

Parent says:

✓ To my mind, Knightsfield School is the best choice around for children with a hearing impairment. I'm glad we didn't go anywhere else. ✓
Claire and Gavin Kelso live in Stevenage with their two daughters Iona, 13 in Year 8 and Hazel, nine.

Professional says:

✓ Knightsfield School provides a safe, caring and welcoming environment for its pupils. The purpose built classrooms afford superb listening conditions and when coupled with the dedicated, encouraging and supportive team of professionals there, every pupil is given the opportunity to thrive. ✓
Donald A Allan, Senior Advisory Teacher - HI/Educational Audiologist.

Head says:

✓ Hats off to Knightsfield School!... We were so impressed with the standards of writing by the Knightsfield pupils along with their manners and maturity. What great role models for our children. Please come back again! ✓
Mary Westley, Head, Welwyn St Mary's C of E Primary School.



Ofsted
Outstanding

Knightsfield School

an outstanding choice for deaf children



**Knightsfield
School**

Specialist Sensory Academy

Welcome to Knightsfield School...

since 2007 we have been an Ofsted 'Outstanding' school

Foreword: Lucy Leith, Headteacher says:

Welcome to our wonderful specialist sensory academy for deaf children.

Parents think we are the best

As a parent of a deaf child, you will want the best for your son or daughter as they enter secondary education. We firmly believe we are the best... and so do our parents! By reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you will see what parent and pupils truly think of us. We also champion the link between school and parent, and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here.

Popular school

We are a very popular school and pupils come from Hertfordshire, and many other local authorities in the region, to attend our school. We accept pupils who have a range of hearing loss, mainly from severe to profound, whose language and communication are affected by their hearing loss.

Best of both worlds

Uniquely, our school is built within the grounds of a mainstream secondary school, and this means that we can offer the best of both worlds: small group teaching within our specialist environment, together with inclusive educational and social opportunities in the adjacent mainstream school.

Preparing for life beyond school

We offer an individualised curriculum to build on pupils' strengths and skills. We place a high priority on teaching thinking skills across all subjects so that pupils can organise their thinking in a range of different situations and tasks.



Get in touch

I urge you to visit our fantastic school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education and care we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question, please email the school office on admin@knightsfield.herts.sch.uk or call on 01707 376874.



Sarah and Russell Mackay live in St Albans with their children, Lewis, 15 and Martha, 14 and Donald, 12 in Year 8.

"The teachers are so in tune with every single child's ability and character; they know how to teach each individual, which is an incredible opportunity for our child."

Knightsfield School: *an outstanding choice for deaf children*

A great education and a nurturing environment - Sarah believes Knightsfield School offers children the chance to shine

Donald was born very prematurely and then contracted meningitis at two months old and he now wears hearing aids. "Donald lip reads and utilises his residual hearing very well, but it was clear he was going to struggle in mainstream secondary education. The big class sizes were an issue and the acoustics of the buildings weren't suitable for deaf children. With thirty other children around him Donald, would have struggled to learn, and been constantly exhausted from straining to listen all day," explains Sarah.

A superb facility

Sarah and Russell chose Knightsfield School following a suggestion from Donald's mainstream Teacher of the Deaf. "I had a number of reservations about choosing a specialist school for the deaf, but as soon as we visited Knightsfield School, every one of those dissolved. It's a superb facility and it was immediately clear that this was going to be the best school for Donald," explains Sarah.

An incredible opportunity

According to Sarah, Donald was initially resistant to the idea of going to a different school from his friends but he returned with a real energy after his first day. "He came back beaming and he hasn't looked back really. He's a different child in terms of his attitude to learning."

"The teachers are so in tune with every single child's ability and character; they know how to teach each individual, which is an incredible opportunity for our child."

So many strengths

For Sarah and Russell, Knightsfield has many strengths. "The fabric of the school, the acoustics, the small classes, the way each classroom is set up so that each

child can lip read, and how each child's individual needs are met by specialist teachers - mainstream education just can't offer this," says Sarah. "The teaching staff feel like a real team and communication with the parents is amazing. They are able to respond to the characteristics and learning style of each child."

A chance to shine

The annual theatre performances have really demonstrated Donald's transformation to his parents. "He stood at the front, delivering his lines, with confidence and emotion," says Sarah proudly. "Knightsfield gives all the children a chance to shine at these sorts of things. It is wonderful to see!"

"Donald really enjoys his sport too," adds Sarah. "He has recently been chosen as a Sports Ambassador for the school. This will enable him to gain leadership skills and is a really great way of providing him with recognition and reward for his hard work."

Incredible warmth and commitment

Sarah adds: "We've seen some wonderful changes in Donald since he started at the school. The staff are so supportive and helped him to feel at home almost immediately. There's an incredible warmth and level of commitment at Knightsfield School."

"If you have an oral deaf child who you think will struggle in a mainstream setting, I suggest you visit Knightsfield School. It's been the perfect choice for Donald, and we have no hesitation in recommending it."

Child says:

Donald says: "My favourite thing about Knightsfield School is my friends."

What we do differently: why many parents and professionals think we are the best choice locally for deaf children



Speaking and Listening

Our innovative and individual approach sees pupils develop their communication skills through the auditory/oral mode, which is consistent use of speaking and listening skills. It improves literacy, numeracy and social skills. ... and further helps pupils better integrate into the world outside.

We have the enormous advantage of being able to work together with other local schools and colleges. We work in partnership with our neighbouring specialist science college, Monk's Walk, and we are part of the Welwyn Garden City 14 to 19 Consortium. This gives us fantastic flexibility in tailoring programmes for individual pupils.

Integration

All our pupils take part in PE lessons with their mainstream year group at Monk's Walk School. This allows pupils to participate in team sports and activities, and provides opportunities for social integration. There are opportunities for supported inclusion programmes on a part-time basis in a variety of subjects. Older pupils are often able to join a GCSE course not normally



offered at Knightsfield School. Pupils can attend on a full-time basis and receive help and support from Knightsfield School staff.



Achievement for All: conversations with your family to ensure the best results for your child

Achievement for All is a national framework which our school is using to raise the aspirations, access and achievements of our pupils.

Structured conversation

Through structured conversations with a key



teacher, parents and the pupil, targets are set for learning, attendance, behaviour, friendships and well-being. Parents and school staff work together to enable the pupils to meet their targets. It is a family centred approach that encourages success to be celebrated, concerns to be shared and aspirations agreed.

Audiology

The school also has excellent state-of-the-art audiological facilities, and we are able to provide full audiological assessments including speech

audiometry. Our audiology co-ordinator liaises closely with your child's local audiology clinic or cochlear implant centre. We have a good record for providing new earmoulds and have the technical facilities to check the functionality of hearing aids.

Evolving

Pupils have an annual audiological assessment as part of their Annual Review. Our approach is developing and evolving all the time, and we look particularly at how we can:

- extend our pupils' use of listening technology
- extend our own understanding of how learning styles and thinking skills impact on achievement so that we can improve the personalised programmes and lessons for our pupils
- enhance our partnership with parents in supporting the development of their children.

Curriculum



National Curriculum

We teach all the National Curriculum subjects within a broad and balanced curriculum, with emphasis on meeting the needs of each child.

Small groups with specialist teachers

Our pupils are taught in small groups by specialist teachers who are also qualified teachers of the deaf. Activities are differentiated to ensure that our hearing impaired pupils can learn effectively. All pupils work towards external qualifications including GCSEs, Entry Levels and vocational certificates. We specifically teach thinking skills strategies in order to promote independent learning.

Our curriculum for Year 7 to Year 9 includes German and Music. At key stage 4 in Years 10 and 11, the curriculum offer is broad and balanced. Subjects include: English, Maths, Science, ICT, D&T Food or Textiles, Humanities, and PSHE at GCSE or Entry Level. One or two options can also be selected in Monk's Walk School from Art, Drama, Music, PE GCSE or Level 2 vocational courses including art, drama, music, sports studies.

Intensive language, literacy and listening programmes are delivered to all pupils in addition to English lessons to improve reading, listening and literacy skills.

Speech and language therapy

Our specialist Speech and Language Therapists are additionally qualified to work with deaf children.

When pupils join us, they have a full assessment of their speech and language skills. They are given a programme designed to develop their communication skills. This might involve 1-1 or small group sessions or in-class work. Pupils' language and communication skills are assessed annually and targets are set for the forthcoming year.

Ofsted said: 'Students' progress accelerates as they move through the school and their language and communication improve.'



Claire and Gavin Kelso live in Stevenage with their two daughters Iona, 13 in Year 8 and Hazel, nine.

"She's much happier now and I can see she enjoys all aspects of school life. As a result we've seen a growth in her confidence and it's really eased our fears of what life is going to be like for her when she's older."

Gavin is thrilled with the specialist support available at Knightsfield School and believes it meets his son's individual needs perfectly

The whole package

Gavin and Claire chose Knightsfield School for its consistently excellent OFSTED performance, the modern and tailored facilities that they felt only Knightsfield could offer and the specialist, skilled staff available. They feel the important links with a mainstream school and later a mainstream college, means Knightsfield offers the whole package for life preparation.

A wonderful family feel

The smaller class sizes on offer were also an important consideration. "Following meningitis as a young child, Iona has two cochlear implants; Knightsfield School has a wonderful family feel to it and with only around eight children in each class we felt it would be a supportive and nurturing environment which would benefit Iona.

"She's settled in very well and has made some good friendships," says Claire.

Reassuring

Since joining Knightsfield School, Claire has noticed a real growth in Iona's confidence. "As parents you do worry about how your child is going to settle. At her mainstream school there were three other deaf children and I got the sense that Iona found play difficult," explains Claire. "She's much happier now and I can see she enjoys all aspects of school life. As a result we've seen a growth in her confidence and it's really eased our fears of what life is going to be like for her when she's older."

A nurturing environment

Claire and Gavin find the teaching staff are excellent at getting to know each individual child and believe this has been instrumental in some positive changes in Iona. "We genuinely feel the staff know and understand

her; we're sure the specialist skills of the staff and the smaller class sizes allow this. As a result Iona's confidence has really grown and her speech has improved greatly, which has been wonderful to see.

"Iona shaved her head for charity and spoke on radio about it which really shows the progress in her confidence and her speech."

Excellent communication skills

Claire is also impressed with their ability to explain and communicate with the children. "If Iona is ever uncertain about anything or is experiencing any difficulties with friends, the school is excellent at reassuring her, sitting down and talking through and explaining everything, which is teaching her a great life skill for the future."

"The communication book is a good way of sharing any issues but honestly, they're very good at anticipating what might cause a concern for a deaf child and they deal with it very quickly, which is fantastic to know as a parent."

Strong links and integration

Claire and Gavin consider the strong links with the neighbouring mainstream school, Monk's Walk important. The children there are taught about deaf awareness and encouraged to face each other when speaking to enable lip reading. Knightsfield links with this school for a number of lessons. "We think this kind of integration is really positive. It's giving Iona confidence to be around both deaf and hearing peers and preparing her for adult life in a working environment with hearing peers," says Gavin.

Child says:

Iona says: "I like Knightsfield School because I can make friends easily. I like the smaller classes and that there's lots of help!"

Trips and visits



Trips

Opportunities are made, as part of the day-to-day curriculum, for pupils to undertake a variety of educational trips during school time. Trips have included

- Battlefields at Ypres
- Mandir Temple, mosque, church, synagogue, Gurdwara
- Harry Potter World
- Annual theatre trip to London

Activity days

Termly activity days and the end-of-year activities week promote pupils' self-esteem, develop social skills and encourage cooperative working through a range of team-building, life-skills and practical tasks.

Annual show

In the Spring term we have a performing arts week ending in our annual show. Our shows are hugely successful, enjoyed by all participants and audience.



The week provides opportunities for team work, developing communication skills and performing in public.

Joining in with our adjoining secondary school

Monk's Walk School encourages our pupils to join with their pupils in activities, including sports, theatre visits, residential trips and social clubs. We are a member of the Welwyn and Hatfield School Sports Partnership.

The range of sporting activities has increased for our pupils through this association and as a result we have been awarded the Sports Mark.

Music

Despite their hearing loss, our pupils can get immense enjoyment from music. Our programme provides our pupils with opportunities in the school to engage in musical experiences, including playing instruments and listening and responding to music through dance and physical activity.



Avy and Kulvinder Doal live in Loughton with their children Demica, 12 and Kurran, 11 in Year 7. Kurran is hearing impaired and has cerebral palsy.

“He has walking difficulties but he loves swimming. He’s working with a fantastic teaching assistant who is an ex pupil of the school currently studying for a sports science degree.”

Avy is thrilled with the specialist support available at Knightsfield School and believes it meets his son’s individual needs perfectly

No other school

For Avy and Kulvinder, as soon as they viewed Knightsfield School they knew immediately that there is no other school like it. “The school was recommended to us by a charity called CICS (Cochlear Implanted Children’s Support Group). I went to view it and I was immediately smitten by it” says Avy. “The acoustic environment is fantastic. It’s a specialist school with a calming and relaxed environment. The layout, the welcoming feel - it instantly felt like the perfect school for Kurran and Kurran himself said he didn’t want to go anywhere else!”

First class support

Avy and Kulvinder have been incredibly impressed with the kind of support offered by Knightsfield School. “Firstly, we receive excellent transport support from the local authority, but the school itself offers amazing specialist speech and language therapy and physiotherapy, which is brilliant for Kurran’s needs,” explains Avy. “He has walking difficulties but he loves swimming. He’s working with a fantastic teaching assistant who is an ex-pupil of the school who is studying for a sports science degree. He is now training Kurran on a one to one basis providing him with an adapted programme of physio and swimming coaching to meet his individual needs; he is a real inspiration for Kurran!”

“We never thought he would receive this level of support; the impact it has all had on Kurran is immense,” explains Avy.

Attentive to individual needs

According to Avy, Kurran’s enthusiasm for Knightsfield is huge. “He doesn’t want to be anywhere else, which we believe says a great deal about the school, the staff and its environment.

“From our perspective, it offers fantastic support which caters for individual needs. Whilst the school is focused on the national curriculum, we’ve found them very receptive to tailoring homework and lessons to developmental needs rather than chronological age.”

Immeasurable confidence

Before joining Knightsfield School, Avy and Kulvinder noticed that Kurran would often stutter in an unfamiliar environment or when learning new things. According to Avy, since joining Knightsfield School, his confidence levels have gone through the roof and his stutter has all but disappeared. “He talks very confidently and eloquently now and is using some excellent phrases and descriptive words. The way his confidence has developed is immeasurable.”

A calming environment

Avy believes this is largely thanks to the skilled staff and the calm, close-knit community. “The small class sizes have really benefited Kurran with their caring, calming environment. He can name every teacher and he has made a really great group of close friends. Knightsfield School draws you in; we truly believe it’s the perfect school for Kurran.”

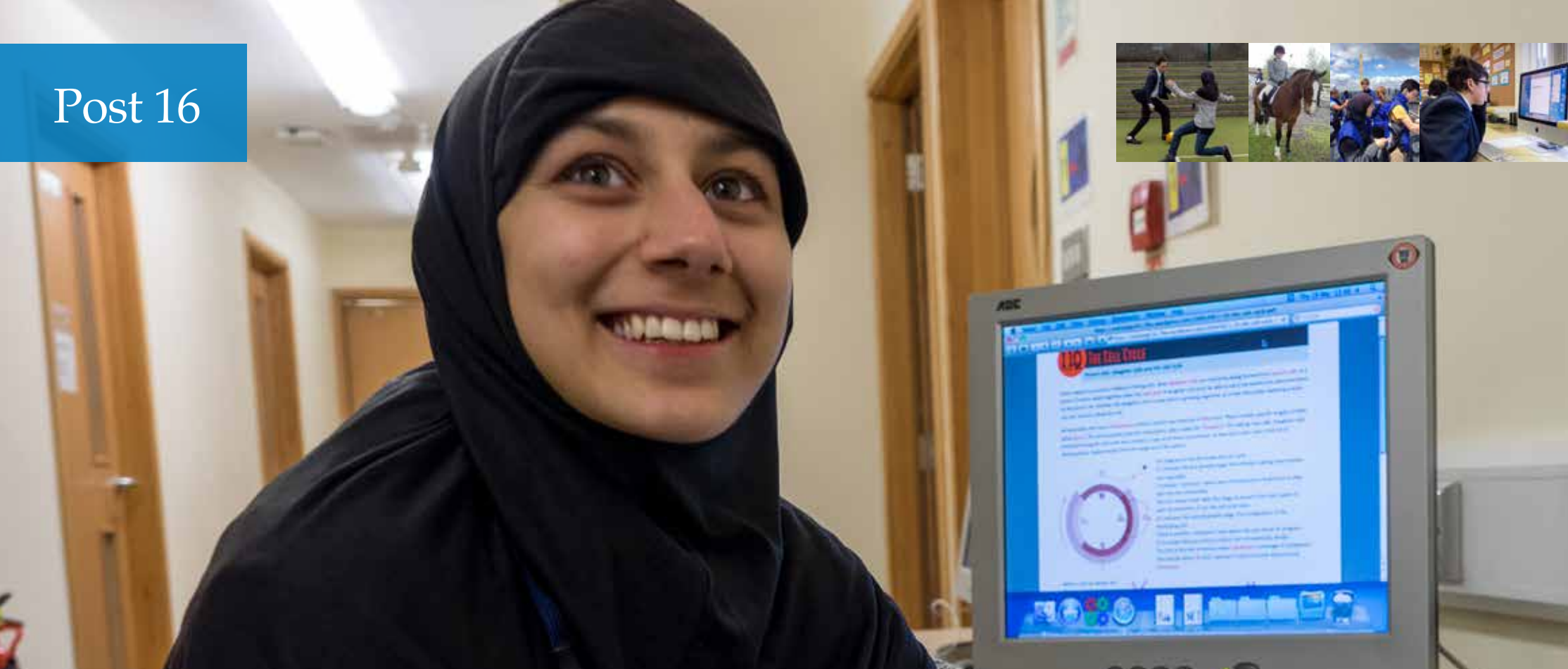
Look no further than Knightsfield School

Avy adds: “Kurran has progressed in leaps and bounds during the short time he has been at Knightsfield School. We feel it offers a safe, secure and nurturing environment. My faith in this school is unshakeable.

“If you want to put your child’s future in the hands of a trusted and proven school which has a specialist slant to it then look no further than Knightsfield.”

Child says:

Kurran says: “I love my school a million percent! I love cooking and making things and the swimming is brilliant!”



College support

Knightsfield is in a partnership with Oaklands College to provide courses for our students. These courses are currently based in the Welwyn Garden City, Smallford and St. Albans Campuses of Oaklands College. Students are supported by Knightsfield School staff in college. Further support with chosen courses and sessions in the core subjects are then offered at Knightsfield School creating a full timetabled week for students. There is a very wide choice of academic and vocational courses available. Oaklands College courses have

entry requirements which relate to end of Year 11 results.

Students can also study A level courses in our adjoining mainstream sixth form in Monk's Walk School.

Six benefits of a support from Knightsfield School

1. Teacher of the deaf expertise in subject areas
2. Speech and Language therapy sessions
3. Notetaker support in college

4. Follow up sessions with notetaker
5. Educational audiology assessments, advice and support to maintain development of listening skills
6. For students who have previously attended Knightsfield School, support staff have knowledge and understanding of students individual needs

Work experience

Our work related learning curriculum includes two periods of work experience for our key stage 4 pupils. Pupils in Year 10 spend one week

in the summer term on placement observing and assisting in a work place of their choice. Pupils in Year 11 spend a further week with a different employer experiencing the world of work. Placements are all fully vetted and can be arranged in a pupil's home area to make travel easier and to provide a realistic working day.

Working in a wide variety of settings

Over the past year pupils have worked in a variety of settings including schools, leisure centres, garages, hair and beauty salons, pharmacy, retailing and a hearing impaired hotels.



Claire and Tony Dodman live in St. Albans with their children Rhys 25, Scott, 22, Kyle, 19, and Jeorgia, 16. Their son Scott is hearing impaired and attended Knightsfield. He loved the school so much, he has returned as a teaching assistant.

“He really enjoyed attending lessons there and integrating with hearing children; I think this was really good in preparing him for moving on to further education.”

Claire and Scott believe Knightsfield School's positive approach to education and additional needs is life changing

A 'can do' attitude

Scott was diagnosed as hearing impaired at the age of five years old. He has a moderate hearing loss and dyslexia; as a specialist teacher in dyslexia Claire was thrilled to find Knightsfield School for Scott. "Once I'd found Knightsfield, I was hooked on it! The school has an excellent ethos which teaches children that their hearing impairment does not define them and does not stop them from being who they want to be."

Supportive with additional needs

Claire feels the school has a real talent at looking at individual strengths and weaknesses and addressing them to make children into well-rounded individuals when they leave. "I needed a school that would acknowledge that Scott not only had hearing problems but that he had additional difficulties because of his dyslexia. We found teaching staff supportive in getting Scott's dyslexia formally diagnosed and in supporting us through that process," explains Claire.

Teaching staff that care

As Scott now works at Knightsfield School, Claire is aware that little has changed in terms of the staff. "I think it says a lot that so many of the staff that were there when Scott was a pupil are still there now. I think it indicates a happy and positive environment and staff that care about their roles," says Claire. "I always found the staff approachable and genuinely interested in Scott's welfare and they were always very good at communicating with me; I think a good level of communication is important in helping parents and teachers to work together."

Igniting self-belief

Scott won an award for maths in Year 9 and Claire remembers how proud he was of that achievement. "Because of his dyslexia, maths came more naturally to him. We found the school was very good at recognising achievements and hard work and it was a real boost for Scott; it ignited his self-belief."

Preparation for moving on

Another aspect that Claire found worked positively for Scott was the integration with the neighbouring mainstream school. "He really enjoyed attending lessons there and integrating with hearing children; I think this was really good in preparing him for moving on to further education."

Claire adds: "Knightsfield School wants only good things for their children. They provided a brilliant balance between consistency of care and good teaching."

Continued support

When Scott moved on to higher education, he appreciated the continuing support he received from Knightsfield. "Having the use of a note taker and on-going specialist support was great."

Scott is now studying at the University of Hertfordshire for a degree in Sport Therapy and has returned to Knightsfield School as a teaching assistant on placement. He is working on a one to one basis with a pupil who has mobility needs. "The school really helped me and it's been enjoyable to be back in the family and to be a role model to the children."

Scott adds: "The extra support that Knightsfield School gives makes you believe in yourself; it's life changing!"

Getting involved



Links with parents

We place great emphasis on establishing strong links with parents. Through our Home-School Agreement we strive to develop a positive partnership with parents to ensure that pupils gain maximum benefit from their time at school. You are also welcome to telephone the school at any time to make an appointment with the Form Tutor if you have any matters you wish to discuss.

We keep you informed about what your child is learning at school and you will receive information about the curriculum content for each term. The school Governing Body has two parent representatives who serve for a fixed term and we encourage parents to become involved with this important work.

Working with parents: Home to School Liaison

- We aim to work closely with parents mainly through use of the pupil organiser. Parents and form tutors or other staff can pass information to one another on a daily basis if required. Parents are able to contact school by phone, email, or by arrangement for a meeting.
- We meet annually with parents for the Review of Statement and hold parent evenings once a year. Subject teachers write a report on each pupil's progress over the previous year and give advice or targets for the forthcoming year, and the audiologist's and speech and language therapist's reports are included. We provide an annual performance summary for

each pupil which includes brief information about a pupil's work, attitude to learning, homework and achievement. Parents also receive an end of year report in July about their child's progress during the academic year with subject reports from each teacher and the form tutor.

- We hold three events for pupils, parents and families each year: Annual Awards Evening in November with a musical performance from pupils, Performance Arts Show in February and Summer Social Evening in July.

Knightsfield Association

Knightsfield School Association (PTA) is a registered charity for parents, staff and friends of the school. Its aims are to secure and maintain close parental interest in the work of the school,

and to assist by raising funds. Each year one of our governors organises and collects Tesco's and Sainsbury's Sports vouchers. Recently we have been able to exchange our vouchers for a computer, LCD projectors, food technology equipment, sports equipment and sports coaching for our pupils.

If you would like to join our PTA, please contact the school office.



Keith and Jane Hopkinson live in Stevenage with their children, Kizzie 17, and Olivia 15 in Year 10.

“The Headteacher and her staff would call us to discuss the best way forward. They offered a calming space Olivia could go to and there was a specific member of staff she could speak to, which helped enormously. We always felt consulted and considered, which was important to us and we know Olivia felt valued and supported.”

Keith and Jane believe teachers who understand and value each child are key to an outstanding experience at Knightsfield School

An instant feeling of calm

Olivia has combined conductive and sensori-neural hearing loss which wasn't confirmed until she was nine years old. "Olivia was at mainstream school receiving additional one to one support from a care assistant for fifteen hours a week, but due to the late diagnosis of her hearing difficulties it was clear she was falling behind and would benefit from specialist educational intervention," explains Jane.

"As soon as we walked into Knightsfield School there was an instant feeling of calm and professionalism. The moment you walk in you know Knightsfield School is where your child needs to be," adds Keith.

Working together

Olivia joined the school in Year 7 and Keith and Jane immediately saw a difference in how her needs were met. "Each child is seen as an individual at Knightsfield School, each with different needs. You don't get this with a child who has special needs in a mainstream school."

Whilst Olivia initially settled in well she began experiencing some emotional difficulties in Year 9. Keith and Jane believe much of this was related to Olivia's age, but felt the school cared and included them in every aspect of supporting Olivia. "We were meeting and talking with the school from the start and working together. It's that sense of involving families that really mattered to us," says Keith.

A practical and sensitive approach

Keith was impressed with the way they were kept informed about how Olivia was managing her emotions during the school day. "The Headteacher and her staff would call us to discuss the best way forward. They offered a calming space Olivia could go to and there

was a specific member of staff she could speak to, which helped enormously. We always felt consulted and considered, which was important to us and we know Olivia felt valued and supported."

Caring and flexible

According to her parents, Olivia's confidence has grown during her time at Knightsfield School and they believe this has a lot to do with the kind and caring approach of the teaching staff. "Each child has an individual plan, but it's adaptable and it's flexible. The staff are very good at highlighting progress and achievements as well as ensuring that the next targets are clear; this has been very good for Olivia's confidence. They have taught her and us to be open minded about what she can achieve."

Strong preparation for the future

Another key strength of the school for Keith and Jane is the focus on independent living skills. "Olivia went on a trip recently into the local town by bus with a group of peers for some shopping and some lunch. She learned a lot from this experience and we believe that such activities play an important part in teaching her about living independently in society."

Keith and Jane also speak very positively about the excellent links the school has with further education. "They have a very positive 'can do' ethos and instil a strong sense of belief in each child that anything is possible. We feel they are providing a firm foundation for Olivia's future."

Child says:

Olivia says: "I love everything about Knightsfield School but for me the best thing is the library where my friends and I enjoy a great range of special books together in peace and quiet."



Visiting the school

Parents wishing to consider Knightsfield School as a secondary placement for their child should first contact the school to arrange a visit. This visit will normally last about an hour and a half, during which time parents will have an opportunity to look round the school and visit the mainstream link school. There will be the opportunity to see pupils at work and to ask questions about the school. If possible, parents should bring their child with them to visit the school.

Assessment visit

Following the visit, parents, who would like their child to be considered for a place, should complete an assessment visit request form. The school will then invite the child to spend a day at the school. A number of language and listening assessments will be completed by the school audiologist. The child will also be observed working with other pupils in lessons and interacting socially. The purpose of the assessment visit is to ascertain whether the school can meet the child's needs, with particular emphasis on communication needs.

Local Authority

Once this assessment has taken place, parents should contact their own Local Authority for the request to be made formally. Requests for placement for non-Hertfordshire children should be made by the Authority directly to Knightsfield School. Hertfordshire parents would normally discuss placements at the Annual Review of their child's Statement.

Placement for Hertfordshire children will be considered by Hertfordshire's SEN panel. For other Authorities the request for placement

will be considered by Knightsfield directly. If an assessment visit has not taken place, the child may need to visit immediately, as the school has to respond to requests within a very short time scale.

If a placement at Knightsfield School is considered appropriate then an offer of a place will be made through the Local Authority and parents would be informed. If the school is not an appropriate placement for the child the reasons would be notified to the Local Authority.

Behaviour for learning

Pupils enjoy learning and demonstrate very good behaviour for learning in lessons.

Attention and concentration levels in classes are high. This leads to successful learning and contributes to our positive ethos. Pupils are polite and friendly and welcome visitors and prospective pupils to the school.

"Students' behaviour is outstanding because their social and emotional needs are met exceptionally well."

"Students are very well-consulted about their school. Their contributions are sought, valued and acted upon. Students are proud to belong to the school while benefiting from the wider world of the neighbouring mainstream school and the college." Ofsted 2014

Head says:

"St. Michael's pupils have benefitted greatly from our partnership with Knightsfield for several years now. Our children love interacting with the sports leaders who run P.E. sessions here. Our Year 6 have learned a great deal from Mr. Barker's informative deaf awareness talks and we have received advice, support and considerable investment in the installation of sound field systems in our classrooms. I am looking forward to the ongoing partnership we have with Mrs Leith and her team at Knightsfield."

Brendan Mallon, Head, St. Michael's, Woolmer Green School.

We intend that pupils leaving our school will:

- use their speaking and listening skills effectively in a range of environments and situations
- be able to think independently
- increase their rate of progress in learning
- be responsible, self-disciplined and thoughtful citizens
- be ready to have an active and fulfilling role in today's changing world.

Ofsted says:

'Staff have an excellent understanding of how best to promote the learning of students who have hearing impairment. They use this to cater extremely well for their needs.'

'Teachers' excellent oversight of students' progress and written and spoken feedback to students help them to understand what they are good at and how to improve.'

'Students in the sixth form are very well supported. They achieve high grades because the outstanding provision ensures they have support that is tailored to their special needs and the courses they are studying.'

'Students, including those with additional special educational needs make rapid progress in lessons because teachers use an imaginative range of ways designed to both capture their interest and make them think.'

'Students feel very safe in school and are very well prepared for life in modern Britain.'

'Students make huge strides in developing their self-confidence and in their ability to communicate freely with others.'

'Students are eager to learn and highly attentive in lessons.'



**Knightsfield
School**

Specialist Sensory Academy

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