CHILDREN’S HEALTHCARE
“As a mother I know that when your child is unwell, it is incredibly important to have quick access to the very best healthcare professionals backed by the latest diagnostic technology and critical care facilities but you also want it provided in a supportive and relaxed environment. Exceptional patient care is the hallmark of The Portland, children and their families are referred here, from all over the world, to benefit from our expert advice and treatment. Rest assured, we will ensure that your child receives the very best care at this difficult and worrying time.”

Janene Madden, Chief Executive Officer
PROVIDING WORLD-CLASS CARE

- 60 dedicated children’s beds
- 10 bed paediatric intensive care unit (PICU)
- 3 cot neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- 4 cot special care baby unit (SCBU)
- 9 bed acute neuro-rehabilitation unit
- 15 bed paediatric day care unit
- Children's outpatient clinics with over 45,000 outpatients visits a year

Our Children's Unit is open at all times for elective and urgent admissions. Every child admitted as an in-patient has a multi-disciplinary team assigned in order to ensure a seamless patient journey from referral through to treatment and on to recovery and discharge.

The outpatient department is open six days a week for appointments with consultants from all specialties and supporting diagnostic departments. We also run an urgent referral service which means that, whenever necessary, same-day appointments can be accommodated with a general paediatrician.

Incorporating all aspects of children’s services in four buildings on Great Portland Street, the hospital also has its own physiotherapy, audiology and neurophysiology departments.

Attracting outstanding physicians and surgeons in every specialty has enabled us to develop the full breadth of children’s services which ensures a fully integrated healthcare approach: from day case ENT surgery to spinal and neurosurgery and highly complex medical cases requiring intensive care – many of whom are transferred to our PICU from other hospitals in the UK and overseas.

General Paediatric Service: Our team of consultant paediatricians offer two levels of care: the assessment and management of acutely unwell children within the hospital, and an outpatient service for those children who require general paediatric consultations. They also provide a comprehensive baby assessment for all 2,000 babies born at the Portland every year and oversee the general paediatric needs of children admitted under their surgical colleagues.

Neurology and Neurosurgery: Our team of neurologists and neurosurgeons investigate, diagnose and treat neurological conditions in children, ranging from behavioural syndromes and head ache disorders including migraine, epilepsy and sleep disorders to traumatic brain injury and brain tumours.

Our nine bedded acute neurological rehabilitation unit offers a child-centred, multi-disciplinary, in-patient programme run by specialist consultants and a full rehabilitation team comprising specialist neuro-physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, dietitian and psychologist, as well as rehabilitation nurses. Children are often admitted to PICU following trauma or acquired brain injury and once stabilised they are transferred to our rehabilitation unit to commence an individualised programme to maximise their potential.

Our paediatric Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) consultants provide care for children with a wide range of ENT problems including ‘glue ear’, otitis media, sinus and voice disorders, through to more common tonsillitis and adenoid surgery. They are also involved in the management of complex airway conditions including airway obstructions caused by tumours and tracheotomy care, along with cochlear implants.

Each month our audiology department performs more than 2,000 tests on children with hearing and balance-related disorders. A range of technology is used to help our patients including digital hearing aids, bone-anchored hearing aids and cochlear implants. Patients as young as newborns, right through to adults are referred to us by GPs and consultants.

Our cochlear implant programme was set up in 1997 and comprises a dedicated multi-disciplinary group of professionals including audiologists, speech therapists, ENT surgeons & audiology physicians. The quality of life of more than 150 children has been improved by our internationally renowned team who have helped these profoundly hearing impaired children gain access to the world of sound.

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In our ophthalmology department our team of specialist paediatric ophthalmologists and orthoptists assist with all eye conditions using the very latest diagnostic equipment and techniques. The most common surgical conditions we treat include squints and clearance of occluded ducts, providing invaluable medical support to children and also the babies on our neonatal intensive care unit.

The respiratory department here at the Portland cares for children with respiratory diseases including asthma, acute and chronic respiratory infections, chronic ventilator dependency and broncho pulmonary dysplasia. Our consultants and their teams have special expertise in babies and children with respiratory conditions including sleep apnoea, sleep-disordered breathing, as well as respiratory muscle weakness and paralysing.

Craniofacial: Craniofacial surgery is a highly skilled field of medicine which involves the treatment of skull and facial deformities arising from birth defects or trauma as well as a number of acquired conditions such as plagiocephaly, single and multiple suture synostosis and hemifacial microsomia. Here at the Portland Hospital we have a world class team of experts - the London Children’s Craniofacial Group. The group was founded by two of the UK’s leading Craniofacial Surgeons, Mr David Dunaway and Mr Owase Jeelani, who also have NHS consultant posts at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

Maxillofacial: Oral and maxillofacial surgery is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the mouth, jaw, face and neck. Our team can provide treatment for common maxillofacial conditions include cleft lip and palate, plus types of craniosynostosis (a rare condition which affects the development and shape of the skull). They are supported in their work by dental specialists.
Dermatology: Our team of dermatologists take care of babies and children with all types of skin disease or cosmetic problems of the skin, scalp, hair or nails. In a typical week they might diagnose and treat children with problem birthmarks, complex vascular malformations, eczema, psoriasis, and common disorders of pigmentation.

The paediatric Allergy and Immunology Service manages a wide range of allergic diseases including food allergies, eczema, severe allergic reactions to insect stings and medication as well as hayfever. Specific immunotherapy treatment can be used to "switch off" certain pollen and other respiratory allergies. The team is internationally renowned for its research into the role of diet and weaning, on subsequent child health and the development of allergies. Children can also undergo food and/or drug "challenge tests" in our paediatric day case unit.

Endocrinology: The Portland’s paediatric endocrinologists treat children with a variety of physical growth and puberty development disorders, as well as diabetes and other disorders of the endocrine glands including adrenal, thyroid and pituitary problems.

Urology: Our paediatric urologists provide a specialist service for the diagnosis and management of children with urological disorders. Commonly seen disorders range from urinary incontinence, circumcision, undescended testes, hydrocoele and urinary tract stones or infections through to major surgical reconstruction of the bladder. The multidisciplinary team includes a specialist nephrologist, general surgeons, a clinical nurse specialist and a supporting urodynamics department. We also have specialist adolescent urologists and gynaecologists.

General Surgery: The team of general paediatric surgeons at the Portland carry out surgical reviews for all conditions from common appendicstis and hernias to complex neonatal surgery.

Gastroenterology: Our paediatric gastroenterologists specialise in the assessment and treatment of common conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux and food intolerances as well as more complex diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, pancreas and the liver. They provide invaluable support for patients on parenteral and enteral feeding programs.

The Paediatric Cardiology Team diagnose all types of heart disease affecting babies, children and teenagers including holes in the heart such as ASD’s and VSD’s, child chest pain, valve problems and all complex forms of structural heart disease. Should heart surgery be necessary then your child will be transferred to the specialist cardiac centre at our sister hospital The Harley Street Clinic who have a team of world class paediatric cardiac surgeons.

Orthopaedics: Our world-renowned paediatric orthopaedic surgeons deal with common problems such as flat feet and fractures as well as clubfoot and congenital hip problems through to complex leg-lengthening procedures and trauma. They are supported by a team of specialist nurses, physiotherapists and orthotists to ensure a fully integrated assessment and treatment approach.

The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical team’s special areas of expertise include: craniofacial surgery, cleft lip and palate repair, correction of congenital ear anomalies, removal of lumps and bumps, through to complex multidisciplinary reconstruction post trauma.

Spinal Surgery: Our highly-skilled spinal surgeons provide comprehensive assessment and surgery for all spinal related conditions including childhood deformities such as scoliosis. Thanks to the team’s excellent reputation, children and their families (and referring doctors) from all over the world regularly choose The Portland when seeking treatment for complex spinal conditions.

Rheumatology: We investigate and treat children with rheumatic disease to minimise short and long-term disability linked to common conditions including systemic lupus, erythematous, dermatomyositis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Hand Surgery: may be necessary if a child has an accident or if they have been born with a congenital anomaly to their hand. Here at The Portland we are fortunate to have a specialist clinic that caters for children of all ages. Our team of consultant hand surgeons bring world renowned expertise in the field of paediatric hand surgery and treat a wide range of conditions ranging from syndactyly, polydactyly and hypoplastic thumb to radial club-hand.

Our Peripheral Nerve Injury team treats children who may have suffered difficulties during birth that have affected their brachial plexus (the large network of nerves that connect the spinal cord to the arm and hand). Following clinical examination and neurophysiological studies (EMGs) the team of surgeons and/or neurophysiologists determines the requirement for surgery and also direct the rehabilitation process.

The Medical Geneticists manage inherited disease and provide families with the appropriate advice about the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of inherited disorders.

Our Neurophysiology consultants undertake a range of tests on electrical signals from the brain, spinal cord, eyes, ears, nerves and muscles. These include nerve conduction tests (NCT) and electromyograms (EMG) which are electrical stimulation tests looking at the function of nerves and muscles, for example, in the hands and feet. Our Neurophysiologists also interpret electroencephalograms (EEG) - brain wave tests - which are used in the diagnosis of children with seizures and epilepsy.

The Portland also provides a wide range of Therapy Services. Our specialist team of paediatric physiotherapists is renowned for providing a high standard of assessment, treatment and care for babies and children on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. They work closely with The Portland’s specialist consultants and rehabilitation nurse teams to help maximise the outcomes for children with a wide-range of conditions including joint and soft tissue injury, surgery recovery, postural problems including scoliosis, respiratory problems and delayed neuro-developmental conditions.

With access to The Portland’s multiple gyms our physiotherapy team ensures that all children receive the very best care.

The team is supported by other health professionals including dieticians, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, and play therapists who provide a comprehensive multi-disciplinary team approach to care.

Should your child be coming to The Portland for surgery we have a team of specialist paediatric anaesthetists who are experts in gaining children’s confidence for that all important time before they are put to sleep.

Pharmacy Department: Our in-house pharmacy provides specialist paediatric skills for the often complex needs of our children on the ward and the large number of outpatients who visit daily.
WITH A CRITICAL CARE UNIT

If your child becomes seriously ill and needs intensive care we have a top team of Consultant Paediatric Intensivists and a world-class, purpose-built 10-bed Paediatric Intensive Care Unit where they can receive the level of care they need.

Our consultants and nurses are highly experienced and hand-picked for their specialist expertise gained at the UK’s largest children’s teaching hospitals including Great Ormond Street Hospital. We are classified as a level 3 PICU – which means we have both the staff expertise and the state of the art facilities needed to treat children with the most complex health needs, including multi-organ failure and/or advanced respiratory support.

Our surgeons and paediatricians are specialised in caring for children undergoing major surgery, as well as treating acutely and chronically unwell children admitted for medical assessment and treatments.

Our Transitional Care Unit (TCU) allows babies who require treatment or monitoring which exceeds standard routine care for a newborn to be cared for by the paediatric and obstetric team in close proximity to their mother on the postnatal floor. This prevents unnecessary separation of mother and baby and reduces the need for newborns to be admitted to the special care baby unit. Babies who have been discharged from NICU or SCBU will also be cared for in our TCU.

We also provide vital support for families in a caring and compassionate environment at what can be an extremely stressful time in their lives.

Our three-cot Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and four-cot Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) are both equipped with the latest systems available to monitor and care for both Portland-delivered babies and babies, with complex medical or post-surgical problems, from other specialist departments at The Portland.

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USING STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Having the best and most up-to-date diagnostic and imaging technology enables our paediatric specialists to diagnose complex medical conditions quickly and accurately. This means that treatment can begin earlier and patients can get better sooner which helps reduce the inevitable stress on the family. Our diagnostic and imaging department offers a wide range of examinations, in a child-friendly environment, carried out by our highly-skilled radiographers, sonographers and consultant radiologists who all specialise in paediatric imaging.

X-ray using the latest computer radiography, the department provides a comprehensive range of examinations including those of the skull, spine, chest, abdomen, pelvis, arms and legs.

CT scanners are used to gain images of structures within the body by using a computer that takes the data from multiple x-ray images and turns them into pictures on a screen. The CT scan can reveal soft tissue and other structures that cannot be seen in conventional x-rays. In 2012 the Portland commissioned its new 128 slice low dose CT scanner, one of the first of its kind in the private sector.

Anaesthetised MRI and CT Scans are performed where a child is not capable of staying completely still for the duration of the scan. Your doctor and the imaging department will agree the best option for your child prior to their scan.

Fluoroscopy uses x-rays and a contrast agent to look at inner parts of the body – such as the kidneys and the digestive tract in real time. Examinations include: barium studies (swallow, meals and enemas), urology studies, contrast studies and line insertions.

Ultrasound Scans are used to check the joints for fluid collections, the renal tracts for blockages, to investigate abdominal and soft tissue lumps & bumps and to assess the development of bones. Here at The Portland, scans are performed by members of both our consultant paediatric radiologist team and our highly skilled sonographers. Scans commonly performed include those of the renal tract, pelvis, abdomen, hip, soft tissue, head, heart ventricles and musculoskeletal parts of the body.

Interventional Radiology is an umbrella term for a range of techniques which rely on the use of radiological image guidance (x-ray fluoroscopy, ultrasound, CT or MRI) to precisely target therapy. Most treatments are minimally invasive alternatives to open and laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery. The techniques may involve, for example, passing a needle through the skin guided by imaging or feeding a catheter into a blood vessel for the purpose of embolisation. It can be used to treat paediatric vascular malformations, lymphatic malformations and high flow arteriovenous malformations (AVMs).
Offering Family-Centred Care

At the Portland we never forget that our patients are children and try our hardest to make sure all our facilities are family friendly, offering privacy but also plenty of space and opportunities to mix and play with other children. This is a hospital purpose built and designed with children at mind in every tiny detail.

Our child friendly ethos is reflected in the design of our new day case unit. It has a dedicated bright and spacious playroom with interactive computer screens for endless hours of entertainment and education - plus a good supply of books and toys for all age groups.

Above all we realise that when a child is ill, the whole family is affected. Our hospital offers services and facilities, which help reduce the inevitable stress of that illness: from the moment you pick up the phone to us or walk through the door – our warm, friendly, compassionate and highly experienced team are on hand to offer help, support and advice.

The little things count...

- Elective surgery can be arranged at a time that suits you, including school holidays
- On the inpatient wards the children's rooms have en-suite bathrooms and remote control televisions
- Wireless internet access is available throughout the hospital
- Room service is available 24 hours a day, and with a little bit of notice our catering team are happy to cater for almost any dietary need a child might have and cook to order to tempt them to eat
- Family and visitors are welcome to visit during the day and we happily accommodate, and actively encourage a parent to stay with their child in their room overnight
- For parents staying the night, a daily copy of The Times newspaper is complimentary whilst others are available on request
- If you are from abroad we have an International Liaison Manager and interpreters who can help you during your stay and can also assist with local accommodation and liaising with your embassy

A word about safety...

- Strict infection control measures are followed at all times – we ask all parents and visitors to use hand cleansing gels before entering and when leaving a child’s room.
- We pay vigorous attention to the safety and security of our patients and staff. CCTV, personal electronic security tags for doctors and staff, strict visitor identification procedures are employed and staff identification badges are mandatory. All children have a personal electronic security tag whilst they are in our care.

“When our baby needed that extra level of care it was hugely reassuring to know that they were being looked after by a world class team of doctors and healthcare professionals. The staff looked after us as a whole family, providing support from the moment Emily was taken into Intensive Care.”

Olivia, mother of Emily (1 month)
Giving children and young people opportunities to play is a vital part of a child’s care and recovery. Our bright and cheerful play room is full of familiar toys, books, games, painting equipment and videos – to help keep children’s spirits as high as possible throughout their stay. As well as being something that is familiar and fun, play is also a very effective means of communication and can help children and their families adjust to, and cope with, what can be a very stressful experience. Our team of highly experienced play specialists use creative activities to explain and prepare children for medical tests and procedures, to help them to stay relaxed and to encourage and help them to communicate their feelings about what is happening to them.

Our sensory room: The Portland Paradise is a calming and relaxing environment for children to play or rest in. Decorated in pure white, it has soft furniture, clever lighting equipment, a range of different textured objects and materials, as well as state-of-the-art audio equipment to produce music and sound effects.

Our adorable mascot: The famous and much-loved Portly Panda is a firm favourite with all our children. Membership to the Portly Panda Club is exclusive to babies and children who are treated, here at The Portland, and offers an invitation to the annual party, personally-signed birthday and New Year cards and a cuddly Portly Panda bear to take home.

A special Portly children’s menu is available for younger children and features some delicious choices for breakfast, lunch and tea. The menu offers a good selection of freshly-prepared main dishes followed by a selection of puddings including ice cream scoops and gingerbread cookies to tempt children’s appetites back to normal.

“Here at The Portland there is a strong partnership between our consultants and the management team that has allowed us to develop a responsive, high-class healthcare service. We are committed to excellence in children’s healthcare in a hospital that combines the latest technology with a traditional caring approach, which makes The Portland Hospital the first choice for both doctors and patients.”

Mr. Robert Hill, BSc, FRCS,
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Medical Director
The Portland Hospital lies at the heart of the private healthcare district in London – at the top of the famous Great Portland Street.

Our address is...
The Portland Hospital for Women and Children
205 - 209 Great Portland Street
London, W1W 5AH

Also at...
The Portland Hospital for Women and Children
212 Great Portland Street
London, W1W 5HG

The Portland Hospital for Women and Children
215 Great Portland Street
London, W1W 5PN

The Portland Hospital Children's Outpatients
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Portland Hospital Enquiry Line: +44 (0) 20 7390 8020
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Getting here by car
Visitors have the option of two car parks close by to the hospital:
• NCP in Carburton Street
• Pure Parking in Devonshire Row Mews.
There are also meter parking bays in the surrounding streets.

Getting here by tube
• Great Portland Street Station (2 mins walk) Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines
• Regents Park Station (5 mins walk) Bakerloo Line
"When suddenly your child falls sick, you feel overwhelmed – in a moment you’re confronted with so many things – decisions, urgent arrangements – how do you manage? I can tell you how wonderful it was to have you there and the lovely nurse who simply suggested that I stay: that I sleep by Lucy’s side."

Sarha and Jack, Parents of Lucy