

# Prospectus



# HEAD TEACHERS WELCOME

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It is with great pride and deep commitment that I welcome you to River Tees Hospital School, a truly nurturing and inclusive community where every day we dedicate ourselves to transforming the lives of our most vulnerable pupils. As a vital part of the River Tees Multi-Academy Trust family, our unwavering mission is to place learning, health, and wellbeing at the very core of all we do.

I am profoundly honoured to serve as Head Teacher of this exceptional school, leading a remarkable team of passionate and skilled professionals. Together, we work tirelessly to support our pupils as they reconnect with their learning while on their road to recovery.

At River Tees, we understand that each pupil's needs are unique, especially those facing complex physical and mental health challenges. Our commitment is to reset and personalise their educational journeys, enabling them to achieve meaningful progress and improved life opportunities. We believe education is a holistic experience, one that blends academic growth with emotional wellbeing. Through specialist assessments and bespoke pathways, we create integrated plans that empower our pupils to flourish in every aspect of their lives.

Our school is a safe haven where every pupil is valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Our dedicated staff go above and beyond to remove barriers to learning, ensuring that every individual has access to a tailored curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations.

Together, we change lives.

**Adam Burns**  
**Head of Hospital School**



# OUR SCHOOL, OUR VISION

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River Tees Hospital School is a unique alternative special school dedicated to serving pupils who face a range of educational barriers due to complex physical and mental health challenges. We understand that every learner's journey is different, and our mission is to provide a nurturing, inclusive environment where each pupil can thrive.

## A CHILD-CENTRED APPROACH

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At River Tees Hospital School, we recognise that our learners have encountered a variety of educational barriers preventing them from accessing their mainstream schools for medical reasons. To ensure every learner has the opportunity to succeed, we offer a secure teaching and learning model with a holistic and consistent approach designed to maximise curriculum outcomes for all pupils.

This approach is enhanced by an intense level of support relating to each pupil's personal development and emotional wellbeing. Given the complexity of need and the diversity of challenges our learners experience, the packages of care we offer are carefully tailored to meet individual needs.

## BESPOKE CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

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Our curriculum is bespoke, offering a variety of educational pathways that pupils can access depending on their individual medical needs. This personalised curriculum ensures that every learner is supported to engage fully and rediscover their love of learning while on the road to recovery.

Once medically signed off, we assist pupils with a smooth transition back to mainstream education or onto further specialist provisions, ensuring continuity and progression in their educational journey.

## INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE EDUCATION

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We embrace the principles of equity and inclusion, recognising and responding to the diverse needs of all our pupils. Our school culture actively removes barriers to learning, ensuring every learner feels valued, supported, and empowered to develop their full learning, emotional, social, and physical capabilities. This aligns with national and regional frameworks that emphasise the importance of an inclusive education and personalised support for vulnerable and diverse groups of learners.

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# EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

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Our highly skilled staff deliver a curriculum aligned with mainstream expectations while recognising and addressing gaps in pupils' education. Targeted academic interventions cover literacy, numeracy, social and emotional wellbeing, and British Values. Personal Development interventions nurture responsible, respectful, and active citizens within both the school community and society at large.

## PROMOTING POSITIVE RELATIONAL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

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We understand that social inclusion, deprivation, adverse childhood experiences, and undiagnosed special educational needs can hinder a young person's potential. Through fostering strong, trusting relationships and employing a relational approach, we actively work to remove these barriers, support positive behaviour, and promote wellbeing.

## OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES

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Careers education and guidance underpin our work. We encourage high aspirations through a carefully planned careers curriculum that offers pupils opportunities to explore life beyond school, including work-related scenarios, visits from external speakers, college visits, and more. This prepares learners for adulthood with confidence and ambition.



**'The school lives up to the staff mantra, 'We Change Lives'. Pupils grow academically and socially. Through a combination of holistic therapy and a bespoke curriculum offer, pupils flourish. They become enthusiastic learners, studying for qualifications such as GCSEs, and are supported to access a place in further education or employment'**  
– Ofsted July 2024

# OUR ETHOS & VALUES

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We are dedicated to changing lives and empowering our staff, pupils, and communities to embody the following values:

- R** **Resilient and brave**  
We encourage our pupils to face challenges with courage and determination.
- T** **Trustworthy and kind**  
We foster an environment of trust and kindness, promoting positive relationships among all members of our community.
- M** **Making positive differences to learners, staff and our wider communities**  
We strive to impact the lives of our pupils, staff, and the wider community positively.
- A** **Aspirational and hopeful**  
We inspire our pupils to dream big and pursue their ambitions with hope and enthusiasm.
- T** **Tolerant and respectful**  
We promote an inclusive culture that values diversity and encourages respect for all individuals.

Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, providing our pupils with the best opportunities for success in further education and post-16 pathways. We focus on the three C's:

**Currency:** Equipping pupils with essential skills and knowledge for the future.

**Character:** Helping pupils understand who they are and who they aspire to be.

**Community:** Building connections with others and fostering an understanding of the wider world.



Together, these themes support every pupil in achieving a successful transition to adulthood, equipping them with the skills and qualifications needed for future employment. We emphasise the importance of developing a strong sense of self, enabling our pupils to become valued and responsible members of society.

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# OUR AIMS

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At River Tees Hospital School, we are committed to providing a safe, stable, stimulating, and nurturing environment where every learner is given the maximum opportunity to achieve their academic and personal potential.

## **Our aims are to:**

- Deliver a broad, balanced, and accessible curriculum that is relevant to the individual needs of all pupils and aligns with the National Curriculum requirements, while being adaptable to medical and developmental needs.
- Set consistently high expectations to stretch and challenge every learner, recognising their unique starting points and potential.
- Foster a culture of tolerance, respect, trust, and resilience, promoting high standards of work, behaviour, and mutual support.
- Regularly monitor and assess individual progress and targets, tailoring intervention programmes to effectively support learners' academic and personal development needs.
- Encourage the development of social, emotional, spiritual, moral, cultural, and physical skills through a rich and inclusive learning environment.
- Provide a nurturing atmosphere that inspires a love of learning, where every pupil feels cared for, valued, and supported.
- Maintain excellent communication and collaboration with professional networks, partner schools, and external services to ensure holistic support for each learner.
- Identify, assess, and provide targeted support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), ensuring equitable access to education.
- Offer a comprehensive package of therapeutic interventions designed to support and enhance learners' social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing.
- Support all learners to achieve smooth and successful transitions to long-term educational provisions that best meet their ongoing needs, whether returning to mainstream, specialist settings, or further education.



# OUR ADMISSIONS & REFERRAL PROCESS

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River Tees Hospital School provides education for children and young people who are hospital inpatients, those unable to return to their mainstream or special schools, and pupils who cannot attend school due to medical needs. Our placements are typically temporary and time-limited, with the goal of facilitating a smooth return to mainstream, specialist, or post-16 educational settings.

The Local Authority collaborates with school for admissions to River Tees Hospital School. Educational providers and neighbouring Local Authorities can refer children needing additional support and access to education due to medical, physical, or mental health difficulties.

Given the complex needs of our pupils, referrals for those excluded or at risk of exclusion due to behaviours that challenge should be directed to alternative agencies rather than River Tees Hospital School.

Our provision is designed for pupils who are medically unfit to attend school, including those with physical illnesses, injuries, or mental health challenges. We pay particular attention to students suffering from medically diagnosed mental illnesses, such as anxiety, depression, and school phobia, including separation anxiety and school refusal linked to clinical depression.

It is crucial that a referral to Hospital School is part of an integrated support plan, developed collaboratively by all professionals involved, with clear goals for the pupil's return to school or alternative educational provision.



# OUR EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

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## Acklam Road Hospital

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**Lotus Ward** is a specialised 10-bed inpatient unit at Acklam Road Hospital, providing expert mental health care for young people aged 13 to 18. As part of Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust, we focus on assessment and treatment for adolescents experiencing early onset psychosis and complex mental health conditions.

Our compassionate team supports young people in crisis or with complex needs, offering tailored interventions in a therapeutic environment that promotes recovery and wellbeing.

Education at Lotus Ward is delivered by specialist staff from River Tees Hospital School, integrating academic learning with therapeutic care. Teaching occurs on the ward or in a dedicated education suite, with personalised programmes for each pupil, including small group and one-to-one sessions.



For pupils over 16, we support informed decisions about education, employment, or training pathways. Our team works closely with families, schools, and clinical staff to ensure coordinated support.

Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, and Science, alongside PSHE and enrichment activities such as crochet and music. We offer both home school assignments and tailored curriculum pathways to meet individual needs. At Lotus Ward, every young person is valued and supported to develop academically, socially, and emotionally, fostering resilience and wellbeing through personalised learning journeys.

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# Community Learning

At River Tees Hospital School, we deliver a comprehensive curriculum through community-based learning, ensuring pupils continue their education seamlessly while receiving care. Our curriculum aligns with in-school offers and is personalised to meet each pupil's unique needs in collaboration with medical professionals.

We use flexible teaching methods tailored to individual circumstances, including:

- Home Tuition for personalised teaching at home
- Learning in public venues such as community hubs and libraries
- AV1 Robot technology for remote lesson participation
- Virtual classrooms via Teams or Zoom with subject specialists
- Telephone teaching for direct support
- Digital reading enhancement through Reading Plus
- Paper-based learning packs for independent study

Our diverse approaches provide an inclusive, supportive educational experience that empowers pupils to thrive despite their medical challenges.



# James Cook University Hospital

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At River Tees Hospital School, we are committed to supporting school-age inpatients in their education while they receive medical treatment. Our aim is to minimise the impact of illness on learning and wellbeing by providing personalised educational support from the day after admission.

Teaching is primarily one-to-one at the bedside, with small group sessions on the ward for those medically able. We serve children aged 5-18 across two wards at James Cook Hospital, recognising that some pupils may have longer or frequent stays.

We work closely with home schools, families, and medical teams to tailor bespoke learning programmes that address academic, emotional, and medical needs. Our nurturing environment fosters strong relationships, high expectations, and smooth transitions back to mainstream or alternative education upon discharge.

Each pupil's education plan balances academic progress with emotional wellbeing and medical care, ensuring a holistic and supportive approach throughout their hospital stay.





## Sandringham House

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**Sandringham House** offers dedicated education for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils unable to attend mainstream school due to complex medical needs. We provide a safe, supportive environment with a high staff-to-pupil ratio, small teaching groups, and flexible timetables tailored to individual needs.

Each pupil has a dedicated tutor who supports their academic and personal development. Our ambitious curriculum aligns with the National Curriculum, fostering academic, social, and emotional growth. We focus on core skills such as literacy and numeracy, using systematic phonics and varied writing approaches, while connecting learning to real-world contexts through projects and community engagement.

Beyond academics, we nurture resilience, confidence, and social skills to prepare pupils for future education, employment, or training. Continuous assessment and personalised support ensure pupils overcome barriers and make progress.

Our goal is to empower every pupil to succeed and smoothly transition back to mainstream education or post-16 pathways, building a foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.

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# OUR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

At River Tees Hospital School, we deliver a coherent, knowledge-rich curriculum designed to develop confident, responsible learners and citizens. Our curriculum fosters deep understanding through progressive core knowledge and essential concepts, connecting prior learning with new ideas across local and global contexts.

We emphasise the 3Cs:

- Character: Supporting personal growth, resilience, and self-awareness.
- Currency: Equipping pupils with skills and knowledge for future challenges and opportunities.
- Community: Building relationships and understanding pupils' roles in the wider world.

Literacy, oracy, and digital communication are integral, enabling pupils to express their learning effectively. Each subject embeds these strands to provide a broad, balanced education that prepares pupils for successful transitions to further education and adulthood.



**'Teachers have a wealth of subject knowledge and a rich experience of teaching pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)'**  
– Ofsted July 2024

# OUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

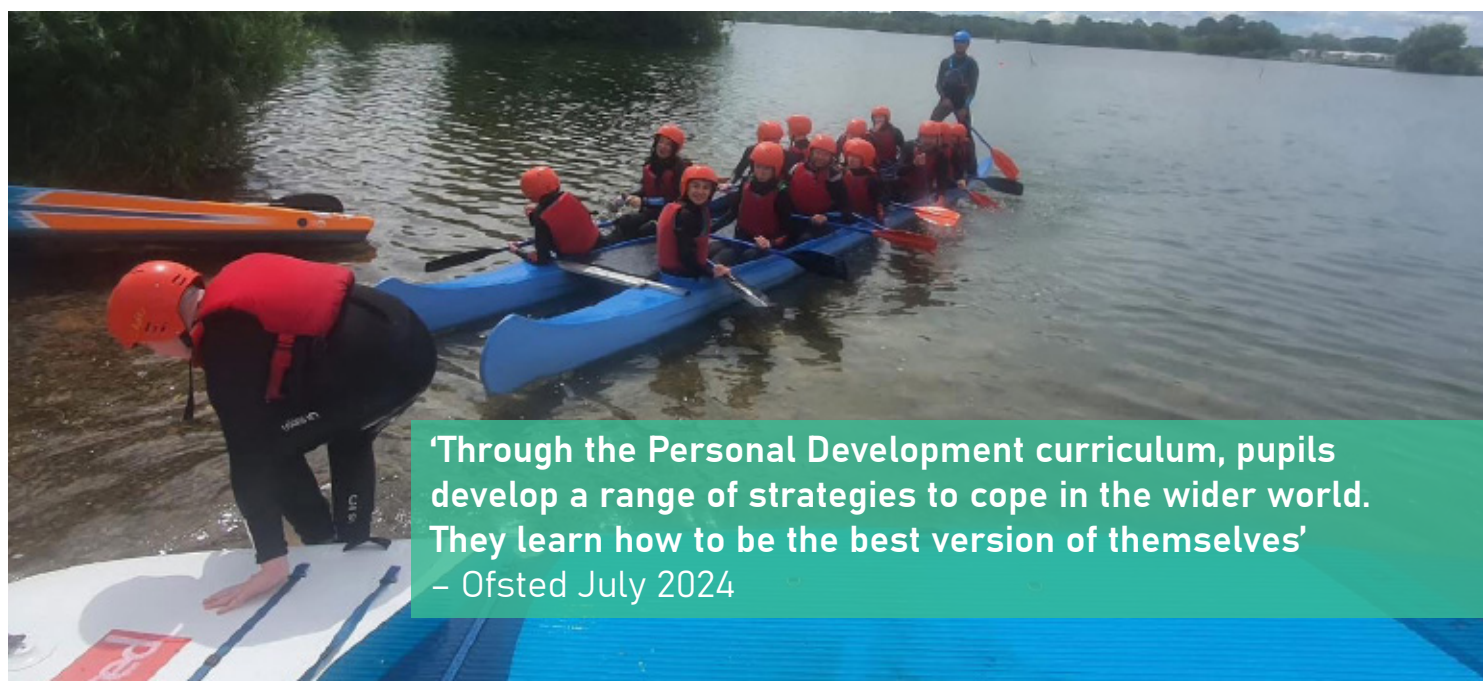
At River Tees Hospital School, our Personal Development curriculum supports pupils' growth beyond academics, fostering physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. Through social enrichment, careers education, and promotion of British Values, we empower pupils to develop character, resilience, and employability skills.

Guided by Personal Development Road Maps, pupils build self-awareness, wellbeing regulation, and respect for diversity, preparing them for active citizenship. Our curriculum is delivered through PSHE lessons, assemblies, enrichment activities, and trips, integrated within our 3C framework:

- Character: Supporting personal growth, resilience, and self-awareness.
- Currency: Equipping pupils with skills and knowledge for future challenges and opportunities.
- Community: Building relationships and understanding pupils' roles in the wider world.

We nurture pupils to be Resilient & Brave, Trustworthy & Kind, Aspirational & Hopeful, and Tolerant & Respectful. Through community engagement and a supportive environment, we inspire them to make a positive difference and approach life with confidence and kindness.

ENRICHMENT **BRITISH VALUES**  
HEALTH & WELLBEING PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS  
PSHE / RSE CAREERS / PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD  
**DUKE OF EDINBURGH** SMSC  
EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION  
RESIDENTIALS / EDUCATIONAL VISITS



'Through the Personal Development curriculum, pupils develop a range of strategies to cope in the wider world. They learn how to be the best version of themselves'  
- Ofsted July 2024

# OUR THERAPEUTIC OFFER

River Tees Hospital School provides specialised emotional wellbeing and mental health support through a skilled multidisciplinary team, including art-based interventions, Thrive, cognitive behavioural therapy, counselling, and behaviour therapy.

Our **Specialists in the Trust (SIT) Team** conduct thorough assessments using evidence-based tools to design personalised interventions tailored to each pupil's unique needs. They work closely with school staff, families, and external agencies to provide comprehensive care.

We promote a calm, safe environment where pupils feel valued and ready to learn. Our whole-school approach includes tailored pastoral support, personalised wellbeing plans, reasonable adjustments (such as quiet spaces and trusted adults), and collaboration with mental health professionals.

Parents and carers are integral partners in supporting pupils' mental health. We encourage early engagement to develop and regularly review plans addressing attendance and wellbeing, ensuring each child's needs are met effectively.



'The care and nurture shown by staff towards pupils is exceptional'  
– Ofsted July 2024

# OUTREACH

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At River Tees Hospital School, our staff are eager to share their expertise with mainstream schools and other educational providers. Much of this collaboration is conducted on a no-fee partnership basis. We offer consultancy and continuing professional development (CPD) in areas such as the Relational Behaviour Approach, Thrive, mental health support, and personalised learning strategies to help schools enhance their in-house provision.

Our outreach support is tailored to meet the individual needs of both pupils and schools. The outreach offer includes, but is not limited to:

- **Pupil-Focused Support:** One of our highly experienced staff members will visit a mainstream setting to provide advice and strategies to support a child's learning and wellbeing following a period of specialist observations.
- **Individual Staff Support:** Colleagues from local schools are invited to observe pedagogical strategies and personal development interventions in our setting. We also collaborate with teacher training providers to facilitate broader school experiences.
- **School-Focused Support:** We provide whole-school training and workshops, working closely with SENDCOs, leadership teams, teachers, and learning support staff to promote development and inclusion.
- **Specialist Mental Health Support:** Outreach from our Specialist Mental Health Practitioners.
- **Facilitating Discussions:** We support discussions with parents and other professionals.
- **Transition Support:** Assisting with the transition process for pupils.
- **Specialist Training:** We offer tailored training courses for staff from mainstream schools, including Positive Behaviour Support, Mental Health First Aid, Thrive Training and Emotional Literacy.

We believe that successful outreach must be customised to your school's specific needs. Therefore, we will work collaboratively with you throughout the process to ensure that the support package is effective for your school, staff, and pupils.

## WHO TO CONTACT

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If you have any questions or would like to connect with the Hospital School team, please email: [enquirieshospital@rtmat.org.uk](mailto:enquirieshospital@rtmat.org.uk)





For further information please visit  
[www.riverteeshospitalschool.org.uk](http://www.riverteeshospitalschool.org.uk)

or call 01642 203876