



**ruskinmill**  
sunfield

### **Sunfield Local Offer**

**Name:** Sunfield

**Address:** Clent Grove,  
Woodman Lane,  
Clent,  
Near  
Stourbridge,  
West Midlands  
DY9 9PB

**Contact names:** Tracey Lewis – Centre Admissions Manager

**Telephone number:** 01562 881320

**Email address:** [referrals@sunfield.org.uk](mailto:referrals@sunfield.org.uk)

**Website address:** [www.sunfield.org.uk](http://www.sunfield.org.uk)

#### **What is Sunfield?**

Sunfield is an Independent Special School, Children's Home and charity with over 80 years of experience in supporting boys and girls with severe and complex learning and behavioural needs. Sunfield is part of Ruskin Mill Trust, which operates a number of provisions (schools, colleges, children's homes and supported accommodation) in England and Wales.

We offer 38 and 52 week residential and day places to children with complex and profound special needs and challenging behaviours, as well as respite provision for young people attending the school. Sunfield do not take emergency placements but we can offer swift, well planned admissions to match an appropriate vacancy.

Our residences, school, and working farm are all located on a single site in the village of Clent.

#### **Who does Sunfield provide for?**

Sunfield can meet the needs of children and young people with severe and complex learning needs that include:

- Autistic spectrum conditions (ASC)
- Epilepsy
- Developmental delay
- Moderate to severe learning difficulties
- Social emotional and mental health (SEMH)
- Moderate to severe visual and/or hearing impairment

- Mobility and motor difficulties
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

All of our children and young people require and are provided with high levels of support and care in the day and residential provisions. However, as every child is completely unique, we will always assess every child individually and admission is dependent on meeting our eligibility criteria, laid out in our Admissions Policy.

Sunfield offers places to children and young people between the ages of 6-19.

### **What is the Sunfield's approach to supporting children and young people?**

Our multi-disciplinary teams in Care, Education, Psychology and Therapies work closely with children and their families both on one site and at home. By getting to know each child and young person, we tailor our services to their needs. We make a difference – especially in cases where a child has been unable to thrive elsewhere.

Sunfield follows Ruskin Mill Trust's Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE) approach to human development in both the residential and day provisions. Through PSTE, our young people are supported to flourish and grow through a programme of holistic care, practical activities such as gardening and crafts, healthy nutrition, and an integrated care, education, and therapy programme. Through PSTE the young people experience a broad and balanced curriculum that extends across the education and care provisions and includes literacy, numeracy and IT, as well as independent living skills, relationships, confidence, resiliency, and self-and other-care. The focus is on developing the young person's sense of their own potential and to enable the acquisition of the ability to be as independent as their aspirations and abilities allow.

The key to the implementation of this approach is consistent communication and joined up working between our care, education, and therapy teams, as well as the families and support networks of our children and young people. We seek to generate trust and confidence through developing meaningful, honest, and open relationships with children, young people, families, and ourselves.

Each child or young person at Sunfield has an individualised programme of learning, support, and leisure activities that is oriented towards their particular needs and skills. We are able to measure our young people's progress through a number of assessment methods to ensure that our provision is consistently meeting need and that our young people are thriving. Families are supported to contribute as much as possible to this programme through regular communication, review meetings, and relationships with staff and leaders.

### **How are decisions made about who can attend Sunfield?**

. Most of our placements are funded by the local authority. Often a formal referral will come from them, however we do also accept parent/carer enquiries and privately funded placements.

As part of our assessment process, Sunfield will send a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, to meet the child and assess their needs in their current environment – this may be at home, school, a short breaks provision or a residential setting. If the child is not currently in education, we will consider either a home visit or for the child and their family to visit Sunfield as part of the assessment.

Based on their detailed observations as well as consideration of the identified needs within their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the Admissions Team will establish whether Sunfield can meet the child's needs. If so, the team will identify how Sunfield will meet these identified needs, including the required staffing support. The offer whether to place the child at Sunfield will be shared with the local authority/private funder, including the cost of placement.

Careful consideration is given to placing each new young person within a peer group that is compatible to all children within that group, and one that offers the best opportunities for the children and young people to live and learn alongside one another.

### **How does Sunfield ensure that my child will be compatible with his/her house/class-mates?**

Every child's needs are carefully considered when they are referred to Sunfield. Our observational and

clinical assessments allow us to look at their needs of your child and their compatibility with the existing cohort group of young people they would be joining. An impact risk assessment and group risk assessment are completed as part of the admission assessment process in order to ensure the home/class identified is the suitable and potential risks mitigated.

Class groups are identified by the child or young person's developmental level as opposed to age and take into account factors such as the communication, sensory, relationships, and behavioural needs of the group.

We also reflect on the needs of the group and how they may affect your child's introduction and placement. This allows us to make adjustments and plans to accommodate any specific needs that may arise. Identifying a compatible group where your child can be safely and live and learn happily is our top priority.

### **What facilities will be available to my child?**

Sunfield has a variety of residential houses and extensive education facilities that are all located in 58 acres of parkland grounds, nestled on the slopes of the Clent Hills. The grounds themselves include a working farm (which children are encouraged and supported to work within) with horticultural areas and natural trails for exploration and adventure, as well as play areas with trampolines and outdoor sensory areas with calm spaces. All are designed to enable children to engage, relax, exercise and have fun and develop life-long learning and independent living skills both safely and securely.

We have numerous spacious classrooms that our children and young people furnish with their craft and artistic work; we have other independent spaces for young people who need more individualised education programmes. Sunfield also has a range of specialist rooms for cookery, arts, games, pottery, felting, dedicated craft rooms and administration, along with a farm classroom, a large theatre, lecture room and meeting rooms. The children and young people have access to a range of state of the art technology to support their communication and learning e.g. iPads and other Alternative and Augmentative Communication aids.

Sunfield has a host of dedicated on-site therapy facilities, including a soft play room, colour light therapy room, a state-of-the-art Sensory Integration Suite and a multi-sensory room which enable children to benefit from regular meaningful therapy sessions to support their independent living and learning. The children and young people also have the use of instruments, devices and equipment to support therapies such as music, speech and language, and occupational therapy.

In addition to our on-site facilities, we have a fleet of vehicles that enable young people to access appropriate community-based leisure facilities such as shopping, cinema, bowling and swimming. Some young people also attend community-based clubs and events on a regular basis.

Sunfield also celebrates our sense of community through regular festivals that are linked to the changing of the seasons and progress of the year. These festivals enable our children to feel a sense of contribution to and participation within our community, as well as simply having a fun time gathering together.

### **How will my child's learning be matched to their needs?**

Learning is continuously promoted through full-time attendance at school and through our integrated waking day curriculum. Staff in Education, Care and Psychology & Therapies work in close liaison, using a multi-disciplinary model, to ensure that teaching and learning approaches are closely matched to each student's individual learning need. There is regular monitoring and assessment and fine tuning where necessary. Each individual's bespoke curriculum and highly trained team of staff allows us to provide a highly individualised and tailored approach to each child's learning that it is geared for their individual learning level.

Communication passports, written by our Speech and Language Therapists, are in place for children and young people who require them in order to facilitate their communication across all settings. The terms targets contained in each child or young person's 'Individual Learning Plan' challenge each child and young person to achieve their fullest potential across the day and residential curriculum – whether it be in a lesson at school, preparing a meal in their home setting, or enjoying an activity in the

community.

Your child will benefit from small class groups, based on their age, ability, communication and sensory profile. They will undertake a personalised learning programme, supported by expert teams who work together to meet the diverse needs of all young people. They will also be able to access innovative and effective creative arts and work-related learning, where appropriate. Our Post 16 Curriculum will enable each young person to learn, practice and refine the skills, knowledge and understanding they will need for their adult lives. They also have the opportunity to experience taster sessions at our local colleges within the Trust to help identify directions for their future.

After the age of 14, all of our children and young people have a transition plan that links the skills they develop to the next step of their journey, whether in work, education, or supported living.

### **What specialist services will be available to my child?**

Working with our expert Care and Education teams, our on-site Psychology and Therapies team offers a holistic range of therapies to support development across all aspects of a child's life. As they are on-site services, they provide a responsive and flexible approach to your child's changing needs, and are able to offer timely support, advice and intervention. These therapies include:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Light and Colour Therapy
- Eurythmy
- Rhythmical Massage
- Therapeutic Art.

Sunfield works with a range of health care professionals including Psychiatrists, GPs, specialist dentists, opticians, local CAMHS, Continence Nurse, our Trust Nurse and Trust GP. They will liaise closely with you and the key professionals supporting your child's health, and will train and advise staff in accordance with your child's agreed health support plan. The wealth of knowledge and experience here at Sunfield, from our professional experts will enable your child's needs to be understood and met by a qualified and experienced team.

### **How will Sunfield support my child's well-being?**

In our experience, happy and secure children and young people are more able to learn and thrive. Our priority will be to support their well-being and emotional needs, so they can more confidently and effectively access their living and learning experiences.

If your child needs additional intervention, our teams in psychology and therapies are on-hand and on-site to better assess, advise and further support their emotional well-being and needs.

Sunfield has an excellent track-record of helping children and young people to change their own life, by engaging effectively with their living and learning experiences. The resulting increase in skills, confidence and ability to communicate empowers them to make a very real progress in their life.

### **What training do the staff supporting my child have?**

Sunfield has a rigorous selection process, aimed at securing only the highest quality team members from the outset. Once selected, all new staff undertake an induction programme of mandatory training, i.e. Safeguarding, working with Autism, Communication training, QCF level 3 in Health and Social care for children and young people, CALM de-escalation training and PSTE. This training ensures they staff the required skills and knowledge, competence and confidence to undertake their role.

This is also followed by our programme of additional and ongoing training, which provides staff with further mandatory and bespoke training. These training courses enhance any role-specific skills and supports their wider career development of our staff. Sunfield's teams continually share their own expert knowledge, experience and understanding of each child with each other, to provide the highest quality bespoke care and education.

## **How are families involved with Sunfield?**

We see parents, carers and extended family as integral to a child's journey through Sunfield. We will liaise with families on all aspects of their child's life here. We have an open-door policy, so families are welcome to request a visit at any time, and we will provide support as needed to ensure there are safe, quality times for all.

As part of a child's Individual Learning Plan [ILP], individual targets will be determined at the beginning of each term by our team and after informed consultation with families. Progress against these targets are reviewed regularly. Teachers also keep in touch with families/carers by telephone throughout the term. A report is sent to parents at the end of each term. In addition, a report on the progress of the child will be written for the Annual Review of their EHCP, when amendments can be made. Home managers send weekly and monthly reports to families and are always available to talk by phone.

Sunfield sends out a monthly newsletter in order to include families in the events and celebrations at the school and children's home. We also regularly send updates on our self-assessment and quality improvement programme, ensuring that families are aware of our plans for further development.

Sunfield is dedicated and committed to supporting the whole family and see quality family visits as a key component of a child's and family's wellbeing. We have two onsite Family Centres which are self-contained flats available to families to come for overnight or weekend stays.

## **How will Sunfield prepare my child for the transition to the next stage of their life?**

Sunfield prepares all young people for transition from the day they join, by developing their independent living skills and identifying strategies to support their communication, learning, behaviour and sensory needs; all of which will contribute to the next stage in their life.

In Year 9, Sunfield will begin to plan for the transition into Adult Services, working alongside families, the child and representatives from the local authority. Our staff are experienced in this process and will advise and support throughout the transition planning period to ensure the most appropriate future placement is identified.

As Sunfield is part of Ruskin Mill Trust there are many opportunities to transition into one of the many colleges that RMT has around the country including:

- Glasshouse and Argent College (West Midlands)
- Ruskin Mill College (Gloucestershire)
- Plas Dwl College (South Wales)
- Freeman College (Sheffield)
- Clervaux Trust & Clervaux Life (Darlington)

The Trust is also introducing post education residential provisions for those young people where formal education is no longer suitable. Known as the Rise Programme, further placements are funded through social-care with the aim of further encouraging a young person's life skills and promoting participation in the community. One of the homes within Sunfield grounds is registered to deliver this programme for former Sunfield young people and is managed by the residential team from Glasshouse College.

## **How do I take the next step?**

At Sunfield, our aim to inform, support and reassure you, your child and your family from the moment you get in touch with us. We will help you make the right choice.

If you would like more information, or are considering Sunfield for your child, please contact our Admissions Manager, on 01562 881320 or [referrals@sunfield.org.uk](mailto:referrals@sunfield.org.uk).

You can get in touch to arrange an initial visit, or simply to discuss what Sunfield can offer. We take admissions throughout the year, so please feel free to contact us at any time.

## **We look forward to hearing from you!**