



Rivermead Special School: Sixth Form Partnership

Together on the road to success





Mrs Frances Akinde, Headteacher, says:

Welcome to Rivermead Sixth Form

Rivermead is a community special school for young people aged 11 to 19 years with a range of complex needs. Our specialism is in Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Sixth Form Partnership.

100% success rate

100% of our learners transition on to meaningful and sustainable outcomes within an area of their interest; this means that every single young person that we have worked with across a year has made progress towards their future, whether through further education, university, internships/apprenticeships, employment or another appropriate provision.

Our learners have grown in:

- Independence.
- Knowledge.
- Resilience.
- Self-confidence.
- Communication skills.
- Literacy and numeracy skills.

Together on the road to success

Everything we do is driven by our ethos and values. In summary, our mission is to support our learners to succeed on our journey together on the road to success.

Positive environment

We nurture a positive environment where every learner and member of our team feels included. Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do and this can be seen through our broad and balanced curriculum.

Our curriculum statement: support to succeed

Our purpose is to support our learners to gain the knowledge, skills, attitude and values needed to achieve so that they can successfully access life's opportunities.

'What life skills do we need to equip our learners with?'

One of the key questions we ask ourselves within our curriculum is: 'What life skills do we need to equip our learners with?' To us that means imparting our learners with a basic understanding of the world so that they can become integral members of our local and national communities.

Get in touch

I hope you enjoy looking through our prospectus. If you feel that our Sixth Form is somewhere that you would love your young person to be, please do not hesitate to contact one of our friendly team.



Curriculum and wellbeing

Curriculum

Springboard to a bright future

We are a one-year (occasionally two-year, under special agreed circumstance) springboard into a learner's next steps, supporting transition and growing independence. At PR/PR+/EPR we support learners who meet the entry criteria to access college study programmes from Entry Level up to Level 3.

Wide range

Learners have the option of studying a wide range of courses including ICT, Animal Care, Hair and Beauty, Music Technology, Hospitality and Catering, Car Mechanics and more. A study programme with the Rivermead Partnership consists of a Course Specialism, English, Maths, PPT and work experience. This comprehensive programme ensures that learners have every opportunity to successfully achieve and progress.

Tailored to the individual student

As part of the extended partnership offer, we also provide support with assignment work rather than issuing homework, and we provide interventions including Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), Occupational Therapy (OT), counselling,

literacy and numeracy support, a finance qualification, independent travel training, SMSC, mindfulness, reflection activities, social groups and any other interventions which meet a learner's individual needs.

Bespoke package

Every learner has a bespoke package aimed to progress them as individuals in a holistic way.

Wellbeing

We take the overall wellbeing of our students very seriously as an important part of their experience at Rivermead. These are some of the ways in which we support all learners in their practical achievement and psychological welfare:

- Access to counselling if required.
- Access to debriefing and 1-1 time with Learning Mentors, giving on-hand pastoral support.
- A Pastoral Lead for oversight.
- Access to social groups.
- A broad enrichment offer linked to connectivity and growing resilience, teaching learners how to support themselves and take ownership.

- Teaching learners how to reflect.
- Use of mindfulness.
- Access to outdoor spaces.
- Mental Health First Aiders on hand.
- Individualised packages to meet each learner's needs e.g. time-out cards, use of headphones if they require.
- Access to individual SALT and OT support for speech and language, sensory and motor skills.
- Regular praise - use of social media to promote things, sharing positives with staff and other learners.
- PR positive paper and new for this year - our PR newsroom staffed entirely by learners who have an interest in Media, ICT, Performing Arts and other such subjects.

Graduation

Graduation at the end of the year celebrates the amazing achievements of our learners, and is hosted and organised by the learners themselves. We are so proud of what these young people can accomplish, given the right tools and support.



PR/PR+/EPR: supporting learners to access college study programmes

PR: provision for ASD and Speech and Language support

The PR Section at Rivermead supports learners with ASD and Speech and Language needs at the Medway campus of Mid Kent College. Learners have access to the full offer at Mid Kent with our support wrapped around their programmes. This enables learners to fully access college study programmes providing specialist and individualised support to ensure progression and provides support for the transition between school and college life.

Base room: a place of safety

Course lessons normally run across three days, with Rivermead intervention making it a five-day week. We provide a base room for learners to work from on the wraparound two days. The base room is also available should anyone need to exit a lesson if they become overwhelmed or should they require additional support: the first thing we teach is how to get to our base room because everything else can be sorted from there.

We additionally offer a staffed room between 8.30am and 5.00pm where learners are supported throughout the day both in lessons and at other times.

PR+

The PR+ programme supports learners at Medway campus with a primary or related diagnosis of Social, Emotional and Mental Health. It matches the PR offer but with greater emphasis on mental health support and wellbeing

A highly trained support team

The staff team are highly trained in mental health support and work in tandem with all other professionals who are involved in a learner's journey.

Supported and understood

Learners have access to a visual or adjusted timetable to further support their ability to achieve, and open lines of communication with MKC staff ensure that a learner feels well supported and understood.

Base room: a place of safety

A base room that is available exclusively to PR+ learners throughout the day provides a safe exit space for those who need it and the reassurance it offers.



EPR

Life skills

Our EPR programme supports learners with complex additional needs and who are not yet ready for the college environment. Learners at EPR work from Entry Level up to Level 1. The focus is on life skills alongside English and Maths to prepare learners for further study, independent living and future employment.

Independent living

EPR is set up as an apartment to give learners the opportunity to learn about all aspects of independent living including cooking and cleaning.

Stepping stones

EPR enables learners to fully access learning, providing specialist and individualised support to ensure progression. It provides support for the transition between school and college life, acting as a stepping stone between the two settings and providing additional time to learn and master skills.

Looking towards the future

Learners access EPR five days a week with Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy integrated into lessons as well as having targeted interventions. They have the opportunity to explore vocational pathways of interest to them to help prepare them for their future steps.





Enrichment

Positive experience

Enrichment opportunities add a great deal to our learners' positive experience of their time at Rivermead.

Clubs and activities

Clubs and activities are bespoke to each year's cohort. We allow learners to tell us their interests and build the offer around them each year and examples include:

- A gym club where learners access Medway Park
- Warhammer
- Drama
- Japanese
- Art
- Photography
- Walking club
- Football team
- Basketball group
- BSL
- Dungeons and Dragons

If we haven't had the club it's just because we haven't had someone interested yet. If you have something you would like us to try - let us know and we can set it up!

School Council: giving learners a voice

We run a School Council, so learners have an active say in how the Partnership runs and any changes that they want to see. Council members also offer support at open evenings and events, and at times act as peer mentors. They have an input into everything from trips out to safeguarding.

National Citizenship Scheme

We have achieved NCS Gold Champion School status. NCS is the National Citizenship Scheme which is a social action project for young people aged 16-17 aimed at engaging young people within their local community in social action opportunities as well as local politics, budgeting, travel in their local area, social mix where they will meet different people etc. This is run as a bespoke program through Rivermead Partnership.

Rotaract

Rotaract is a service club for young people based within a community, school, university or college. Rotaract clubs bring together young adults to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service. Rotaract clubs decide how to organize and run their own clubs, manage their funds, and plan and carry out activities and service projects that are important to their communities, with the support of the Rotary Club that sponsors them.

Rivermead Rotaract is the first SEN club in the UK and possibly the world, offering young people the option to support their local community, develop their social skills and learn independence on the way.



Admissions

Medway Council Special Educational Needs Department

Admission to the school is through the Medway Council Special Educational Needs Department.

Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning
Email: admissions@medway.gov.uk
Phone: 01634 333 333

Criteria for admission

Places are offered to learners with complex needs who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan and are resident in Medway. Their needs must fit the school's specialist areas of provision.

Most learners are admitted at normal transition times i.e. when moving from primary to secondary school and from year 11 to post-16 education. The Medway Council Special Educational Needs Department has processes in place to assist parents and learners at these times. You should speak to the SEN Coordinator at your child's current school to discuss these arrangements. Admissions also take place at other stages in a young person's education such as when an Education, Health and Care Plan is put in place for the first time, following an annual review or when a child moves into the area. In these circumstances contact should be made with Medway Council Special Educational Needs Department.

Get in touch

Parents and children who wish to visit the school to help them to make the best choice of school for their needs should please contact the Rivermead Partnership.



Our Mission, Vision, Ethos and Values

Our Ethos and Values

- We believe that every young person, whatever their age or ability, has the potential to progress, both academically and as a well-rounded young adult.
- We believe that an inclusive approach is achieved through holistic and individualised pathways to teaching and learning.
- We believe that every achievement should be shared and celebrated.
- We believe that the inclusion of staff, parents, and governors, the wider community and learners should create a 'sense of belonging'.
- We believe that a safe, calm and nurturing environment, where respect for each other is paramount, is the best place to learn and succeed.
- We believe that Rivermead embeds and believes the importance of social, moral, spiritual, culture and 'life in modern Britain'. We celebrate this through enrichment, the broad curriculum, daily SEAL, thought for the week, PSHE, and daily assemblies.

Our mission

We want to enable young people to progress and have every life opportunity to the very best of their ability in a complete holistic way. At Rivermead it is about the 'person', the complete 'person', to ensure that no one falls through the net. We value our learners equally whatever the difference in their abilities or behaviours and believe that every child matters.

We want every child to be able to engage actively in learning and so able to reach their full potential in all areas of school life knowing that they are cared for and supported. We celebrate every success and want our learners to be happy to come to school and we provide a range of educational, social and cultural activities that will allow them to flourish.

We will celebrate our school ethos by presenting the school as 'our school' so that each individual; learners, staff, parents and Governors feel that they have a sense of belonging and a sense of togetherness like a big family. We also have high expectations through a close partnership between learners, staff, Governors and parents.

Our vision

Our vision is to take Rivermead from Good to Outstanding thereby securing the progress that we have already made. To ensure our school is outstanding, we will raise standards by actively ensuring each student's learning is as good as it can be, steering a range of approaches adapted specifically to each learner.

We recognise the importance of social, moral, spiritual and physical development as well as academic achievement in 'closing the gap'. We will create enrichment opportunities in line with teaching and learning to further advance the knowledge and understanding of our learners.

Our ambition is to explore opportunities to support children with mental health problems and contribute to the well-being and success for everyone to do well by us working in partnership with other schools across Medway and in partnership with other agencies.

In summary, we want a Rivermead learner to develop the skills to become employable, self-confident and to be able to contribute in a positive way to their community.

Rivermead School

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