

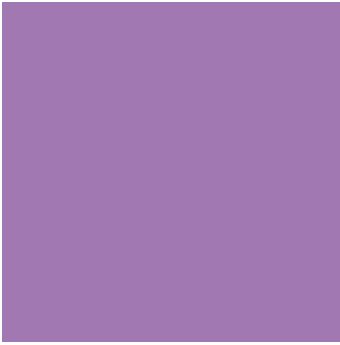


A learning & caring community
where individuals are valued



Sheiling School Local Offer

The Sheiling Ringwood,
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www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk



Who are Sheiling School?

Sheiling School is part of the Sheiling Special Education Trust, which is a registered charity and non-profit making company.

Sheiling School provides a living, working and learning environment that is comfortable, beautiful and natural, befitting of a home away from home with extensive SEN facilities. The school also benefits from sharing its site with Sheiling College, allowing a continuation of education up to the age of 24.

To read more about Sheiling College visit

<http://www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk/sheiling-college>

Our ethos

A heart, head and hands approach to teaching and supporting children and young people with a special educational need, our Rudolf Steiner inspired school conducts modern best practice whilst respecting and developing every student's sense of self.

Set in a stunning sustainable and eco friendly 50-acre site close to the New Forest and Dorset coastline, the natural surroundings of our school provide a rich, enabling and therapeutic learning environment for up to 36 students, aged 6-19, who have a special educational need. We specialise in autism and communication difficulties, severe and complex learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.

The school offers an individualised and flexible approach to placements. 38 or 52 week, day, extended day, weekly, termly and year round boarding. We also offer respite services during the holidays.

Students are encouraged and supported to become resourceful and caring individuals, to explore the world of feelings, behaviour and values. We focus on building confidence and skills in different environments and social groups, whilst also developing functional independence, in preparation for adult life.

The school builds positive relationships with students that acknowledge their value and dignity, believing that every child and young person can be empowered to find meaning and purpose in life, regardless of their ability.

Questions
you may
have



What is available at our school?

For children and young people

Learning & Curriculum



A broad and tailored curriculum, in line with the National Curriculum, that inspires and intrigues

A Waking Day curriculum enriched by sensory inputs, along with social and cultural activities

Individual Education Plans sent home every term

A vast “learning outside the classroom” curriculum

Regular offsite trips linked to the curriculum

A rigorous programme of assessment and progress review

Regular multi-agency meetings

Support



Highly trained staff, small class sizes and intensive support including 1:1 or 1:2 where needed

Use of the Picture Exchange Communication System, Signalong and interactive technology to support learning

On-site therapy, including Speech & Language and Occupational therapists and individualised programmes of therapy

Dedicated Behaviour Support Co-ordinator and team

Teaching Approaches



A heart, head and hands approach to teaching and supporting children and young people with a special educational need, conducting modern best practice whilst respecting and developing every student’s sense of self

Consistent routines and systems of teaching

The use of visuals and schedules throughout the learning and house environments

A personalised curriculum, actively engaging students’ interests

“Learning outside the classroom” is an integral part of the curriculum

Further supported by our on-site swimming pool and gym

What is available at our school?

For children and young people

Physical & Environmental



Access and learning through our extensive woodland, open areas and gardens

Estate work and craft workshops including pottery, food processing and kitchen garden

Regular life skills leisure trips, for the upper school, within the local area

When and where applicable, work experience placements in the local community and link/supported attendance for specific college courses

Situated next to the adult learning Lantern Community

The rich resources of the New Forest and Dorset coastline fully accessed

Well-being



Regular core therapy, nurse and behaviour support coordinator meetings, to assess strategies and support levels

Students given both a voice and choice in day-to-day house practicalities and through the Student Council

Staff highly trained in safeguarding, communication, behaviour, health and personal care

Clear and secure routines and rhythms helping students manage their anxiety

Students have an active role in the school community, celebrating joint and individual achievements, building confidence and working towards functional independence

Therapies



Inclusive access to a wide range of on-site therapies, including speech & language, occupational therapy and a dedicated behaviour support team.

Further complemented by Steiner inspired inputs, in the form of Colour Light, Eurythmy Therapy, Massage and Art.

Who can access our service and how?

We cater for a wide range of learning disabilities and complex behaviours and have many years experience working with autistic students.

Most of the children and young people who attend the school have a statement of special needs or an Education and Health Care Plan. In the majority of cases a statement or Education and Health Care Plan is required to fund a UK placement.

Our admissions process is carefully managed and normally includes visits by parents and carers. Referrals often come from a local authority, parents, social services or a current education provider.

A thorough assessment of a prospective student's learning, social and care needs is made by senior members of staff who will visit a child/young person in their home and/or current setting.

Each referral is carefully and individually considered and the selection of pupils takes into account the needs of the existing students and the rural nature of our provision.

How will Sheiling School identify a student's additional needs?

A student's statement of special educational need or Education Health and Care Plan is used to develop their Individual Education Plan.

Regular contact with each student's family and placing authority means that the school can adapt placement plans and support levels, as a student's needs change.

A student's progress is reviewed annually. This is a formal process that takes place at the school and all parties that play a role in a student's care and education are invited to attend.

At this point any additional needs or changes to the statement or Education and Health Care Plan can be suggested.

If a parent or carer thinks that a student requires more support or has developed an additional need, then they are encouraged to contact the student's class teacher or the Head of School.

How will the staff at Sheiling School support a student?

Class sizes are on average 4-6 students and have a high staff ratio. This includes a suitably qualified teacher, a teaching assistant and for many of our students 1:1 or 1:2 intensive support.

To ensure consistency of care and manage anxiety levels Students are always working with an individual they have built a rapport and relationship with both in term and non-term time.

Every student is educated and cared for as an individual. This means we can support students to develop their independence and provide a pathway for transferring these into the wider community.

The school has the unique benefit of a team of on-site therapists. This includes speech and language, occupational and physiotherapy. Students will be able to access these therapies individually and in small groups.

Residential students are supported by house coordinators and house support workers with whom they can build strong relationships.

Students are provided with a home from home setting, where having fun, relaxing and sharing social time is considered as valuable as formal learning and guidance.

A personalised Total Communication system, used throughout the school, maximises opportunities and motivation for interactive communication.

All staff train in Signalong that, like Makaton, supports speech with signs and

is based on British Sign Language for the deaf. The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is also widely used as part of our total communication approach.

Social stories are used to enable students to understand the process of interacting and responding in an appropriate manner.

Elements of the TEACCH system are used throughout the school and a Waking Day curriculum ensures a student's educational and therapy needs are constantly met.

The school adopts a positive approach to behaviour and staff are all trained in PROACT-SCIPr UK which uses proactive methods to avoid triggers that may lead a student to present behavioural challenges to get their needs met. It aims to enhance a student's quality of life and give people the skills to communicate their own needs.

How will Sheiling School prepare and support students to join the school and for the next steps in education and life?

A full assessment of a prospective student's needs is made by senior staff and a personalised programme of transition developed, with students making visits to the school to become familiar with the setting and staff, often including an overnight stay for boarders.

After starting at the school there is a further six-week assessment period, followed by review, to ensure the right level of care and support is in place, after which a student's place can be confirmed.

Similarly a detailed and individual programme of transition would be developed with a further education provider or adult service, to ensure a student is fully prepared for the next stage in their life. The Sheiling Ringwood also offers a post 19, day and residential provision for students, The Sheiling College.



How is the decision made about what type and how much support a student will receive?

Before a student starts at Sheiling School, a baseline assessment of the level of support and provision they need is made and agreed by the school, parents and placing authority. A six-week assessment review allows for any adjustments to be made to this initial plan. Six-month internal reviews and the Annual Review of a student's progress mean that changes to the level of support or provision can be made when required.



How will Sheiling School match the curriculum to each student's needs?

Our adapted curriculum is broad and balanced and includes all the subjects found on the national curriculum, including English, Maths, science, PSHE, ICT, art and P.E. The curriculum is underpinned by Steiner Waldorf principles and is based on the stages and milestones of child development.

A tailored curriculum allows students to learn through the things that interest and intrigue them. Students are empowered to develop confidence, skills and independence but also their own sense of self, which is respected and prized, no matter their level of ability or disability.

For our over 16 year old students, the curriculum teaches functional, vocational and community based skills and where appropriate work experience opportunities.

Our core curriculum is enriched with sensory inputs and various social and cultural activities. The school community hosts concerts, plays and other performances throughout the year, along with celebrating various festivals and events. These provide additional opportunities for students to improve their confidence and social skills and provide a predictable rhythm and routine to their time at school.

How will Sheiling School let a parent/carer know how a student is doing & help parents/carers support their learning?

We undertake a rigorous system of monitoring and supporting students' academic progress and personal achievement. All students are measured and assessed against the national curriculum and pre-entry attainment levels. Our post-16 students work towards accredited courses and we use a wide range of strategies to foster a culture of lifelong learning and functional skills.

Regular communication is of upmost importance to the school and the school works hard to build relationships with parents and carers.

Students keep in touch via weekly letters, phone, email and Skype.

Both parents and authorities are kept closely informed about a student's progress and well-being. Each student will have an annual review meeting per year and Independent Education Plans are sent home at the start of every term and reviewed on a termly basis.

What therapeutic services does Sheiling School provide?

As part of our offer we provide inclusive access to a wide range of on-site therapies, including speech and language, occupational therapy and behaviour support teams. Inputs include:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Access to off-site Horse Riding Therapy

These therapies are further complemented by Steiner inspired

inputs, in the form of Colour Light, Eurythmy Therapy, Massage Therapy. And Transformative Art Counselling. You can read more about all these therapies on our website:

www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk

What support will there be for the students' well being?

Staff are highly trained in all aspects of communication, behaviour support, health, personal care and safeguarding, ensuring every student is safe, happy and successful at the school.

Clear routines, celebrating the rhythms of the seasons, along with taking part in household practicalities, help our students make a meaningful contribution to the school community. A secure routine means students also know what to expect and helps manage their anxieties.

Our core therapy team (speech and language, occupational therapy, our on-site nurse and behaviour support

co-ordinator) meet regularly to assess strategies and current support levels.

In-house student meetings allow students to have a voice with regard to their day-to-day activities and the running of their house.

With parents' consent we support students further with complementary medicines and therapies; these holistic approaches help us ensure we treat students as a whole person and not just meet their immediate need.

What training have the school staff had or are having?

Staff train to the highest standard in order to fully support students in all aspects of their care, behaviour and education.

Sheiling School conducts a compulsory and detailed induction programme for all staff. Staff are all trained in the following:

- Safeguarding, Child & Adult Protection
- Total Communication
- Signalong
- PECS, Picture Exchange Communication System
- PROACT-SCIPr-UK Theory & Practical
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Epilepsy Awareness
- Sensory Integration
- Manual & Minimal Handling Techniques
- Health and Safety & Substance Control
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid
- Student Welfare

Staff are also qualified in or working towards:

- NVQ Level 3 in Teaching and Learning
- NVQ Level 3 in Care for the Child
- TEACCH System
- Preparing to Teach in the Life Long Sector PTLLS
- Teaching in the Life Long Sector DTLLS
- QCF Health and Social Care
- Special Educational Needs



How will students be included in activities outside the classroom and be able to access leisure and recreational activities?

Our grounds, with many acres of open areas and woodland, mean that learning outside the classroom is an integral part of the curriculum. We also benefit from an on-site swimming pool, gym and 200 capacity hall with stage.

Our students actively engage in 'estate work' and the educational programme operates craft workshops, also situated around the estate, including pottery, food processing, kitchen garden and green woodwork workshops.

Neighbouring us is Moors Valley Country Park, which is great for cycling and walking. Ringwood is a short walk away and the stunning beaches of Mudeford, Bournemouth and Southbourne all within easy reach.

The Upper School Programme maintains regular life skills leisure trips within the local area, as well as attending theatre productions and concerts in Bournemouth and Salisbury.

Where appropriate, students have an opportunity for work experience placements in the local community, and link/supported attendance for specific courses in local colleges.

We are situated next to the adult learning Lantern Community, with their café, shop and bakery and the rich resources of the New Forest and Dorset coastline are fully accessed via our curriculum.



How does Sheiling School celebrate each student's successes and achievements?

In their daily lives at The Sheiling Ringwood, both in the classroom and in the house community, students are met with respect and appreciation for who they are as individuals. They are encouraged by staff to participate in all aspects of school and house life, through gentle support, clear boundaries, humour and praise for any effort made.

Teaching and Care staff know the students well and regularly share information on their achievements, struggles and successes, thus creating a seamless, supportive network which enables students to gain confidence in engaging with the world around them.

Taking part in household tasks such as clearing up after a meal, sharing with others a meal they helped to prepare, taking part in a school play or helping a classmate are some of the many ways in which students can feel that they are valued members of the school community.

Student success is also celebrated during assemblies and regular house and Student Council meetings and, more formally, during Annual Reviews. Each student is encouraged to identify their strengths, likes and progress and, where possible, present those achievements directly or indirectly at Annual Reviews with the support of familiar staff. Students are supported to create memory books with highlights from their journey at the school and in the house and their achievements.

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or accessed by, the school?

We have access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team and a clinical psychologist when additional support is needed for students experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The main expertise is our holistic approach which comprises care, education and therapy colleagues working together to create a full and encompassing understanding of each student in order to develop the best strategies and support plans to ensure they progress in all aspects of their development.

How accessible is the Sheiling School environment?

The rural nature of the estate and dispersed school/college buildings and houses limits the physical and organisational adjustments that can be made to accommodate students with certain disabilities. These would be considered and fully assessed at the time of application.

If required we would access the Local Authority translation service, for students and parents for whom English is not their first language.

Does Sheiling School provide any specialist equipment?

A dedicated team of on-site therapists sets us apart from many SEND provisions. Any further specialist equipment would be prescribed and paid for through additional funding.

Does Sheiling School have a Student Council?

Our school values our students' views and choices and these are included in our planning. Representative students from houses and classes regularly meet as the student council. These meetings are supported but the speech and language team, ensuring all students are able to partake. Students help plan school celebrations, make school equipment choices and have been involved in writing our Bullying Policy.

Where do young people go when they leave Sheiling School?

Sheiling School develops a variety of individualised packages and pathways for students when they leave - many will transition to Local Further Education Colleges or our own provision for 19-25 year olds, Sheiling College.

Some students leave us to live as semi-independent adults, living in their local community or an adult community with support. They will follow a variety of programmes specific to an adult or local

community but most will do so with a continuing support package.

A bespoke transition plan is carefully developed in liaison with the future education or service providers. This will incorporate appropriate information sharing, accompanied transition visits and support in setting up continuing care and behaviour strategies.

What should you do if you don't feel Sheiling School is meeting your child/young person's needs?

We encourage parents to let us know if they have any questions, worries or concerns. If a parent doesn't feel that they have been listened to or where a more informal approach has not worked, it is possible to make a formal complaint. Details of how to do this are found in our Complaints Policy on our website and in our Parents Handbook.



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Getting in touch

If you would like more information about The Sheiling School or College please contact us
at 01425 477488

Email address – admissions@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

This Local Offer was developed with staff and parents and will be reviewed by the Board
of Trustees on an annual basis
(Sept 2016 v.2)