

# Aurora Poppyfield School



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

A specialist day school, offering academic and therapeutic provision for students aged 11-16 with Autism and associated behavioural and communication difficulties.

## 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

The Aurora mission is to provide innovative, high-quality education, care and support, enabling all children and young people to thrive and fulfil their aspirations. Aurora has a vision to be trusted as the provider and employer of choice, transforming the lives of a growing number of children and young people.

The work of all our schools and services is founded on the Aurora values: Caring; Ambitious; Collaborative; Trusted and Innovative. That means that our schools are different from many other schools, in that we find bespoke solutions to individual challenges and profiles, without reduced expectations and aspirations for students.

We use connections in the Surrey area and beyond, to provide the best possible opportunities to prepare our students for purposeful adulthood. Whether students follow a predominantly academic or vocational path, or a combination of both, we support them every step of the way towards greater independence, employment and to making a positive contribution to society that will help fulfil their adult lives.

We value qualifications and we also recognise the need to prepare our students to live enriched, connected, meaningful adult lives, during which they will take their place in society.

*David Thomas*

Principal, Aurora Poppyfield School





# About Our School

Poppyfield is a warm and welcoming school for students aged 11 to 16 who experience a range of needs including autism spectrum conditions and associated behaviours, moderate learning difficulties or specific learning difficulties.

Our vision is to create an inclusive, welcoming school where all our students can develop and thrive.

By combining the best elements of a mainstream education with the unique specialist and therapeutic provision that each student needs, we create a learning environment in which every young person can achieve their own goals and pursue a future of their choosing.

## Creating futures

The curriculum at Aurora Poppyfield is made up of four layers that reflect the National Curriculum through the teaching of discrete subjects and integrated topics:

- A core broad and balanced curriculum.
- A support curriculum that nurtures the development of the 'whole person' and which may include bespoke therapeutic support and interventions.
- An extension curriculum to expand and broaden experiences.
- An enrichment curriculum to provide extra curricula opportunities that foster a sense of enjoyment.

Students in Key Stage 4 can access a range of subject examinations, receive support to progress to further education and improve their employability skills through work experience, vocational courses or apprenticeships.

Our curriculum inspires each student to grow and develop in their own unique way. We believe that supporting students to develop their individuality helps them to achieve their educational, social, and personal potential.





## Integrated approach

We offer a range of therapeutic interventions at Aurora Poppyfield, designed to help our students overcome barriers to participation in education.

We provide time and space for the careful integration of a range of therapies and interventions, which allow us to monitor and adapt our approach to match the unique needs of each student.

## Supporting potential

We maintain extremely high standards and vigilance in all safeguarding procedures as our students' additional needs can make them vulnerable. A strong social, moral and cultural curriculum therefore plays an important role in each student's personal development, where we aim to broaden their understanding of themselves as well as the wider world.

## Our facilities

- Small science lab
- Food technology room
- Sensory room
- Outdoor space
- Break out spaces
- Access to outdoor learning
- Access to the immediate local community and town centre
- Access to the local leisure centre
- Fishing (external)
- Regular contact with the therapy team

## Your experience with us

We believe that one size does not fit all, so our approach to learning and teaching is to focus on the individual needs of every student.

Each student benefits from a tailored curriculum based on their initial assessment, previous academic and personal outcomes and long-term learning targets. The curriculum fits around the young person, not the other way around.

We create a warm and nurturing environment where small classes (of no more than six students) are supported by a teacher and two teaching assistants. When appropriate, students can also be taught in 1:1 situations.

During the day, we have structured learning and support times using tasks, activities and games to focus on social and emotional wellbeing and social interaction, as well as regular movement breaks to help support self-regulation.

### Building trust

We take a positive approach to behaviour support at Aurora Poppyfield and believe that managing behaviour is first and foremost about relationships and trust.

We understand that all behaviour is a form of communication and can often be a display of emotional distress, so we always aim to manage this with compassion whilst ensuring everyone is kept safe. Sensory processing difficulties can also impact on our learners' ability to manage their behaviour which is why working in partnership with parents and carers to co-create positive behaviour plans for school and home is so important to us.

### Supporting families

Everything we do at Aurora Poppyfield, we do in partnership with parents/carers. We actively seek and listen to feedback from students, families and staff, to find out what's working well, and what we can do better.

Our specialist team works in partnership with families to develop strategies to support behaviour and anxiety at home.



# What you need to know

## Meals

We offer a balance of healthy meals or students can bring in their own packed lunch.

## Uniform

There is a jumper and fleece for boys and girls to choose from with our school logo on. However, students with sensory issues can wear clothes they feel comfortable in, providing they meet with the code of conduct.

## Term dates

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

# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Poppyfield 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 Poppyfield is 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.

“ Thank you for the wonderful work you do with your students.

Our grandson hated going to mainstream school, but now if he has to miss a day of school there is trouble.

He loves the classes, the staff and best of all he is learning so much. He now loves to write stories which is amazing.

I cannot stress the change in our grandson.

”

## Contact Us

For more information please contact us at:

### Aurora Poppyfield School

Lower Road,  
Effingham,  
Leatherhead  
KT24 5JP

**01372 678630**

poppyfieldschool@the-aurora-group.com

referrals@the-aurora-group.com

www.theauroragroup.co.uk/poppyfield



ADHD, ASC, MLD,  
SEMH



11-16



Mixed



38 Week Day

Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative



www.theauroragroup.co.uk



020 3617 0170



info@the-aurora-group.com



AuroraGroupUK



The\_AuroraGroup



The Aurora-Group



the\_auroragroup