



“ We are so glad we found this school. We know everything he does each day and the staff give him a varied program which he loves attending and taking part in. ”

A specialist school providing education for young people aged 11 to 19, with complex care needs including behaviours that challenge and learning disabilities, often in association with autism spectrum conditions.

## 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.

**Caring**

**Ambitious**

**Collaborative**

**Trusted**

**Innovative**

# Welcome

At Aurora Ivy Lane School we believe that learning opportunities occur throughout the day in all settings and in a unique way for each young person. The principal aim of Aurora Ivy Lane School is to enable each young person to develop independence through learning in a school and a community environment that offers warmth, security and consistency.

A purposeful and calm atmosphere is encouraged through the professional approach adopted by all staff. Trust and a positive rapport between the young people we support and the staff underpin the ethos of the school. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure a holistic and supportive environment helps your child flourish and develop in all aspects of life.

Our mission is to enhance the lives of our students entrusted to our services by focusing on their specific needs, capabilities and aspirations.



*Michael Walsh*  
Headteacher, Aurora Ivy Lane School



# About Our School

Aurora Ivy Lane School is a specialist school located on the outskirts of Wakefield city centre. We offer child-centred education and support, including a full range of Therapeutic Services based on site, for 27 young people aged 11 to 19 in an environment that complements their individual needs, capabilities and aspirations, whilst allowing them the opportunity to progress and reach their full potential. Positive behaviour support (PBS) is the framework we use for everything we do. It is values driven, evidence-based and practical. Focusing on young people's rights provides the ethical compass which guides our approach.

We understand that behaviours that challenge arise from an interaction between a young person's needs and the environment and strive to provide a school environment which maximises learning. Holistic assessment enables high quality personalised support to achieve learning outcomes for young people which are meaningful to them. PBS is a compassionate approach to supporting young people to have a good quality of life and in doing so, minimises the risk of behaviours that challenge.

We aim to meet the spiritual, social, moral and cultural needs of the young people we support by promoting the following principles:

- Helping young people to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Helping young people to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the law and other young people's rights;
- Promote positive behaviours for learning to help all the young people we support reach their full academic potential;
- Encouraging young people to accept responsibility for their behaviour where this is possible and appropriate, given their specific needs and to show initiative and understand how they can contribute to community life;
- Providing young people with a broad general knowledge of citizenship in respect of public institutions and services such as the police and emergency services, in England, at a level appropriate to their understanding;
- Assisting young people to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures, in a way that promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.





## Our curriculum

At Aurora Ivy Lane School we believe that learning opportunities occur throughout the day in all settings and in a unique way for each young person. The young people we support will have complex care needs and very specific barriers to learning and as a result require a structured programme that sets out a predictable yet challenging routine for the day.

- Initial identification of young people's ability levels through careful interdisciplinary baseline assessment of skill and target areas.
- Individual progression pathway development linked to Foundation Learning. This child centred approach ensures a collaborative, interdisciplinary focus with the young person at the centre of all decisions.
- Identification of the key Individual Learning Plan (ILP) document. Regular reviewing of progress by both the young person and the interdisciplinary team (formative and summative).
- Responsive and creative learning activities giving opportunities for both individual and small group learning.

Our curriculum aims to develop successful, confident and responsible young people, and combines individualised learning programmes with positive behaviour and therapeutic support to address the complex needs of each student at Aurora Ivy Lane School. It also pays due regard to elements of numerous nationally recognised schemes including ASDAN, NCFE Entry Level and foundation learning (The National Curriculum) across the range of learning levels. Overall, we aim to improve levels of participation and achievement, ultimately supporting the young person's progression through work and life.

## Our facilities

Aurora Ivy Lane School has a range of different learning environments, classrooms and well equipped learning spaces to complement the wide variety of available activities and to create positive learning opportunities.

Facilities include:

- ICT suite
- Library
- Sports Hall
- Outdoor Gym
- Sensory Rooms
- Arts and Crafts Workshop
- Outdoor Playground
- Media Room

We also have established excellent relationships with local sensory facilities, working farms, pet rescue centres, soft play centres, gyms and leisure centres. We seek to enable each individual to maximise his or her potential and achieve a progressively more independent quality of life.



## Your experience with us

We want everyone to be as happy as possible from their very first day at Aurora Ivy Lane School. We also take planning for the future, after leaving school, very seriously.

At Aurora Ivy Lane School, we will aim to provide each young person with a pathway, which is relevant to them in preparation for their next steps in learning or in leaving school ready for a successful adult life. Our aim is that when young people leave us as young adults they have maximised their potential in our core curriculum areas of English, Maths and ICT and have developed skills and interests in a range of other subjects.

We want all young people who attend Aurora Ivy Lane School to apply their classroom learning in community and home settings to maximise both their independence and community access. For our older students we will strive to give them opportunities to develop employability skills so they have skills and interests to take into voluntary and paid work in adult life.

## What you need to know

Getting ready for the start of a young person's learning journey within Aurora Ivy Lane School will be managed by a leader from the school who will work with the young person, family and the placing authority, to ensure the move is properly planned and managed and the best interests of the young person are properly met.

A transition plan will be determined for every move into the school which will specify the support each young person will need for their transition. Depending on the young person's needs, this can include a combination of: visits/tours of the school; taster days/sessions; photos and videos of the new environment; parental/professional visits and social stories.

At the end of a young person's time at Aurora Ivy Lane School, the school is committed to working alongside families and professionals to support the securing of positive next step provision and working alongside others to ensure the young person is well supported with their move.

### Term Dates

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

## Our commitment to you

### Quality statement

At Aurora Ivy Lane 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 Ivy Lane 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.

## Contact Us

For more information please contact us at:

### Aurora Ivy Lane School

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ASC, SLCN, Learning Disabilities and complex care needs



11-19



Mixed



38 Week Day

Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative



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



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