

# Aurora

## Vincent House School



**A brand new specialist education provision with a focus on emotional wellbeing and offering therapeutic support in a nurturing environment for young autistic people aged 11-16.**

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

At Aurora Vincent House School, we provide a nurturing and inclusive environment designed specifically for autistic and neurodivergent learners. Many of our students experience high levels of anxiety, which can affect various aspects of their lives. We are committed to creating a calm, safe and supportive space where every young person can learn, and where safeguarding is always our priority.

Our approach is simple and effective. We focus on relationships, prioritising the health and wellbeing of our young people and creating an environment where students feel safe and regulated. In all aspects of our practice, we strive to be both neuro-informed and neuro-affirmative. We are here to empower our young people to successfully navigate a world that is biased toward the neurotypical without changing their identity.

Therapeutic approaches are intrinsic to our educational provision as we believe in offering a holistic curriculum. We are committed to a 'preparation for life' curriculum, providing students with the strategies they need not only now but also for later in life, so that they can be independent and lead happy lives.

We are a student-centred community where the voices of our young people and their families are not only heard but actively shape our practice. We collaborate closely with families, professionals and the wider community.

Our school systems provide the structure, routine and consistency that help students to feel safe and therefore regulated. Equally, we have the flexibility to adapt quickly when students may need a different approach or activity.

*Rob Walton*

Headteacher, Aurora Vincent House School





# About our school

Whilst we are registered to support learners aged 5 to 19, our school is currently a provision for students aged 11 to 16 (Years 7 to 11). We offer many of the subjects that a mainstream secondary does but our delivery accounts for the needs of our neurodivergent young people.

Our approach to learning begins with an environment that gives safety and opportunities for students to be able to emotionally regulate. We look to give students intrinsic motivation for their studies and utilise their special interests to engage in school. Students are given agency within our school systems.



## Our facilities

Aurora Vincent House School is situated in the heart of Horsham, West Sussex. The buildings have undergone extensive renovations and now consist of a single structure with ground and first-floor levels, along with an additional classroom on a second level. The school successfully combines a warm and friendly atmosphere with an organised environment, minimising excessive sensory stimulation. Each room is designed to allow students to self-regulate and express their individuality, offering a selection of tables and chairs that cater to their sensory needs. The facilities are particularly supportive for students who find it challenging to thrive in mainstream settings.





Facilities include:

- **Extensive Sports Provision:** Multi Use Games Area for netball, tennis, basketball, football, and street hockey; access to gym, swimming, and local leisure facilities.
- **Therapeutic Physical Activity:** range of regulation options including indoor rower, cycle machine, mindfulness, and a sensory room.
- **Specialist Classrooms:** fully equipped Science lab (GCSE level), Food Technology room plus dedicated Art and Horticulture spaces.
- **Creative and Practical Learning:** access to cooking sessions; students help plan and prepare meals tailored to individual dietary needs.
- **Technology for Learning:** all students use laptops, with iPads available as needed.
- **Outdoor & Adventurous Experiences:** regular visits to parks and nature areas, outdoor trips, residentials, and activities such as go-karting.
- **Community & Collaboration:** events with other SEND schools, family days, and after-school clubs.
- **Therapeutic Support:** onsite OT, SALT, and Clinical Psychology input; regulation through interaction with a school therapy dog and visits to farms and animals, with equine therapy in development.
- **Commitment to Swimming:** all students swim regularly with a goal of proficiency by Year 11.



## Our curriculum

The curriculum at Aurora Vincent House School is built around the individual's learning needs and personal goals. We are a neuro-informed and neuro-affirmative school, supporting our young people to understand their own unique neurology and way of being in the world, and to understand their support needs. Our students each have their own bespoke route through KS3 and KS4 to provide them with the best possible combination of holistic and academic opportunities. We offer a rich and varied curriculum that aims to prepare them for an independent and fulfilling adult life. We hold high aspirations for all our students and aspire to them achieving a form of formal accreditation that will support them in taking their next steps in education.

Our core curriculum includes the opportunity to access GCSE courses and accreditation in a variety of subjects, alongside Entry Level and alternative qualifications to support students who demonstrate their skills outside of traditional examinations. The student-centred curriculum has the flexibility to increase time spent on a particular subject or activity that increases their overall engagement in school and helps regulate and improve their wellbeing. For example, some may have additional art sessions or be involved in a specific media project.

We provide an integrated therapeutic approach, reducing any divide between 'therapy' and 'education' as far as is possible and ensuring that the lessons and approaches we use have therapeutic and supportive practices built into the fabric of teaching and learning throughout the curriculum. We have a team of therapists, including a clinical psychologist, as part of our core staff who work directly with staff to create a truly therapeutic educational experience.

We have a high staff-to-student ratio, and classes are small and personal. Above everything else, we get to know our students and work with their strengths and areas of development as part of a truly inclusive and diverse school community.

## The Aurora Curriculum Framework

Aurora values drive everything we do and give us a framework which informs our curriculum (what we teach our children and young people) and provide us with an overarching intent and aim. This helps us understand the impact our teaching has by providing clear and aspirational targets.

The Aurora Curriculum Framework unites us all whilst providing freedom to develop bespoke, ambitious and tailored curriculum models and learning pathways for our students.

We recognise that:

- All students should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which engages and challenges them.
- All students need to work at a level which is appropriate to their understanding, relevant to their chronological age and at a rate that suits their individual abilities.
- Teaching is approached with the focus on the individual needs of the student.
- Each student should have a tailored curriculum based upon their baseline assessment, previous academic outcomes, long-term learning targets and life aspirations.

# The Aurora Curriculum Framework

## Our Intention

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

## Aurora Values

### 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

Every young person is treated as an individual. All staff get to know each student in order to give a safe and supportive community. Helping students to understand neurodiversity and their own diagnosis permeates all aspects of our offer. We look to have a balanced approach of understanding and accepting the needs of each student whilst offering appropriate challenges and opportunities to develop.

You will see that from the outset, Aurora Vincent House School involves families in all aspects of decision-making. For example, they were responsible for choosing the logo and the uniform. Families have given us accounts of their lived experiences, which we use to guide our practice and incorporate into our staff training. There are always opportunities to vote on upcoming decisions, and we aim to be transparent and open at all times.

We pride ourselves on establishing meaningful relationships with students and their families based on trust. Whilst each student will have a class tutor and Teaching Assistants, who they tend to work more closely with, all our staff have a pastoral responsibility for the young people we have in our care. We encourage families to interact with all staff in the school. Our therapy team is onsite and will support the student within school but just as importantly, are able to offer advice and support to parents and carers too.

Aurora Vincent House School gives students who have been out of school, or unable to proceed with mainstream education, a place for them to thrive. It allows them to engage again in their learning with reduced anxiety. Their learning is meaningful and fun.

Students' outcomes will continue to be monitored long after they have left us so that we continue to be a source of support and so that we can be evidence-based in our practice – ensuring an outstanding offer to our young people so that they not only thrive now but in the future too.

## Therapeutic Support

We have a multidisciplinary team who deliver specialist on-site therapy, including Occupational, Speech and Language and Psychology. The therapists work both directly with our students and indirectly through class teams and support staff to meet individual needs and can provide both one-to-one and group sessions. The therapy team are involved with all areas of each student's journey through Aurora Vincent House School.

All staff reinforce the students' therapeutic goals. There is clear communication between school and families to support consistency and understanding of approaches. Our academic and pastoral practice is all underpinned by the individual needs of the student which the therapy team are integral to identifying and supporting.





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



# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Vincent House 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 Vincent House 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.





# What you need to know



## Meals

School meals are supplied free and cooked onsite. Menus and personalised eating plans are created in consultation with our clinical team and chef.

## Term dates

Our term dates are published annually and are available on our school website. Our term dates are the same as West Sussex local authority schools.

## Uniform

We know that many students struggle to wear different items of uniform. In consultation with our parents, we have an approach of offering and encouraging the wearing of uniform, but it is not mandatory.

We offer a variety of uniform items so that students can choose what they find most comfortable. Every student is also provided with a free uniform when they start.

## Contact Us

**Headteacher:** Rob Walton

### Aurora Vincent House School

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ASC, ADHD, SEMH  
(social anxiety &  
mental health)



11-16



Mixed



38 Week Day



**Aurora**  
**Vincent House School**  
West Sussex

Caring

Ambitious

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**Aurora** 



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The\_AuroraGroup



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