



# St Mary's School and College, Bexhill

*Residential and non-residential education, therapy and support for children aged 7-19 who have speech, language and communication difficulties and associated complex needs.*

**NURSING**



## What St Mary's offers

St Mary's School and College includes dedicated buildings for school and college, the Aspire Vocational Centre, Interim Assessment and Placement Centre, and separate living areas. We have modern, adapted classrooms which include adjustable desks, specialist seating, interactive whiteboards, soundfield systems, technology and appropriate software to support learning.

Specialist provision includes Food Technology, Science and Design & Technology classrooms, computing suites, a well-resourced library, specialist gym, warm water pool and outdoor sports areas.

St Mary's offers a truly integrated approach that brings together education, therapy and care. Our on-site team includes speech and language therapists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. We have a qualified nursing team, psychologists, wellbeing team and GP services, as well as a Child and Family Support Worker. As part of our core offer our facilities include: hydrotherapy pool, physiotherapy gym, sensory integration suite, medical, health and wellbeing services.

We have four residential houses (two of which are off-site) which are part of our programmes for extending independence skills. A dedicated care team provide support to our residential pupils.

All of our staff work together with the families and children to ensure the very best outcomes for pupils.

## Therapy, Health and Wellbeing

Our therapy, health and wellbeing teams and on-site facilities enable us to support pupils with a range of needs including: speech and language impairment, learning difficulties, sensory processing, physical needs, attachment difficulties, and eating and drinking difficulties.

Our therapy, health and wellbeing teams and on-site facilities enable us to deliver provision across the waking curriculum. Our model of integrated therapy means that the pupils' needs are planned, provided, and assessed in natural and functional settings. There is the opportunity to develop high levels of trust and familiarity leading to strong therapeutic relationships. We work as a multidisciplinary team to maximise independence levels and the development of 'tools for life'.

With child centred planning at the heart of our work we believe that through understanding what is driving a pupil's behaviours and anxieties we will be best placed to help them to be managed in an appropriate way. We work closely with families and carers, as well as the pupil to ensure we understand their personal goals and ambitions so that we can provide the support and evidence based interventions necessary to make these a reality.

The ultimate aim is for every pupil to achieve as much independence as possible so that they can live a fulfilled life.



**Natalie Edwards**

*Head of Therapy,  
Health and  
WellBeing*

BSc (Hons) Psychology,  
PGCE,  
HCPC, MSc  
(Educational  
Psychology)



## Nursing at St Mary's

The nursing team's key role is to respond to the health needs of the pupils at St Mary's. This is done by identifying pupils with complex health needs and long term medical conditions and working in partnership with all stakeholders to deliver plans of care. Also by shaping an environment that promotes the health and well being of all the pupils at St Mary's. We are keen to emphasise to the pupil's ways in which they can keep themselves healthy and achieve independence with their health beyond their time spent at St Mary's.

- To work in partnership with all professionals to empower our pupils and students to reach their full health potential. Ensuring that despite their physical and learning difficulties and/or underlying medical condition; they can still participate in all aspects of daily living.
- Promote health & wellbeing through healthcare initiatives – health clinics & drop-ins, PHSE and work in collaboration with other departments to ensure St Mary's is a health promoting environment across catering, education, residential and therapists.
- Develop individual health care plans and My Plan to meet the health care needs of pupils – e.g. epilepsy management, enuresis, skin care, constipation, sleep & health eating. These are developed through a process of assessment & planning, involving parents and staff.
- Ensuring adequate medical risk assessments are in place.
- Work with a number of external stakeholders to ensure health needs are met for the pupils – GP, Paediatrician, Growth clinic, dieticians, continence team, epilepsy nurse, audiology, orthodontics, dental.

- Co-ordinate immunisation programmes
- Participate in school health surveillance as outlined in the healthy child programme, monitoring developmental checks – growth, BP, opticians, dentist, immunisation status as indicated.
- Co-ordinating medical appointments and working with care & INA staff to attend these appointments with the pupils.
- Administer and co-ordinate first aid and treatment of minor injuries/ ailments.
- Delivering and monitoring a wide range of staff training – For example, First Aid, medication, epilepsy, asthma.
- Administration of medicines and co-ordination of the safe handling and administration of medicines at St Mary's, ensuring that practices comply with National Minimum Standards for special residential schools and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (including safe storage, stock controls, tracking, policy, training, reporting errors).
- Supporting audiology service.
- Supporting the newly established continence clinic.
- Supporting annual reviews with relevant medical & health information.
- Development and contribution to health policy, protocols, systems and processes.
- Oversee the care of unwell/infectious CYP as per Trust policy and protocol.

## The Nursing Team



**Natasha Sanderson**

Lead Nurse

RGN, SCPHN  
FAW, EFAW,  
AED Instructor



**Tania Yates**

Health Care Assistant



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