



**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 one of the largest providers 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.



## Our facilities

At Aurora Poppyfields School, we are proud to offer a range of facilities designed to support the needs and interests of our students, creating an environment where everyone can thrive. Our resources are carefully tailored to provide both academic and personal development opportunities in a welcoming and inclusive setting.

Facilities include:

- Small science lab
- Food technology room
- Playground
- Break out spaces
- Access to outdoor learning
- Access to the immediate local community and town centre
- Access to the local leisure centre
- Regular contact with the therapy team





## Our curriculum

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

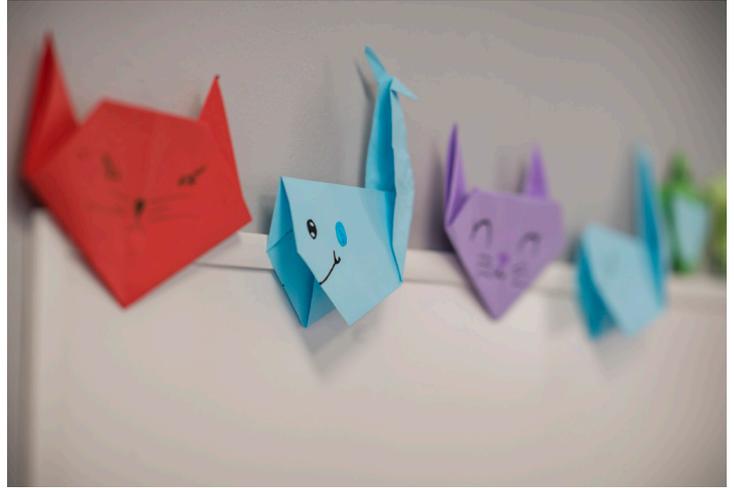
We offer a range of therapeutic interventions at Aurora Poppyfield, designed to help our students overcome barriers to participation in education.

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.



## 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

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 eight students) are supported by a teacher and two teaching assistants.

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.



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



# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Poppyfield 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 Poppyfield 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

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

## Term dates

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

## 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.

## Contact Us

**Principal:** David Thomas  
**Headteacher:** Jade Nairne

### Aurora Poppyfield School

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ASC, ASD, SEMH,  
ADHD



11-19



Mixed



38 Week Day



Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative

**Aurora**  Certified  
Corporation



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