

# Aurora Ryefields School



**A specialist day school providing academic and therapeutic support for young people aged 5–19 with autism spectrum conditions and additional social, emotional, and mental health needs.**

**Caring**

**Ambitious**

**Collaborative**

**Trusted**

**Innovative**

# At The Aurora Group

We believe in giving people the opportunities they need to create and lead fulfilling, independent lives.

Established in 2015, we are now the UK's sixth largest provider of education, care and support services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Each of our schools, colleges and residential homes retains its own unique identity while embracing and embodying our group's core values.



**We are caring.** We understand that your experience in mainstream care and education may have been a difficult one. We take seriously our responsibility for the children and young people in our care, and are committed to making your time with us as positive and fulfilling as possible.



**We are ambitious.** We have high expectations of all our children and young people, regardless of what barriers they may have faced in the past. We encourage them to expect more for themselves, while challenging employers and communities to understand and value their diverse needs and attributes.



**We are collaborative.** Everything we do, we do in partnership with you. We actively seek and listen to feedback from students, parents and staff, to find out what's working well, what we can do better, and how we can further develop all our services to benefit the people we work with.



**We are trusted.** Our business is funded by ethical investors. They understand that sustainable growth is possible only when we hold ourselves to the highest standards, by delivering consistently top-quality services to every single person we work with.



**We are innovative.** We begin planning for each young person's future the minute they walk through our doors. We tailor our approach to their unique needs, and are constantly looking for new opportunities to help them explore, enhance and employ their own skills, talents and abilities.



# Welcome

Here at Aurora Ryefields School, we offer a specialist academic curriculum designed to meet the unique needs of students with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and associated Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges. Our tailored approach ensures that every child receives the right support to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our dedicated team works closely with students, families, and professionals to create a nurturing, structured learning environment where confidence, independence, and a love for learning can flourish.

We look forward to working with you to provide a holistic and supportive education that helps your child flourish and develop in all aspects of life.



*Paul Foxtton*

Headteacher, Aurora Ryefields School







# About our school

Aurora Ryefields School is a specialist school in Derby dedicated to providing exceptional education and support for children and young people aged 5-19 with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) or additional social, emotional, and mental health needs.

We cater to a wide range of needs across the ASC spectrum, including students with co-occurring conditions such as sensory processing difficulties and mild learning disabilities. Our mission is to empower students to develop skills, confidence, and independence, preparing them for fulfilling lives and active participation in their communities.

At Ryefields School, we believe every student deserves a personalised education that nurtures their potential and ensures success in the future. We are committed to creating a calm, structured learning environment that reduces anxiety and encourages positive behaviour.

We are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience that:



- Supports students with individualised learning pathways tailored to their strengths and needs.
- Encourages emotional resilience and self-regulation through integrated support strategies.
- Fosters a sense of belonging and community to enhance well-being and success.
- Prepares students for further education, training, and employment through a broad and balanced curriculum.







## Our facilities

Ryefields School is located on Parker Street, Derby, offering a specialist academic environment for ASC students with SEMH needs.

Ryefields School provides a safe, structured, and engaging environment with:

- Modern, well-equipped classrooms with sensory-friendly features.
- Specialist learning areas, including science labs, creative arts studios, and vocational training spaces.
- Calming breakout spaces and therapy rooms to support emotional regulation.
- Outdoor areas for recreation and structured learning activities.

## About the Local Area

- **Transport Links:** The school is easily accessible, with Derby Train Station just a short distance away and several bus routes serving the area.
- **Community and Facilities:** Derby City Centre is within walking distance, providing access to libraries, museums, and cultural centres, such as the Derby Museum and Art Gallery and QUAD Derby.
- **Green Spaces:** Students benefit from nearby parks such as Markeaton Park and Darley Park, offering outdoor learning and recreational opportunities.
- **Support Services:** The area has a range of specialist services, including educational support centres, mental health services, and autism-friendly spaces, ensuring students receive well-rounded care.





## Our curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to provide a well-rounded education while addressing the unique challenges faced by ASC students with SEMH needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with a flexible timetable designed around each student to recognise individual abilities, interests and needs. Each student follows a personalised learning plan designed to meet their specific educational and emotional needs.

We offer:

- **Core Academic Subjects:** English, mathematics, science, humanities, and computing.
- **Creative and Vocational Learning:** Art, music, design technology, and vocational pathways.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** Personalised therapeutic interventions, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Emotional Literacy Support.
- **Life Skills and Independence:** Preparing students for real-world challenges through practical skill development.
- **Physical and Outdoor Education:** Sports, outdoor learning experiences, and well-being activities.



## The Aurora Curriculum Framework

Aurora values drive everything we do and give us a framework which informs our curriculum (what we teach our children and young people) and provide us with an overarching intent and aim. This helps us understand the impact our teaching has by providing clear and aspirational targets.

The Aurora Curriculum Framework unites us all whilst providing freedom to develop bespoke, ambitious and tailored curriculum models and learning pathways for our students.

We recognise that:

- All students should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which engages and challenges them.
- All students need to work at a level which is appropriate to their understanding, relevant to their chronological age and at a rate that suits their individual abilities.
- Teaching is approached with the focus on the individual needs of the student.
- Each student should have a tailored curriculum based upon their baseline assessment, previous academic outcomes, long-term learning targets and life aspirations.



# The Aurora Curriculum Framework

## Our Intention

Provide personalised support and a nurturing approach to enable our students to become compassionate, independent learners.

## Aurora Values

### Caring



Children and young people are well prepared for the demands of ever-changing life in 21st century Britain and become active participants in their communities.

Give our learners the drive and ambition to succeed and become the best version of themselves in their education, their employment, their mental health and their independence in adulthood.

### Ambitious



Learners make outstanding progress and achieve the qualifications, skills and outcomes which will enable them to thrive in the next stage of their lives.

Develop every young person's social and emotional growth, and life skills.

### Collaborative



Learners are able to communicate confidently and engage successfully with others and the wider world.

Create environments where children and young people are safe to develop as individuals, where they can learn from mistakes, overcome their barriers to learning and develop resilience.

### Trusted



Children and young people know how to take appropriate risks, keep themselves safe (physically and virtually), and are able to secure the support they require to become independent adults.

Create centres of excellence, providing an outstanding, personalised education for all learners.

### Innovative



Children and young people experience a rich variety of unique opportunities which support individual development and success.





## Your experience with us

Every student is supported by a dedicated tutor and teaching assistant who provides consistent guidance, encouragement, and communication with families throughout the school day. Our Student Support Plans (SSPs) help individuals develop positive self-regulation techniques and coping strategies, ensuring a successful learning experience for all.

We focus on empowering students to understand their diagnosis, build resilience, and manage anxiety. This is achieved through collaboration with our Clinical Psychology team, who work closely with students and their families to nurture their strengths and aspirations.

Our therapeutic provision includes Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy, delivered through an integrated approach where clinical and educational staff work together to provide holistic, student-centered support.

We are committed to equipping our students with the skills and qualifications necessary for their future. We support transition into:

- Further education and college placements.
- Apprenticeships and vocational training.
- Supported employment and work experience opportunities.

Our careers program follows the Gatsby Benchmarks, ensuring high-quality careers education and guidance.

## Therapeutic Support

Our dedicated pastoral and specialist support students to promote positive mental health and

We implement:

- The Zones of Regulation framework to help students understand and manage their emotions.
- Structured routines and visual supports to provide consistency and clarity.
- Targeted intervention programs for speech, language, and communication needs.







“ The team are so kind, caring and considerate to my son’s needs and him being there has been a huge weight off our shoulders. ”





# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Ryefield School we strive to provide the highest quality service to young people, parents/ carers and local authorities. We believe that all these groups have the right to comment on the service we provide and to understand the complaints procedure.

If you do have a concern or complaint, we do want to hear about it as soon as possible. Please ask the School office for a copy of our complaints procedure if you would like to know more. We like to know when we are getting things right too, so please feel free to also send us any compliments – our staff are always happy to hear them!

## Safeguarding statement

At Aurora Ryefield School we are wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our students, and we expect all staff and visitors to share this commitment. Safer recruitment practices are followed and all staff have an Enhanced DBS check.







# What you need to know



## Meals

School meals are provided and there is always a choice of options, with all dietary requirements catered for.

## Term dates

Our term dates are published annually and are available on our school website.

## Uniform

There is no school uniform at Aurora Ryefields School, as we understand that for pupils with sensory or anxiety issues, uniform requirements can present a barrier to attendance.

We do however ask that parents remember that certain clothing may not be appropriate in a school setting, and to use their judgment accordingly.

## Contact Us

**Headteacher:** Paul Foxtton

**Aurora Ryefields School**

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ASC, SEMH



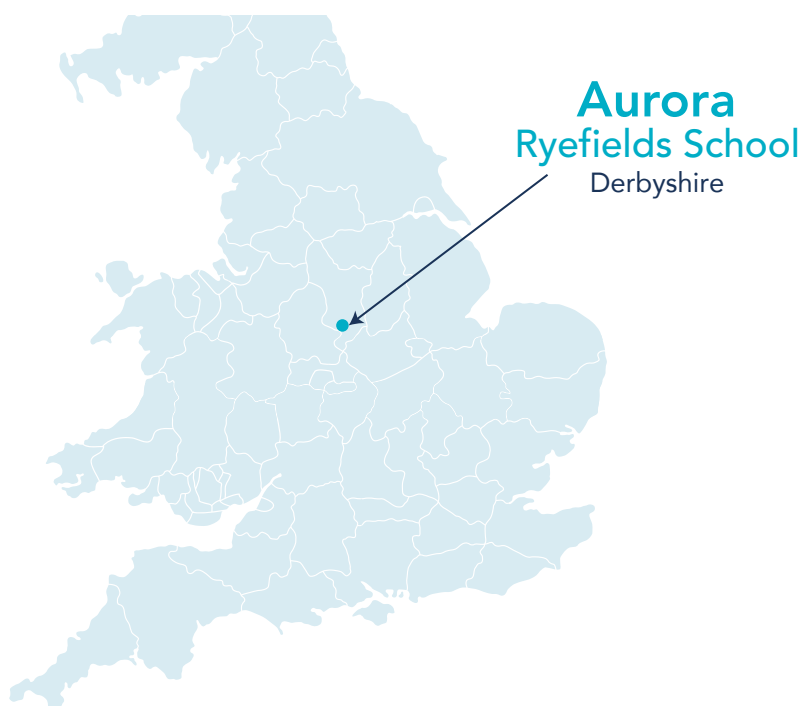
5-19



Mixed



38 Week Day



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[www.theauroragroup.co.uk](http://www.theauroragroup.co.uk)



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