that does not tolerate the oppression of one person by another and where both victims and bullies are fully supported.

Our Anti-bullying Policy & Procedures outlines what the school will do to prevent and tackle bullying.



Management of Behaviour

We aim to promote good behaviour through a supportive and consistent approach across the curriculum and school day, based on the needs of our students. We do this through the use of positive encouragement, reward and incentives, rather than the imposition of consequences. Our approach is to ensure that students with challenging behaviours are cared for in ways which are sensitive to their needs and to provide safeguards for teachers/teaching support/ carers charged with this responsibility. It is not permitted to use corporal punishment under any circumstances, nor any other consequences which convey disrespect and disregard for the student.

Very occasionally, supportive physical intervention may be required to make a young person safe. This is a last resort and only used when it is absolutely necessary to prevent serious harm to people, serious unrest or damage to property. At all times physical intervention is used as an act of care and not punishment. Our staff are fully trained and certificated in physical intervention techniques approved by Priory Group. Team-Teach training is affiliated to The General Services Association and its courses have been accredited by the British Institute of Learning Disabilities and The Institute of Conflict Management (2015)

Exclusions

Only in exceptional circumstances will a student be excluded. Instances of violence directed at peers or staff will result in a fixed term exclusion, but these decisions will always be at the discretion of the Head of School. The decision to exclude a student either for a fixed term or on a permanent basis is serious and will normally only be the final step in a range of strategies that have been unsuccessful. Our preference is always to work with parents/carers and the placing authorities where a placement is experiencing severe difficulties.

If a student is excluded, work will be provided where possible, for them to complete in the home during their absence from school.

Rewards and Consequences

We aim to assist our students to regain control over their lives. Clear and consistent consequences will be calmly and systematically applied. Students learn to trust staff members because of these consistent responses. Students will be actively involved in identifying some of the behaviour they wish to change and receive informal feedback on a daily basis and formal feedback through a weekly group tutorial.

When consequences are applied they may include:

- Increased supervision.
- Verbal reprimand.

- Vehicle Ban – where dangerous / undesirable behaviour occurs in a school vehicle.
- Time-outs.
- Reparation payments (not fines) – to compensate for damage to property or theft

At all times the school will celebrate success and reward good work and behaviour. This may include verbal praise, communication with the home; rewards and incentives.

Specific details of our rewards and sanctions are detailed in the Behaviour Management Policy available from school on request.

Health & Safety

Sheridan School operates within the overall statement of Health and Safety Policy, Organisation and Arrangements of Priory (the Priory Health and Safety Policy), which specifies the arrangements for the management of Health and Safety throughout Priory operations.

The school has an Educational Visits Policy and Procedure that complies with National Guidance.

Safeguarding

Sheridan School recognises that in order for children to develop, they require an environment that promotes self-esteem, confidence and provides support through positive relationships. We will always work in a proactive manner to protect and safeguard their welfare. Sheridan School will therefore;

- a) Establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel safe, secure, and are listened to, and encouraged to talk.
- b) Actively ensure that pupils know that the adults in the Community can be approached if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- c) Include in the curriculum activities information, which will equip them with the skills, they need to stay safe from abuse or harm.
- d) Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish and maintain effective working relationships with parents and professional agencies.

It is essential that all of the children within our care be protected from abuse and harm. The child's welfare is paramount in all of our work and this will be reflected in the way in which we are safeguarding the child's welfare. This means that in all of our work we are aware of the possibility of abuse occurring and are proactive in ensuring that such things do not occur within our establishment. Our responsibility is to keep children safe at all times. Every

member of staff has a statutory responsibility to safeguard the rights of the children in the care of Sheridan School.

A copy of the school's Safeguarding Policy is available from the school.

Visits for New Referrals

Due to the safeguarding policies in place here at Sheridan School, we cannot unfortunately welcome visitors onto site until relevant documentation has been received from Local Authorities. We are more than happy for possible new students / parents and carers to inspect our facilities but our safeguarding regulations dictate that certain procedures are implemented prior to these visits.

Having a Voice

There will be times when students, parents, carers or placing authorities will want to give us feedback about our school and we will always be happy to hear from you. Please feel free to tell us what we are doing well or if we are not meeting expectations. You can contact the school via the details on the back of this prospectus.

Our Complaints Procedure is available if you wish to take your complaint further or feel you cannot discuss the issue with the school. There have been no complaints during 2018 / 19.

Staff

Summary of staff qualifications: see attached document – staff profiles

Term Dates

A list of important dates for the academic year will be sent out prior to October half term break.

Policies available to you

The following policies and procedures are available from the school or in printed format or electronically on request free of charge. The school also has a website available for you to access certain policies such as safeguarding and complaints policies.

Admissions

Marking

Behaviour Management

Curriculum

Complaints procedure, together with details of the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year.

Equality

Health and Safety

The number of staff employed at the school, including temporary staff, and a summary of their qualifications.

Health and Safety of Students on the school site and on education visits

Preventing Bullying

Safeguarding

Particulars of educational and welfare provision for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs and for whom English is an additional language

Exclusions

Particulars of academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations.

In the academic year 2018-2019 the following GCSEs were sat:

IGCSE English Language:

6 students sat IGCSE English Language, 100% of students achieved a grade

1 Yr 11 student* achieved a C grade

2 Yr 10 students achieved a D grade and 1 Year 9 student achieved a D grade

2 Yr 9 students achieved an E grade

IGCSE English Literature:

2 students sat IGCSE English Literature, 100% achieved a grade

1 Yr 11 student achieved a D, 1 Yr 11 student* achieved an G grade

GCSE Maths:

2 Yr 11 students re-sat GCSE Mathematics:

1 student* increased their grade to a 3

1 student increased their grade to a 4

IGCSE Combined Science:

1 Yr 11 student sat IGCSE Combined science, 100% achieved a grade

1 student* achieved an E grade





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