



Educating and caring for those with complex learning, physical, sensory and communication needs



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skills for a **successful**
transition to **adult life**

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Manchester

The Royal College Manchester is an independent specialist college working with young people aged between 19 and 25 who have complex needs.

Learners at our college have severe/ profound learning difficulties. They may have dual sensory impairment, or autism and may be deaf or have communication difficulties.

Regulated by the Learning and Skills Council and inspected by OFSTED, we offer day and residential courses to help the young people make the transition into adult life in a happy and secure environment.

Each teaching base in our college is designed to support group and individual work. The acoustic and visual environment enables young people who experience hypo/hypersensitivity to sound and vision to feel comfortable.

Students in the college are supported with a wide range of communication techniques, both to develop an effective communication system and to optimise learning across the course. The range of methods include signing, speech, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Objects of Reference and both high and low-tech communication aids.

Our on-site team of experts include speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, educational psychologist, occupational therapists, audiologist and a mental health nurse practitioner, all of whom support teaching in the residential as well as the educational settings. Psychiatric services are provided on a consultancy basis where needed.

The college has a number of specialist teaching rooms including the Karten CTEC Centre, Life Skills room, Art Room, and Media Suite. Other specialist facilities include a sports hall with climbing wall, an inclusive fitness suite, swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool and horticulture workshop.

Learners are also very much involved in the local community and the college has minibuses to support off-site learning.



The Curriculum

Staff use Person Centred Planning to support learners to shape their course and establish their preferences and aspirations for the future. Learners follow individualised programmes with their chosen course. The curriculum has four main elements:

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SKILLS FOR LIFE

Skills for Life Learners develop their communication, literacy, numeracy and IT skills and to apply them to real life situations. They are supported to develop functional communication skills based on their individual needs and preferences. Many learners use pictorial information to support their understanding of text. Schedules are used with learners who develop their independence in carrying out tasks in different contexts such as shopping and domestic tasks. Numeracy work includes developing and extending awareness of time, use of money and applying number skills to tasks in daily life.

LIFE SKILLS

As part of this programme learners develop the knowledge they will need on a daily basis, such as self care and home management skills. Leisure courses enable the young people to develop skills and interests in hobbies and sports using the excellent on-site facilities and those in the local community. A Sexuality and Relationships programme is also offered within Personal Health and Social Education.

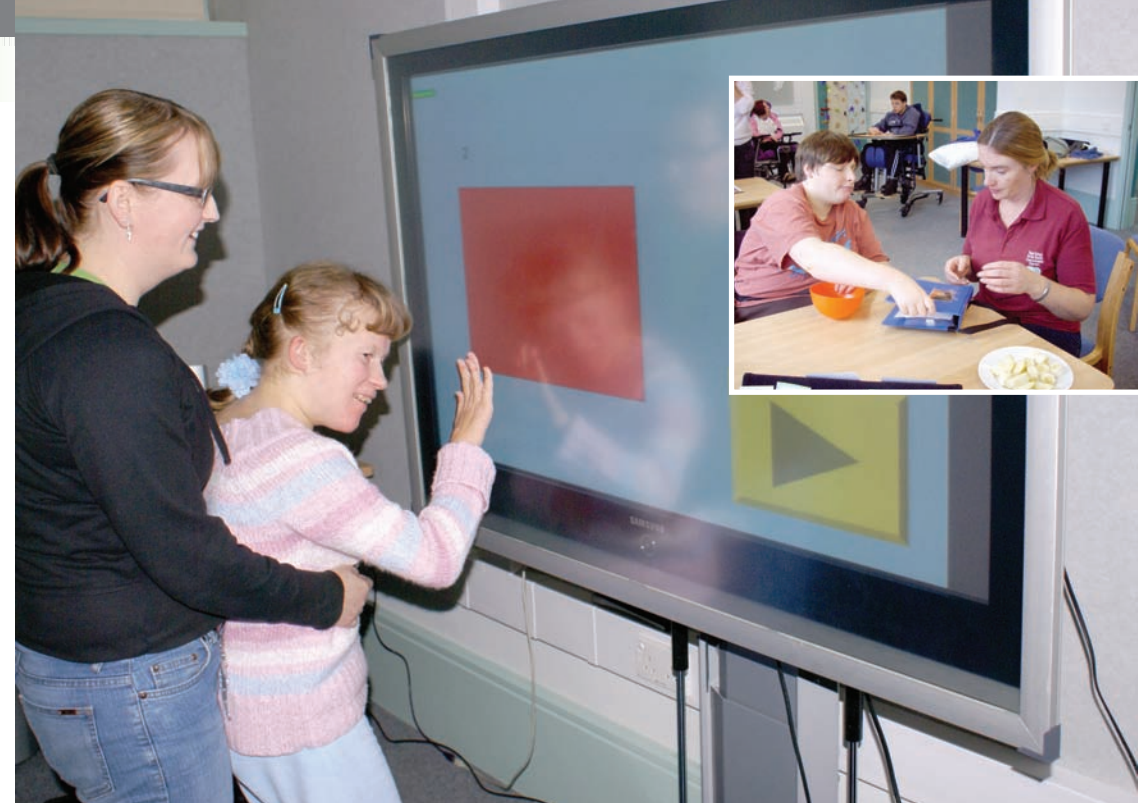
VOCATIONAL STUDIES

This gives learners the opportunity to try a range of occupations including a mini business enterprise, a cafe enterprise, floristry, horticulture, sign making, small bird management, cycle maintenance and sign language teaching. Learners have the opportunity to take part in supported work experience placements with a number of local businesses with which the college has forged excellent relationships.

CREATIVE STUDIES

Learners can explore a range of media through the college's visual art programme. Each year an exhibition celebrates the students' achievements in this area. Individual and group music courses are open to learners. This subject offers opportunities for developing communication and interactive skills. Dance, drama and movement are an important part of the creative programme, encouraging learners to use intensive and fun interaction to develop fundamental communication skills.

Where appropriate, learners can gain awards for their achievements through Oxford Cambridge and RSA (OCR) Examinations National Skills Profile, the Mencap Gateway Award, and Edexcel Entry Level Certificate for Life Skills. We have excellent links with local colleges where some learners access CLAIT accredited ICT courses and college certificated vocational courses.



Residential Placements

For those who choose to attend as residential learners, there is an extended curriculum of social and creative activities as well as the independent living skills programme. Each learner's course is built around their interests and priorities for learning, and targets that are agreed with the learner and the multidisciplinary team are incorporated into an Individual Learning Plan and Care Plan.

Support for Transition

We ensure that learners have all of the help they need to make the transition to supported living.

The college has effective relationships with Connexions Services, and works with a range of professionals from the young person's home community to plan services to meet their needs. Stockport Connexions acts as a link with home services to ensure that all provision is co-ordinated.

Learners are supported to visit new placements during their course, and to transfer skills learnt at college to new settings and to working with new people. They use person centred tools including learning logs and talking mats to express their views and aspirations for the future.

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We welcome approaches from learners, parents and professionals and we encourage informal visits to the college to find out more about our work.

Learners attending the Royal College Manchester are usually funded by the Learning & Skills Council, often with additional support from the home local authority.

There are no specific entry qualifications, however our assessment team will assess learners either in college or at their current educational placement to determine whether our services will meet the learner's needs.

New learners are offered transition visits to the college during the summer term in order to help them adjust, and overnight stays are offered if they are coming as residential learners. These may take place in the summer term or the summer holidays according to each person's needs.



For further information please contact the college secretary on 0161 610 0100 or college@seashelltrust.org.uk who will send out an application.

