



MERIT Pupil Referral Service

01782 236412

www.meritpru-stoke.org.uk



MERIT is a short stay school that runs parallel to mainstream provision providing education for students with medical and mental health needs including:

- Trauma
- Eating disorders
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Low self esteem/
poor self image
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Self harm
- School refusal
- ME
- Severe health needs

In addition to these services we also provide:

- Therapeutic assessments
- Psychological analysis

Aims

MERIT is a specialist short stay school that works in partnership with key agencies to offer appropriate intervention to vulnerable students with medical and mental health needs in a supportive and structured setting.

Both Ofsted and the local authority reviews have identified good and outstanding practice at MERIT. We are constantly striving to improve and be outstanding in all areas.

Our focus is on the individual student and ensuring that they are able to regain their rightful place in society and the wider world.

“All pupils make good progress, and some make outstanding progress in personal development. This enables them to re-engage with learning and prepares them well for the next step in their education.”

Ofsted 2013

“I am more confident now and proud of what I’ve achieved.”

MERIT student



What does the curriculum look like at MERIT?

The curriculum is in line with mainstream with an emphasis on Maths and English.

‘Teaching is underpinned by our Wellbeing Programme’ which is based on research from the Universities of Pennsylvania, Birmingham and Southampton.

Wellbeing lessons and whole school approaches are designed to improve self-awareness, self-regulation, resilience and individual character strengths. Pupils have individual targets pursued through 1:1 interventions and consultation with MERIT staff and specialist partners.

Along with English and Maths, subjects including History, Geography, RE, Science, Expressive Arts and Art are all taught to GCSE.

In recent exams the average number of GCSE passes gained per student was 8 with 57% A* - C and 100 % achieving 5 A* - G including English and Maths, which is an outstanding achievement.

‘This has been the happiest year of my son’s life.’

Parent of a MERIT student

Hospital school

An additional part of MERIT is the hospital school where quality education is provided for students from all key stages while they are in hospital. This includes students from the oncology department, cystic fibrosis and both short and long term patients. Every effort is made to ensure that illness does not have a devastating effect on a student’s education.

Personal Tuition

Personal tuition takes place in the hospital, the library, at MERIT and sometimes in the home. It is provided for students who cannot attend Merit or mainstream school and may also be used as a stepping stone between hospital and a successful return to school.

Students in the hospital class, and those who receive personal tuition, also make good progress overall **“because the partnership with parents and hospital staff is good and this contributes well to pupils’ achievement.” Ofsted 2013.**

Staffing

Merit has a full complement of well qualified teaching staff who are highly experienced in dealing with mental health issues. A nurturing environment is established but boundaries of behaviour, uniform and other expectations keep us in line with mainstream schools. Staff at the hospital also teach in MERIT, as do personal tutors, so quality may be assured. Staff have strong links with teaching staff across the city to share good practice and ensure that standards are high.

Outreach

Links have been created with Academies, Secondary schools, Primary schools and Post 16 providers. This has enabled us to access and provide support in a variety of ways. Students who have left Merit and struggle with the transition to college, continue to be supported by our staff. Secondary students who only need the specialist Wellbeing support from Merit, can also receive assessment and guidance.

Merit has provided specialist subject support to Primary schools. We have also further strengthened our links to the Primary sector with Merit students providing support on a regular basis.

Successful programmes have also been run for Primary pupils who have been identified as being withdrawn and not developing sufficiently, as well as those considered to be at risk of not coping with the transition to mainstream, Secondary provision.

MERIT staff have worked in mainstream schools to guide and devise strategies and student action plans to help individual students.

If there is a need identified for any student, maybe not yet a student at MERIT we are always happy to discuss ways in which we might help.

How to apply for a place at MERIT

Applications are made on a student's behalf by their mainstream school and processed through the Learning Pathways Board. Then following a home visit, a series of further assessments are completed and a decision is made.

Occasionally, students have been offered a fixed period place which is outside of the admission criteria at the discretion of MERIT.

All students need a mainstream school and must have an exit/reintegration strategy agreed. Staff at MERIT are, however, willing to offer help and support to any student or school.

For more information contact:-

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