

# Aurora Rowan School



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

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.

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

Aurora Rowan School offer a broad range of learning experiences and opportunities that allow every pupil to build the confidence, skills and qualities needed to be **Effective Communicators, Successful Individuals and Resilient Learners**. Through an individualised curriculum that starts with the child, their EHCP outcomes and the aspirations for the future we build a programme based on the school values that supports everyone to achieve.

Our learning opportunities are firmly routed in play as a key teaching strategy, supporting pupils independent problem solving, skills building and the opportunity to develop key skill for the rest of their lives. Pupils are assessed against their own targets and progress measured by individual successes.

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

- **Communication:** to develop the process of the interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing or signs.
- **Independence and Cognition:** 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.



# The Aurora Curriculum Framework

## Our Intention

## Aurora Values

## Our Impact

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

### 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



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 journey document 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.

## 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.











# 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.







# What you need to know



## School 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](http://www.theauroragroup.co.uk/rowan)

## Contact Us

**Headteacher:** Lesley Walkden

**Aurora Rowan School**

Dyson Woods  
Tokers Green  
Reading, Oxfordshire  
RG4 9EY

**0118 9073322**

rowanschool@the-aurora-group.com  
referrals@the-aurora-group.com  
www.theauroragroup.co.uk/rowan



Children with complex  
and severe learning  
difficulties



5-16



Mixed



38 Week  
Day/Residential



**Aurora  
Rowan School**  
Oxfordshire

**Caring**

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Certified



Corporation

**The Aurora Group**  
is a certified B Corp



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



020 3617 0170



[info@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:info@the-aurora-group.com)



AuroraGroupUK



The\_AuroraGroup



The Aurora-Group



the\_auroragroup

Registered address:

Aurora Care & Education Opco Ltd, Unit 13, Twigworth Court Business Centre, Tewkesbury Rd, Gloucester GL2 9PG  
Company No. 9768784