



Sheiling College Local Offer

A learning and caring community
where individuals are valued

Who are Sheiling College?

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

Sheiling College is an independent Specialist College for young adults aged 19-25 with severe, complex and moderate learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) and communication difficulties.

The college provides an inclusive, uplifting education and care environment that meets the needs of the whole person. Health and wellbeing is at the heart of our provision and sense of belonging is fostered across college and the wider community.

In the context of a safe and welcoming setting, learning experiences and opportunities are real-life based, which helps Sheiling College to be an innovative and effective provider that supports young people to prepare for adult life.



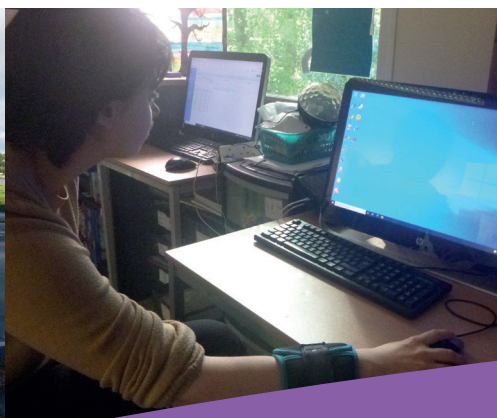
Our ethos

Set in a stunning sustainable and eco-friendly 45-acre site close to the New Forest and the Dorset coastline, the natural surroundings of our college provide a rich, enabling and therapeutic learning environment for up to 42 students, aged 19-25, who have special educational needs.

We specialise in supporting and educating students with severe, complex and moderate learning disabilities, autistic spectrum conditions and communication difficulties. Typically, students at Sheiling College are studying at either Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2 or Entry Level 3.

Sheiling College offers an individualised and flexible approach to placements: termly residential, weekly residential and day placements. All of our placements are 38 weeks per year.

We provide our students with a wide range of learning opportunities which match their needs, interests, skills and aspirations. This allows each student to discover and realise their full potential and increase their independence and confidence for adult life.



What is available at our College?

Curriculum



A bespoke, co-created study programme matched to the student's needs and interests. Carefully planned and managed transitions. Continuity of staff and small class sizes which help students develop their social interaction skills.

A differentiated curriculum, focussing on the student's EHCP outcomes and the Preparing for Adulthood outcomes, which includes: functional skills, communication, independent living, vocation and work, community and relationships and health and wellbeing.

Residential students access a 'waking day' curriculum to capitalise on the contextual learning opportunities this provides.

The curriculum includes focused activities which develop the student's attention and concentration skills aided by trained staff who understand each individual's needs and difficulties.

Support



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

Use of Alternative and Augmentative Communication aids, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Communication in Print software, PODD Books as well as individualised systems such as Objects of Reference.

A wide variety of interactive and technology-based systems that run on iPads and tablets. Tailored and adapted resources using widgit symbols.

An integrated approach to therapy through onsite speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and positive behaviour support. A dedicated behaviour support co-ordinator and proactive behaviour support techniques.

Teaching Approaches



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

A personalised curriculum, actively engaging the student's interests.

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

Consistent routines and systems of teaching using principles of TEACCH and techniques such as intensive interaction.

Outdoor learning as an integral part of the curriculum.

What is available at our College?

Environment



A beautiful outdoor learning environment comprising woodland, grassy open areas and gardens. Opportunities to access these areas through subjects such as estate work, horticulture, ecology, craft workshops, gardening and small animal management.

Environmental conservation.

Regular leisure and community visits to the local area to practise and develop life skills.

Opportunities to access work experience in the local community, when and where applicable.

Onsite swimming pool.

Wellbeing



Students given both a 'voice' and 'choice' in day-to-day practical situations through the Student Council.

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

Clear, secure routines and rhythms helping students manage their anxiety.

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

Therapies



Access to a wide range of onsite therapies including speech & language therapy, occupational therapy and positive behaviour support.

Regular therapy team, nurse and behaviour support co-ordinator meetings to assess strategies.

Who can access our service and how?

Students with severe, complex and moderate learning disabilities, autistic spectrum conditions and communication difficulties.

Young people who attend the college will have an Education and Health Care Plan.

Our admissions process involves a visit by parents/ carers for an informal discussion and tour of Sheiling College. In the next step, parents will be asked to complete an application form.

Senior members of the education and residential staff team from Sheiling College will subsequently assess the student at their school and/or home and then during an assessment visit to Sheiling College.

The assessment visit will include an overnight stay if the applicant is requesting a residential placement.

If it is determined that Sheiling College can meet the student's needs and that a place is available, then:

- An initial assessment report and proposed placement plan will be written and submitted to the relevant local authority representative(s).
- An offer of a placement at Sheiling College will be sent in writing to parents and a copy sent to the relevant local authority representative(s).
- Fees will be calculated and submitted to the relevant local authority representative(s).



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

A student's Education Health and Care Plan is used to inform the targets set within their individual study programme.

We will consult with the student, their family and professionals involved with the student.

Regular contact with each student's family and placing authority means that the college can adapt placement plans and support levels as a student's needs change. Where possible, students will be supported to reflect upon their progress and to make new choices about their future in order to plan a way forward at college and for when they transition from Sheiling College. As an example, this may be into a purposeful vocation, into Adult Social Care or accessing further education.

As well as internal progress reviews throughout the year, each student's progress is reviewed annually. This is a formal process that is organised by the college and all parties who play a role in a student's education and care are invited to attend. At this point, any additional needs or changes to the 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, they are encouraged to contact the student's class teacher or the Head of College.



How will the staff at Sheiling College support a student?

Class group sizes are 5 to 6 students and staffing in lessons comprises a teacher, teaching assistants and support workers. Education support levels are typically 1 member of staff to 1 student or 1 member of staff to 2 students.

The teacher and teaching assistants are consistent in each group, meaning that strong relationships and rapports are quickly established.

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.

Students at Sheiling College make important choices about their own learning, social life and about the direction they want their life to go in. We are committed to supporting students to make these choices by helping them experience new opportunities.

We use a person-centred planning approach to help students make decisions about their own life and learning. Students are supported by teachers, teaching assistants, house managers and support workers.

The college has the benefit of a team of onsite therapists, including speech and language, occupational and physiotherapy. Students access these therapies individually or in small groups, depending upon their needs. In addition, complementary therapies are offered on a 1:1 basis, as appropriate.

Residential students are supported by house managers and support workers to live in a group setting, where there are many opportunities for sharing social time, having fun and relaxing in addition to learning independent living skills.

The Total Communication environment incorporates different communication methods and styles including signs, symbols, spoken words and Alternative Augmentative Communication methods. We use a wide variety of interactive and technology-based systems that run on iPads and tablets.

Social stories and adapted books 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 college.

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

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

A full assessment of a prospective student's needs is carried out by the Transitions and Referrals Officer along with other senior staff and a personalised proposal is written. Students are encouraged to visit the college to become familiar with it and an overnight stay is offered for residential placements, where appropriate.

Within the first term there is a 'settling in' meeting which will review initial progress and is an opportunity to review levels of support.

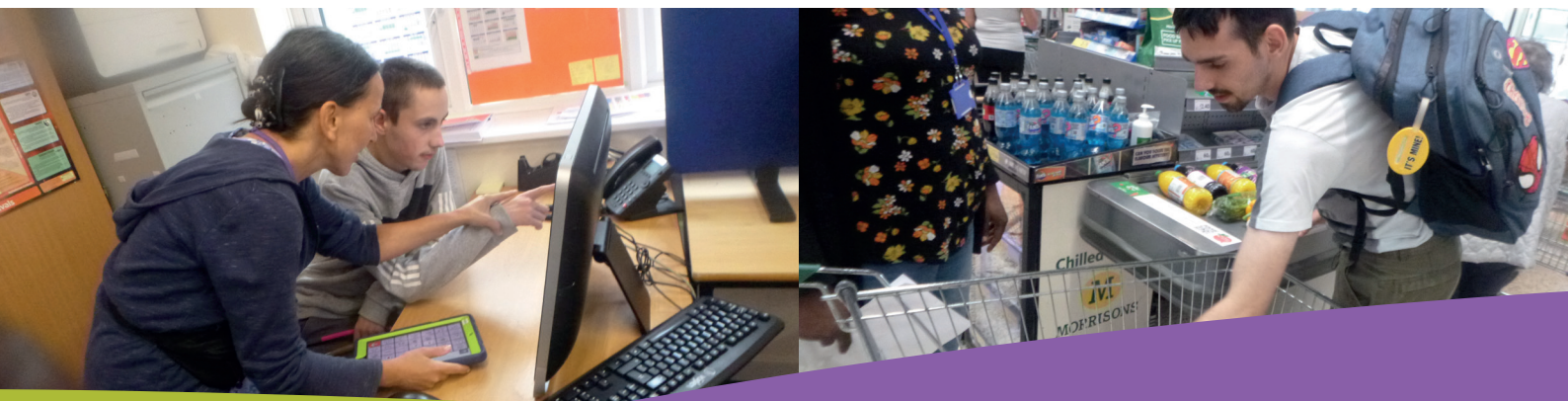
Each student's study programme is designed to enable them to achieve their desired post-college destinations.

The college supports families to consider options and preferences for the student's future transition when they first start at college, but particular focus will be made on transition in the student's final year. The college will work with the local authority, the family and other education and social care providers or potential work placements to work towards identified future pathways.

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

Before a student starts at Sheiling College, their EHCP will most usually identify levels of support.

An assessment of the level of support and provision they require is made and agreed by the college, parents/carers and placing authority.



How will Sheiling College match the study programme to each student's needs?

To enable students to progress, they will work on a programme consisting of an Individual Study Programme that uses RARPA (Recognising and Recounting Progress and Achievement) as well as accredited learning. The study programme also includes work experience, enrichment activities and therapeutic support.

Our tailored curriculum allows students to learn through things that inspire and motivate them. Students are empowered to develop skills, confidence and independence but also their own sense of self.

Our curriculum is enriched with sensory, social and cultural activities. Our 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 college.

How will Sheiling College let a parent/carer know how a student is progressing?

Regular communication is of the utmost importance to the college; we work hard to build relationships with parents and carers.

Residential students can keep in touch with family and friends via phone, weekly letters, email and video calls.

Both parents/carers and authorities are kept closely informed about a student's progress and well-being. Each student will have an Annual Review meeting and Individual Study Programmes are sent home and reviewed regularly. The student's review meetings will be structured around their aspirations and needs. We support our students to reflect upon their progress and to make choices about their way forward at college as well as their transition at the end of their placement.

What therapeutic services does Sheiling College provide?

Sheiling College is able to provide a wide range of onsite therapies, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and positive behaviour support teams.

These therapies are further complemented by Steiner inspired therapies in the form of eurythmy therapy, massage, music therapy and transformative art counselling. You can read more about these therapies on our website:

www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk

What support will there be for the student's wellbeing?

Staff are highly trained in communication, behaviour support, personal care and safeguarding, ensuring every student is safe, happy and successful at the college.

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

Our multidisciplinary team (teaching staff, residential staff, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, our on-site nurse and positive 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 each student as a whole person and not just meet their immediate need.



What training have the college staff had or are having?

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

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

- Student Welfare
- Safeguarding
- Total Communication
- Signalong
- PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)
- Special Educational Needs
- PROACT-SCIPr-UK Theory & Practical
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Epilepsy Awareness
- Call Push Rescue
- Sensory Integration
- Manual & Minimal Handling Techniques
- Health and Safety (and COSHH)
- Food Hygiene & Infection Control
- First Aid
- Dysphagia Awareness (eating and drinking safety)
- GDPR & Online Safety
- Fire Safety Awareness & Evacuation
- Prevent Awareness Training
- Defibrillator Use
- Medicines Administration
- OT and Sensory Processing

As part of CPD, teaching assistants are supported to gain Supporting Disabled Learners Qualification and residential staff are supported to gain Health and Social Care Qualifications.

What opportunities are available for activities outside the classroom, including for leisure and recreation?

Our 45-acre grounds, with many acres of grassy open areas and woodland, enables learning outside the classroom to be an integral part of the curriculum. We also benefit from an onsite swimming pool, gymnasium and large capacity hall with stage.

Our students actively engage in estate work, horticulture, gardening in our large kitchen garden, craft workshops, woodwork workshops, small animal care and offsite farming activities.

Neighbouring us are Moors Valley Country Park and Avon Heath Country Park which are ideal for walking and cycling. Ringwood Town Centre is a short walk away and the stunning beaches of Bournemouth, Boscombe, Southbourne and Mudeford are all within easy reach.

The college programme maintains regular life skills leisure trips within the local area. Students also have the opportunity to attend theatre productions and concerts in Bournemouth and Salisbury.

Students have opportunities to undertake work experience in the local community. All students have access to independent careers guidance.

We have close links with a number of local employers.

We are situated next to the 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 College celebrate each student's successes and achievements?

Student achievements are always celebrated enthusiastically at Sheiling College. Certificates are presented in class to celebrate specific achievements and staff are sincere and effusive with their praise. Consequently, the students feel excited, happy and proud that they have achieved success.

As well as recognising planned learning, the culture at Sheiling College is to acknowledge unplanned achievement and personal growth. The college records and celebrates students' creativity, communication progress, social skills development, self-advocacy skills, healthy living choices and self-awareness, as well as focussing on development of healthy emotional and physical wellbeing.

A celebration and awards presentation event takes place each July for the students, parents and carers preceded by a play performed by the students and a barbecue/buffet lunch.

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

Specialist Services:

Speech and Language Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy

Positive Behaviour Support
Transformative Art Counselling
Music Therapy

Eurythmy Therapy
Massage


Expertise:

Complex Learning Difficulties
Severe Learning Difficulties
Moderate Learning Difficulties

How accessible is the Sheiling College environment?

The rural nature of the college grounds means that there is a limit to the physical and organisational adjustments that can be made to accommodate students with certain physical disabilities. The needs of each prospective student 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 College provide any specialist equipment?

A dedicated team of onsite therapists sets us apart from many SEND provisions. During our rigorous assessment process, therapists will work with students, parents or carers and the local authority to identify any potential specialist equipment required. Regular reviews of students' progress enable the therapy team to identify new needs as and when they arise.

Does Sheiling College have a Student Council?


We value our students' views and choices and include these as much as possible across the curriculum. The Student Council is made up of representative students from all houses and classes and their meetings are supported by the speech and language team to ensure all students are able to participate. Students help to plan college celebrations and make an impact on their education through activities such as choosing new sports equipment, supporting the writing of policies and participating in the interview process when recruiting for some staff roles.

Where do young people go when they leave Sheiling College?

Transitions are unique for each student and require Sheiling College to work in partnership with families, the student and the local authority. Transition pathways are established through sharing of information, in depth assessments and transition visits. Sheiling College supports the students and families to consider a variety of vocational and living arrangements that may be suitable for them following their programme at College. Typically, students will transition into either supported living, residential care or they may remain in the family home with local community access. In terms of vocational pathways, students may progress onto accessing voluntary work placements, supported employment or paid work and leisure pursuits can be accessed in provisions such as day centres or by regularly accessing the local community. Most students will continue to receive funding from the local authority, therefore collaborative working between families, the LA and the college is vital.

What should you do if you don't feel Sheiling College 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 been successful, 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.





Our Local Offer was developed with staff and
parents and will be reviewed by the Board of
Trustees on an annual basis

Call Reception on: 01425 477488

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The Sheiling Ringwood

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