



Christopher's Cottage is a six bedroom purpose built residential / respite facility for children and young adults between the ages of 5 and 19 in full time education.

It first opened for use in April 2004.

It is situated in the grounds of The St. Christopher School in Leigh on Sea.

**Christopher's Cottage
c/o The St. Christopher School
Mounddale Gardens
Leigh on Sea
Essex SS9 4AW
Tel: 01702 524193
Fax: 01702 526761**

E-mail: office@tscs.southend.sch.uk

Web: www.thestchristopherschool.co.uk/respite

About Christopher's Cottage

Christopher's Cottage is a purpose built residential / respite facility where children and young people with special needs are looked after by specialist staff in a safe environment. It comprises of six respite care bedrooms and two staff bedrooms (all with en-suite facilities and emergency call bells).



One of the six bedrooms



En-suite Bathroom



'Wii' Room

Additionally there is a lounge, kitchen, dining room, hobby room, soft play room, T.V. room, quiet room, staff room, visitor's w.c. and a specialist bathroom. The staff night / awake room is situated with visual access to all bedrooms.



Lounge



Dining Room



Soft Play Room



Reception /Staff Night
Awake Room



Kitchen



Outside Play Area

Christopher's Cottage provides specialist life and social skills training for the children / young people who stay there, helping them to work towards independence and to promote their self-esteem.

Experienced staff are on hand to provide care 24 hours a day. With a high staff ratio, children / young people are offered intensive support to meet their individual needs.

Availability and Admissions

Placement lengths can vary from an overnight stay to a maximum of two weeks, on any one continuous placement. Normally placements cannot be extended beyond this time frame.

In addition to the children who attend The St. Christopher School, Christopher's Cottage is available to children who live in the South East Essex area in the 5 - 19 years age range and in full time education.

An open referral system is used. This means that referrals can be made by parents or relatives of the child or any involved professional. However, families are advised to seek the support of one of the professionals involved in the child's care, for example a social worker or consultant paediatrician. Referrals will be dealt with by the Manager/Assistant Manager who will assist parents / carers / social workers to identify whether we are the relevant placement and also to devise the most appropriate Care Plan and care package.

When a parent / carer / authority requests a placement at Christopher's Cottage, an initial home visit is carried out by the Manager/Assistant Manager where all relevant information is collected. A placement meeting should then be arranged with Social Services and any other agencies involved in order to draw up a care plan. A decision is then made as to the suitability of the placement.

In some circumstances emergency placements are accepted and all relevant documentation must be completed within 72 hours. A planned placement is always preferable.

Cost

The current rate is £15.00 per hour for the length of the stay. An additional charge of £10 per stay will be charged to cover pre and post administrative costs. (All cheques should be made payable to The St. Christopher School Academy Trust.)

Complaints

A copy of the full complaints procedure is in our Statement of Purpose which will be given to you when your initial placement has been agreed. A copy is always available in both the cottage and school office.

A copy of the children's/guest complaints procedure is displayed in all bedrooms.

Concerns regarding the cottage can be raised at any time with the Registered Manager/Headteacher or in writing to The Chair of Governors at:

The St Christopher School
Mountdale Gardens
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex, SS9 4AW

What to do next

If you would like to discuss your requirements further, please contact Debbie Lefever, Residential Facility Manager or Liz Mills, Assistant Manager on 01702 524193.



Debbie Lefever