

# Aurora Brambles School



“ With a small number of children in the classroom and excellent teaching, it’s the best decision you could ever make for your child. ”

Innovative centre of excellence providing academic and therapeutic support across the North for young people aged 9-16 with additional social, emotional and mental health needs.

## 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

All of us here at Aurora Brambles are delighted that you are considering our school for your child.

We understand that your experience of mainstream education may not always have been positive, so we are committed to providing a nurturing, welcoming environment for your whole family.

The school offers small class sizes of no more than 8 students, supported by a teacher and a teaching assistant. We are also able to offer input from our onsite psychology and intervention services to support social, emotional and mental health wellbeing and ensure that Education, Health and Care Plan targets are achieved.

At Aurora Brambles, your child will not be lost in the crowd. Instead, they will become part of a unique and creative learning community, in which everyone feels cared for, challenged and inspired.

*Karen Thomson*  
Headteacher, Aurora Brambles



# About Our School

Aurora Brambles is an independent specialist day school, offering personalised academic and therapeutic support to young people aged 9-16 who face various challenges associated with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Many of the young people who come to us have had a poor experience of formal educational settings in the past, and may face significant barriers to learning. But with the support of our skilled and experienced teaching and therapeutic staff, they are able to overcome these barriers and to develop the skills they need to thrive in their lives beyond school.

We focus on providing a creative and stimulating learning environment while building genuine trust between our students and the adults that work with them. This approach inspires high levels of engagement, facilitating achievement and progress for every student – whatever their background.

“ I know he’s happy because he wants to go to school and looks forward to seeing his teachers every day. ”





## Our curriculum

We offer a unique curriculum based around the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and Computing, alongside a range of foundation subjects selected to provide a balanced, well-rounded education for life. Embedded within the curriculum are a range of 'life skills' development opportunities, to fulfil our students' social and emotional needs and to help them achieve independence.

Regardless of the level of a young person's starting point when they arrive at Aurora Brambles, we support them to gain appropriate and meaningful qualifications and skills in line with their abilities and interests.

We currently offer GCSEs in Maths, English Language, English Literature, Science, History and Statistics, and functional skills in Maths, English and ICT. Additional courses provide accreditation in PSHE, PE, Humanities and Art. Students wishing to pursue a vocational route can gain BTEC (or equivalent Level 1 and 2) qualifications in the following areas:

- Motor Mechanics
- Construction
- Sports Studies
- Horticulture
- Land-based Management
- Food Technology
- Catering and Hospitality

## Our facilities

Situated in a semi-rural location just outside of the small town of Leyland, Aurora Brambles makes extensive use of both on-site and local facilities to enrich learning experiences.

Our school is housed across two buildings and has a range of learning spaces and classrooms, including those resourced specifically for computing, science, art, music, food technology and sports. Students have access to 'anytime, anywhere' learning on our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), as well as personal laptops and a large interactive screen in each class.

Elsewhere on the school site, our students enjoy use of a private wooded area, a multi-use outdoor games area and a number of gardens, which are used for both relaxation and for our Horticultural Studies programme.

# Your experience with us

When a young person arrives at Aurora Brambles, we aim to provide continuity from their previous setting where it is both possible and in their best interests to do so.

Some of our students may follow a bespoke learning pathway taking into account their prior attainment, their ability to engage, and any other specific barriers to learning.

“Your child will get a different sort of education – they will feel nurtured and be treated with respect. Teachers will tailor the education to fit your child, rather than expecting your child to fit with the education on offer.”



Our classes are organised according to each student's needs and abilities, identified through regular assessment and monitoring. We also consider social and emotional factors when establishing classes, to ensure an optimum fit between different members of the group.

For those who require additional academic support, we offer small-group interventions focusing on achievable targets that can be applied back in the classroom. We also provide support in reading, writing and numeracy through specialist intervention. We have our own Special Educational Needs and Disability coordinator, weekly access to the services of a Clinical Psychologist, and a full-time Assistant Psychologist on site.

## Our school day

The school day runs from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday, with a 2.30pm finish each Friday.

The school offers local authorities the ability to access our transport which means children will be collected from home and returned each day by nominated drivers. Our drivers are employed by our school and this approach gives us the opportunity to build up positive relationships with young people through consistency and relationship building. However, there are alternatives which can be discussed once a placement has been confirmed, this includes local authorities choosing to transport young people through their own provision.

When students arrive at school, they are offered a light breakfast before meeting with their form tutor to prepare and plan for their day's learning.

Lessons are 45 minutes long, with some flexibility where it is in the best interests of the student. At 11am, there is a morning break and snack, then lunch is served between 12.50pm and 1.30pm. During breaks, classrooms remain open and staff are accessible, with games and other activities offered throughout the term.

“He wakes up with a smile, he can't get dressed quickly enough, he can't wait for the school transport to arrive. Before Brambles, he didn't want to go to school.”

# What you need to know

## Uniform

We provide:

- Grey trousers / skirt
- White collared shirt
- School Tie (black with purple and grey diagonal stripes)
- School jumper (grey with purple edging)
- School blazer (grey with Aurora emblem)
- Clothing for sport and leisure activities apart from training shoes

We require parents and carers to provide:

- Black shoes / black trainers (for sport and leisure)
- Clothes that are suitable for being outdoors
- Suitable clothing for enrichment activities when required

## School meals

All school meals are pre-paid, snacks and drinks are available, so there is no need to provide a packed lunch or your own snack items. We provide a healthy diet with healthy options, and regularly offer what is popular for our young people in a healthy way.

Food is sourced locally and freshly prepared on site by our catering team. So long as we know, the dietary requirements of any young person can be met.

## Term dates

Term dates are available to download on our website <https://tinyurl.com/brambles-termdates>.

## Absence

All our young people should be at school every day. They need to be ready and on time for their transport. We acknowledge that there may be some variation in pick-up and drop-off times, depending on traffic conditions. Patience and support with this is really appreciated.



If a young person is not attending, the school must be contacted every day to keep us informed, so that transport arrangements can be altered accordingly. In the event of no contact, transport will arrive at home in the morning as planned.

Some absences can be authorised, and others are not authorised. We are required to report attendance to Local Authorities. An email, letter or telephone call explaining the absence of a young person is always required from parents and carers, so that we can determine if it is authorised or not. We will contact home if we do not receive notification of an absence. Young people attending our school must not be taken on holiday during term time.

# Our commitment to you

## Quality statement

At Aurora Brambles 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 Brambles 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.

## Contact Us

For more information please contact us at:

**Aurora Brambles**  
159 Longmeanygate  
Leyland  
PR26 7TB

**01953 88721**

[brs-reception@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:brs-reception@the-aurora-group.com)

[referrals@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:referrals@the-aurora-group.com)

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



ADHD, ASC, MLD,  
SEMH, Attachment,  
Trauma & Anxiety



9-16



Mixed



38 Week Day

Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative



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



020 3617 0170



[info@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:info@the-aurora-group.com)



AuroraGroupUK



The\_AuroraGroup



The Aurora-Group