

Aurora Rowan School



“ We give our students the right opportunities to make positive choices about their own futures. ”

A brand-new specialist and therapeutic provision supporting pupils aged 5 -16 with autism spectrum conditions, moderate to severe learning difficulties and complex needs.

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 Rowan School, we aim for all pupils to build the confidence, skills and qualities needed to be Effective Communicators, Successful Individuals and Resilient Learners. At Aurora Rowan School, we aim to raise standards by promoting a school ethos underpinned by our core values. These values support the whole child's development as an effective and engaged learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere.

We are an open, friendly, and supportive school where children and their families can expect to feel welcomed and part of the team as we all work to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Aurora Rowan School.



Lesley Walkden

Headteacher, Aurora Rowan School



About Our School

Our pupils all have a diagnosis of Autism and moderate to severe learning difficulties aged 5-16 years, and staff are trained in Autism specific strategies to support each individual child.

Through our values, as a school we aim to;

- Build up children's confidence and motivation to learn through the use of a range of learning and teaching styles.
- Provide a broad and balanced pupil centred curriculum that meets the needs of our incredibly varied learners across the school.
- Embed key skills in order to prepare children for real-life and everyday situations.
- Provide opportunities to apply knowledge and learning in practical ways.
- Develop social skills and encourage children to become more active citizens within the school community and beyond.
- Provide enrichment opportunities where learning and teaching can take place in a variety of ways both within and beyond the classroom.
- Provide a creative approach to planning and delivery that incorporates and embeds the most relevant aspects of the National Curriculum.

Our pupils arrive with typically spiky academic and social profiles and have often had challenging times in education. They may struggle to feel safe and exhibit signs of anxiety. This can often be seen through their behaviour, which may be communicating they are worried, anxious or don't understand something.

Our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) approach to supporting children in school is a compassionate and proactive approach that will always be guided by and built around each individual and their strengths, challenges, and interests, combining elements of different approaches and frameworks as appropriate.



Our facilities

Aurora Rowan School is set in 6.5 acres of rural land, close to Reading. We are surrounded by fields and ancient woodland providing a natural calm environment. The calm and relaxed atmosphere is replicated in the classrooms with individual and group learning areas designed to support the pupils' individual learning styles.

Our facilities include:

- Purposeful and thoughtful classrooms designed with colours and lighting supportive of ASC pupils
- Specialist Food Technology room
- Sensory room
- Specialist sensory integration space
- Therapy spaces
- Outdoor play spaces
- Outdoor learning areas
- Single storey accommodation easing movement around the school

Our curriculum

Our pupil-centred curriculum is built around the individual. Our pupils all have their own bespoke route. Our three curriculum pathways teach pupils a varied and rich curriculum to prepare them for adult life. We make use of strategies that are appropriate to the individual. These may include Sensory Integration, Intensive Interaction, NAS SPELL and Attention Autism teaching strategies to support our pupils.

We have a high staff-to-pupil ratio, and classes are small and personal. We know each pupils' needs and potential and can employ the best strategies to support them in preparation for adulthood.

To provide a broad, balanced curriculum and accommodate a creative approach to teaching and learning, five key strands underpin our curriculum pathways:

- **Communication and English:** to develop the process of the interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing or signs.
- **Independence and Learning:** to acquire and process knowledge and understanding through thought, experiences, and the senses.
- **Outdoor School/ Community:** to feel part of the school and local community in terms of where pupils go, what they do and who they see. To make independent choices and have an impact on the World around them.
- **Physical Well-Being:** to establish a balance of physical, social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, and occupational well-being.
- **Play and Leisure:** to develop the key skills associated with play, imagination, and fun.

Therapeutic support

We provide an integrated therapy approach. Our multidisciplinary team delivers specialist on-site therapy, including Occupational, Speech and Language, Thrive and Creative Therapy. Therapists work both directly with our pupils and indirectly through teaching and support staff to meet individual needs.

The pastoral team work closely with the therapy team to ensure a holistic and pupil centred approach to support. The team meet termly with parents and education staff to review and set targets for the upcoming weeks.

Residential support

For residential pupils, Aurora Rowan School offers an opportunity to develop independent living skills in a safe, supported environment. Pupils are supported to gradually develop their skills and confidence in independence, both on-site and off-site.

We recognise that being away from home, especially for the first time, can be stressful, so our residential accommodation is both homely and welcoming. The accommodation has individual bedrooms and en suite bathrooms that can be personalised for each pupil. The shared lounge area allows the young people to socialise and spend time with their peers.

Pupils are supported to access community activities such as local clubs, sports centres, and facilities such as cafés, shops, and cinemas. A weekly house meeting gives pupils the opportunity to make choices around their meals, and activities for the week. Each residential pupil has a key worker who they meet regularly to focus on personal targets.



Your experience with us

From the start of the journey at Aurora Rowan School, children are encouraged to have their voice heard; this may be in the form of supported choices, the use of an AAC device, through symbols or verbally. They have input into their next steps and targets for their future.

Staff work 1:1 with pupils, consistently supporting and encouraging them throughout their school day. Parents, carers, and family are encouraged to be part of the pupil's school life through regular, good quality communication. Pupils all have an individual learning plan and record which is reviewed termly by everyone involved in the pupil's school life.

We work with pupils to build their resilience, learn how to self-regulate and understand their own needs.

Fun is a huge part of the school day and learning at Aurora Rowan School. We want pupils to want to come to school, to thrive and make progress. The school day is structured, calm and purposeful but busy, exciting and full of learning opportunities in the classroom, around school and in the community.

“ People need to know these schools are here and that there is an option for our children. ”
Aurora Parent

What you need to know

Meals

School meals are provided, cooked on-site by our chef. We will accommodate all individual allergy needs. We endeavour to support preferred food choices and diets for our pupils and will arrange a meeting to discuss individual needs. Pupils can bring a packed lunch if this is preferred.

Term dates

Our term dates are published annually and are available on our school website at: www.theauroragroup.co.uk/rowan

Our commitment to you

Quality statement

At Aurora Rowan 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

Aurora Rowan School is wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being 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.

Contact Us

For more information please contact us at:

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Children with complex and severe learning difficulties



5-16



Mixed



38 Week
Day/Residential

Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative



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