Welcome to Chailey Heritage School

Chailey Heritage School, is a non-maintained, Ofsted-Outstanding special school for children and young people, aged 3 to 19, with complex physical disabilities, high health needs, sensory impairments and associated learning difficulties.

Our specialist facilities are second to none and include an award-winning mobility and track system, a multi-sensory studio with the latest technology to improve sensory awareness, a hydrotherapy pool, all-weather riding and cutting-edge ICT and communication facilities. Pupils have on-site access to clinical and therapeutic input from our NHS colleagues enabling the very best provision of treatment and care.

Our teachers, therapists and carers are highly trained to work with young people with such complex needs and are committed to empowering and enriching their lives, giving them every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and independence.
What sets us apart here at Chailey Heritage School are our young people. Despite being at the most complex edge of health and learning needs, our young people never cease to amaze us with their capabilities and enthusiasm for learning. They are the inspiration that drives the world-class specialist support and facilities here at Chailey Heritage School.

Our adaptable and creative person-centred approach to provision and learning is steered by the ever changing complex needs of our individual pupils. The challenge of finding increasingly motivating, meaningful and accessible opportunities for every child is what pushes every member of our on-site multi-disciplinary teams, who never ever giving up seeking out effective solutions.

Chailey Heritage School brings together the best of every service to provide each child with bespoke provision so they can achieve their full potential and love life.

Simon Yates
Headteacher
"Exceptionally precise planning of all learning activities means that very often a pupil’s education, health and therapy needs can be met at the same time. Because therapists and nurses work so closely with teachers, pupils very often remain in classroom for the necessary health and therapy routines, which means that learning is rarely interrupted."

Ofsted Report, October 2014

Meeting Children’s Health and Therapy Needs

Nurses respond to needs in school/class

Our unique on-site partnership with Chailey Heritage Clinical Services of Sussex Community NHS Trust allows therapy to be integral to every child’s timetable. Therapists lead individual and small group sessions and provide in-class support and training to class staff. Therapists and specialist engineers are on hand to address altered and changing physical and postural needs.

The Chailey Heritage Clinical Services Team include:
- Physiotherapists
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Nursing Team
- Consultant Paediatrician in Neurodisability and over 30 specialist outpatient clinics
- Dietitian
- Rehabilitation Engineering Services
What is Hippotherapy?

The use of the movement of a horse to achieve therapeutic aims, with emphasis on the horse as a physio-therapeutic modality.

The cost of riding at Chailey Heritage Foundation is met entirely through fundraising activities. Each year £45k is raised to enable pupils to ride every week.

“As a result of the riding, our daughter now has much more control as to how she sits and is far more able to correct her balance when she loses it”

Parent

Hydrotherapy

The heated hydrotherapy pool at Chailey Heritage provides the children, young people and their families, as well as the wider community, the opportunity to have fun together whilst also allowing them to exercise and experience the sensation of water-supported movement, along with practical swimming lessons, where appropriate. Experienced staff implement individual hydrotherapy programmes devised and supported by specialist physiotherapists. Sessions aim to help our pupils to improve their core strength, posture and performance, as well as having an enjoyable physical leisure experience.
Integrating Learning, Therapy And Fun

“The wide range of activities and therapeutic input he gets with you is just what he needs.”

Parent

Children’s therapy is integrated throughout their school day supporting and enhancing their learning.

Collaborative planning means that personal therapy and learning outcomes can often be achieved at the same time. Teachers and therapists work together to devise individual programmes and ‘next steps’ which can be incorporated into meaningful and fun activities.

Learning does not stop when care needs arise. Engaging individuals in aspects of eating, drinking and other personal care is an integral part of each young person’s day. At the same time, important communicative, social, physical and even literacy and numeracy skills are developed in these everyday functional contexts. The class teams work closely with lunchtime and care staff to model and share ideas to maximise opportunities for developing each young person’s holistic ‘next steps’.
Dedicated & Passionate Staff

It is no surprise that many staff and volunteers at Chailey Heritage Foundation stay with us for many years, with excellent teamwork and inspirational young people to work with. There is a real sense of making a difference, and belonging to something very special.

Staff Expertise

We provide staff with a comprehensive rolling programme of specialist training and updates. We are committed to developing our practices in line with the very latest research and technological advancements.

“The staff’s patience and dedication towards treating him in a kind and loving way has helped him settle too.”

Parent

“I love working with the young people and the staff, it’s just a very caring, supportive environment.”

Teacher
Experts In Promoting Independence Through Powered Mobility

“The powered chair smart platform is enormously important to Alex. More than anything he wants to be able to move himself around... The opportunity to drive his chair is of paramount importance to him to give him some independence.”

Parent

Every young person has the opportunity to experience appropriate forms of powered mobility. The award winning Chailey Heritage Foundation engineering team have developed a range of advanced assistive technologies to develop driving skills and allow progression; these include:

- TRACK wheelchair guidance system (with over 1km of track both indoors and around the school site)
- Audio Signposting System
- Collision avoidance system for wheelchairs (SCAD)
- Powered Standers
- Universal power base
- Effort Reduction Wheelchair – making free driving easier
Mobility & Engineering

We are incredibly fortunate to have one of the best Research and Development Electronic Engineers, Dr Martin Langner. He has developed innovative and revolutionary technology and equipment to enable the children, some with complex disabilities, to interact with their environment, provide them with new control opportunities, as well as being able to get around independently.

Rehabilitation Engineering Services

The RES team at Chailey Heritage Clinical Services consists of qualified engineers, technicians and clinical scientists. They adapt, modify and problem solve issues with equipment, ‘mount’ equipment for optimal use by the child, carry out on-site repairs and design and manufacture bespoke equipment. They undertake equipment reviews and provide advice on safety in the use of equipment. The breadth of this service in a school is unique.
“We are passionate about giving all our children experiences they would not otherwise have and bringing the world to them.”

Specialist Sensory Impairment Teacher

Over 50% of our pupils have visual and/or hearing impairments. Our specialist approaches ensure that sensory skills are maximised, senses are stimulated and sensory ‘strengths’ are tapped into in order to open up a world of experience and learning for each individual.

In addition to a wide variety of class-room based multi-sensory resources, our multi-sensory provision includes:

- Specialist multi-sensory impairment teacher
- Specialist sensory impairment assessments
- In-house bespoke training for staff
- Specialist teaching methods
- Trained intervenors (accredited by SENSE)
- State of the art multi-sensory studio
- Dark rooms
- Multi-sensory mobility aids
- Unique multi-sensory tunnel
Exploring Cause and Effect

Intentional actions and vocalisations are encouraged and developed through the use of activities and interactions that give meaningful feedback as a reward. Pupils are motivated to ‘try that again’ and, in time, anticipate the reward.

Multi-Sensory Approach For PMLD Learners

Therapeutic programmes are developed for each child with the sensory input needed to help them reach their potential.

Pupils with PMLD who are also visually and/or hearing impaired are helped to communicate with the support of intervenors and encounter controlled sensory experiences in the Sensory Studio, Dark Room or together with normal classroom activities. Working one-to-one, an intervenor acts as an enabler, promoting the person’s social and personal development, encouraging their independence skills and facilitating their communication with the world around them.

Our intervenors are all trained by Sense, the national charity which supports children who are deafblind or have sensory impairments.
“He’s become more vocal, so when he’s frustrated he’s growling, he’s talking a lot more, making a lot more sounds. His personality has developed, he’s more outgoing, so as a mum it’s great to see, it’s fantastic.”

Parent

All pupils at Chailey Heritage School have some level of communication difficulty. We always strive to meet every individual’s need and right to communicate and be listened to.

A key to successful communication is our ‘Total Communication’ and ‘Responsive Environment’ approach, in which we acknowledge, respect, and allow time and space for every form of communicative intent and processing need.

Working closely alongside Speech and Language Therapists, we develop a wide variety of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) approaches to meet personal needs. These range from subtle body language and sensory cues through to advanced communication technologies. Specialist techniques and resources include:

- Bespoke Sensory cues including objects of reference and touch cues
- Intensive interaction
- Chailey Communication System
- VOCAs (Voice Output Communication Aids)
- Eye-Gaze technology
- In-house registered Signalong tutors

Developing Effective Communication
Eye Gaze

One of the most advanced forms of assistive technology, the Eye Gaze system allows pupils to access a computer through eye movement. It gives ICT access to our pupils who find conventional access via the keyboard, mouse, joystick or switch difficult.

Chailey Communication System

The Chailey Communication System (CCS) was originally introduced in 1991 at Chailey Heritage. It is a comprehensive communication system, which incorporates symbols, pictures, photographs and text in a book format.

This category-based system is a structured and consistent way of organising vocabulary and can be expanded or reduced according to the user's physical ability, language level or interests. It can be used to develop understanding of language and expressive ability. The system enables the user to communicate their personal, social and educational needs across all their environments.

"I wanted to use this as an opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support with Charlotte’s communication and to highlight how she is beginning to thrive at home with her 'new-found voice'.”

Parent
“I’ve always found the staff to be very encouraging, always very open to communicate, always very positive, trying to get the best out of each child. Each child is different, that’s what I love as well – they always make sure each child has their own programme and they encourage them to be the best they can.”

**Parent**

Chailey Heritage School has developed its own curriculum, driven by the individual learner’s needs.

This means every learner has their own curriculum, built specifically for them based on their skills and desired outcomes. It is **broad** in that it covers all aspects of their development and it is **balanced** in that it weighs up, specifically for them, the input that is needed.

Above all, it is **meaningful** to each child and their family.
"His eyes are no longer just focussed on Ciaron and his world, its very much his eyes are now looking at the whole wide world and saying, wow, what should I do, where shall I go?!

Parent

The CHILD Curriculum consists of totally personalised learner profiles detailing aspirations, strengths, needs, skills long term outcomes and next steps. The profiles include:

- Communication profile
- Physical profile
- Access Technology profile
- Social and Emotional Well-being profile
- Engagement Support profile
- Functional Skills Profile
- Powered Mobility Profile
Happy and Safe

“It’s great here as I feel safe. I am very happy at school. I enjoy a lot of the activities, especially my weekly massage, swimming and cookery.”

Pupil

Children are both happy and safe at school; this is because our staff know each individual child so well, their health needs, what makes them smile and importantly, how to motivate them!

Sometimes it can be difficult for children with complex health needs to remain at school but with our high level of support, children are allowed to experiment just like any other child. Being part of a peer group is important and, at every opportunity, we promote pupils’ understanding of social interaction and alternative cultures.
Stimulating and safe environment

Engagement requires the right stimulation. When engaged, a pupil is more likely to learn in a meaningful way. However, we are always sensitive to the level of stimulation for individuals. Children’s learning experiences do not need to stop for therapy or medical needs to be met; these needs are integrated into each learner’s day, maximising opportunities to learn.

Our secure site features key card entry to all buildings. There are nurses working across the school and every room that the children regularly use across the site has a medical call point, so the medical team are just a button push away.

“...he seems so happy to be going there – he shouts at me all morning until the bus arrives and then has a massive smile on his face.”

Parent

Safeguarding

Chailey Heritage has been a national lead in the field of safeguarding children with disabilities for a number of years. Every member of staff receives regular safeguarding training that outlines their responsibilities to protect the children and young people at Chailey Heritage School. Chailey Heritage Foundation has six members of staff named as safeguarding leads; in addition, there are also two governors leading on safeguarding and safety who staff can approach at any time with concerns.
Support For Parents & Families at Every Step in Anyway We Can

“Michael was very poorly when he first attended Chailey; he had a weak heart and severe epilepsy. I was so grateful for the use of the family apartments as it meant Mum and I could support Michael while he adjusted to his new school surroundings and help the staff get to know him. The staff were amazing in the class and to be on-site near him gave me great peace of mind”

Parent

We work in partnership with parents and families at every step of their Chailey Heritage journey, providing support at difficult times and celebrating achievements together. Some of the ways we help include:

* On-site family accommodation
* Holiday activity sessions
* Training and workshops
* Jewell Trust Family Liaison Worker (funded by a bequest)
* Regular social events and coffee mornings
* Annual Celebration Day
* Traditional school plays, parent teacher consultations etc that you would expect from any other school.
* CHIPS - Chailey Heritage Information Parent Support Group
Celebration Day

Celebration Day is held at the end of the summer term each year. Our pupils look forward to celebrating their achievements with family and friends at special prize-giving assemblies, followed by an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment. It is a great opportunity for families to meet and enjoy accessible activities together in a relaxed environment.

Holiday Activity Club

During the school holidays we offer fun, pre-bookable activity days for our young people. They are led by a designated activity co-ordinator and take place in a safe and caring environment with staff they are familiar with, and with the support of our nursing team, where needed. Activities may include such things as arts & crafts, horticulture, music sessions or even swimming in our luxurious, heated pool.
“It’s impressive how effectively the team communicates and how they make us feel at ease, knowing our son is in good hands.”

Parent

Chailey Heritage Residential is a nationally recognised, registered children’s home for 3 to 19 year olds with complex physical disabilities and health needs.

We offer flexible residential provision ranging from short breaks to 52 weeks a year.

We have three purpose-built residential bungalows in an idyllic setting within the Chailey Heritage Foundation site, catering for the special needs of our young people.

The majority of our residents are in full-time education, on-site, at Chailey Heritage School. Short breaks can be arranged for young people who are not pupils at our school, either following referral from their Local Authority or from private funding.
High Quality Care

Our tried and tested initial assessment process means our young people’s needs are met with the right amount of support. The teams pride themselves on the depth of understanding they have for each individual and allow this to shape their experiences.

In each of our bungalows, a House Manager supported by senior support workers, leads a team of highly trained and experienced Support Workers. 24-hour care is provided by our staff with a nurse supporting from our partners in Chailey Heritage Clinical Services (part of Sussex Community NHS Trust); a Consultant is available on call 24 hours a day.

“I get to stay with my friends and I have a lovely big room where I can play my keyboard and watch my favourite DVDs.”

Resident

Chailey Heritage Residential Offers

- Flexible Boarding Packages
- 52 Week Care
- Termly/Weekly Boarding
- Short Breaks
- Holiday Activities
- Post-operative Care
Becoming a pupil at Chailey Heritage School

“Mac really enjoys his time at school – there are always big smiles when we get to the car park, because he knows where he is and that he’s going to do lots of great stuff at school.”

Parent

Chailey Heritage School welcomes enquiries from families, across the United Kingdom and abroad, who feel we are best suited to meet their child’s needs. We openly invite you to visit our school and meet with us to discuss how we can help. Children and young people from many different local authorities attend Chailey Heritage School, providing for those whose needs cannot be met in maintained special and mainstream schools, because of the complexity of their needs. These include physical disabilities, visual and/or hearing impairments, complex medical needs and associated learning difficulties.

Where a local authority recognises a child’s or young person’s needs will be best met by our expertise and facilities, they will make a referral to us. At this stage, if it has not happened already, we recommend parents/carers arrange, via the school office, to come for an informal visit to see what we have to offer.

When a referral is made an ‘admission assessment’ takes place over a period of two days. The assessment includes meetings with paediatric consultants, therapists, nurses, specialist teachers and care staff for those who require residential care or short breaks.
“Since he started, we feel Henry has done really well. He loves going to school and we have found him more settled at home.”

Parent
Chailey Heritage Foundation is a pioneering charity providing education, care and transition services for young people with complex physical disabilities and health needs.

We are recognised as one of the UK’s leading centres for children and young adults with neurological motor impairment such as Cerebral Palsy, and we have a national reputation for our work in supporting young people’s communication and developing independence through powered mobility.
We really value the support of the many individuals, businesses, trusts, foundations and livery companies whose help ensures that we can provide an outstanding service to young people with complex disabilities, enabling them to experience the best possible outcomes.

We always need people to help us raise funds, whether it is running a marathon, holding an event or volunteering. If you would like to know more about our work or would like to help, please contact our Fundraising Office on 01825 724752 or email: fundraising@chf.org.uk
Our aim is to provide a stimulating and inclusive environment where all young people are given every opportunity to make progress, pursue their potential and prepare for adulthood.

As well as our school, our Charity’s services include:

**Chailey Heritage Residential** – cares for children with complex physical disabilities and health needs, offering different packages of care from 52 weeks a year to weekly boarding, short breaks and postoperative care.

**Chailey Heritage Futures** – offers residential and day transition services where young adults are empowered to make choices and decisions about all areas of their lives and where firm foundations are built for the future.

**Chailey Heritage Pathways** – cares for children and young adults both in their own home and out in the community, using the expertise and knowledge of our staff.
“To a visitor, there is a ‘look’ on the faces of all the staff I met. It is the look of deep commitment, I think it shows in the way they speak to and interact with the students, and it shows in the responses of the children”

Local Authority Advisory Teacher after a visit to the school

Find out more

Visit our website at www.chf.org.uk for detailed information about the work of Chailey Heritage School and also the Charity within which Chailey Heritage School operates, Chailey Heritage Foundation.
Chailey Heritage School is part of Chailey Heritage Foundation, a pioneering charity providing education, care and transition services for children and young people with complex physical disabilities and health needs.

Proud to be working with our partners, Sussex Community NHS Trust, Chailey Heritage Clinical Services, to deliver properly integrated, highly specialist services to meet education, health and care needs.