

Primary Ward Teaching

The Royal Free Children's Hospital School aims to maintain the continuity of education for those pupils unable to attend their home school due to illness by providing education in hospital. We work with families, schools, pupils as well as multi-disciplinary medical and social care colleagues to decide the priorities for learning and to agree how best to prepare pupils for their next phase of education.

Primary- Curriculum statement of Intent

The primary curriculum is immersive, progressive and flexible to meet the varying needs of our pupils. Primary aged pupils in Years 1 to Year 6, including those with and EHCP and complex special education needs and disabilities, are offered education whilst they are an inpatient at the Royal Free Hospital, be that long or short. Here we offer a broad and balanced curriculum within the context of the pupil's health needs and the resources available.

Our provision is continually developed in response to the medical and social needs of pupils and where possible informed by their home school curriculum. Royal Free ward teachers ensure that every child has access to their home school VLE whilst an inpatient. This is to ensure that every child has the choice and opportunity to cover their home-school curriculum in order to facilitate transition and reintegration back with ease and confidence.

It is a curriculum that broadens pupils' outlook and views by promoting global perspectives, as well as raising aspirations, enabling them to connect skills and concepts naturally, given that pupils may only access the material for a relatively short time. All pupils currently have access to Music Therapy, promoting creative interaction and play.

The core offer comprises of:

- ***English***
- ***Maths***
- ***Science***
- ***PHSE***
- ***Music therapy***
- ***Art***
- ***Home school VLE***

Teaching can take place both by the bedside 1:1 or in the School class room located near to the Paediatric ward. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate children of EYFS age as the Royal Free hospital does not have suitable outdoor learning spaces for these young learners. We work in partnership with our NHS colleagues (Play workers) to support children within this age range in a designated play room which is located next to our school room.

Exceptional circumstances

Some of our primary aged pupils have experienced exceptionally challenging circumstances prior to attending our school provision. As a result, this may mean that they are not able to engage with the curriculum offer. For these pupils, our specialist ward teachers use their expertise to plan and implement personalised learning

experiences which are designed to foster engagement and curiosity and motivate pupils to enjoy learning and achieve success.

Curriculum Aims:

- ***Fostering a 'Love of learning' as 'global citizens'***
- ***To provide a high-quality education whilst overcoming barriers to learning posed by a variety of medical conditions.***
- ***To maintain progress in core subjects so that pupils are not disadvantaged by their hospital stay and have the key skills and knowledge necessary to reintegrate back to their home school***
- ***To support pupils to develop key academic and communication skills***
- ***To ensure pupils feel safe and supported in their learning***

How does the Royal Free school aim to achieve this?

- ***Providing a curriculum that meets the needs of our pupils***
 - ***Differentiation- personalised learning where appropriate***
 - ***assessment and planning and delivery of personalised lessons enabling access to a broad and balanced curriculum***
- ***Communicating with parents/carers and education colleagues in mainstream Primary schools***
 - ***Where consent is given, ward teachers contact the home schools from day 1 of their admission to the Royal Free Hospital***
 - ***Where possible staff work closely with home schools to ensure that pupils are able to follow their schemes of work and planning***
- ***Having flexible systems in school where pupils are taught by class teachers or by subject specialist teachers depending on their needs***
- ***Working with health and social care professionals in order to create a personalised plan for pupils who are perhaps with us for a longer term stay***
 - ***Ward teachers will support students to complete and keep up with classwork so that they do not fall behind due to their medical needs.***
 - ***Support pupil's mental well-being by working in partnership with multidisciplinary teams to provide learning plans which take account of a range of emotional, sensory and developmental factors***
- ***Ensuring mutual respect between medical colleagues, pupils and staff***
- ***Small group or 1:1 teaching which supports and provides an environment conducive to learning both by the bedside or in the school room on the ward***

What does this mean for our Primary aged young people:

- ***A continued love of learning***
- ***Advocacy for their educational support whilst receiving medical treatment or intervention***
- ***Academic/pastoral/emotional support for primary ages pupils, parents and carers whilst in the hospital environment***

- ***Increased self-confidence and sense of achievement and well-being***
- ***Improvement in social communication skills***
- ***Personal barriers to learning are broken down even in spite of presenting, historical and/or continued medical needs***
- ***Support with medical needs exemption/access exam arrangements for pupils in Year 2 and Year 6***

Safeguarding and the Primary Curriculum:

We plan to constantly challenge children to think deeply about safeguarding matters and their own personal physical and mental wellbeing. We value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Throughout the broad curriculum, there are planned opportunities to promote all forms of equality and foster greater understanding of and respect for people of all faiths (and those with no faith), races, genders, ages, disabilities, and sexual orientations, through their words, actions and in their influence.

Opportunities are created in a variety of subjects to address areas of safeguarding, for example, themes are highlighted through novels in English and Science topics related to human biology.

There are also many opportunities throughout our learning to explore safeguarding issues:

- ***Pupils have opportunities across the curriculum to explore values, personal rights, responsibilities, and equal opportunities that develop moral concepts that impact positively on safeguarding, promote British values and prevent radicalisation and extremism.***
- ***We have developed an open and safe learning environment in which pupils express their views, seek help, and help others.***
- ***The promotion of equality of opportunity and diversity, for pupils and staff, helps prevent any form of direct or indirect discriminatory behaviour.***
- ***Our behaviour policy promotes making good choices and exhibiting good learning behaviours.***
- ***Staff and children are quick to challenge stereotypes and the use of derogatory language in and around our ward school room.***