



# Aurora Cedars School



**A specialist independent day school, offering academic and therapeutic provision for students aged 5-19 with additional social, emotional and mental health 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 Cedars School, we believe in providing a nurturing environment alongside an enriching curriculum to ensure our students have the best possible chance at success. We have dedicated and specialist staff to ensure every aspect of school life is inclusive, inviting and inspiring.

Due to the nature of our students, we know that building trusting relationships is key to unlocking their true potential and to being able to support them achieving their own individual goals. Students are supported through their journey whether it is academics, social skills development, emotional resilience or vital life skills. Through the use of our Aurora Values we ensure students leave Aurora Cedars School ready to enter the world of adulthood with solid foundations.

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.

*Zoe Free*

Headteacher, Aurora Cedars School





# About our school

Situated approximately two miles to the west of Wolverhampton City Centre, Aurora Cedars School is a specialist school providing personalised, tailored academic and therapeutic support in a calm, nurturing environment for students aged 5-19 with social, emotional and mental health needs, including those who face communication and behavioural challenges associated with Autism Spectrum Conditions.

Many students start their journey at Aurora Cedars School following a period of school absence or with a negative school experience. Our aim is to re-engage and re-activate every student's love of learning, focussing on their interests, needs and goals. Small class sizes means we can truly develop a bespoke school experience and curriculum path for each student which may include clinical intervention, academic intervention, vocational learning and/or academic qualifications.



Our team of skilled and experienced practitioners will support our students throughout their transition into young adulthood, so that by the time they leave us, they can look forward to bright, exciting futures.

## Our facilities

Students at Aurora Cedars School will enjoy access to a range of specialist on-site facilities as well as access to local leisure facilities. Education at Aurora Cedars School extends into the local community, giving young people opportunities to learn practical skills in everyday environments whenever they are ready. Educational visits are woven into each term to extend our learning outside of the classroom offer.

Facilities include:

- Specialist classrooms for Food Technology and Life Skills, Design and Technology and Science
- Sensory/quiet spaces to help with self-regulation
- Clinical and therapeutic integrated working





## Our curriculum

We follow the National Curriculum to ensure students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential whilst also offering the flexibility to ensure it can be tailored for each individual student, offering a truly bespoke curriculum and learning journey.

Students in KS1-3 will develop their learning through accessing a range of subjects to enable them to successfully identify their strengths and interests ready for their KS4 journey. Students are encouraged to engage in and access a range of opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom to broaden their horizons and develop their cultural capital experience. Students interests and views are gained throughout the year to develop and enrich the curriculum offered at Aurora Cedars School.

At Aurora Cedars School we utilise the THRIVE approach in school to underpin the curriculum. THRIVE is a dynamic, developmental approach to working with children that supports their emotional and social wellbeing. It is based on the latest research in neuroscience, attachment theory and child development, drawing on research into the role of creativity and play in developing emotional resilience.

The programme was created by a multi-agency team, with experience of being teachers, advisers, Ofsted inspectors, social workers, family therapists, foster and adoption specialists across education and care settings. They have drawn together their experience with theories and research to create this rich resource. THRIVE draws on an understanding of six "building blocks" of development and growth that comes online sequentially and remains throughout life.

We have developed an Active Citizens Curriculum which runs alongside our academic and THRIVE curriculum. Active Citizens focuses on the whole child, their experiences, challenges, and opportunities both within and outside of school. Active Citizens includes outdoor education experiences, community opportunities and personal challenges. Our students and families love it!

## 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

## 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

Every student has a tutor and a range of dedicated teaching assistants who offer consistent support and encouragement throughout the school day and support communication with families. Personalised Learning Plans and Behaviour Support Plans help our students develop positive self-regulation and coping strategies, facilitating their learning and creating a positive school experience for everyone.

Aurora Cedars School is a collaborative working school, where parents/carers, students, teaching staff, clinicians and external professionals come together to support students in achieving their best.



## Parental feedback

### Quality of Teaching



Parents rate the quality of teaching at Cedars School

**4.9 out of 5**



### Quality of Staff



Parents rate the staff at Cedars School

**4.9 out of 5**



### Overall School Rating



Parents are happy that their child attends Cedars School

**5 out of 5**

### Child safety



Parents feel their child is safe at Cedars School

**4.9 out of 5**



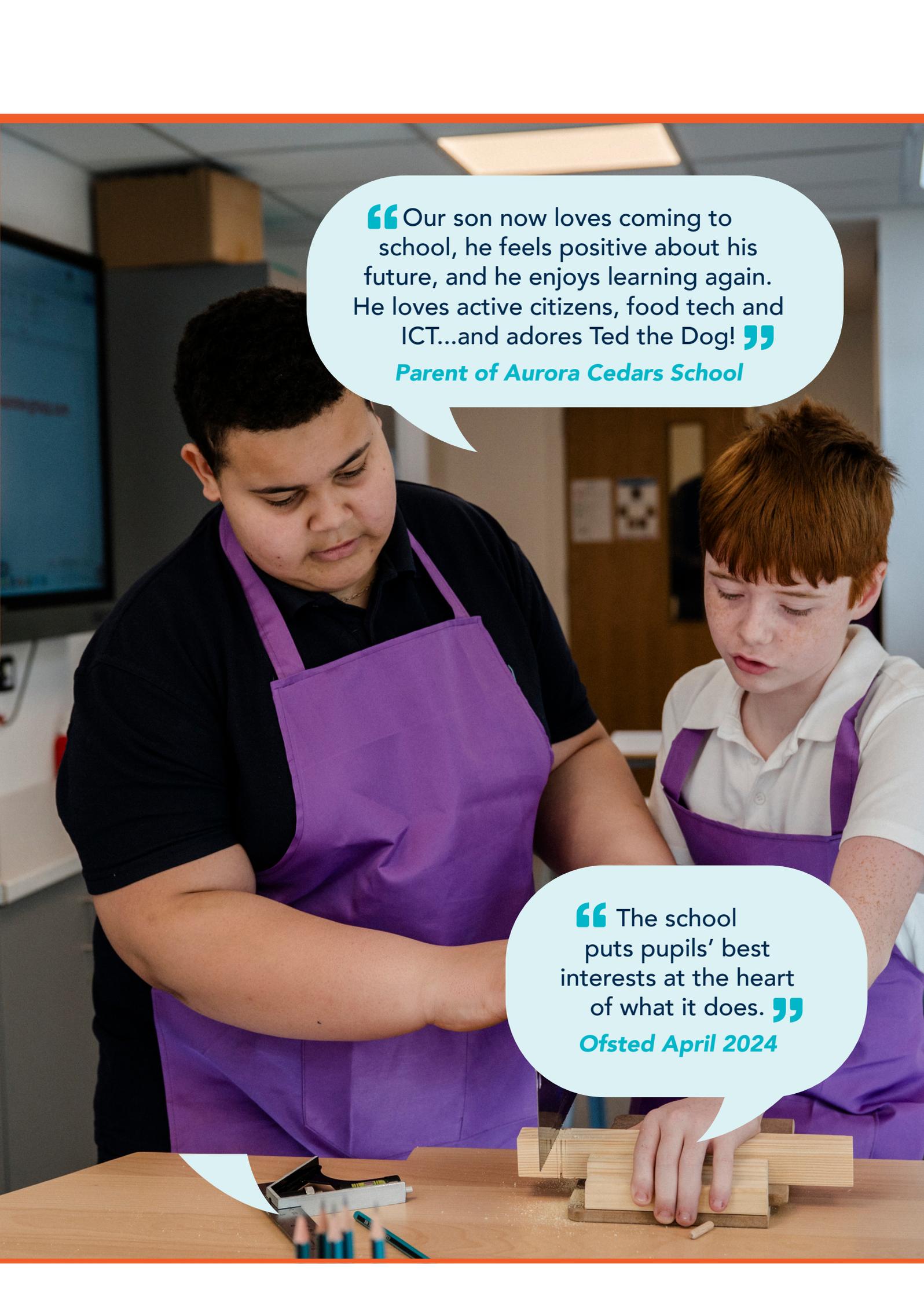
### Recommended by Parents



Parents recommend Cedars School to other parents and carers

**5 out of 5**





“ Our son now loves coming to school, he feels positive about his future, and he enjoys learning again. He loves active citizens, food tech and ICT...and adores Ted the Dog! ”

*Parent of Aurora Cedars School*

“ The school puts pupils’ best interests at the heart of what it does. ”

*Ofsted April 2024*



# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Cedars 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 Cedars 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



## Uniform

- Black trousers/joggers/shorts/knee length skirt
- White/navy/black polo top (white available with school logo)
- Plain navy jumper with no hood (available with school logo)
- Plain navy cardigan (available with school logo)
- All black shoes/trainers

We operate a relaxed approach to uniform should this be necessary for those with sensory needs, please discuss further with Zoe Free, Headteacher.

## Term dates

Our term dates are published annually and are available on our school website.

## School meals

School meals are provided for Students at Aurora Cedars School and cooked on site. Special dietary requirements can be catered for.

Students are able to bring their own packed lunch to school if desired.

## Contact Us

Headteacher: Zoe Free

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ASC, SEMH



5-19



Mixed



38 Week Day



Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative

**Aurora** 



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



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