



# Aurora Hanley School



**Independent specialist education for young people aged 6 to 19 who have communication and social needs typically associated with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC).**

**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

## Empowering Uniqueness

## Realising Potential

## Building Resilience

Here at Aurora Hanley School, we believe in empowering uniqueness, realising potential and building resilience. That is why we endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment for all our students to enjoy, thrive and grow throughout their academic career.

By the time they leave us, every student is on their way to achieving their own goals – whether that is by developing vital life skills, or gaining specific academic and vocational qualifications.

We believe that by providing the right support and building positive relationships, we can support everyone to access opportunities that have previously been denied.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Aurora Hanley School community soon.

**Julie Martin**

Headteacher, Aurora Hanley School



Our Aurora Hanley School, rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, is a sister to our new Summerfields provision in Wilmslow. We are linked together closely through experience, ethos, staffing and vision.

We understand how much our young people need to feel accepted, understood, listened to and supported to achieve life-long learning. To be prepared, not just academically, but socially and emotionally for the challenges that life brings.

**Tracy Whitehurst**

Principal, Aurora Summerfields and Hanley School





# About our school

Aurora Hanley School is an independent specialist school for young people aged 6 to 19, who may face difficulties as a result of complex communication needs typically associated with autism spectrum conditions.

Many of our students have sensory issues and high levels of anxiety that affect their ability to cope in mainstream settings, creating difficulties that can impact negatively on their emotional wellbeing, behaviour and ability to participate fully in education.

At Aurora Hanley School, we help every young person to re-engage with learning and enjoy school life. With specialist teaching and integrated therapeutic support, small classes and a nurturing approach, we give students a framework for breaking down barriers to learning.



## Our facilities

Aurora Hanley School is located near the heart of Stoke-on-Trent, in the residential area of Bucknall. The school site consists of a new two story building and four separate buildings supporting primary, nurture and administration. All our rooms are bright, modern and sensitively designed for children and young people who struggle in larger mainstream environments.

Education at Aurora Hanley School extends into the local community and city, giving young people opportunities to learn practical skills in everyday environments whenever they are ready.

Facilities include:

- Specialist classrooms for ICT, Science, Woodwork, Art and Cooking.
- Quiet reading areas and regulation stations.
- Clinical and therapeutic integrated working.
- Pupil horticulture areas.
- Outdoor Gym and Playground spaces.





# Our curriculum

Aurora Hanley School offers a broad, balanced curriculum with a flexible timetable designed around each student, recognising their individual abilities, interests and needs.

Learning programmes for each Key Stage are based on the National Curriculum, with opportunities to develop functional and independent 'skills for life' offered alongside academic subjects.

All activities are based on personalised goals to ensure they are engaging, meaningful and achievable for everyone. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in school life, by making choices, contributing to their own programmes and sharing ideas regularly.

## 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.





## Our outcomes

100%

Pass rate in:

**Entry Level  
English**

100%

Pass rate in:

**Entry Level  
Maths**

100%

Pass rate in:

**Entry Level  
Science**

100%

Pass rate in:

**GCSE  
Maths**

## Case study

### Life before Hanley School

Student A is diagnosed with ASC and Anxiety. He attended a mainstream high school with over 1,500 pupils where he was put on a reduced timetable in Year 7. He struggled with his attendance due to the large size of the school, crowds, and noise.



### Moving to Hanley School

Student A started his journey with Aurora Hanley School in March 2020 and left in July 2023 to attend college.

At Aurora Hanley School, he had access to timetabled weekly mind-work sessions delivered by the clinical team, which specifically focused on diagnosis awareness, emotional management, self-esteem and mindfulness. He also had access to weekly Speech and Language sessions and 1:1 sessions around his anxieties, sleep, school attendance & future. By July 2023, Student A achieved the following qualifications:

- Maths Functional Skills Level 1 - Pass
- English Functional Skills Level 1 - Pass
- English Functional Skills Level 2 - Pass
- BTEC Home Cooking Skills Level 2 - Pass
- Art, Craft and Design GCSE - Grade 2
- Foundation Mathematics IGCSE - Grade 3
- Science Entry level 2 certificate - Entry 2
- Prince's Trust Entry 3 Award in Personal Development in Employability Skills - Pass



## Your experience with us

Every student has a tutor and dedicated teaching assistant who offer consistent support and encouragement throughout the school day and support communication with families.

Individual student support plans (SSPs) help our students develop positive self-regulation and coping strategies, facilitating their learning and creating a positive school experience for everyone.

Our focus is on supporting each student to understand their diagnosis, build their resilience and reduce their anxiety and is supported via our Clinical Psychology teams, who work together with students and their families to explore and develop individual strengths and aspirations.

Our other therapeutic provision includes speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, with our clinical staff working in conjunction with teaching and support staff to provide holistic support for every student.



## Parental feedback

### Quality of Teaching



Parents rate the quality of teaching at Hanley School

**4.9 out of 5**



### Quality of Staff



Parents rate the staff at Hanley School

**4.9 out of 5**



### Overall School Rating



Parents are happy that their child attends Hanley School

**5 out of 5**

### Child safety



Parents feel their child is safe at Hanley School

**4.8 out of 5**



### Recommended by Parents



Parents recommend Hanley School to other parents and carers

**5 out of 5**







“ My son has developed a to a level I never though attainable. Both emotionally and mentally since attending Aurora school. ”

“ I can not praise the work and time, understanding and care the staff have given my son enough.”





# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Hanley 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 Hanley 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

At Aurora Hanley School we do not have a school uniform. We know that many of our students struggle with the feel and texture of clothes, so we prefer them to wear whatever makes them feel comfortable in school.

## Term dates

We align our term dates yearly to those of our local authority. We also allocate five inset training days to staff. All these dates can be accessed via our school website.

## Transport

All transport is via local authority-funded taxis and is not organised by the school.

## School meals

We produce a weekly visual menu of our food, which is emailed to all parents and carers.

All meals are freshly prepared and cooked on site, with all produce sourced locally. Special dietary requirements can be catered for and we will always do our best to support and encourage our students to taste new textures and flavours. If any student does not feel able to eat the menu on site they are more than welcome to bring a packed lunch.



## Contact Us

**Headteacher:** Julie Martin

### Aurora Hanley School

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ASC, ASD, SLCN,  
ADHD, Learning  
Difficulties and MLD



6-19



Mixed



38 Week Day



**Aurora  
Hanley School**  
Staffordshire



National  
Autistic  
Society

Autism Specialist  
Award Advanced  
2023



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**Aurora** 



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



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