

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

7 December 2023



Report of: Bristol Royal Hospital for Children –University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

Title: Hospital Education Delivered at UHBW.

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report:

Joanna Herbelot, Primary Lead, and Jacqueline Ward-Warren, Secondary Lead, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.

Bethany Shirt, Deputy Director of Nursing Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Mark Goninon, Deputy Chief Nurse UHBW

Contact: Communications@uhbw.nhs.uk

Recommendations:

Members are asked to review this update and take assurance in the level of support and education opportunities available to children while in Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.

The significant issues in the report are:

Not Applicable

The report provides an overview of the education provided at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children at University hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust.



1. Summary

The Hospital school is part of the wider Bristol Hospital Education Service provision. Our last three Ofsted inspections have resulted in the service being judged as an Outstanding Provision (June 2023, March 2017, November 2013).

“Pupils thrive at this exceptionally nurturing provision. Staff promote very positive relationships. They ensure learning is taught in ways pupils enjoy and can access. Consequently, pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND), quickly experience success. Most rediscover an interest in learning and optimism for their future.” – Extract from the most recent Ofsted report – June 2023.

2. Context

2.1 This report details information and details about the hospital education provided at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. We have a team of primary, secondary and special educational needs teachers at the hospital as well as one teaching assistant. We have recently appointed new staff and now have a total of 16 teachers at the hospital, consisting of eight primary teachers, seven secondary teachers and one learning support assistant. 3 of our teachers are full-time and the other part-time teachers make up about 7 full-time members of staff.

We are employed by Bristol City Council as part of the Bristol Hospital Education Service¹, which is comprised of different sites, which includes Bristol Royal Hospital for Children where we offer a weekly timetabled curriculum.

2.2 The information below focuses on the service provided at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.

The curriculum we offer is personalised to each child, taking account of the needs of the whole child and their medical condition. We deliver a rich, varied, enjoyable and stimulating educational experience. Individual planning informed by the schools provides pupils with subject specialists (for the secondary curriculum) so that children can study the work they are missing in school. We aim to minimise disruption to children's schooling caused by ill health by providing a broad and balanced curriculum, based on the national curriculum, and appropriate to each individual pupil's current medical, psychological and learning needs.

2.3 Our pupils' educational needs span the whole range of academic ability and include:

- Key Stages 1-4
- Post-16 children with Education Health Care Plans and those deemed to be a year behind in their schooling due to medical conditions
- Moderate learning difficulties
- Severe learning difficulties
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties
- Sensory impaired

¹ See Appendix 3 [Home – BHES \(bristolhes.co.uk\)](http://bristolhes.co.uk)

- Physically disabled
- Complex and specific learning difficulties
- English as a second language.

2.4 We are well supported by the hospital charities, Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity and the Grand Appeal who provide funds for enrichment activities and resources. We have a variety of storytellers, musicians, singers, drama and dance teachers who provide additional activities learning experiences over and above the school curriculum core offer.

2.5 We also have recently secured a funding bid from Deloitte which provides a Schools Service Programme Enhancement over a three year “holistic learning programme.” We receive this via Bristol and Weston’s Hospitals Charity for resources, volunteers and visiting creative artists. We have been able to resource science equipment such as 3D printer, virtual reality headsets and educational STEM resources to give teachers the opportunity to educate children in unique and exciting ways.

2.6 Our teachers don’t wear a uniform and use their first names in order to promote engagement. We work term time only from 8.30-3.30pm. We offer teaching from day one of hospital admission (if possible) and teach for up to an hour a day per child, and more if we have capacity.

2.7 On a daily basis, we have between 40-60 primary aged children and 30-40 secondary aged children in hospital. Not all students will be teachable due to medical needs. We also offer teaching to siblings of patients who are in hospital. Many of these patients will be short stay. We teach approximately 50 children a day but try to make contact with all potential pupils. Long-term patients are prioritised and timetabled for daily sessions.

2.8 Teachers are involved with the children and their families throughout their illness, from diagnosis through treatment and its subsequent effects and including, referrals for home tuition, moving to other hospitals, reintegration into school and in some cases palliative care. We often refer students to home tuition where students’ health conditions are so chronic that they cannot access any other provision. For students living in Bristol, we refer to our Bristol Hospital Education Service. Out with Bristol, we make home tuition referrals to the appropriate Local Education Authority.

2.9 Patients who able to leave their ward and eligible siblings can come to the primary school room (located on Level 5 in the hospital) although most of our teaching is done one-to-one by the bedside. We teach from 9-12pm and 1-3pm.

2.10 Things that are working well

2.10.1 We regularly receive positive evaluations from parents and pupils both verbally and on our feedback forms. We use this information in order to improve our service.

2.10.2 Some recent examples of feedback include:

- “We really appreciated everything the teachers did to help maintain some normality and sense of fun during a difficult time for us all. Thank you.”

- “Ben made learning fun, made me laugh, sang with me and helped me on my bad days. I miss Ben now.”
- “Liaison with school was very good, both in ‘team around the child TAC meetings and via email. We really appreciate everything Jo and her team have done.”

2.10.3 Charitable funds are helping us to go ‘above and beyond’ by allowing us to fully resource the curriculum and provide enrichment.

2.10.4 As previously outlined, Ofsted inspections have resulted in the service being judged as an Outstanding Provision – June 2023.

3. **Policy:**

Every local authority has a legal responsibility to arrange education for any child they are responsible for whose illness prevents them from attending school. Information regarding this is located within this link:

[Hospital education: a guide for health services – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hospital-education-a-guide-for-health-services)

4. **Consultation**

Not applicable.

5. **Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

5b) All children and young people of school age are offered lessons. This includes those with special educational needs, we have two SEND specialist teachers. Education plans are tailored to the individuals and adaptations are made as appropriate.

Services are regularly reviewed by Ofsted to ensure that they are meeting the needs of our children.

Appendices:

1. Link to Ofsted report June 2023 <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50228485>
2. An example leaflet regarding the school service.
3. Please find the Bristol Hospital Education Service website by clicking [here](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

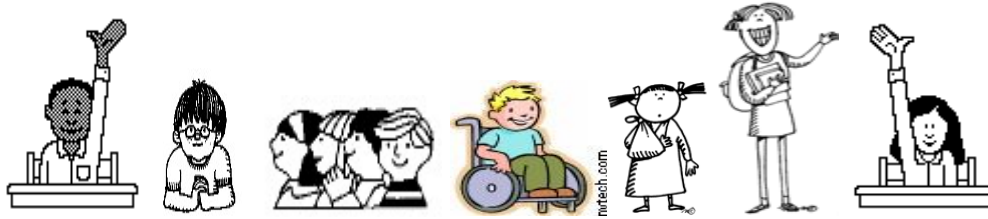
Background Papers:

Not applicable.

The Bristol Children's Hospital

School information for pupils and parents.

Who?



- All children and young people of school age are offered lessons. This will also include those with special needs and we have two SEND specialist teachers.
- The teachers have a wide range of teaching experience and subject specific teachers are provided at KS3-4.
- If necessary they are also able to access specialist services to support individual pupils.
- Brothers and sisters of long stay patients who have come from another authority.

When?

☀ *a.m / p.m*

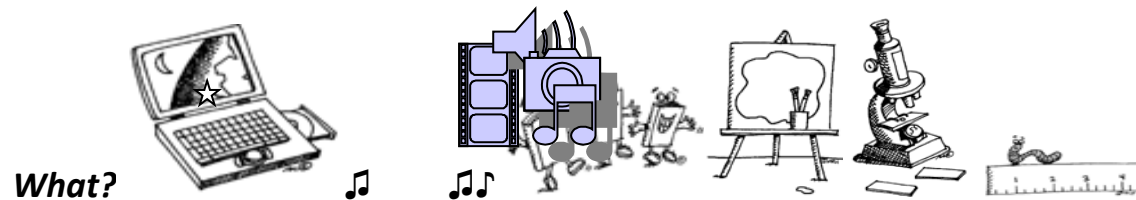
- We aim to teach all eligible pupils from day one but prioritise long stay and recurring pupils.
- Teaching takes place from 9.00 until 12.00 noon and from 1.00 – 3.00.

Where?



- Teaching can take place with individual pupils on the wards at the bedside.

- If appropriate, primary aged pupils are taught in the Schoolroom on Level 5.
- Secondary aged pupils are taught in the day room on Level 7.
- Children with special needs can also make use of our sensory room.



- We aim to minimize disruption to children’s schooling caused by ill health and support a smooth transition back into school by providing a broad and balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum and appropriate to each individual pupil’s current medical, psychological and learning needs. We liaise closely with the pupils’ home school to ensure we are teaching what the child is missing.
- We aim to contribute to children’s physical and psychological recovery by providing a secure, welcoming and stimulating educational environment.
- We are part of a multi-disciplinary team and work closely with educational, medical and allied health professionals both in the hospital and the community.
- If medically necessary, Home tuition is arranged for Bristol pupils via the outreach department of the Bristol Hospital Education Service, on discharge. For those outside this authority a referral will be made to their Local Education Authority.

For more information please contact the teachers on ext. 28263 Or contact Bristol Hospital Education Service, Fairfield Resource Centre, Montpelier Bristol 0117 3772377.