

RNIB Sunshine House School and  
Children's Home  
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# RNIB Sunshine House School

## 2011–2012



# Welcome

**RNIB Sunshine House is a specialist primary school, children's home and service for families in Northwood, Middlesex.**

Boasting a range of specialist indoor and outdoor facilities, Sunshine House provides a safe and supportive environment for blind and partially sighted children with significant learning difficulties and disabilities to meet their full potential.

Everyone at Sunshine House is treated as an individual with their own set of needs and learning goals. Working together with parents and specialists we ensure that achievements go beyond the classroom into everyday life.

We welcome visits from parents, carers, children, other family members and professionals. Get in touch by calling **01923 82 25 38** or sending an email to [shsadmin@rnib.org.uk](mailto:shsadmin@rnib.org.uk). Find out more online at [rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse](http://rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse)



# Learning at Sunshine House

**“The school’s promotion of equality is outstanding, and those with additional complex needs achieve as well as their peers. Throughout the school pupils benefit from good teaching, with high expectations, positive relationships and exciting activities.”** Ofsted, June 2011

Our specialist primary school educates blind and partially sighted children with significant learning difficulties and disabilities between the ages of two and 11 years.

Many of the children at Sunshine House have other needs in addition to their sight problems and learning difficulties. These include:

- communication difficulties
- hearing problems
- physical disabilities
- healthcare needs, such as epilepsy or diabetes.

Each class has no more than eight children with a minimum support ratio of two adults for every three children.

Our skilled staff assess each child, delivering tailored programmes matched to their individual needs, interests and abilities.

The school day begins at 9.00am and finishes following a whole school assembly at 3.30pm. Families can arrange specialist transport to and from school by contacting their local authority.

We understand the importance of continuing a child’s development outside of the school day. We work closely with families, sharing achievements daily in communication diaries, meeting together each term for progress reviews.

**“Since starting at Sunshine House, our daughter has blossomed from a child who was frustrated and angry all the time into a little girl who loves to talk, socialise and go to school.”** Parent

## Our 10 golden rules

- 1 Give me time to respond and listen to what I have to say.
- 2 Allow me to make choices for myself.
- 3 Help me to stay safe.
- 4 Let me know what is going to happen.
- 5 Talk to me not about me.
- 6 Treat me with respect and dignity.
- 7 Telling me what I’m good at and praising my efforts builds my confidence.
- 8 Touch my arm, say my name and tell me who you are when you speak to me.
- 9 Always stay calm with me.
- 10 Take time to understand me, I can’t always explain my feelings.



# Curriculum

**“A rich range of well-planned curriculum activities have a positive impact on pupils’ enjoyment on their achievements. Many exciting activities are provided, with the sensory outdoor trail contributing well to pupils’ healthy lifestyles and to their enjoyment.”** Ofsted, June 2011

Children under five can attend school on a full or part-time basis, following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Children over the age of five follow a full-time tailored National Curriculum supporting their special education needs. Most children at Sunshine House are working between P levels 1 and 8. Each child has their own Individual Education Plan (IEP) to support their learning and development at a level and pace that is right for them.

Activities throughout the day are varied, inspiring and educational. Lessons can be carried out in whole groups, small groups and one-to-one. Teachers, teaching assistants, therapists and social care professionals work together to ensure that each child’s learning is maximised.

Our teaching team includes a QTVI (Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired). This is someone who has undertaken additional studies to become an expert in supporting blind and partially sighted children to learn.

We celebrate diversity at Sunshine House, giving children the opportunity to take part in activities that take account of their race, culture, language, religion and interests.

**“Pupils’ moral and social development is outstanding, resulting in their exceptionally positive behaviour.”**

Ofsted, June 2011



# Therapeutic approach

Our team of therapists are on hand to provide support both within the classroom and in dedicated sessions with individuals. Therapies and specialist facilities include:

- speech and language therapy
- physiotherapy
- occupational therapy
- mobility and orientation training
- music and creative therapy
- sensory garden and adapted playground with interactive fountain
- hydrotherapy pool
- soft play room
- state of the art sensory theatre
- library
- dark areas in every classroom for visual light training.

We have a paediatric community nurse who visits daily, working with staff to ensure that all medical needs are met, including enteral feeding and epilepsy management.



**“Sunshine House is a great specialist school with lots going on for the children. The therapists are excellent and my child loves going there.”** Ofsted, June 2011



# Staying at Sunshine House

**“It’s very comforting for me to know that my child is going to a warm, friendly and caring environment that is equipped to deal with her individual needs. Sunshine House really is one big family of its own that we all feel a part of.”**

Ofsted, June 2011

Children aged between two and 14 years can stay with us during the school term and for periods during the school holidays. We welcome children who attend school elsewhere, providing we can meet their needs. We want children to feel at home and encourage them to bring personal items for their room.

Learning and development continue in a relaxed and informal environment, making full use of the school’s facilities.

Activities also take place away from Sunshine House within the local community and beyond with shopping trips, meals out and theatre visits.

In addition to our day staff, waking night staff visit the children every 15 minutes, so you can be sure that your child is receiving the specialist care they need within a homely environment.

We offer a range of flexible day care, overnight and short stay options including:

**After school club** – fun and friendship carry on from the school day until 6.30pm including a hot meal. Ideal for busy and working parents/carers.

**Play days** – varied day of activities during the school holidays making full use of facilities at Sunshine House including a hydrotherapy pool, adapted playground, interactive fountains and a soft play area as well as trips out and about. Option to combine with a sleepover or overnight stay.

**Theme days** – focused activity days during the school holidays giving children and young people the opportunity to get together over a common interest. Like the play days, we make full use of the facilities at Sunshine House as well as getting out and about. Option to combine with a sleepover or overnight stay.

**Sleepovers** – children can stay overnight up to six times a year without the need for an assessment from social services. Great for children wanting to spend extra time with friends and for providing some family respite.

**Overnight stays** – extended stay option where children can stay overnight up to four nights per week (Monday to Thursday) for up to 50 weeks per year during the school term and during the holidays.

For more information about our children’s home visit [rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse](http://rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse) or call us on **01923 82 25 38**.



# Family time

Our family services jointly run with Grangewood School give parents, carers, siblings and other family members the chance to get together, support each other and have fun.

Whether your child is a few months old or in primary school, we have something for everyone. We've got sessions open to all the family and others where children can be left in our care.

Sessions include:

- after school and holiday clubs
- activity days
- stay and splash family swim
- stay and play family drop in
- Tinker Bell's music making
- parent and carer workshops
- sibling support groups.

For more information about our family services, visit [rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse](http://rnib.org.uk/sunshinehouse) or call us on **01923 82 25 38**.



# Contact us

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