

Royal School for the Deaf Derby

Statement of Purpose

Royal School for the Deaf Derby is a unique provider of day and weekly (4 nights boarding or by request part-time placements) for Deaf children and young people aged 3–19. We deliver literacy, numeracy and all curriculum areas in both British Sign Language and English tailoring our approach to the individual communication profiles of children and young people. We are a signing and speaking community where the languages and cultures of both Deaf and Hearing people are valued equally. We promote a strong sense of identity and independence and prepare children and young people for further or higher education and/or the world of work.

We offer a warm, caring, supportive, safe, secure and non-oppressive environment that appreciates the characteristics of a child's or young person's race, gender, ability and religion together with their likes and dislikes, dietary needs, cultural, religious, social, emotional, medical and physical needs.

We encourage parents, carers and those funding the placements of children and young people to visit our school and experience the breadth of our provision. We offer free assessments for prospective pupils and a one term placement as an extended assessment.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our highest priority underpinning all school and residential life. We work with a range of agencies and partners to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare and make sure they have the knowledge to keep themselves safe. Some pupils are given a key worker.

Ofsted Welfare carry out annual inspections and identified governors from the Pupil Welfare Committee carry out announced and unannounced inspections. Children and young people have easy access to an Independent Visitor.

We encourage all our young people and their families to tell us about any concerns or anxieties they may have and try our best to resolve them through both informal and formal complaints procedures

Equal Opportunities

We are an inclusive community committed to meeting and exceeding our obligations to promote equality and value diversity. Robust policies, everyday attitudes and practices are in place to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and ensure every child and young person is treated with dignity. Advancing equality of opportunity between and amongst children and young people who share, or have different, characteristics is a key aim.

Curriculum

We deliver a broad and balanced curriculum leading to a range of nationally accredited qualifications i.e. GCSE, A Level, ASDAN, BTEC and Entry Levels. We develop skills in BSL and English which are taught and assessed formally and rigorously monitored.

Teaching and learning are highly adapted and differentiated to meet the needs of individual children and young people through a range of strategies including personalised timetables,

Royal School for the Deaf Derby

education and behaviour plans, independence targets, communication profiles and other programmes to prepare them for transition to the next phase in their education and life.

Post 16 students attend off campus providers facilitated by transition support communicators and follow a programme of their choice accessing the opportunities and experiences available to all young people. On campus, subject specialist Teachers of the Deaf deliver all other subjects including GCSE, Key Skills, Skills for Life and provide 1:1 tutorials, structured self-study and homework sessions. In addition, students enjoy and achieve in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Driving Theory.

Identified primary and secondary pupils attend mainstream schools and colleges for part of their curriculum delivery and the primary department has developed two-way links with local primary schools. Deaf pupils from mainstream schools can attend RSSD for BSL and other options. Students in Y11 and Post 16 undertake periods of work experience.

We promote a positive sense of identity for all pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in both deaf and hearing communities aided by an extensive CEAIG (Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance).

Transport

Transport to and from the Royal School for the Deaf is the responsibility of the sponsoring authority and parents/carers should liaise with their LA.

Health Care

Children and young people benefit from a holistic approach to their health and our commitment to ensuring they grow socially and emotionally as well as academically. We have a user-friendly Health Centre staffed by 2 qualified nurses and enjoy strong links with the local NHS Trust, school dental service and other health professionals including CAMHS.

Residence

Our Residential Provision aims to teach children and young people to be confident, independent and responsible members of society. Social care staff develop positive relationships with residential children and young people investing significant amounts of time and energy to ensure that they are settled well into their house, their needs are identified, targets set through discussion and agreement and met through rigorous care plan evaluations

We also offer an extended residential provision on identified weekends or for individual placement by social care.

Outreach Programme

Our outreach programme includes provision of: specialist training for mainstream school staff; students on teacher of the deaf courses; special schools and other external organisations; outreach and support for identified deaf pupils and students in mainstream schools; audiological assessments; teacher of the deaf assessments for deaf students and young people seeking independent placements at FE colleges. We also offer free British Sign Language tuition for parents and carers of children and young people at our School and a "play and stay" morning for parents and carers of deaf children.

Royal School for the Deaf Derby

Community

As part of our community partnerships pupils have links with local, national and international communities for example performances by our Signing Choirs and links with European Schools for Deaf Children.

See also:

Vision Statement
Language and Communication Policy and Procedures
Disability, Diversity and Accessibility Scheme
Admissions Policy and Admissions Information
Residence Handbook