



Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) FAQs

Welcome to Our EHCP Parent FAQ

We understand that navigating the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process can feel overwhelming. This FAQ document is designed to support you by answering common questions about how the College works with EHCPs and what to expect during consultations. Our goal is to provide clear, honest information to help you feel confident and informed as you explore the best options for your child's education.

Applying to College

How and when can my child apply to college if they have an EHCP?

Applications are made online via the application portal through the college website, which opens after the Autumn Open Events. Students with an EHCP should ensure their Local Authority starts a formal consultation with the College. Early applications are encouraged to allow time for EHCP consultation and transition planning. We strongly advise that applications for students with an EHCP are made before the 31st of March to align with the local authority phase transfer annual review deadline. After this date, it will be more challenging for the college to offer an enhanced transition.

Is there an EHCP consultation process for post-16 education?

Yes. The Local Authority must consult with the College before naming them in the EHCP. The College's EHCP Panel reviews each consultation to determine if the students' needs can be met, and/or reasonable adjustments can be made to support the student to access college. A college application must be submitted prior to consultation with the local authority. The college routinely advises all prospective students to explore multiple post-16 options.

How long does the college application take to process, and what do I need to do?

Once your application is submitted and an EHCP is declared, you will be invited to an Information and Guidance (IAG) meeting with the Learning Support Manager. Before a place can be offered, the EHCP consultation process must be completed. This involves the Local Authority sharing the EHCP with the college, which then reviews whether it can meet

the students' needs. Parents should ensure the EHCP is current and work closely with the student's school and the Local Authority during the phase transfer process.

[What happens if my child's consultation is declined?](#)

If the College determines it cannot meet the needs set out in your child's EHCP, we will work with your local authority to explore next steps. You also have the right to appeal this decision through the local authority's process.

[Can my child apply to Richard Huish College beyond their 19th birthday if they have an EHCP?](#)

Yes, but applications from students aged 19 and over are considered individually by the Safeguarding or Senior Management Team, based on a student's needs and circumstances.

Support and Transition

[Will my child have a key adult named at college?](#)

Yes. Every student has a Progress Tutor who supports their day-to-day and pastoral needs. Students with an EHCP are assigned a Learning Support Officer who coordinates their support and acts as their main contact. All staff directly involved in your child's education, including subject teachers and the Progress Tutor, form a collaborative 'Student Circle' to ensure consistent support.

[Is transition support available to my child?](#)

Yes. During the summer term, the Learning Support Team offers personalised transition support, including campus tours, additional visits where needed, and the development of a Learning Support Plan. All students are also invited to the 'Welcome to Huish' programme in early July, which provides a chance to experience a typical college day on their conditional study programme.

[How will my child's needs be communicated with their student circle?](#)

Following enrolment, the Learning Support Team will develop both a Learning Support Plan and a Provision and Outcomes pen portrait that is shared with the student circle and parents.

[What happens if my child is unable to access college after enrolment, e.g. attendance is low?](#)

Attendance is monitored closely for all students. If a student with an EHCP struggles to attend, the Learning Support Team will work with them to identify barriers and explore solutions. Persistent non-attendance may lead to a review of support, study programme or the need to explore an alternative education placement.

Timetables and Study

Can my child have a reduced or bespoke timetable?

In exceptional circumstances, a reduced study programme may be considered. This will be discussed during the transition and IAG (Information, Advice, and Guidance) process.

When will my child's timetable be available to view?

Timetables are shared with students on their first day at college. They cannot be issued earlier, as they depend on confirmed GCSE results and the finalisation of each student's study programme.

Can my child's timetable be changed once I have received it?

Changes can be considered during the enrolment period and early weeks of term, subject to course availability and suitability.

Is tutorial a compulsory part of a student's timetable study programme?

Yes. All students have a weekly 1.5-hour tutorial as part of their study programme.

What is the average amount of time a student has lessons per week?

Students typically have 15 hours of timetabled lessons per week, 12 hours of independent study, plus 1.5 hours of tutorial and 1.5 hours of Enrichment, forming the Huish 30 model.

What homework expectations are there for students?

At Huish we refer to homework as Huish 30. Students are expected to complete around 4 hours of independent study per subject per week.

What is there to do when my child has gaps in their timetable?

Students are encouraged to use time when not in lessons for independent study (Huish 30 completion). The Learning Centre offers quiet zones and resources to support this, in addition to other identified study spaces across the campus. EnRICH activities are also available to enhance wellbeing and engagement.

Does my child have to stay on site when they don't have lessons?

No. Students are permitted to leave campus during time when not in lessons, though they are encouraged to use study spaces productively.

Teaching and Learning

Do the college entry requirements apply to students with EHCPs?

Yes. All students, including those with an EHCP, must meet the academic entry requirements for their chosen courses. These can be found on the college website.

Do you offer remote learning or a blended learning approach?

Richard Huish College does not offer long-term remote or blended learning.

What is the average class size?

Class sizes vary depending on the course, but the College does not offer small group or one-to-one teaching. Most lessons are delivered in average sixth-form class sizes of roughly 20 students.

Do you have teaching assistants in lessons?

The College does not place teaching assistants in lessons, but this can be considered on an individual needs' basis. However, students with an EHCP will receive support from a designated Learning Support Officer outside of lessons.

Does the college offer specialist teaching?

The College provides Quality First Teaching across all curriculum areas, and targeted study skills support is available. However, it does not offer alternative provision or specialist teaching in small groups or one-to-one formats.

Specialist Support

Does the college offer specialist intervention, e.g. ELSA?

While the college does not provide specialist interventions like ELSA, it does offer a dedicated well-being service and study skills support. These services help students develop strategies to increase independence and manage their learning and emotional wellbeing effectively.

Is the college able to diagnose a special educational need, e.g. dyslexia?

No. The College is not authorised to diagnose SEND. However, it can support students with strategies and refer or signpost to external agencies where appropriate.

Does my child's EHCP continue into higher education?

EHCPs do not automatically continue into higher education. Support in university is provided through Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), which requires a separate application.

Additional Information

What is the annual review process for a student with an EHCP?

An EHCP should be reviewed at least every 12 months. Reviews must focus on the child or young person's progress towards achieving the outcomes set out in the plan. The review should also decide whether the plan and targets should be updated to reflect progress and current needs.

Is parking on site available for students?

Limited parking is available via an application process and has cost implications. Parking spaces are not guaranteed for students or staff. Bursary funding and EHCP top-up funding cannot be used for parking costs. The college runs shuttle bus services to the campus from nearby locations. Students can also use nearby public parking or cycle to college.

For further details and information please see our SEND Policy on our website
www.huish.ac.uk