



Hedgeway School

Prospectus – June 2018

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About Our School

At Aurora Hedgeway School provides flexible specialist education and residential care for children and young people with communication and associated difficulties. Students may be on the autistic spectrum, have Asperger's Syndrome or other difficulties that impact their emotional health and wellbeing and create barriers to learning.

We put students' needs first, because we know that once we understand their personal needs and individual learning styles we can provide the right level of support to enable them to learn more effectively and achieve their full potential. We work with students to prepare them for adulthood, whether that be further education, training or employment.

Hedgeway is a positive, vibrant and collaborative learning community where every young person is given the care, support and levels of challenge needed to develop not just their academic abilities, but also their self-confidence, life skills and independence.

Student Profile

Age: 7-19 years

Gender: Mixed

Special Education Needs: complex social and communication difficulties associated with Asperger's Syndrome, Higher Functioning Autism and other needs.

High levels of support: all students are provided with enhanced support throughout the school day and provision can be made for those requiring higher levels of support, either full time or periodically, to enable access to the curriculum and participation in school activities.

Flexible placements: education is delivered for 38 weeks of the year. Residential placements for accommodation on the same site as the school are available for up to 52 weeks of the year.

Clinical and therapeutic support: clinical and therapeutic input is integral to the educational approach with therapy and nursing support integrated throughout the school day according to students identified needs to enable them to fully access the curriculum.

Our Vision

Our vision is simple:

'To empower individuals to grow.'

The word 'growth' is personal to each and every one of the pupils at the school. We believe that no matter how big a challenge they face, each and every individual has a unique set of skills and abilities and diversity is encouraged, developed and celebrated.

Our Aims

At Aurora Hedgeway School we focus on helping our students become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning and make excellent progress
- Effective communicators who can express themselves and form positive relationships
- Responsible citizens who can participate in employment and activities in their own communities
- Independent adults who are able to manage their own emotional well-being.

Our Service and Facilities

Set in two acres, the former farmhouse which is now the school, is undergoing a significant refurbishment and upgrade to provide a modern and enabling learning environment that meets the complex needs of our students.

The children's home located in the community with two new houses in Pilning and north Bristol provide 6 and 4 beds.

Students develop their culinary skills in our teaching kitchen, learning how to make snacks, bake cakes and cook simple, nutritious meals. There is a thriving vegetable patch in the horticulture garden and a Forest School area used for structured outdoor learning sessions and particularly beneficial for those needing time out of the classroom.

The school regularly accesses sports, leisure and cultural facilities in the busy, diverse city of Bristol and surrounding areas.

Our service and facilities include:

- Small classes of up to six students
- High staff ratios
- Integrated therapy
- Sensory Room
- Music Room
- Individual Learning areas
- Therapy spaces
- Horticultural Garden
- Hardcourt and playground area
- Food Technology room
- Library
- Forest School area



Our Approach to Education – One size does not fit all

The School Day

Students arrive at school between 8:45 and 9:00. The school morning runs from 9:00 until 12:00 and the afternoon runs from 13:00-15:15. For lunch students are provided with nutritious tasty hot meals, or can bring their own packed lunches should they prefer.



Each class has a clear weekly timetable displayed in their classroom covering all subject areas and each student is given an individual timetable in an appropriate format for them to easily understand. There are opportunities for students to access off-site learning experiences including swimming, Forest Schools, climbing, trampolining and outdoor pursuits, as well as work-related learning sessions for our older students.

Communication between the school, children's home, and a child's parental home is highly important and we facilitate this in a variety of ways depending on personal preference.

Learning with Us

Most students have a personalised curriculum that follows the National Curriculum at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4, and we are currently developing our post 16 provision. At Hedgeway School we offer a "stage, not age" provision. This means that students learn alongside other children whose attainment levels in core subjects are similar.



We place significant importance on social-emotional aspects of learning and carefully track students' progress to maximise their chances of success. We are proud of the breadth of learning opportunities on offer – our students benefit from frequent sessions in core subjects and life skills as well as accessing foundation subjects such as diverse as Horticulture, Food Technology and Mandarin Chinese.

Core subjects on offer include English, Maths, Science, PSHE [Personal, Social, Health Education] and Computing. We also offer Geography, History, Music and Art. These foundation subjects are studied using a topic-based approach. We are a registered Exam Centre which means students can study for a range of academic and vocational qualifications.



Each class group has a maximum of six children who are grouped as far as possible according to their academic attainment and compatibility. Class teachers create age appropriate and differentiated learning opportunities which take into account the group dynamics. Some students will have tailored learning programmes and separate learning spaces with access to group sessions. Our aim is to include all students in group activities which support positive interaction and social skills development.

As well as belonging to a class group, our students are encouraged to spend time in other parts of the school - some of our older students support others in their lessons, and each week we all meet for Pupil Parliament, where students celebrate their achievements and share their concerns.

Residential Living

Living with Us

Two new children's homes will support a total of 10 residents, each with their own room. The houses have a mix of en-suite and shared bathroom facilities. There are communal spaces for socialising and dining, which give young people space to meet and get involved in daily activities or to simply relax.

Each house has a large kitchen and choosing, preparing and cooking meals is part of the daily routine to develop independence and daily living skills. This includes shopping at nearby supermarkets and shops, visiting cafés and getting involved in the many leisure activities on offer in the local community and Bristol City.

Home Life

Young people and staff plan evening activities together for the week ahead. These might be going out, taking a shopping trip, helping to make the evening meal, attending an after school club or simply enjoying some down-time and spending time with housemates.

Our Teaching and Caring Teams

Multidisciplinary Team approach

A team of therapists, working within our school or visiting regularly, provide tailored support programmes to ensure that our students physical, sensory and emotional needs are addressed. We have an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist and an occupational therapist. Our therapists also provide advice and guidance to teachers and teaching assistants so that aspects of their work can continue beyond these programmes and into the classroom and everyday life.



Professional Support

All of our staff will be involved in your child's education and care. This is because we know that your child does best when a team of people work together to support them in every aspect of their life. Our teachers, teaching assistants, therapists and care staff meet regularly to share their expertise and observations, and to make sure that your child is happy and making good progress in their learning.



Our staff team have access to good quality professional development opportunities and benefit from attending external training to support the achievement of our whole-school goals as well as sharing expertise and experience within the team.

Uniform

- Black trousers or skirt (not denim)
- School polo shirt and sweat-shirt with school logo
- Black shoes (trainers are only for PE or outside activities)

Safeguarding Statement

Aurora Hedgeway School is wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils and expects all staff, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors to share this commitment. Safer recruitment practices are followed and all staff have an Enhanced DBS check.

Quality Statement

Aurora Hedgeway School is wholly committed to providing the highest quality service to children, young people, parents/carers and Local Authorities. We believe that children, young people and young adults, as well as others, have the right to comment on the service we provide and they are supported to understand the complaints procedure.

If you 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 which our staff are always happy to hear.

[For further information on the Safeguarding policy and copies of other school and children's home policies please refer to the website or contact school reception.](#)

Our term dates

Our term dates are sent to parents and carers annually. They are also available to view and download on our website.

Contact Us

For more information or to get in touch with our Head Teacher please contact us at:

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Pilning
Bristol
BS35 4JN

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Email: aurora.hedgeway@the-aurora-group.com

Website: www.the-aurora-group.com/hedgeway

Head of Education: Sarah Pritchard

Head of Care: Elaine Philpott

Proprietor: Kathryn Rudd