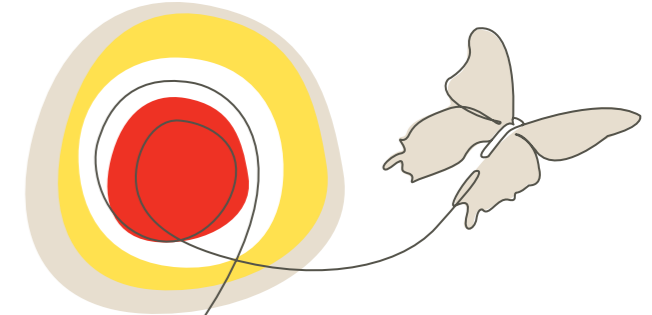




Action for Children schools

Passionate about potential



Contact us

For all general enquiries on our range of schools email schools@actionforchildren.org.uk or talk to Adam Nelmes on 029 2022 2127

Website: www.actionforchildren.org.uk/schools

Action for Children

Action for Children is committed to helping the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality. We help nearly 156,000 children, young people and their families through around 420 projects across the UK.

This includes our innovative portfolio of:

- fostering and adoption services
- family centres
- short breaks services
- transition services
- residential care services



as long as it takes

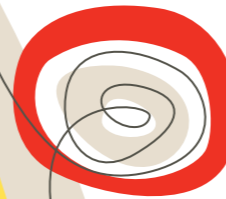
as long as it takes

Action for Children schools

Action for Children helps the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality, so they can achieve their full potential.

Working with commissioners and families, we provide outstanding and awarding-winning learning environments where all children and young people benefit from an individual approach to their needs from our experienced

and caring staff teams. Our well-resourced surroundings ensure that even those with the most challenging, complex or profound needs achieve positive outcomes.



Supporting the most challenging, complex or profound needs

Who we help

Supporting over 350 children and young people in the last five years, our schools help children and young people who cannot be taught in mainstream education. We specialise in children and young people with the most challenging behaviour. We offer placements for a wide range of pupils, from those with disruptive social backgrounds, high-functioning autism to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD).

How we help

Combining a structured education with emotional support and guidance, we encourage children and young people to make their own choices and achieve their own positive outcomes. We look to work in partnership with other professionals, parents and carers, offering a multi-agency solution and working with families to support the emotional resilience of their children. Helping the child or young person at every step, the placements not only offer value for money, but real outcomes and a child-centred environment.

Helping those with challenging behaviour

Action for Children Cotswold Community

Cotswold Community is a school and therapeutic community that provides a safe, caring and holistic environment. The school enables children who have experienced severe disruption and emotional trauma

as a result of significant abuse in their early years to recover, learn and grow towards maturity.

Action for Children Headlands School

Headlands School aims to provide the highest quality education and care to children and young people, enabling them to achieve their potential, and preparing them for a happy and fulfilling adult life. We help children and young people who have difficulty managing their behaviour and provide them with an opportunity to change. Headlands School forms an integral part of Action for Children's – Gweithredu dros Blant's work in Wales.

Action for Children Spires School

The school successfully helps students who have a history of emotional trauma that has not responded to home or school management, who can benefit from a structured approach to their lives, and who would take advantage of a formal curriculum to suit their specific needs.

Action for Children Westwood School

Westwood School offers a therapeutic learning environment that utilises a range of focused strategies to engage children in the learning process. The school has an experienced and dedicated staff team, enabling a high level of pastoral care and support in addition to a wide range of National Curriculum and vocational accredited courses.



Christopher's story

Christopher had problems at home. He came to us when he was 13 years old as a live-in student, but kept in regular contact with his family back in Norfolk. Both he and his family worked closely with the school and problems were sorted out with regular contact between home and school. Christopher is a talented poet, entertainer, songwriter and musician, and is currently doing extremely well in music college. The school provided the safe environment in which Christopher was able to grow and develop the skills needed to thrive in the world outside of school.



Matthew's story

Matthew has Marshall Smith syndrome. He uses a wheelchair, cannot speak, has breathing problems and finds it hard to swallow. By working with him and his individual needs, Penhurst School has helped him to overcome these challenges. Through one-to-one care, he can now communicate choices and knows how to use the appropriate communication tools. His mother, Sara, says: 'Penhurst supports parents well too; the therapists communicate directly with parents and the school trains parents on how to communicate and interact with their children. The quality of the service is excellent.'

Helping those with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)

Action for Children Penhurst School

Penhurst School offers an outstanding and award-winning learning environment where all children and young people benefit from an individualised and enriching extended curriculum from our experienced and caring teams. Our well-equipped facilities and offer of residential and transitional care ensure that even those with the most profound and complex needs achieve positive outcomes.

Action for Children Redwood House

Redwood House is an adult provision that enables young people to continue to develop their life and living skills after leaving school. Redwood House is open throughout the year and offers a warm and friendly environment in which young people learn and thrive.

Our goals and outcomes

Our commitment to working effectively with the most challenging children and young people has enabled us to achieve consistently excellent outcomes for our pupils. We work towards providing children with the support they need to fulfil the main principles that are central to:

- ▶ in England: Every Child Matters
- ▶ in Northern Ireland: Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge
- ▶ in Scotland: Getting it Right for Every Child
- ▶ in Wales: Children and Young People: Rights to Action





Action for Children school locations



Some of the key areas we focus on at the schools include:

Developing emotional wellbeing

Emotional wellbeing is seen increasingly as key to successful adaptation to adult life, achievement of educational success, positive relationships and mental health. A recent review concluded that Action for Children schools have been successful in improving our pupils' emotional wellbeing under the following themes: self-esteem, peer relationships, targets and rewards, multi-disciplinary approach, healthy lifestyles and adult role models/staff groups communication.

One example of our work: Action for Children Cotswold Community

The therapeutic community has a multi-disciplinary approach, using a variety of interventions.

Our psychotherapist advises staff and holds individual psychotherapy sessions when required.

A psychiatrist is available for students with more complex difficulties. An art therapist, play therapist and a dietician are also working at the school, along with a consultant paediatrician.

For further information on this review, please visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk/schools and refer to 'Action for Children briefing: Developing emotional wellbeing in vulnerable children and young people – the Action for Children approach in three specialist schools'.

Participation and inclusion in our schools

We believe participation is the active involvement of children and young people in the experiences, opportunities and decisions that affect their lives and their ability to fulfil their potential.

We are committed to inclusion at a strategic and operational level, accomplished through clear standards, targets and evidenced throughout our work.

Transitional care

A key objective of our schools is to ensure that the young people who attend them are prepared for life within the community after they leave our care, helping them to:

- ▶ gain employment or access further education or training
- ▶ be self-sufficient, achieving essential life skills and living in suitable accommodation
- ▶ ensure their health and wellbeing is maintained
- ▶ create positive relationships with their families where possible

Our schools run a number of individual and group programmes of formal education, group care, social skills, work experience and leisure pursuits. This includes self-care, sex education, safety awareness, social independence and job-related training.

Our specialist resource, Redwood House, enables young people leaving Penhurst School to continue their learning and development, and meets their additional transitional needs.

● Cotswold Community – Wiltshire

Talk to us: 01285 861239
 Email: cotswold.community@actionforchildren.org.uk
 9–18 years, term-time boarding and 52-week residential care

● Headlands School – Vale of Glamorgan

Talk to us: 029 2070 9771
 Email: headlands.school@actionforchildren.org.uk
 11–19 years, day and term-time residential care

● Penhurst School – Oxfordshire

Talk to us: 01608 647020
 Email: penhurst.school@actionforchildren.org.uk
 5–19 years, 51/52-week residential care

● Redwood House – Oxfordshire

Talk to us: 01608 647559/01608 647020
 Email: redwood.house@actionforchildren.org.uk
 19–25 years, 52-week residential care
 Redwood House is on the same site as Penhurst School.

● Spires School – Oxfordshire

Talk to us: 01865 390436
 Email: spires.school@actionforchildren.org.uk
 11–16 years, day, flexi-boarding and 52-week residential care

● Westwood School – Kent

Talk to us: 01843 600820
 Email: westwood.school@actionforchildren.org.uk
 11–16 years, day care only