



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 40 boys at a time (subject to covid restrictions) The provision is a

‘flexi boarding’ 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 gives 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.

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

At 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 and Southend 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 life.

Approximately 25% of our pupils choose to board between 1-4 nights per week. However the opening of Ramsden Lodge, the new residential building we will be able to support up to 40% of the Academy pupils.

Every student has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with, at the time of writing, almost ½ identified with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, 1/3 on the Autistic Spectrum and the remainder with Oppositional Defiance Disorder or 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 and experienced staff team guide and support the pupils both in the academy and residential setting. In 2021 we have begun to extend this through specific therapeutic training, including Trauma Perceptive Practice and 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.

2021 will also see the introduction of the Family Hub to enable families to share experiences and ideas of positive routines to gain individualised support for their son.

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 the academy 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 been at risk of not achieving 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.

In April 2021 the purpose build residential building, called Ramsden Lodge, was complete and in May 2021 we were able to start to move in. Our building consists of 40 beds, primarily in single en-suite bedrooms and single en-suite accessible bedrooms plus several twin bedrooms. In addition, there are five lounges with kitchen areas, an American style 50's diner, cinema room and games / senior room. Staff also have two sleep in rooms, two offices and a staff meeting room. There is CCTV and audio recording around the external areas of Ramsden Lodge and inside there is CCTV in the corridors only. Bedrooms have sensors to monitor them being opened once each student has settled for the night to alert the night wake staff should the pupils need support.

Also in April 2021 an extension was complete to the Academy offices and learning areas with the addition of therapy rooms, access to education, ready to learn area, additional classrooms, reception and office areas, meeting rooms and library. 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, hard play areas, swimming pool, and woodland. In 2019 we had additional fencing erected and this has seen a decrease in incidents of pupils being out of bounds 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.

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 aim to give all our pupils and their families the hope, compassion, experience and qualifications to enable them to take their place in the World.

We will

- build their skills and confidence so that they can learn to recognise their emotions self-regulate, and develop strategies to express themselves safely
- ensure that everyone is seen and known as an individual, and offer them tailored pathways to meet their individual goals.

We hope that you enjoy our Academy.