Ofsted
Good
Provider

Aurora
Fairway School

A specialist day school located in St Ives, Cambridge, offering academic and therapeutic provision for students aged 11-16 with a range of complex learning needs including social, emotional and mental health needs, speech, language and communication difficulties and autism.

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

Fairway is a warm and welcoming school which places student wellbeing and safety at the heart of our provision. Our building is a converted golf pavilion and we have adopted our vision of 'Driving Futures Together' from that sporting sentiment.

This means we want to give our students the drive and ambition to succeed and become the best version of themselves in:

- their education,
- their employment
- their independence in adulthood.

We realise this is a collaborative process and, that by working together, we will raise students' aspirations and achievements.

We have a highly skilled and specialist teaching, support and therapeutic team working with each young person to ensure their needs are fully met and that every achievement takes them closer to their potential in all aspects of their lives; educationally, socially and emotionally.

Julie Sadler
Headteacher, Aurora Fairway

About our school

Aurora Fairway is based in St Ives, Cambridge. The school caters for students aged 11-16 with a range of needs including social, emotional and mental health needs and autism spectrum conditions.

Fairway has an inclusive, welcoming learning environment in which all our students can develop and thrive. We put our students' needs first because we know that, once we understand who they are and their individual learning styles, we can support them to achieve their full potential.

Our facilities

Our approach to learning and teaching is to focus on the individual needs of every student. Each student benefits from participation in a varied curriculum based on their initial assessment, previous academic and personal outcomes and long-term learning targets. In Key Stage 4, each student has a curriculum pathway which focuses around the young person's onward journey.

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

Our facilities at Fairway School include:

- Food technology room
- Science room
- Art room
- Outdoor space with MUGA and gym equipment
- Bushcraft Area
- A regulation space with our pastoral team
- Access to the immediate local community and town centre
- Access to the local leisure centre for Swimming
- External activities such as Horse-riding, Gym, Farm Club
- Regular contact with the therapy team

Our curriculum

The overall purpose of our curriculum is to prepare students for life beyond school, through a positive and supportive framework that helps to develop:

- Confident individuals who lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives in which they can communicate and interact well with others.
- Successful learners who enjoy school, make great progress and achieve a range of qualifications.
- Responsible citizens who are ready to take their place in society.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with a flexible timetable designed around each student to recognise individual abilities, interests and needs.

Our learning programmes are based on the National Curriculum, with opportunities to develop functional and independent 'skills for life' alongside academic subjects.

We place particular focus on safeguarding, which is promoted through PSHE, RSE and Citizenship and provide opportunities for students to increase their confidence and awareness through developing good decision-making skills.

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.

Further school provision

The curriculum will also include several enrichment subjects to help meet the unique needs of the students. The intention here is to help decrease anxiety, improve social communication skills, raise levels of engagement and provide opportunities to develop personal interests. Enrichment subjects will include Life and Living Skills and a range of weekly, off-site physical activities that students can choose at the beginning of term, that will include craft, gymnastics, horse-riding and swimming.

Throughout their time with us, students can achieve a range of qualifications, GCSEs or equivalent vocational certificates, and benefit from a range of high-quality opportunities to work with local employers and participate in industry related activities. We help each student to identify and develop their unique skills, talents and abilities, so that they can choose a post-16 route that works for them – whether that's further education, vocational training or employment.

Supporting potential

We encourage all our students to see themselves as competent learners with a 'can do' attitude. To achieve this, we offer several externally accredited programmes and courses to accommodate different abilities and levels of attainments. These include GCSEs, Functional Skills, ASDAN, Entry Levels and BTech. Our curriculum also supports students to develop a range of coping skills, build resilience and become more consistently regulated by applying learnt strategies to situations that cause stress and anxiety. With this awareness, students' access to learning is increased, leading to greater independence and better academic outcomes.

Providing opportunities

Our collective vision of 'Driving Futures Together' reflects an ethos of teamwork and aspiring to achieve great things. We want to give our students the drive and ambition to succeed and become the best version of themselves in their:

- education
- employment
- independence in adulthood

We believe this is a collaborative process and, by working together with students, their families and the wider staff team, we can raise our young peoples' aspirations and achievements.

Additional therapeutic support for students

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

These are delivered by highly-skilled staff in a class setting, using an integrated therapeutic model. This enables us to offer flexible and responsive support whenever and wherever it is needed most and our staff team follows a single, student-centred plan.

We monitor and adapt our approach for each student through a personalised annual review process, which puts the student at the centre and involves a range of academic and therapeutic staff.

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.

Building trust

We take a positive approach to behaviour support at Aurora Fairway. We believe that managing behaviour is first and foremost about relationships and trust. While violence or aggression are not acceptable, they are often understandable – negative behaviour can often be a display of emotional distress and we will aim to manage it with compassion, whilst ensuring everyone is kept safe.

'Driving Futures Together' is reflected in everything we do, and establishing good partnerships with parents/carers is key to our work. 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 also works in partnership with families to develop strategies to support behaviour and anxiety at home.

Parental feedback

Quality of Teaching

Parents rate the quality of teaching at Fairways School

4 out of 5

Quality of Staff

Parents rate the staff at Fairways School

5 out of 5

Recommended by Parents

Parents recommend Fairways School to other parents and carers

5 out of 5

Overall School Rating

Parents are happy that their child attends Fairways School

5 out of 5

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

Our commitment to you

Quality statement

At Aurora Fairway 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 Fairway 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 provided and we offer a balance of healthy meals. Special dietary requirements are catered for - due to allergies, intolerance, religious and other beliefs.

Uniform

Information on our uniform is sent out to parents in the admissions pack once your place is confirmed.

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

Headteacher: Julie Sadler

Aurora Fairway School

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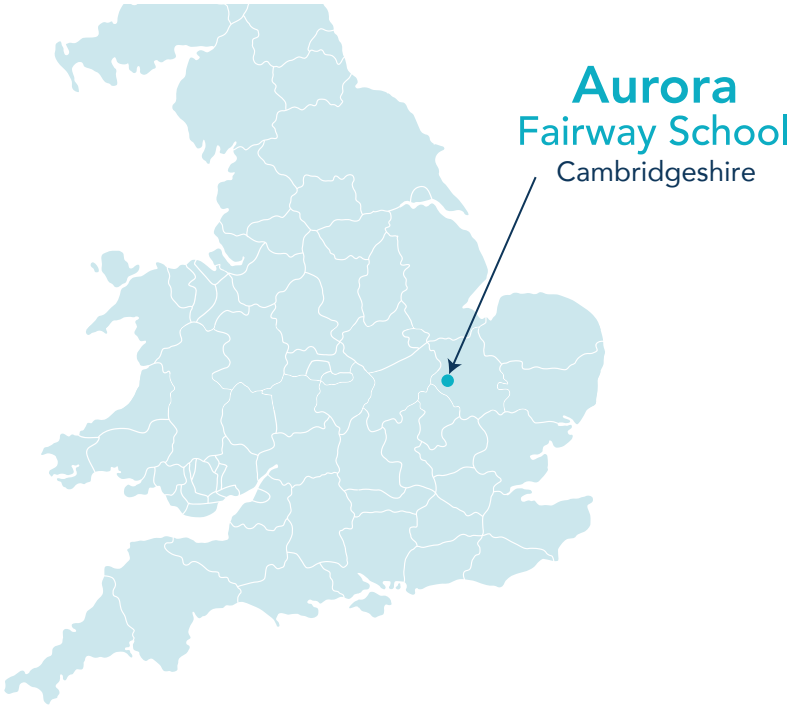
SEMH, ADHD, ASC

11-16

Mixed

38 Week Day



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