

# Aurora

## White House School



“ The staff at the school really do put their heart and soul into the children and their well-being. ”

Specialist academic and therapeutic provision in a caring, supportive environment, for children aged 6-11 who have experienced difficulties in mainstream settings.

## 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 fifth 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.

**Caring**

**Ambitious**

**Collaborative**

**Trusted**

**Innovative**

# Welcome

As Principal of the site that Aurora White House School shares with its secondary counterpart, Aurora Eccles, I am delighted to introduce you to our wonderful school community.

It is our aim to provide an environment in which children can achieve their potential and make meaningful, informed choices about every aspect of their lives. Through our highly skilled teams of teaching, support and therapeutic staff, we offer personalised, tailored interventions to help children of all ages make genuine progress in their academic, social and emotional development.

We are proud to be recognised as one of Norfolk's chosen schools; the trust that is placed in us, by families and professionals alike, is testament to the quality and scope of education and support that we offer to every student in our care. We hope you enjoy reading about us and we look forward to welcoming you soon.

**Arabella Hardy**

Site Principal, Aurora Eccles and Aurora White House School



Welcome to Aurora White House School, a unique learning environment that has the friendly and personal feel of a small village primary school, whilst also being rich in specialist provision.

I believe that having a sense of belonging is essential in helping children to thrive. It is for this reason that 'community' is central to our school's vision and identity. As part of our community, your child will benefit from small class sizes, specialist teaching and a multi-disciplinary approach that helps remove barriers to learning.

Our curriculum makes use of our extensive wooded grounds and beautiful outside space to bring learning to life – it is always wonderful to watch children discovering science whilst toasting marshmallows over a campfire during a forest school session.

Children want to be at this school. Time and again we see those with previously poor attendance records coming in every day, making friends, and having fun – which tells me whatever it is we're doing, we're getting it right.

I'm so glad you've found us, and I look forward to welcoming you and your child into our community here at Aurora White House School.

**David Clarke**

Headteacher, Aurora White House School

# About Our School

Aurora White House School provides a positive, welcoming learning environment for children who have experienced difficulties in mainstream settings, either as a result of specific learning difficulties or more complex communication and interaction difficulties (including those associated with autism spectrum conditions).

Our specialist teaching staff cater for children aged 6-11 and work together to create an environment where children can inspire and nurture each other, whatever their ages.

With small class sizes, a fantastic sense of community and exceptional standards of teaching and therapeutic support, our school is designed to promote academic achievement alongside comprehensive physical, social and emotional development.

“ Over the past three years, I have seen my daughter grow and develop into such a happy, confident, well-rounded child – thank you ”





## Personalised learning

We offer personalised learning to every child, delivered both in class and within additional small-group or individual intervention sessions as required.

Children come to us early on in their journey through life, frequently with gaps in their personal and academic development. We identify these gaps quickly and effectively through our understanding of existing reports coupled with our own observations and assessments.

Our classes are usually mixed-year groups, so children learn with peers of similar presentation. This allows for learning environments to be better matched to individual needs – for example, the children in our learning and cognition class have lots of space for role-play and activities to develop their communication and interaction skills, whereas those with needs associated with autism spectrum conditions are offered a ‘quieter’ environment, with less unwanted stimulation.

Our bespoke ‘Creativity & Curiosity Curriculum’ employs a flexible model based around the foundation subjects in the National Curriculum. Each child’s experience of our curriculum will be different, with all learning tailored to individual needs.

We also dedicate a lot of time to developing essential life skills, including:

- Communication and interaction
- Health and wellbeing management
- Understanding identity and relationships
- Understanding society and the wider world

## Helping children thrive

We believe that all our children can achieve highly and we encourage them to be the best that they can be within our school. We take a whole-school approach to social and emotional development by embedding ‘Thrive’ principles and strategies across the school. Based on knowledge of neuroscience, attachment theory and child development theory, the Thrive assessment tool helps us to identify gaps in development and to inform our day-to-day interactions with each child. This approach emphasises the important role that positive adult relationships play in children’s development, and makes use of arts and play-based activities through one-to-one and small-group work, including puppetry; clay work or modelling; painting or drawing; movement and dance; drama and role play; music; story-telling and sand play.

## Promoting health and wellbeing

We place great importance on helping children learn how to manage their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Every child benefits from twice-weekly swimming lessons in our indoor swimming pool, access to a well-stocked, quiet library and use of our extensive indoor break-out areas.

Set in 34 acres of stunning Norfolk countryside, our school also offers children access to a wide range of outdoor recreation facilities, including a large playing field, a tree house and an abundance of magnificent woodland, which is used throughout the year for our Forest School program.

Taking an ethos-driven approach to learning, Forest School is centred around the child, their needs and their interests, without the constraints of predetermined outcomes. Under the supervision of fully qualified practitioners, children are provided with opportunities to play, explore and create across the seasons and in all weathers.

Each child will go on a very different, tailored journey within Forest School, but all sessions include a combination of story-telling; conservation; wildlife and plant identification; fire-lighting and campfire cooking; tool-use; arts and crafts; and shelter-building.



## Integrated therapy

Our therapeutic work is designed to unlock barriers to participation in education, so that all our children can achieve highly and can make the most of every opportunity we offer.

Discrete therapeutic interventions at Aurora White House School are delivered by a highly skilled team of clinical staff, whose specialisms include occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, clinical psychology and play therapy. These interventions sit alongside a classroom experience that integrates therapeutic approaches on a one-to-one, small group and whole class basis.

“ Daisy loves going to school, she has the best speech therapy, play therapy, teachers and teaching assistants I could ask for. ”



## Your experience with us

We understand that your journey to us may not have been an easy one. Your child may have struggled in mainstream school; you may have faced an uphill battle to get them the support they need. It is our ambition to offer you a different, more positive experience from this point onwards.

We value the positive contribution each individual can make in society and commit to exploring ways of helping every child fulfil their potential. With this in mind, our first challenge is often to rebuild their faith in school, helping them to get to a place where they feel safe, happy and able to learn and grow.

“ I couldn't ask for my daughter to be in a more nurturing environment. When she leaves my house at the beginning of the day, I know she's going to be cared for, individually taught and well engaged throughout her day. Having such a vulnerable child is so difficult as a parent, so when you have a school that you have 100% trust in, it makes the transition from home to school so much easier. ”



### We see the child, not the problem

We help all our children to grow and develop in their own unique and inspiring ways and empower them to make meaningful choices at every stage of their lives. We therefore take a positive approach to behaviour management, with 'Five Golden Rules' at the heart of everything we do:

Written by the children themselves, these rules encourage the development of a strong sense of identity while promoting effective interaction with others, and are used as a benchmark for behaviour that leads to individual and class rewards. Our children understand their importance, and often talk about them when discussing their experience of school.

### Our Five Golden Rules

1. Listening ears, eyes, and minds
2. Safe hands, feet, and personal space
3. Be safe together and in agreed places
4. Look after our school and equipment
5. Kind words, signs and indoor voices

## Putting you at the heart of our family

We know that your number one priority is your child. We take our responsibility for them seriously – so when your child joins us at Aurora White House School, we will also welcome you, their parents and carers, as part of our family.

You will have frequent, meaningful contact with us, on a daily basis or throughout the school week as required, by email, telephone or face-to-face. You will receive termly progress reports for your child, as well as invitations to parent evenings and 'Meet the Teacher' afternoons, and regular newsletters with information about upcoming social events and family activities.

We are very lucky to have an active Parent Forum Group, which meets regularly both in person and online, for peer support, discussion and informal coffee mornings.



“ I know for most parents communication is key, I have never been disappointed or concerned that I don't know what's going on with my child at school. ”



“ Aurora White House has changed all our lives. Mainstream education was a constant battle for our son, but since starting at Aurora White House, school has been a joy for him. He is now well regulated, calmer, happier and therefore able to access his education and enjoy learning. Even on his tough days, the staff only ever look at his behaviour through the lens of 'how can I help?' He feels valued and important in a school setting for the first time. ”





## Our school day (what it looks like)

Once we have completed our settling-in routines, our mornings are usually dedicated to maths and English; the rest of the day will see the children working on life essentials, including play and physical activity, as well as developing their cultural capital, aesthetic appreciation and enquiring minds through our Curiosity and Creativity curriculum.

All children have at least two breaks – one mid-morning and one at lunchtime – afternoon breaks are also offered for some children. In addition, swimming, PE, gardening, woodland walks, movement breaks and Forest School activities are all offered.

Throughout the day, some children receive targeted, one-to-one intervention work to improve their reading, spelling and communication skills. A variety of specialist therapeutic work also takes place in small groups and as a whole class which is often perceived as 'play' or games by the children.

The children often visit the primary office during the school day to say hello to the headteacher, who is always delighted to see them, share in their successes and offer them a moment of quiet calm.

The day finishes with activities to prepare children for the transition to home, followed by a reflection on the day and an opportunity to celebrate success. We enjoy an unhurried walk to find the children's transport, characterised by happy, chatty children and the bustle of a community finishing its day together.



“ All the staff always have time to speak to you, and more importantly, they listen, too. ”

# What you need to know

## Meals

All meals are freshly prepared on site, using quality produce that is locally sourced where possible. A salad option is always available, along with fresh fruit. Special dietary requirements are catered for (due to allergies, intolerance, religious and other beliefs).

Children eat together in the dining hall. We value this social activity as an opportunity to re-fuel, learn about food, diet and hygiene, engage with others, whilst developing a sense of community, of belonging, and of being a valued and important part of our community.

## Uniform

Uniform can be ordered online from Birds of Dereham at [www.birdsofdereham.com](http://www.birdsofdereham.com)  
Sizing guides are available on the ordering website.

Please let Karen Watkins know (01953 887217) if you are unable to order via the internet.

## Absence

Parents/carers should telephone the school before 8.30am and leave a message including the pupil's name, form and reason for absence or email [ecclesabsence@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:ecclesabsence@the-aurora-group.com) leaving the same information. If we do not hear from a family, we will make contact to establish the reason for absence. We would also ask that the parents/carers call or email each day the student is absent. If evidence for absence is available, this should also be emailed to [ecclesabsence@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:ecclesabsence@the-aurora-group.com)

## Term Dates

Please see the website at [www.theauroragroup.co.uk/whitehouseschool](http://www.theauroragroup.co.uk/whitehouseschool) for our most recent Term Dates.



# Our commitment to you

## Quality Statement

At Aurora White House School we strive to provide the highest quality service to children, young people, parents/carers and local authorities. We believe that children, and young people, as well as others, have the right to comment on the service we provide and they are supported 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 White House School, we are wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of our children and we expect all staff, parents/carers and visitors to share this commitment.

Safer recruitment practices are followed and all staff have an Enhanced DBS check.

## Contact Us

For more information please contact us at:

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ADHD, ASC, MLD,  
SEMH



6-11



Mixed



38 Week Day

**Caring**

**Ambitious**

**Collaborative**

**Trusted**

**Innovative**



[www.the-aurora-group.com](http://www.the-aurora-group.com)



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The Aurora-Group

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