

# Evelina Hospital School



Just one of the 2,000 children we teach every year, here enjoying sensory play



Headteacher Anne Hamilton

Evelina Hospital School is situated in an atrium on the third floor of the Evelina London Children's Hospital. It provides an education for children who are unable to attend a conventional school due to their health needs. Those who can't come into the school classrooms at the hospital are taught at their bedsides, with the support of the hospital team. Teaching staff wheel trolleys to the wards full of books, educational teaching packs, cutting edge computing resources, cooking materials, musical instruments, science experiments and art materials. Headteacher Anne Hamilton details how Evelina operates and explains that the heart of Evelina Hospital School is that "every child has the right to an education".

We are based in a space that is often filled with sunlight or held beneath sheets of rain, which flood off the curved side of the building and create a sense of protected cosiness over the classrooms. As you approach, you might be distracted by the work displayed on the outside wall: illustrated poetry, paintings, science projects and book reviews. Inside, you'll find a secondary classroom and an open-plan primary and early-years space – and groups of children learning, who otherwise might not be able to access education.

## A unique school

Our most recent Ofsted inspection classed us as an outstanding school, describing us as "a bright and welcoming environment for pupils, parents and a wide range of professionals to enjoy ... the school provides pupils with a learning experience

### REPORT CARD EVELINA HOSPITAL SCHOOL

- » Headteacher: Anne Hamilton
- » Founded in 1949
- » Location: Evelina London Children's Hospital, London
- » Type of school: Hospital school
- » No. of students: up to 2,000 per academic year
- » [www.evelina.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.evelina.southwark.sch.uk)

» THAT PARENTS AND CHILDREN HAVE SAID

"It's really nice to know that teachers can help children while in hospital to have normality while getting treatment."

"Great for children to be able to leave the ward and mix with others and not fall behind on schoolwork."

"The fun activities take my mind off my transfusion."

"This is an amazing school. It takes [my daughter's] mind off things and staff are so welcoming."

“In the ward below, you might find a practical science experiment spread across the over-bed table of a year 5 pupil, who has been having dialysis for several months”

that they are familiar with and many choose to spend as much time as possible there." All children from three to 19 who are inpatients of the hospital are invited to register with us; siblings of patients might also spend some time with us while they stay close to the hospital with their family. This academic year we expect to teach more than 2,000 children. A member of the National Association of Hospital Education, we work with other similar schools across the country to constantly improve our ability to offer the best education to every child who comes our way – whether for a day, a week, months or even years.

Many of our longer-term pupils are on dialysis while they wait for a kidney transplant. They often travel a long way to get to Evelina, for up to four

"There is a firmly embedded culture of high aspirations throughout the school" says Ofsted



days each week, and they may spend five hours on their machines – all in all, a very tiring routine. The learning that the school provides during their dialysis hours take their mind off the process and offer opportunities to learn and be creative.

## Our range of services

We work with the children's home schools to ensure they can stay on track with their learning. We also offer a core curriculum of literacy, numeracy and enrichment activities, with learning tailored to the needs of each pupil each day. If you followed the teaching staff to the wards, you might find a maths lesson happening with a young person who's been in hospital for a few weeks, and who is worried about falling behind in his GCSEs.

In the ward below, you might find a practical science experiment spread across the over-bed table of a year 5 pupil, who has been having dialysis for several months and often misses exciting (and important) lessons – like science experiments – when it's a hospital day. You might come across a PE lesson – basketball, curling or cricket, all from a hospital bed. The sports and PE premium enables us to work with partner coaches, and these lessons demonstrate that there are possibilities for being active whatever needs and ability levels young people have.

Meanwhile, in the secondary classroom, you might find a 12-year-old girl whose passion for computer games is being channelled into our flagship computing project, Minecraft Education, which was showcased at the BETT Show at the ExCeL centre in January. She is collaborating with others who aren't in the same physical space to recreate the hospital in a virtual Minecraft environment – an opportunity to work with other





Creative learning at the Evelina Hospital School

## » OUR PARTNERS

- » City of London Sinfonia – providing world-class music to classroom and bedside
- » Read for Good – regularly donating books and funding our amazing storyteller Jennifer Lunn
- » Capital Kids Cricket – funding inspiring PE sessions in school and on ward
- » Rambert and Royal Academy of Dance – bringing dance and movement to the school
- » Royal Academy of Culinary Arts and the Adopt a School charity – bringing food technology into school
- » Singing Hands – singing and signing with Makaton
- » Nrich Maths, University of Cambridge – mathematical thinking and problem-solving
- » Jane Porter – children's author and illustrator
- » Phil McDermott – storyteller
- » Jeanne Willis – children's author
- » Linden K McMahon – creative writing
- » Microsoft Education

people her age, which she has been missing, and to gain skills that will support her in overcoming barriers to learning.

If you're lucky, you might have arrived on World Book Day, with teachers and pupils alike dressed up as book characters and looking through a treasure trove of new books. This is a valuable opportunity for children to participate in the same event as their peers– so they can share these moments as common experiences, even without being together.

Throughout the year, we host visiting authors and storytellers, who bring books alive and take pupils on adventures far beyond the confines of the hospital, while our creative writing tutor builds pupils' confidence in creating their own stories and poems. Seeing the children's delight with the books provided by our partner Read for Good, and their pride in the books we publish of their own writing, we know first-hand that stories are a powerful medicine.

## Managing difficult circumstances

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were already developing our remote learning provision for children in isolation in hospital, whose risk of infection is so high that visitors have to be very limited, and for whom visits to the classroom are out of the question. So, when schools were asked to teach remotely, we had the flexibility and resources to do this very quickly for young people who are hospitalised at Evelina.

The pandemic has meant that many more young people have experienced what it's like to be unable to attend school in the way they are used to. Flexible learning is more important than ever; at Evelina, it has always been at the heart of what we do. Every child who comes through the hospital has the right to an education – and they deserve fun, exciting and empowering learning that opens possibilities for them, whatever challenges their health brings. And the young people show time and again that they are capable of marvellous things.

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