

Inclusion and Learning Support

Riverside College is highly popular and successful Further Education college located in Widnes. It is situated at the hub of the Mersey Gateway, within easy reach of Liverpool, Manchester and Chester. We currently cater for over 3,900 16-18 students, over 2,000 adults, 350 Higher Education Students and over 500 Apprentices. We also won Employer of the Year at the Halton Business Awards in June 2025.

We have over 200 students who have an Education Health and Care Plan, and in addition we offer support to students and apprentices with a variety of specific learning difficulties and disabilities through a range of support strategies and quality first teaching.

Following an Ofsted inspection in April 2024, the College has once again been given the highest possible rating by Ofsted who have judged the college to be **OUTSTANDING**. After a meticulous review of the College, inspectors made the following judgements:

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

The quality of education
Behaviour and attitudes
Personal development
Leadership and management
Education programmes for young people
Provision for learners with high needs
Adult learning programmes
Apprenticeships

OUTSTANDING

Outstanding
Outstanding
Outstanding
Outstanding
Outstanding
Good
Outstanding
Outstanding



Over recent years, significant investments have been made in teaching, learning and support for students, which we believe are key to our success.

The Inclusion Team provides support for students who have a learning difficulty or disability across all curriculum areas, with appropriate support, tailored to meet their individual needs.

The support is structured to help students to learn and achieve in their area of study, as well as to promote independence in readiness for their future. The College is working to embed the Social Model of Disability in all its support practices. All staff will be supported to understand this approach and develop their practice in line with the social model.

The support the inclusion team can offer includes:

- Advice on the use of assistive technologies
- Small group support out of class to plan and develop strategies to stay up to date with studies
- In class support – provided by Learning Support Workers (LSWs),
- 1:1 support out of class – by LSWs or Inclusion and Support Specialist Tutors
- Person-centred planning to overcome barriers to learning
- Exam access arrangements
- Resources and equipment

We have a team of Inclusion and Support Specialist Tutors who work with students and apprentices to learn about their skills and attributes and understand support needs. We use this to devise individual learning support plans for teaching and support staff to use in the planning and delivery of teaching and learning activities and assessments. The department also provides support tutorials, study skills and undertakes assessments for any eligible exam access arrangements.

The Inclusion Team are valued throughout the college for the impact they have on student progression, achievement, and the learning experience. The importance of continued professional development is recognised, and we strive to ensure that our staff have access to ongoing training opportunities including both accredited certification and in-house training events.

Riverside College is committed to:

- Providing learning experiences of outstanding quality
- Investing in teaching and learning facilities, £25million invested since 2012
- Offering students distinctive and valuable opportunities to develop personally, professionally, and academically
- Celebrating student success
- Supporting every individual to reach their full potential
- Seeking opportunities for growth

If you would like further information or an informal discussion, please contact Jonathan Bailey, Head of Cross College Inclusion, on 0151 257 2800.