

# The Retreat School

Trusted to deliver excellence

# Welcome to The Retreat School

At The Retreat School we recognise that maintaining young people in education is of vital importance. Our school is registered as an independent school catering for a maximum of 4 students, aged 11-18 and provides full time education. We put a strong emphasis on vocational courses and broadly follow the National Curriculum leading up to GCSE and Functional Skills accreditation



## Our Approach

Our unique approach seeks to ensure children feel safe, secure, not-judged, accepted and understood. We offer a variety of educational packages to small groups of students where we provide all students our bespoke education where our aim is for our students to build up self-esteem and attain nationally recognised qualifications which will provide a pathway to apprenticeships and adult employment and integration into community life. We are able to transform the lives of young people, encouraging positive relationships with a high emphasis on life enriching opportunities and activities, and developing strategies to help them to navigate their way through life situations.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to help children and young people to develop their social, independence and education skills so they can fulfil their aspirations and potential. The Retreat House School offers a range of bespoke educational care for young people within a safe and homely environment. The Retreat is specifically designed to support individuals in leading active and independent lives.

- 1** Person-centred framework that places each young person at the heart of their learning.
- 2** Bespoke education with positive outcomes that provide successful, stable placements.
- 3** High-quality educational care that is a positive, enriching experience for young people.
- 4** Qualified teachers who have the skills and experience needed to meet the individual learning needs of each young person.

We make a real and lasting difference to children's lives through quality education solutions that address children's and young people's specific needs.



The Retreat School offers a warm and friendly environment with outstanding specialist support for children and young people. Whether we're working with young people from any type of background, with our society's most vulnerable young people, or with those displaying challenging behaviours, we believe everyone deserves the best chance to grow, and to get an education that equips them for a brighter future.



The support afforded to young people at The Retreat School is delivered by experienced education and clinical professionals who work together to meet the holistic needs of individual children. Young people benefit from a highly stimulating and well organised curriculum which is a main driver behind young people's learning success. Our team are passionate about their work and determined to ensure that children realise their full potential with pathways that tackle the difficult transitional journeys from childhood to adulthood.

## Improving Children's Experiences

Our Retreat School service is specifically designed to support young people in experiencing education in a positive light, with bespoke timetables tailored to suit the needs of each individual, presenting them with the best opportunity to reintegrate into mainstream educational settings or training-based employment. We use approaches to understand a young person's behaviour, rather than just describe it, recognising the possible impact of learning differences associated with challenging behaviour, and how these uniquely impact on the young person. We aim to improve children's experience and quality of life through use of pro-active educational approaches to support a feeling of wellbeing and to reduce the risk of an incident occurring. We have huge aspirations for the children who learn with us at The Retreat School, providing quality education and support so that young people can develop the skills they need to live independently and contribute positively to their local community.



### Independent School

The Retreat offers specialist education and care for children and young people who experience complex learning and behavioural needs.



### Safe Learning Environment

A safe and nurturing education environment that meets the full range of young people's needs with tailored curriculums geared around a deep understanding of young people's challenges.



### Partnership Approach

We want every child who learns with us at The Retreat School to reach their potential. We value partnership working with families, schools, local authorities and other professionals.

# Academic and Vocational Learning

The Retreat School has its own distinctive character, atmosphere and facilities. It provides a well-rounded, differentiated and skilfully-supported academic curriculum and vocational learning environment where design technology, arts, crafts and music, outdoor education and life skills all feature highly in our enrichment activities.

The Retreat School help young people to develop their education, social and independence skills so they can fulfil their aspirations and potential. We believe that challenging behaviours, past trauma and learning differences need not be a barrier to success.

Through our distinctive approach we encourage and develop children to be the very best they can be – giving them the confidence to be themselves and drawing out their incredible abilities. Young people are happy, they experience success and each finds their individual opportunity to shine.

## ✓ Intake and Introduction

On admission young people will complete an intake and induction process. The focus is on Healthy and Safety. Education will mostly be on a 1:2 basis

## ✓ Learning Skills

During placement children will develop a sense of achievement, responsibility and independent learning skills. Education will progress to a working group size of 1:3.

## ✓ Re-engagement

Our aim is for all young people to successfully re-engage in mainstream educational settings such as local schools, colleges or training based employment.



The Retreat School offers:

### Academic

- Arts Award
- Arts & Crafts and Music
- ASDAN
- AQA Unit Award
- Employability Skills
- Entry Level
- Functional Skills
- GSCE
- Independent living skills
- Key Skills: Literacy, numeracy and IT
- NCFE

### Academic

- Hair and Beauty
- Child Development
- Health and Social Care
- Food Technology
- Costume Design

Our people are our difference. It's their dedication, warmth and pursuit of excellence that sets The Retreat School apart.

The Leadership Team are experienced and well qualified professionals who lead a team of fully qualified teachers and instructors. Students follow a broad curriculum blended with a varied range of vocational courses linking in with students interests and preparing them for future employment.

Our cohort of students usually share a background of struggling to attend and achieve in mainstream provisions, therefore at The Retreat School, we present them with a bespoke and made to measure alternative approach to education, that draws out their strengths.

### ✓ Partnership working

- Close partnership working with the local authority, maintaining a clean and environmentally friendly community
- Engage in a range of outdoor sports such as Horse Therapy, Equine Studies, Clip N' Climb, Music

### ✓ Vocational Learning

- Strong links with local organisations including charitable trusts, faith groups and providing public and private sector organisations providing students with valuable vocational experience.

### ✓ Therapeutic Interventions

- Anger Management
- Anti-bullying
- Bereavement Counselling
- Drugs, Alcohol and Solvent Awareness
- Group work
- Mindfulness Based CBT
- Psychotherapy and Counselling using Arts and Crafts based therapeutic interventions



The opportunities to take part in things they have never done before develop their confidence and enjoyment of school. (Ofsted 2018)





# A multi-disciplinary approach

The Retreat School believes in a holistic approach when looking after our young people. Being a part of Your Chapter means we are part of a therapeutically led organisation and there is close co-operation between Clinical, Care and Education professionals. Our multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach, pairing education and care with a robust therapeutic input is an integral part of our Three Phase 'Wellbeing for Life©' recovery programme and bMINDFUL Psychology.

## The backbone of our success

Weekly MDT meetings form the backbone of our practice with colleagues from all three disciplines coming together to discuss each young person. The focus lies on what went well in the past week, where to improve, and the progress made in completing their recovery programme, finishing by formulating a robust plan for the upcoming week.

MDT meetings have an allocated slot for young people to present their views, ensuring they are a part of their recovery programme.

The Retreat School has dedicated clinical suite where all young people complete their 1:1 sessions with our employed Clinical Psychologists.



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Our unique approach of combining our Wellbeing for Life© programme/bMindful Psychology with our bespoke vocational facilities sets us apart from any other provider and enables us to succeed. Educ8 schools has a nation wide portfolio of Department for Education (DfE) registered specialist schools, each of which provides a high standard of education for children with a broad range of Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

Our schools have achieved excellent qualifications and outcomes: A levels, GCSE's, Functional Skills L1/L2, Entry Level Certificates, Vocational qualifications such as Child Development and Silver Arts Award. At The Retreat School students have achieved various qualifications including Entry Level Certificates in Maths, English, Science, OCR Child Development L1, Functional Skills L1 and L2 in Maths and English, GCSE's in History, English Literature and Maths, ASDAN Certificates in Hair and Beauty, Food Wise, Animal Care, Sex and Relationships, and Citizenship and Beliefs.

## Testimonials from our school



**This is a school that feels like a family. Pupils enjoy their learning and feel safe because staff look after them. They understand the complexity of pupils' needs. As one pupil commented, They just get me. (Ofsted 2023).**



**Staff support pupils to manage their behaviour well by tailoring their approach to the individual needs of each pupil. Pupils respond to this. They take a real pride in their work and achieve well. Staff help pupils to understand what appropriate behaviour looks like in preparation for life after school. (Ofsted 2023).**



**The Following Policies are available on request:**

Safeguarding Policy (will be sent with this brochure), Behaviour Policy, Complaint Policy, Curriculum Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, Exclusion Policy, Subject Policies, First Aid Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Admission Policy and Attendance Policy.



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