



Ramsden Hall Academy

Statement of Purpose

Ramsden Hall Academy (RHA) is a day and residential special school for boys aged 10 to 16 years who have a wide range of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and will all have an Educational Health Care plan (EHCP).

The residential provision is currently rated “Good” by Ofsted and has facilities for up to 28 boys at a time (subject to covid restrictions) The provision is a choice for the boys and their parents, in consultation and agreement with the academy. We have an emphasis on activities and routines, making sure it is fun, but also give the boys appropriate structured freedom to interact with their boarding friends. We focus on the development of social skills and emotional wellbeing and residential pupils consistently show improved outcomes in terms of both attendance and achievement.

In the academy as a whole we admit up to 100 boys and are located in Ramsden Heath, Near Billericay Essex but our boys come from across the whole county, with transport provided by Essex LA.

The bond between Residential Care and Academy is a key feature of our 24 hour curriculum. It allows pupils to benefit from both the educational and social experiences of academy boarding.

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of our pupils choose to board between 1-4 nights per week. However with the completion of the new residential building in 2021 we expect this to raise to $\frac{1}{3}$ + becoming residential pupils.

Historically, attendance has been low for many, currently 68% of pupils show increased attendance at RHA compared to their previous setting. This increases to 90% if they become residential pupils

Every student has an Education, Health and care Plan (EHCP) with, at the time of writing, 47% identified with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, 36% on the Autistic Spectrum, 21% with Oppositional Defiance Disorder, and 3% with Conduct Disorder. As a result, we group our pupils according to need and learning styles in all areas. Many pupils have complex needs and come from a variety of backgrounds, but all have experienced some form of disadvantage and trauma, either within their families, or through their experience of education.

Everything we do is based on positive relationships. Our dedicated, experienced and stable staff team guide and support the pupils both in the day academy and residential setting. This year we plan to extend this through specific therapeutic training, including Trauma Perceptive Practice, Sensory Processing and Speech and Language needs. Our academy staffing includes qualified teachers, an experienced engagement team, safeguarding team as well as the Residential team.

We also provide a part-time counsellor, and are planning to work with the Hub Speech and Language Therapist over the coming year to enable us to both identify and support children with speech and language needs effectively.

We are aware that the referrals into the Academy are increasingly for children with highly complex needs and are working with the LA to ensure that funding is sufficient to meet those needs, including through a variety of therapeutic strategies.

We provide a safe, secure environment where pupils are cared for, valued, respected, challenged, where appropriate, and supported to achieve and make progress. We believe that every student can have, and is entitled to, a positive future, and so we offer a variety of academic and vocational qualifications to ensure that all pupils can achieve at their individual level and access their chosen destinations after Year 11.

In the last three years every student who has completed Year 11 has gone onto a college placement. Our curriculum is flexible and is designed around student needs and interests with a practical element wherever possible to support pupils with ADHD behaviours. Any of the pupils demonstrating the skills and attainment required to successfully reintegrate into a mainstream school are supported in the transition.

We aim to nurture confidence and give our pupils the chance to succeed where previously they may have not achieved their potential, to fill the gaps from their primary education and to prepare them for life in the real world.

Pupils in Years 6–8 benefit from our nurture base within our Ready to Learn area where English, Maths, Humanities, Life Skills and Forest schools are delivered through a thematic, project based approach. In addition and to all years, we provide a range of trips and off-site activities, as well as the chance for older pupils to complete work experience, including onsite with our catering and site teams.

Our current site includes a Victorian country mansion built in 1854, in which the residential house and administration offices are currently situated, which is due to be replaced in 2021 by a purpose built extension to the learning areas and a separate residential building. The main teaching block was constructed in 2009, and we also have an outdoor classroom, technology area, gym and animal care rooms in various original outbuildings. This is all set in 14 acres of grounds, including a playing field, swimming pool, and woodland. In 2019 we had additional fencing erected and this has seen a decrease in incidents of pupils being out of boundary by 91%.

We work in close partnership with our family of academy's within Parallel Learning Trust (PLT), and are members of the Essex Special schools Education Trust. The academy is also a registered charity. PTFA Charity Number 1165446.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the academy remained open and though there were some changes / reduction in numbers, this was to enable use to work with the pupils that needed it most. The Residential opened again in September 2020, but with additional safety measures including pupils not sharing bedrooms overnight.

The academy and residential Provision believe that working together we will:

- Meet our pupils social, emotional and mental health needs enabling them to thrive both in academy and in the wider community;
- Support our pupils to develop the attributes, skills, knowledge and understanding required to become valuable members of society;

What we will do:

We will provide a safe, secure environment where pupils are valued, respected, challenged and supported to achieve and make progress.

Through our actions we will develop young people who are:

- Respectful of themselves, each other and the academy
- Trustworthy, polite, honest and helpful
- Tolerant of others, open minded and without prejudice
- Resilient, determined and have a strong work ethic
- Responsible, independent and supportive of each other
- Empathetic, thoughtful, compassionate and caring
- Good communicators who are equally good as leaders, as they are team players
- Confident, having both self-belief and high aspirations
- Good role models

Ramsden Hall Academy Mission Statement

We will support our pupils to develop the skills they need to reach their personal potential, and become positive members of the community.

Learning is our core purpose. We believe:

- Every child can achieve
- Every student can make progress
- Every member of our community matters
- Everyone deserves a fresh start

We will provide a safe, secure environment where pupils are valued, respected, challenged and supported to achieve and make progress.

To support this mission statement we have established a Code of Conduct which is the basis of everything we do:

We keep each other safe.
We help each other learn.
We look after our academy.

We hope that you enjoy our Academy.