



St Elizabeth's School & Children's Homes

PROSPECTUS



“ To live and learn as friends together. To Share and Give and Love ”



Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to our School and Children's Homes here at St Elizabeth's.

St Elizabeth's provides specialist care, education and health services to people with learning disabilities, epilepsy and other complex health conditions. Our education and skills development programmes are targeted to meet the needs and ambitions of individuals.

Within our School and Children's Homes, we have very high aspirations for pupils, their families and the community and do not see disability as a barrier to living a full life.

Every child at St Elizabeth's is given the opportunity to achieve their very best, and we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality learning experiences; we make learning fun, practical, and engaging. The life skills we teach our pupils give them confidence and self-belief that they can achieve anything they set their mind to.

Together with our health and therapy teams, we provide our pupils with a holistic approach to learning, and ensure school and home life is a thriving and enjoyable experience for everyone. Each young person has the opportunity to live and learn in a safe and nurturing environment, where differences are acknowledged, respected and valued, where abilities are recognised and achievement is celebrated.

I hope that our prospectus gives you some insight into the ethos and values which enable pupils at St Elizabeth's to achieve their fullest potential. St Elizabeth's at its very heart is a community which comprises of over 200 service users, 700 staff, and 60 acres of beautiful parkland for everyone to enjoy, and we would love you to be a part of it.

Chief Executive, Jill Rankin

St Elizabeth's School is a non-maintained Specialist School for young people aged 5 - 19 with learning disabilities and complex health needs, including epilepsy.

We offer a warm, welcoming and safe setting for children from all over the UK. The school is Roman Catholic within the Christian Faith, but welcomes children from all faiths and none.

Our aims for our young people:

- To live and learn in a supportive and fun environment which promotes development and offers a sense of security and belonging
- To access a full and meaningful education, adapted to the individual
- To be empowered and enabled to communicate their needs and make informed choices about their own lives
- To be included in their own and local community
- To be prepared for a transition into adulthood.

So that our young people can:

- Grow in independence
- Enjoy the best quality of life
- Know and feel that they are safe
- Enjoy and learn from experience
- Overcome barriers to live life to the full.





Welcome

Our School and Children's Homes are happy, welcoming places: our aim is to help young people grow in confidence as they acquire new knowledge and skills, in their own way, at their own pace – socially, emotionally and academically.

Our ultimate goal is to support each child and young person to become successful, confident individuals, who make positive contributions to the community and society, both now and in the future.

We care deeply about every child's personal journey, and take an active approach to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, have fun and thrive throughout their school and home life. St Elizabeth's advocates that all our young people feel empowered to make their own decisions and choices, and we have a very 'can-do' attitude towards everything. No problem is too big or too small; we encourage all of our children and young people to feel comfortable in expressing themselves in a safe and caring environment.

Rated 'Good' in our most recent School OFSTED inspection and with excellent results in our end-of-year assessments, supporting pupils to make progress and develop independence skills is at the heart of everything we do.

Our School benefits from the consistent support of an active team of Governors, who ensure that the school fulfils its duties and provides a nurturing and safe setting for all pupils. They challenge the school to ensure that children can achieve goals within the spirit of the school's vision and aims.

Principal, Teresa Glynn



Who do we support?

St Elizabeth's supports and educates young people (aged 5 - 19) with moderate, severe, or profound and multiple learning difficulties, or with other complex neurological conditions potentially caused or complicated by epilepsy. As either a residential (38-week and 52-week) student or a day pupil, every young person we welcome to our School is unique and valued.

We integrate education with therapy and care, all planned around the individual: our Multi-Disciplinary approach supports young people to manage their complex health needs, overcome language/communication needs, and support challenging behaviours.

“ I can't praise the school enough for helping my child to learn and make such brilliant progress – the Headteacher and staff do a fantastic job ”

Parent



Living & Learning at St Elizabeth's – A Holistic Approach

Our offer to children and young people is carefully developed and refined to enable a personalised approach to learning and development, aimed at developing new knowledge and skills that support their independence, health and self-esteem.

Through our 24-hour curriculum, we build the skills they will need to move on to the next stage of their lives – whether that be in further education or within their local community. Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) are used to encourage personalised learning against individual needs. Where possible, students are encouraged to take an active role in the monitoring and setting of their own targets and goals with the aid of a high pupil-to-staff ratio support system, combined with small class sizes and access to our on-site Health and Therapy Services.

We place great importance on a curriculum which develops the whole learner and works to their strengths and physical or learning needs. Through our core values, we foster an environment where the emotional, physical, academic, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of each individual learner is considered.

Religious Education is taught by all teachers, and supported by our Catholic Ethos Advocate. If they choose, children can be prepared to

receive their First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our sensory curriculum is mapped to include coverage of the National Curriculum and provides a range of experiences for our learners through an enhanced curriculum. We include units from City and Guilds (C&G) Personal Progress and Skills for Working Life in our weekly timetable, and the learners also work towards other recognised qualifications.

In line with Government policy, we report progress in steps. Progress is grouped in three stages; no progress, 1-20 steps of progress and 21+ steps of progress. In March 2021, 100% of learners made progress in all areas, with 16% of learners making 21 or more steps of progress during the term.

We pride ourselves on our strong multi-disciplinary team approach – Teachers, Therapists, Nurses and Care staff work in partnership to ensure we meet the health, education and therapy requirements set out in their EHCPs.

Teachers work closely with staff in the Children's Homes to provide an appropriate curriculum that develops learners skills, knowledge and experience as well as providing life enriching opportunities, such as:

- Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties are supported to develop through learning and engaging in a low arousal setting, with embedded therapy.
- Those who have moderate to severe learning difficulties benefit from a modified national curriculum with an emphasis on developing basic skills.
- Students in our Sixth Form follow courses and programmes in relevant key skills, including accredited qualifications, independence skills and work-related learning, and are supported to access Careers Advice and Guidance through the Connexions Service.

We can offer placements all year round, so children can join us at any point in the year.

Transitioning:

Transitioning is a crucial time for every child and young person, whether that is to the next year group, to another provider or at the end of their time in School and the Children's Homes.

When a student moves onto the next stage of their lives, we provide continuous care to enable a smooth transition.

We work very closely with external providers to ensure that the transition of an individual into or out of our service is conducted with consistent support throughout their transition and beyond, keeping them safe and happy.





Our Children's Homes

We have 8 individually registered Children's Homes, which are fully wheelchair-accessible bungalows housing up to 6 young people each, all situated within walking distance of all the school facilities. We ensure our young people are living with other likeminded individuals who share similar interests, by carefully matching the dynamics and the compatibility of each bungalow group.

Each bedroom has its own en-suite facilities; within each bungalow there is a communal sitting room, dining/kitchen area and utility room. Where necessary, mobile and ceiling hoists are installed, and all bungalows are fully wheelchair accessible.

Each bedroom is connected to our state-of-the-art Night Monitoring System, with additional bed monitors and audio systems where needed, and is staffed by a Waking Night Staff to support those who might experience night-time seizures.

Young people are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms and take part in making decisions about their home including the decor, the menus and organising special occasions and events. Due to the complexities of their needs, many of our young people benefit from lots of space. Here we have 60 acres of beautiful countryside where they can safely enjoy walks, bike rides, use

their go karts, take part in nature walks and orientation exercises, or just find space to sit and relax.

Our support staff work with the young people in the bungalows and also at school, ensuring consistency in the care provided. This also allows for consistency in the curriculum offered by St Elizabeth's, which is considered a "waking day" curriculum (i.e. continues outside of school hours). The skills learnt at school are put into practice back on the bungalows, for example, cookery and food preparation.

All staff are trained and supported by our Therapy team, comprising of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech and Language Therapists.

We also have a Positive Behaviour Support Team and on-site 24-hour, 365-days a year nursing to provide the best possible care to all who live here.

Family and friends are an important and integral part of each person's life. Staff make sure that they are kept informed and made to feel welcome to visit and be part of life at St Elizabeth's.

Our young people have access to mobile phones, house phones and laptops to allow regular communication.

We also make sure key events are celebrated and enjoyed – from individual's birthdays to seasonal events such as Halloween, Christmas and the World Cup!

For those living with us for 52 weeks, there are also opportunities to go on holidays, including canal / caravan breaks and trips to theme parks and the seaside, during the summer holidays.

Pictured: Cheryl Allum-Clarke, Director of Health & Care

“ Staff are our best friends - we are like a family ”
Izzy - former residential pupil



Enriching the Individual

Enrichment is an important part of school life, with opportunities and activities occurring throughout the academic year.

Every morning, children have the opportunity to take part in a 15 minute “Activate” warm-up session, and our 60-acre site is perfect for walking, bike riding, Go-Karting, sports and exploring safely.

We have a fully accessible playground, tennis court and sports pitches for our pupils to enjoy, as well as indoor sports facilities, including trampolines and ball pits, and even a horticultural area with chickens and allotments! Enrichment Days at the School include magic shows, creative workshops or

travelling Pantomimes, as well as seasonal activities, ranging from visits from Father Christmas to an Easter Enterprise Sale where pupils make and sell items to others.

The School has a fleet of vehicles including specially adapted people carriers and minibuses, used to accommodate a variety of outings – for both individuals and groups – including local parks and forests, wildlife centres, coastal visits, restaurants, local community events, cinema, bowling, outdoor activity centres and karaoke evenings.

“ My work experience helps me feel myself and not be scared to talk to different people ”

School residential pupil

Student Voice and Student Choice

Staff encourage our students to use their voice to shape their own experiences of life at school.

School Council meetings provide opportunities for pupils to discuss and vote on various topics – from Health and Safety issues to Christmas meals and activities.

Pupils living in our residential accommodation are supported by staff to shop, cook and clean together, and to plan evening and weekend activities together – from sensory

activities and craft evenings, to music and dancing, snooker nights and computer games. All of the activities support their individual independence plans.

“ The wide range of opportunities to enrich learning effectively promotes pupils’ enjoyment, well-being and achievement ”

Ofsted



Health and Therapeutic Support

All young people at St Elizabeth's School benefit from our specialist 24-hour Health and Therapy provision. As a result, education is not disrupted – health and therapy on site means children can quickly return to school once they feel better.

Our Health Team, including Epilepsy Specialist Nurses, Learning Disability Nurses, Paediatric Nurses and Mental Health Nurses, provide 24-hour assessment and monitoring, treatment, diagnosis and emergency care.

Our specialist staff play a key part in the multidisciplinary assessment of all referrals to ensure we can meet the on-going needs of each individual. We can support those with very unusual and rare forms of epilepsy, such as Dravet Syndrome and Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, rare syndromes/conditions, those with VNS devices or those who require PEG feeding and dysphagia support. We can also monitor and track seizure activity and changes in behaviours, overseen by rigorous medication administration protocols.

We hold on-site GP and Neurology clinics, in partnership with lead professors from Great Ormond Street Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and work alongside local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Therapeutic programmes run concurrent with academic programmes and are integrated into a student's day as part of their individualised timetable. Our on-site Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Positive Behaviour Support Practitioners work with our Health, Education and Care staff to adopt a goal-orientated approach aligned to Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) outcomes which feed into their Individual Learning Plans.

Our Therapy programmes may be 1:1, in groups, or work indirectly by supporting teaching staff, care staff and families to implement new initiatives. Group activities can help to deliver therapies in different ways whilst combining motor co-ordination, mobility, cognition and total communication approaches, and helping to develop peer-to-peer interactions.

In addition to this, pupils can also access other therapies (including, music/art, Lego) and where appropriate, hydrotherapy. We are experts in adaptive communication

approaches – including Makaton, Eye Gaze technology, social stories and sensory integration, and have a range of on-site sensory facilities, including dark and light sensory rooms.

Our aim is to provide as much medical support on-site as possible, to limit the disruption a seizure or health condition might have on a young person's everyday life. If a learner is unwell due to a seizure, our team can provide in-situ support to keep them safe, support their recovery and help them to re-join their activity or lesson as soon as they feel able. We aim to limit the number of hospital admissions, and our expertise means that we can usually support individuals through their seizures without the need to call for outside help.

Thanks to our specialist care, many of our children have seen the frequency and intensity of their seizures reduce, have seen increased mobility, and/or have developed improved communication approaches.

“ He is happier than we could ever have dared hope

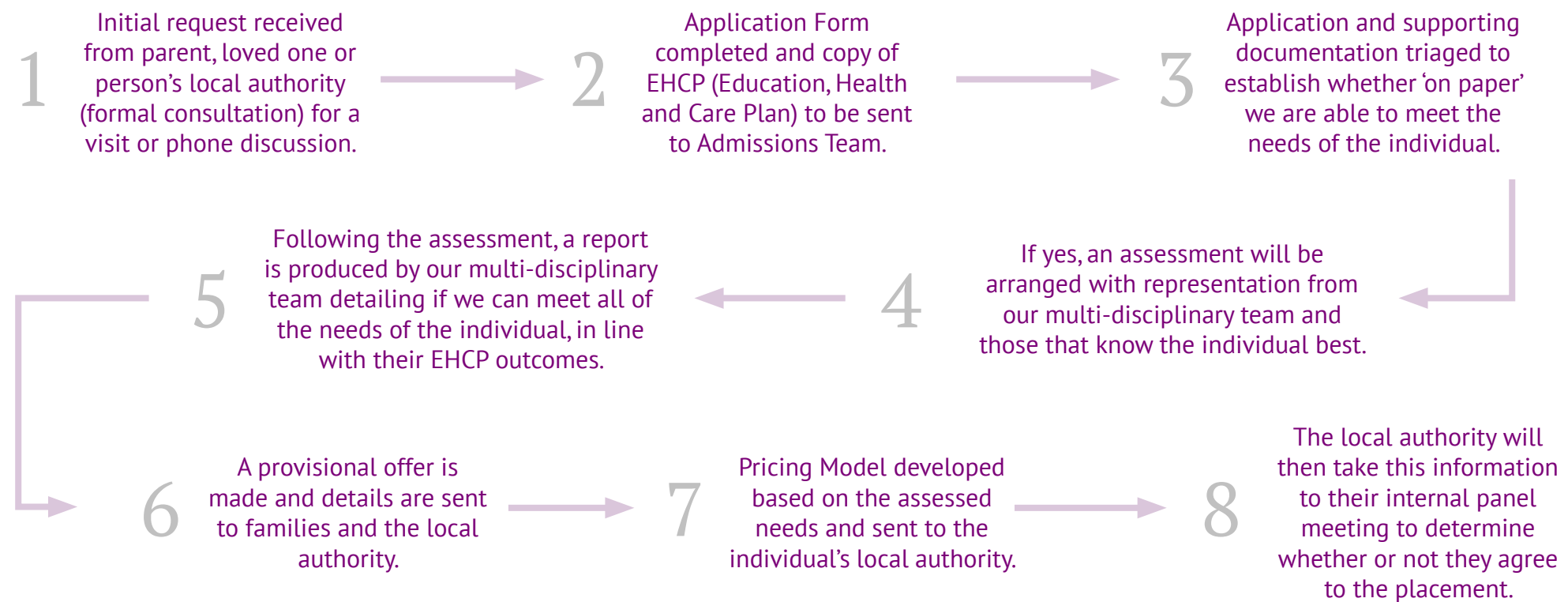
Parent

“ Staff have unlocked my child's life

Parent



St Elizabeth's Admissions Process



If agreed

Contractual paperwork is completed between St Elizabeth's and the local authority involved.

An admission date is then agreed between all parties involved and transition planning begins.

If not agreed

Families can appeal the decision via a SEND* Tribunal, with support from our Admissions Team if requested.

*Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Our friendly Admissions Team are on hand to answer any questions you may have, and talk you through the admissions process in detail.
Contact: admissions@stelizabeths.org.uk or 01279 844253 / 01279 844349



“ We were really impressed with how everyone approached the assessment. We have no doubt the team at St Elizabeth's will be able to help our son in many ways ”

Parent

Key Senior Staff

Jill Rankin, *Chief Executive*

Rod Jenkins, *Chief Operating Officer*

Cheryl Allum-Clarke, *Director of Health and Care*

Teresa Glynn, *Principal*

Samantha Steinke-Sanderson, *Headteacher*

Amaka Williams, *Assistant Director of Children's Services*

Admissions

Cheryl Gow, *Head of Admissions*

Rachel Groves, *Admissions Officer*

E: admissions@stelizabeths.org.uk

T: 01279 844253 / 01279 844349

www.stelizabeths.org.uk

E: enquiries@stelizabeths.org.uk

T: 01279 843451

f: [@stelizabethsepilepsycare](https://www.facebook.com/stelizabethsepilepsycare)

@: [@stelizabeths_centre](https://www.instagram.com/stelizabeths_centre)

v: [@St_Elizabeths](https://www.tiktok.com/@St_Elizabeths)



St Elizabeth's Centre is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (No. 11087989)
Registered charity number: 1176777

Registered address: St Elizabeth's Centre, South End,
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6EW