

St. Joseph’s House for Adult Deaf & Deafblind

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General Information

About St. Joseph's House

For over forty years it has been the privilege of the staff and management of St. Joseph's House to care for the needs of our residents, most of whom had been educated in St. Mary's or St. Joseph's School. We have capacity for 35 residents at St. Joseph's House.

St. Joseph's House was established by the Catholic Institute for the Deaf (now known as CIDP); for Deaf people who required suitable accommodation and support, at the request of the then Archbishop of Dublin, the late John Charles McQuaid.

The Dominican Sisters were entrusted with the responsibility of managing the house and providing for the needs of the residents. This they diligently did until the appointment of the first lay Director in 2002.

St. Joseph's House endeavours to care for all its residents, cherishing the uniqueness of each person in a warm and homely atmosphere.

Each resident has an up to date care plan that focuses on their individual needs.

Over the years, the numbers requiring accommodation increased and additional one storey buildings were erected adjacent to the main building. These include the St. Vincent's and Deafblind accommodation, each with common rooms and kitchen facilities; a Deafblind library, a Deafblind services office with Braille & Moon printing and our activities centre (The Kinsella Centre).

St. Joseph's House has a team of nurses, care assistants, activities staff and a social worker dedicated to our Deafblind residents. Also a reflexologist, professional chefs, laundry and domestic staff, all with a wealth of experience and expertise. We welcome both day visitors and volunteers on a regular basis, especially to assist in our daily activation programmes and outings.

St. Joseph's House operates a Key-working system that allows us to cater for each resident's individual needs. This individual attention is offered in a relaxed, friendly and caring atmosphere and attempts to facilitate the individual resident's specific needs, wishes and desires.

We offer a range of daily activities for our residents, which you can view on our website and as a community we organise an annual holiday.

St. Joseph's House uses a variety of communication methods. Our centre aims to ensure that all staff can communicate via Irish Sign Language (ISL), but we also use Adapted Manual Communication based on the BSL spelling system, and "Block" for non-Signing visitors.

Statement of Purpose

St. Joseph's House for Adult Deaf & Deafblind strives to:

- Provide the highest quality of residential care to Congenitally Deaf, Deafblind (congenitally Deaf, with acquired blindness) adults from throughout Ireland without regard to race, religion or socioeconomic status.
- Provide services to each resident that encourage growth and independence.
- Develop innovative service models that utilise the most dedicated, and well - trained staff.
- Create a comfortable, aesthetically pleasing, home - like environment.
- Enhance the lives of our employees based on the expectation of excellence and the subsequent provision of job security and opportunities for professional growth.
- Develop “Daily Activation” protocols in health, educational, therapeutic activities and interventions that will further the enjoyment and daily experience of our Deaf and Deafblind residents.
- Provide opportunities, resources and support to the Deafblind community at large.
- Provide accommodation for people with limited mobility.

Services Provided

Medical & Nursing Services

A range of medical services and therapies are available within St. Joseph's and include:

Medical Officer: St. Joseph's employ's it's own doctor and our GP Clinic takes place within St. Joseph's every Tuesday.

Qualified Registered Nurses: St. Joseph's employs five nurses who are on site between 10.00am – 2.00pm, 5.30pm – 9.30pm 7 days a week. Also, we use a system, if necessary, that the last nurse on duty is on call until the next nurse comes on duty.

All prescription medicines are administered by nursing staff in accordance with current Nursing Home Standards and our own localised policy, that is approved by the INO (Irish Nurses Organisation) and a 'five point auditing system'.

Reflexologist: St. Joseph's employs it's own reflexologist each Wednesday and Thursday.

Chiroprapist: A chiroprapist is available at St. Joseph's.

Optician and Dentist: Arrangements are in place with local services, with annual optician and 6 monthly dentistry appointments encouraged.

In all of the above, residents are of course free to make their own private arrangements which staff will facilitate.

Over the Counter - Medications: Presently our medication policy discourages residents from self medicating with over the counter pain medications. This is reviewed on an individual resident basis, as such medications can obscure or hide diagnostic symptoms that are more serious in nature.

Mealtimes

Breakfast: 7.00am - 10.30am. Buffet style breakfast in the main dining room.

Mid-Morning Tea: 11.30am.

Dinner: 1.00pm. A four course meal is served in the dining room each day with a two choice menu.

Mid-Afternoon Tea: 3.30pm. Tea and biscuits are served in each of the common rooms.

Teatime: 5.30pm. A light meal is served in the main dining room each evening. Additionally to this all residents have use of five residents communal kitchens.

Key - Working Service

Each resident has an allocated Care Staff contact person, who works to develop a closer, more personal relationship. All new residents are allocated a keyworker who acts as follows:

- Liaison, both within St. Joseph's and with relevant external agencies.
- Assists the new resident to settle- in.
- Facilitates any specific needs, interests or activities.

Staff Cover - Care

There are Care staff on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- All care staff, communicate through ISL (Irish Sign Language).
- All new staff are required to undertake two years training in ISL.
- All care and ancillary staff are required to attend relevant specialist training given on site, which includes the following:
 - Occupational First Aid
 - Manual Handling
 - Training in the usage of 'Person' hoists
 - Fire & Safety training
 - Fire Drills (evacuation)
 - Practical training in providing and following 'Daily Activation' (Resident daily activities)
 - Deaf Awareness
 - Deafblind Awareness, including a high level of practical training in 'Guiding' and Deafblind communication. This training programme has been developed in conjunction with NCBI (National Council for the Blind of Ireland).

St. Joseph's has a qualified Deafblind specialist on its staff, who teaches Braille & Moon and produces Braille and Moon reading material from Deaf specific news and Current Affairs. She is also on-hand to provide guidance to staff and support to our Deafblind resident's.

General Services

Hairdressing: Every Monday residents, male and female, can avail of the visiting services of a professional hairdresser.

Laundry: A full in-house domestic service operates within St. Joseph's House.

Cleaning: Whilst the residents are encouraged to keep autonomy and maintain their rooms in a tidy and clean fashion, sometimes, with the assistance of their key worker, should a resident need, or wish for the cleaning staff to attend to their room they are freely provided with this service.

Activities

A range of activities both within St. Joseph's and externally are managed by the activities coordination team that is led by the Activities Coordinator. There are a variety of activities and occupations that are coordinated every day, for example:

List of Activities:

Bingo:	Once a month
Cooking:	Buns, Pastries, Bread and Smoothies etc.
Beauty:	Hand Nail Care and Hand Massage.
Art:	Painting, Colouring and Tracing.
Drumming Club:	One Saturday each month.
Crafts:	Candle Decoration, Card Making, Flower Arranging and Sewing.
Exercise:	Gentle - Sit Down Weekly.
Games:	Jig Saws, Card Games, Board Games, Snooker, Darts and Bowls in Garden Weather Permitting.
Literacy:	A literacy course is facilitated by the Irish Deaf Society, can accommodate 4 residents at a time.
Current Affairs:	News Discussion and Sharing of Information.
Outings:	Bowling, Shopping, Restaurants, Pubs, Museums, Parks and Local Walks.
Seasonal Parties:	Halloween - Fancy Dress, Fashion Show, Christmas and Easter Parties.

If you would like to know more about St. Joseph's House or would like to visit us you will be warmly welcomed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Deafblind Services

Deafblindness causes severe difficulties with communication, mobility and information access including environmental information.

Acquired Deafblind adults at St. Joseph's House all have a **Deaf cultural background** where tactile sign language is primarily used to communicate. However other forms of communication are used including deafblind manual, visual frame signing, block, clear speech and whatever other adapted forms of communication are necessary to accommodate access to communication.

Deafblind Services include:

- Assessments – these are done on a continual basis due to the ever changing needs of Deafblind people. This includes supporting changes that occur due to deterioration in vision and hearing which impact on a person's communication, mobility, activities, daily living skills, access to information etc.
- Providing information in braille, moon, adapted print and via computer.
- Advice, information and advocacy on rights, health care, local agencies and organisations etc.
- Supporting mobility, orientation, learning routes, daily living skills, relearning previously used skills and the development of communication skills.
- Language adaptations and literacy support to suit individual needs.
- Advocating for Deafblind persons with support where necessary also promoting self advocacy of Deafblind persons.
- Liaising with family, friends and other organisations.
- Monthly social meeting in St. Joseph's House "Deafblind fellowship of Ireland" (DBFI) on the first Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm.
- Promoting the use of adaptations to enable access including vibrating alerts, tactile markers, color contrast and adapted technology.
- Promoting Deafblind awareness.
- One to one tactile communication with each Deafblind resident in their preferred language.
- One to one support in communication and guiding for purposes such as socials, shopping, personal and correspondence.
- Supporting volunteers and community involvement.

Acquired Deafblind awareness course:

The aim of the course is to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals, those who work with people who have acquired Deafblindness (with a Deaf cultural background). This training will improve the services provided to our service users.

This course offered by St. Joseph's House covers:

- Causes of Deafblindness
- Understanding vision loss
- Communication used by Deafblind people
- Practical guiding skills
- How to warn a Deafblind person in an emergency and guide to safety
- Activities of daily living (ADL)
- Dangers and hazards (indoors and outdoors)

Policies and Procedures

CIDP Policies and Procedures

The CIDP has developed a set of policies and procedures based on the Constitution and the National Quality Standards for Residential Settings for Older People in Ireland.

These include:

- The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Framework
- The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy
- The Protection of Vulnerable Adults Reporting and Investigation Procedures
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Employment Policies and Procedures
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Confidentiality Policy

These are all available on CIDP's website at www.cidp.ie

St. Joseph's House Admissions Policy and Procedures

Introduction

All residents admitted to St. Joseph's House are planned admissions and must receive equitable treatment and be provided with standard information to enable them to be safely orientated and made to feel secure in the environment. At the point of admission the staff looking after the resident must record all information required to ensure the needs of the resident are fully met during their stay in St. Joseph's House.

This Policy will apply to all healthcare staff working in the St. Joseph's House, including managers, nurses, doctors and allied health professionals or whoever first makes contact with the resident and initiates assessment of their needs.

Protocol for Admissions to St. Joseph's House

Should any congenitally Deaf person, member of their family, or DeafHear social worker feels that our Service would meet their requirements; they should follow the following protocol / procedure:

1. Preferably bring their particular situation to the attention of a HSE Social worker, or similar professional.
2. Contact the Manager of the Local Health Office to apply for assistance.
3. Should you live within the Dublin, North Wicklow area, you should contact the Director of Disabilities, presently located in the Civic buildings in Bray, Co. Wicklow.
4. There may be a requirement for an assessment of needs by a suitable professional (e.g. Public Nurse, G.P.)
5. It would be advisable to ask the relevant professional to contact St. Joseph's House, and /or obtain a copy of our Services Booklet.
6. Be patient, as this process may take a number of months, and it is advisable to have made plans well in advance.
7. In the event of an emergency, you should attend the local Accident & Emergency service requesting them to contact the medical Social Worker whilst being treated. This is to make them aware of our Service, and possible suitable post emergency support.
8. If you are due to have an operation, and require post operative respite (care), the sooner you make St. Joseph's House's service aware of your convalescent needs the more likely we will be able to support your recovery.
9. Unfortunately, no service is free, and we do require the written funding agreement from your Local Health Office, prior to your arrival.

Procedure/Assessment:

- Each resident on admission at St. Joseph's House will be greeted by a member of staff who introduces themselves by name and title e.g. doctor, nurse. An outline of the admission process will be described. The name of the doctor under whom the resident has been admitted must be given and the new resident will be given details of any routine procedures, i.e. taking of details, routine observations, blood test, etc.
- The resident will be orientated to the local environment including toilets, washing facilities, pager system and fire exits etc.
- Each resident is expected to make a financial contribution towards their care on a weekly basis.

Admission to St. Joseph's House:

- The resident is allocated a bedroom and when appropriate introduced to other residents.
- The house routine will be explained, a booklet is made available to the resident in addition to providing local relevant information for example when nurses are on duty, meal times, services provided, activities provided and any other specific information.
- Visiting times will be explained, highlighting the reasons for any restrictions and any accompanying person should be informed.
- The procedure to be followed in the unlikely event of the fire alarm sounding will also be explained and support provided regarding fire alarm test days and times.

Individual Needs

- The resident will be asked if they have any particular needs to be addressed during their stay and it is important to establish what communication requirements (Irish Sign Language / Lip reading / other) the resident will need.
- Assessing a resident's needs should be achieved by applying standard questions during the admission process including questions relating to previous access to health services.

For example:

Have you ever been referred to any of the following services?

- Diabetic Services
- Social Services
- Nursing Services
- Mental Health Services
- Others

Or

Any difficulty with mobility, allergies or any specific medical requirement?

- Once identified these needs will be recorded in the nursing documentation and passed on to the other appropriate persons, i.e. the catering supervisor, occupational therapist or the care staff team. Medical Officer, Nurses or care staff involved in the individual's care can be informed of the admission and consulted on care requirements for the resident.
- All residents will be asked if they have a living will and if one is not in place the resident will be supported to complete one in the near future.
- A care plan will be put in place for each resident and they must be involved in the development of their care plan and be kept informed of their progress.

Raising Concerns

- Each resident will be informed that if they wish to raise concerns or are unhappy with any aspect of their care, they may raise the matter with any member of staff so their problem can be resolved quickly.
- Residents should be aware of the complaints procedure and supported if they wish to make a formal complaint.



St. Joseph's House for Adult Deaf & Deafblind

ADMISSION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Medical history:

Education:

Form of communication used:

Religious Services Required: _____

Work history:

Income: _____

Medical card number: _____

Pension number: _____

Next of kin: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Please indicate Voice: Text:

Solicitor: _____

Doctor: _____

HSE Community Care Area: _____

Reason for admission:

Any other information:

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