



Clannad School

Supportive and specialist education

About us

Location



London

Capacity



5

Gender



Mixed

Age Range



8-17

Ofsted



Outstanding

Five Rivers Child Care



Education

Five Rivers Child Care schools provide a therapeutic educational framework that promotes emotional growth alongside academic success and so encourages holistic child development. Our education provision is fully integrated with our other services.



Clinical Services

We formulate our individually tailored education plans with input from our team of clinicians. They support the children experiencing therapeutic intervention and prepare them for any transitions in their care.



Residential

Children in residential care have access to onsite registered schools or receive tailored one to one support through our outreach service 1 ACE.



Fostering

Children in our care have access to our tailored one to one educational support through our outreach service 1 ACE..

Our School



Clannad School is a small, unique education provision, based in London.

We offer a range of rich learning opportunities for pupils aged 8–17 years. We work with each child holistically, developing their academic abilities alongside their emotional resilience and social confidence, supporting them throughout their journey.

Achievements

Ofsted

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted in July 2025, Clannad school provides pupils with individualised and bespoke curriculum and timetables to meet their individual needs. *"Pupils describe Clannad school as a 'special and safe place' to learn. They feel happy and secure in school. Pupils benefit enormously from kind, compassionate and highly skilled staff."* – Ofsted 2025

Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark

Five Rivers Education has achieved the British Dyslexia Association's Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark (DFQM). The accreditation recognises the consistent use of inclusive, evidence-informed approaches that support learners with dyslexia and other literacy-related difficulties.

Our school is committed to creating a dyslexia-friendly culture where every learner can thrive. Through inclusive teaching, accessible learning environments and tailored support, we work to remove barriers to learning and help pupils develop confidence, independence and a love of learning. Working closely with families and specialist professionals, we ensure that individual needs are understood and supported, enabling all pupils to achieve success.

The Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award (ATSSA)

The Attachment and Trauma-Sensitive Award validates schools that demonstrate a culture of compassion and nurture, fundamental components for getting children into a state of 'learning readiness'. The award is issued only to providers who can demonstrate they have met its rigorous quality standards. We are delighted to have achieved the Gold Award.

Local Authority - Education Advisor

"I have been working with Clannad School for just over a year supporting a looked after child to our local authority."

"The change in the child since being at the school has been fantastic and I feel that the school really know him and support him extremely well. They address any needs and 'tailor make' a curriculum around him. I feel that the child is thriving and will continue to do so. The staff are friendly and approachable. They work hard at ensuring the child is relaxed and regulated in the school environment which in turn means they will get the best from him."

The school day

Core principles

At Clannad School, we are driven by a shared goal: to reignite every student's curiosity and passion for learning, empowering them to thrive not only academically, but also personally and emotionally. We aspire for each student to leave us feeling confident, fulfilled, and happy. Equipped with a strong sense of hope and excitement for the future ahead.

We are an inclusive school that welcomes students of all religions, races and backgrounds and we actively promote equality and diversity.

We have an active program of educational enrichment; supported by school trips, citizenship days, cultural days and extra-curricular activities, striving to prepare the student to be a global citizen as well as promoting British values. Clannad School focuses on building life skills and independent living skills through programs which are carefully coordinated between our teaching staff and our care staff for maximum effectiveness. This includes PSHE, managing personal finances, cookery and personal safety.

As well as delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, we also pay special attention to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the individual.

The school day

Students are expected to arrive promptly at 09:00 for early morning activity (EMA) which typically involves activities such as board games, discussions covering any school issues or reminders of school rules; news of interest or current affairs can also be discussed prior to lessons starting properly at 09:30. Lessons end at 14:45. We encourage our pupils to use the 'bespoke learning time' in the timetable in a structured way, to explore topics and themes that they are interested in. The timetable is personalised to meet each pupil's individual needs and interests as well as meeting the national curriculum and SMSC requirements.

Expectations

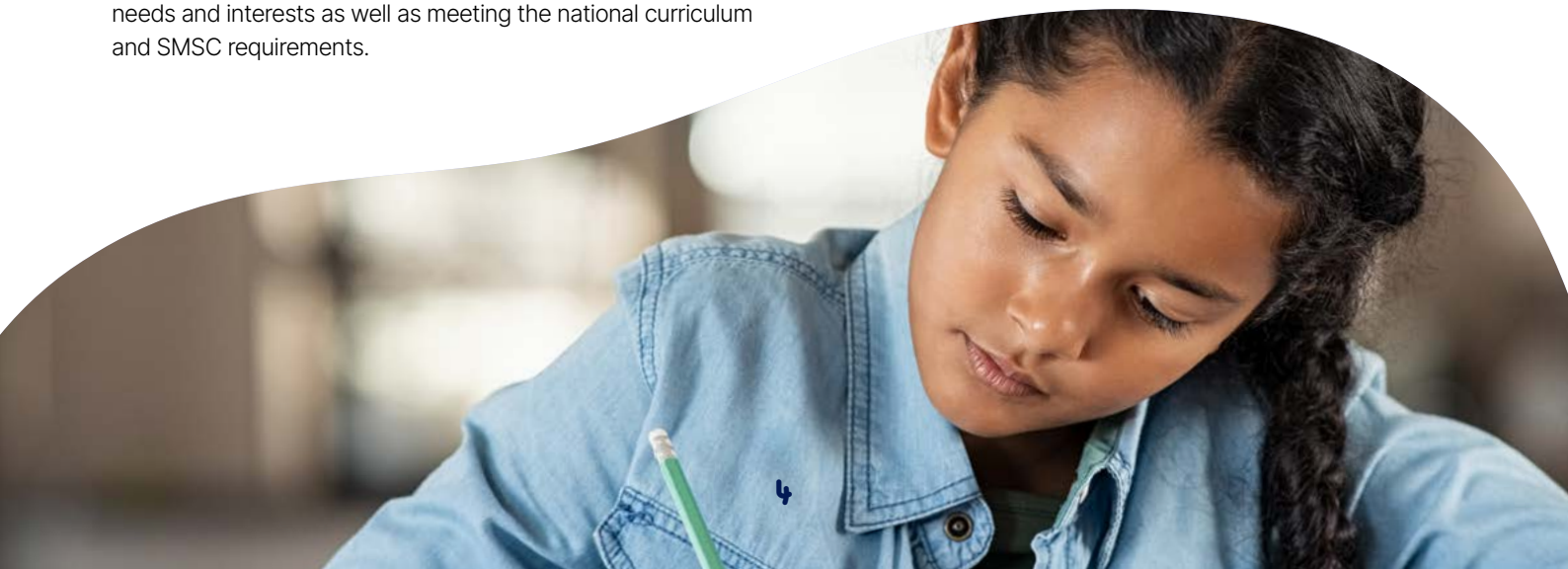
Clannad School has high expectations for all its pupils. The pupils wear uniform and have clearly defined individual behaviour plans that all the team are aware of. We have a system of rewards called 'Cool Points' that focus on presentation, behaviour for learning, effort, excellence and social skills. 'Cool Points' are awarded for punctuality, behaviour and effort each day and tracked in an electronic system. Points can be accumulated and 'cashed in' for vouchers or combined with the points of other students to purchase a reward trip or something else as agreed with staff.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Further information can be provided by the school concerning the arrangement for supporting pupils with English as their second language. All information, if requested, can be made available prior to any meeting. Our aim is to identify and support every special need identified or diagnosed. Everychild will be offered a weekly therapy session and equally educational resources will be tailored to meet the needs of the pupils. All pupils will work on an individualised timetable designed to meet their specific needs.

"Pupils smile here; they told us that they enjoy school and they feel safe. This is because staff make pupils feel welcome and take great care of them."

Ofsted



Our curriculum

The curriculum

Our bespoke curriculum is designed to balance the needs and interests of the children in our in care, as well as the requirements of the National Curriculum. As well as essential opportunities to provide a nurturing 24-hour programme, we ensure that all pupils receive a broad, balanced education. This education is thoughtfully designed to reflect each child's background, abilities, and individual needs, making learning meaningful and relevant to their personal circumstances.

We aim to equip our pupils the skills and confidence they need to grow into happy, resilient, and responsible people. We encourage them to build positive relationships, develop trust and deepen their understanding and abilities so that they can reach their full potential.

Enrichment

We believe it is important to raise awareness about diversity, celebrate different cultures, religions and support our local community. We have taken school trips to places of worship such as Canterbury Cathedral, a Sikh temple, petting farms, and museums to complement the education and daily lives of the students.

Further enrichment has been provided by, for example, talks from Guide Dogs for the Blind, so that pupils can learn about differences in the society and help develop empathy for others. Pupils are also given career guidance and advice to help prepare them for adult life.

Additionally, extra-curricular activities are offered on site, such as music lessons where the pupils can learn how to make music with music production software, guitar lessons (including music theory) and sound engineering. Clannad School also have a 'film club' where students are given the opportunity to watch things that they may not usually have an opportunity to see, such as world cinema and carefully chosen documentaries. Extra-curricular activities are not compulsory, but are encouraged.

There are local facilities where a wide range of sports and other activities can be arranged by agreement with staff.

Each term we hold a cultural day, where a different culture or religion from around the world is examined. Various activities are held to promote our agenda of increasing equality and diversity in the school and workplace.

Each term we also hold a citizenship day where different aspects of citizenship are explored through various workshops, lectures and group activities as appropriate to the needs of the pupils, and to promote a greater understanding of their place in modern society.



The school forum

On a termly basis, a school forum convenes at Five Rivers Child Care's Head Office in Salisbury. This meeting forms part of our governance arrangements and has a set agenda.

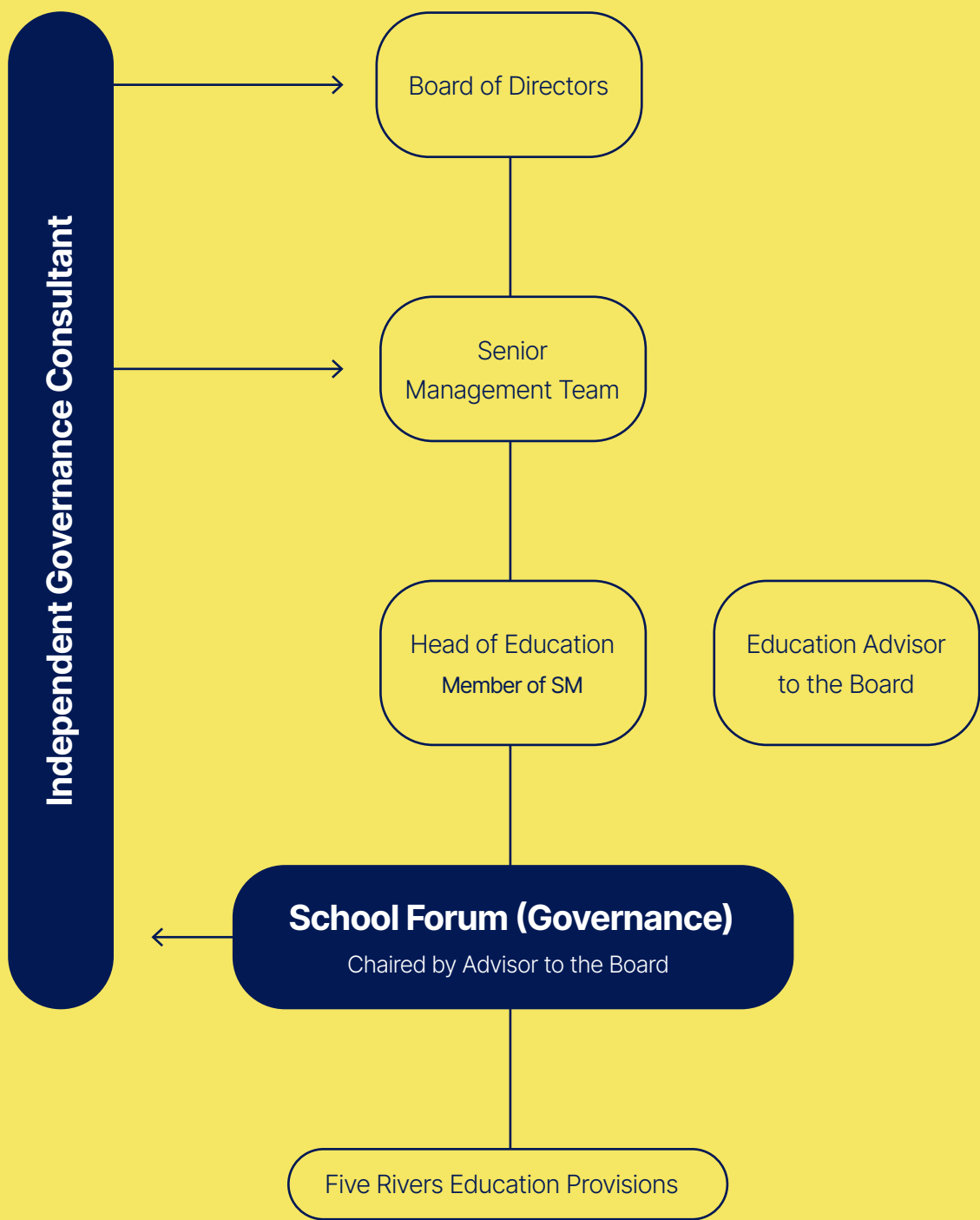
The school forum is made up of a number of people from within Five Rivers Child Care and independents, with some members being regular attendees, and others attending as and when necessary.

Members include:

- Education Senior Leaders
- Heads of education provisions
- Key members from other Five Rivers Child Care departments are also invited

Artwork by one of our pupils →





Policies

Admissions

Clannad School offers placements to young people aged from 8 to 17. This can either be as part of an integrated care package or on an education only basis, as agreed with the managers. We support our pupils with their transition into further education when they are ready. This includes helping them move into higher education where appropriate, as well as exploring and securing apprenticeship opportunities.

Safeguarding procedure

Clannad School implements strict safeguarding procedures and all staff are subject to rigorous background checks which are routinely updated. All DBS and identification documents, proof of address etc. are held both at Clannad School and at our central HR department. An active policy of whistle blowing is encouraged amongst all staff. The full safeguarding policies are available upon request.

Behaviour

We have clearly defined expectations for behaviour at Clannad School which include areas such as:

- Treating others and yourself with respect
- A strict no bullying policy
- No racism, homophobia, xenophobia or religious intolerance
- No prohibited substances i.e. drugs and alcohol
- Punctuality
- Respecting property - no vandalism, no littering.

The full policies are available upon request. The behaviour policies at Clannad School are implemented by both care and education staff in cooperation and are done in a consistent and fair manner. At the beginning of a placement, the expectations of student behaviour are explained clearly and thoroughly. Guidelines and standards for reasonable dress in school are explained to the student and are displayed on the classroom wall.

Exclusions

Clannad School strives to provide all children with the opportunity to access good quality education in a warm, welcoming, and non-judgemental environment. Our staff are all well trained to support children who struggle with the effect of trauma and other psychological issues that may result in challenging behaviour. We work therapeutically with all children, deploying trauma informed strategies to de-escalate difficult situations, while offering choices and new opportunities to succeed, despite their challenges. Our "Incentive to Learn Programme" motivates pupils to reach for greater heights daily, as the benefits are visible as well as tangible.

Our rich and dynamic curriculum is designed to meet the needs of individual children. It is structured to not only address the gaps in their learning but also to keep them fully engaged and motivated. The offsite curriculum builds their self-confidence and resilience and develops their social awareness and skills for life.

There is no exclusion from education at Clannad School, but there is ongoing support, resilience, and the opportunity to turn things around, provided by staff who are passionate about turning children's lives around.

Complaints procedure

Clannad School has a robust complaints procedure where any complaints made are taken with the utmost seriousness and investigated accordingly. Clannad School and Five Rivers Child Care have a consistent complaints procedure which is available upon request.

English as an Additional Language

Where required, EAL additional needs will be suitably met with support from LA translation services.

Additional needs

All information made available prior to any meeting concerning the pupils, where parents are invited to attend or where information concerning the education and welfare of the pupil, including those pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan, can be provided in alternative languages where required or upon request from the parent and where there is a need.

Our aim is to recognise and respond to any special educational needs as early as possible once the pupil joins us. We ensure they receive the right specialist support so they can thrive. This will be indicated on their Personal Education Plan (PEP), which will be provided by their social worker or the placing authority. If there is limited or no previous educational information, the teacher will also create an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and set appropriate targets achievable by the pupil. This means every pupil will be able to follow a curriculum that is tailored to them and suited to their individual abilities. Our approach to supporting special educational needs is guided by the revised Code of Practice, helping us ensure each pupil gets the care and support they need. All recent circulars and documents issued to the school from the Department for Education are available for inspection at the school.

Further information

We safeguard and promote the health and safety of pupils on activities outside the school. All schemes of work and policies are available upon request.

All parents/carers and other interested parties are free to inspect policies concerning Anti-Bullying, Child Protection (CP) and Safeguarding, Health and safety and good behaviour including sanctions or exclusions for unacceptable or unhelpful behaviour.

The complaints procedure is available including details of the number of complaints registered under the formal procedures during the preceding year.

If appropriate, details of academic performance during the preceding year will be available on request.

Although this document is correct at the time of printing, minor changes may occur from time to time and full evaluation of the document will be undertaken annually.



Clannad School

Bromley, Kent

Further details are available on request

Headteacher: Utibe-Abasi Umoren | utibe-abasi.umoren@five-rivers.org

Proprietorial Body: Five Rivers Child Care

Chair: Rachel Lambert

If you would like to discuss a placement within our Education service,
please contact our referrals team for more information: **0800 3898708** (Option 3)



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