

## **St Giles School**

### **An Introduction to Our School**

St Giles is an inspiring, exciting and aspirational school for children and young people aged 3-18 with a broad range of difficulties from moderate/severe to profound and multiple, which includes those with autism and associated behaviours.

Based in Retford, our school provide highly specialised and personalised education to children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) from across the whole of the Bassetlaw, which is the most northerly district of Nottinghamshire.

We're also a growing school. We have been commissioned to expand our provision from September 2022, with the introduction of a brand new class. There are currently 153 pupils on roll - 62 primary aged pupils and 91 secondary and post 16 aged learners. We anticipate we will have 175 pupils in 19 classes from September – and we're really excited!!!

Our learners are encouraged to work in a stimulating and caring environment, where they are taught that 'no dreams are out of reach'. Our aim is to develop the full potential of individual children involving teachers, other professionals and parents in partnership.

There are 18 classes, led by teachers, 3 Assistant Head Teachers and a Principal. We also have specialist teachers supporting with PE and Music provision onsite. Pupils are also enabled in their learning by 55 teaching assistants and a team of 20 Personal Care Assistants provide a variety of interventions to ensure the comfort of pupils. Administrative support is led by the Office Manager, assisted by 3 Administrators and 1 IT Assistant.

We also have a team of Health Care Support Workers, ICT Support, a caretaker and cleaning team. School also commissions services from professionals such as; art, drama and music therapists and a sensory occupational therapist. In addition, the school has regular support from visiting nurses, paediatricians, speech therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and a Senior Educational psychologist.

Our purpose-built school was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Kent in 2012 and includes, teaching classrooms and specialist areas such as, music and art suites. Additional specialist facilities including hydrotherapy pool, a fully refurbished soft play room and an interactive sensory room provide opportunities for a highly personalised learning environment.

The school also has extensive grounds with play areas equipped with trim-trails, swings, round-a-bouts, trampolines, a multi surface court and interactive sensory exploration area.

Our broad and specialist Curriculum, which give learners the skills and knowledge to prepare them for life beyond St Giles, includes the National Curriculum and its pre-requisites, sensory education, communication skills, a wide ranging personal and social education programme, mobility education, and a well-developed post 16 education programme.

Our learners are based in teaching groups according to their ability and more loosely their chronological age. There are currently four cohorts of learners, focussing on formal, semi-formal and pre-formal teaching. Each teaching group is the responsibility of a teacher, supported by at least two teaching assistants. Phases (primary, secondary and post 16) are encouraged to work collaboratively, resulting in a positive life-long approach to learning, which prepares our pupils for adulthood from their earliest years.

Our school has a long tradition of community involvement; we are supported by a highly effective network of 'Friends of St Giles' and have a coffee shop in town run by our older students, which not only provides a great interface with our local community, it also supports learners to hone their functional and independence skills.

St. Giles School and Nottinghamshire County Council are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all staff and volunteers to share our commitment.