



# Magpie Learning Centre

## Children's Hospital School

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**The Children's Hospital School**  
**Early Intervention Provision (Leicester Hub)**

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2024-25



# Welcome

For the last 75 years, The Children’s Hospital School has provided education to young people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who are too ill to attend their mainstream school. We teach in hospitals, community hubs and in homes for those too ill to attend a school. In October 2023 the school was judged outstanding by OFSTED and there is a culture that permeates throughout that means we are always striving to improve outcomes for children. We have a reputation both locally and nationally of being an outstanding, forward thinking and innovative school.



We support a range of medical needs, both physical and mental, experienced by students within the school. Some may have chronic and / or life-threatening medical conditions that bring them into hospital many times over their childhood and adolescence. There will be some with degenerative medical conditions, acquired brain injuries, or those recovering from major surgery. A significant number of pupils have social, emotional, and complex mental health needs.

## Leicester Hub – Magpie Learning Centre

The Magpie Learning Centre in Leicester provides education for pupils in Years 5-10 who are finding it difficult to access education in their own school due to mental and / or physical health. Pupils follow a personalised timetable comprising both academic and therapeutic elements which is designed to meet their specific needs.

## Early Intervention Support

For some children, attendance at school may be impacted by health issues including anxiety and mental health problems. If concerns are not addressed at an early stage, they can affect progress, outcomes and the transition process to secondary school or beyond.

The Children’s Hospital School have a range of early interventions for schools including in-school support, training for staff and short-term placements for children at the Magpie Learning Centre.



***“The school’s approach to improving attendance, including getting pupils back into education quickly, is exemplary” [OFSTED – 2023]***

## The offer

Based on academic and wellbeing needs, Y7-10 pupils will be placed into our Foxes or Tigers group. Pupils in Y5 & 6 can be offered a primary group for half a day a week, with the programme matched to their needs.

- Foxes: Three days per week (Tues, Wed & Thurs 9.30 – 2.30) 12-week placement
- Tigers: Three days per week (Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30 – 2.30) 12-week placement
- Primary: One half day per week (Tues 9.30 – 12.30) 4-6 week placement
- Pupils attend their home school alongside the placement to support their sense of belonging
- Academic curriculum focusing on English, Maths, Science, Computing and PSHE
- Wellbeing curriculum including creative and outdoor learning to improve mental wellbeing by bringing fun, relaxation and respite from the stresses endured by their everyday lives, equipping them with strategies and a healthy attitude to maintaining their wellbeing

## Who will benefit?

Pupils who are beginning to struggle to attend school. This might include pupils who are reluctant to separate from parents and who are over-reliant on adults in school. We aim to help them develop resilience and independence, which can help to re-establish better attendance at school.

## What are the criteria?

A typical learner at the Magpie Learning Centre will be someone who:

- is affected by anxiety in school
- may try to withdraw from activities
- will already be receiving support in school from support staff or from the SEMH team
- benefits from being in nurturing spaces in school
- benefits from a small and quieter setting to express what they are experiencing in school

Due to the mixed and complex needs of the children at our school, referrals for pupils who present challenging behaviour or who are at risk of exclusion should be made to agencies other than the Children's Hospital School.



***“Alongside a strong therapeutic model of provision, students are pushed outside of their comfort zone to support their social skills as well as academic outcomes”***

***[Challenge Partners – 2023]***

## Aims

To support a successful reintegration to school we aim to provide learning opportunities in which pupils can develop:

- social skills
- self-control
- self-awareness
- self-worth
- resilience
- independence
- ambition



## Will I be able to visit the pupil while at the Magpie Learning Centre?

Yes, you are invited to visit to see how your pupil manages their learning in our setting so that you can help them to remain successful in your school on their return. This is most useful in the second half of the placement following a review meeting which is arranged at week four of the placement. This meeting involves Parents/Carers, School, and Magpie staff. Transition plans are bespoke to pupils' needs and can involve our staff attending the home school with the pupil.

## How will pupils get there?

Where possible, we suggest that parents bring the pupils to the Magpie Learning Centre. We have a later start time to help fit round the school run. If parents are unable to provide transport, then schools will need to make sure that transport arrangements are in place.

## Will food be provided?

Breakfast and snacks at break are available to pupils.

For lunch, pupils can bring a packed lunch from home or order a hot or cold lunch when they arrive. Fruit and water will be freely available throughout the school day.

## What kind of assessments will happen during a placement?

To support the pupils to manage being in our setting we may complete some academic and wellbeing assessments, so we can identify their obstacles to thriving in school. We will report back to you on our findings, along with recommendations at the four-week review and provide a full report at the end of the placement.



***“Pupils receive an exceptional standard of education and care” [OFSTED – 2023]***

## How do schools make a referral?

Schools applying for a short-term intervention placement should complete a referral form which can be downloaded from our website [HERE](#) and should be emailed to [referrals@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:referrals@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk)

## Are all referrals accepted?

No, we will accept referrals for the pupils that we think will most benefit from our early intervention programme and will meet our criteria.

## What is the cost for an early intervention placement?

The cost for a KS3/4 placement is £120 per day which is in line with other alternative provisions. This covers all academic and wellbeing support, and food on all days. Schools are responsible for arranging transport to and from the centre. For the primary group, the cost is £60 per session.

## What other training & support is available?

We support schools and other partners through a regular CPD programme and a bespoke training offer which can be delivered in your setting to small groups or whole staff teams. Our current offer includes the following and can also be found on our website by clicking [HERE](#):

- Youth Mental Health First Aid qualifications (MHFA accredited)
- Regular CPD twilight programme of events at our school or online
- Bespoke 'in-house' training for your school or provision
- SLE and LLE deployment in schools for example, to develop resources / policies for supporting children with medical needs and school audits to evaluate provision and offer advice



***“Excellent partnership working ensures that most students accessing the early intervention programme, successfully transition back to school.”***

***[Challenge Partners – 2023]***



# Partnership agreement

To ensure the success of an early intervention placement it is important that both schools work in partnership alongside the pupil, parents, and other professionals. Once a referral has been accepted, both parties will agree a service level agreement to establish and clarify the operational and financial arrangements between them.



## Our Commitment

- Make a personalised educational programme in a safe environment
- To undertake appropriate educational assessments to ensure the correct personalised learning programmes are provided and to support the return to school
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of provision for individual pupils who are on an integration programme. Support the home school in the development of an appropriate and sustainable integration programme
- Contribute to Education, Health and Care Plan assessments according to the Code of Practice, where required
- Support and advise schools in maximising the achievements and attainment of pupils with medical needs
- Work closely with parents, external agencies and home schools
- To ensure accurate sharing of information, providing progress, attendance and safeguarding updates to home schools and external agencies that are involved with the pupil.
- Work with schools to support a successful transition back into school

## Home School's Commitment

- Maintain pupils on their school roll
- Ensure there is a named contact person (usually the SENCo) for pupils with medical needs
- Work with staff at The Children's Hospital School to plan and implement individual learning plans for pupils with medical needs which have special or additional educational needs
- Implement the school's policy on Inclusion, Equalities and Special Educational needs, taking into account the code of practice, DfE statutory guidance and any LA policies
- Maintain collaborative and positive working relationships with The Children's Hospital School, parents/carers and outside agencies
- To attend any multi agency review meetings organised by The Children's Hospital School
- Work with The Children's Hospital to plan and implement any individual healthcare and reintegration plans
- To support the implementation and success of reintegration plans for pupils

***“Relationships, through a well-established culture of a therapeutic approach, are at the heart of all interactions” [OFSTED – 2023]***

# What do others say about our school?



We have a strong record over many years of providing short and long-term placements for young people missing school due to health reasons.

The school has been judged 'outstanding' at its last two OFSTED inspections (2017 & 2023) and as 'leading' by Challenge Partners in all reviews from 2018-2023. In addition, Challenge Partners accredited two areas of excellence at our school – 'Personalised Continuum of Education and Care' (2019) and 'Mental Health Support' (2023).

## Pupils

*"The school has lots of different activities for us to try. Lessons are fun and we get to cook. I enjoy going for a walk and am starting to walk with my Mum now. It has shown me I can do school."*

*"Is it home time already? I want to stay longer!"*

## Parents

*"Thank you for everything you have done to support my daughter – she wants to stay but is happy to try going back to school. She now has a routine and is talking about life and plans!"*

*"The placement has made a real difference; I wish she could have been there longer. It's made a difference because school actually listens to us now and takes her EHCP seriously."*

*"Every morning he wanted to go to school! He was up and ready and just beaming about his day! He even started walking the dog with me! I can't thank you enough! I have my son back!"*

## Schools

*"The creation of this provision has been really helpful and beneficial, it is providing a gap in the service with CAMHS not supporting primary school referrals"*

*"This provision is outstanding and has made suggestions we can easily put in place. Having your staff in school with us to support re-integration has ensured the placement has been a success. I now know where to send my students!"*

*"Thank you for all your help – she has enjoyed coming to you and we have a plan in place to support her at school. She is coming for longer days now – your provision showed her she can do it!"*